

Elections are coming!

by: Walt Klamath, Election board rep

That time is coming around much sooner then we expected it to.

We have in our files now 744 valid signature cards. Now that don't mean we can send out and get back that many ballots. Many Tribal Members have moved since giving us their address and have not seen fit to let us know.

We have 741 at this time that do not have signature cards. Many of these, though, are unknown, of teenagers that have just turned 18 and others that all correspondence is returned, and then there are those who refuse to pick up their mail.

We urge all Tribal Members to vote. This is the only way that voices can be heard. The last couple of years some of the votes have been very close. Also, many ballots come in after the final hour, which is 4 o'clock on the election day in Siletz. This last election there were ballots coming in March. There were 8 ballots that were not counted because they did not get in to the office in time. These could have made a difference. As much as we would like to have sneaked a peak, we can't. At least two of us have to witness the shredding of these late ballots.

The three Council Members that will be running this year are: Dolly Fisher, Jessie Davis, and Delores Pigsley. It is not too early to start considering if any Tribal Members are going to run for Council.

It was brought up last year that possibly we could come up with a voters pamphlet. This is a very good idea, let the people in the other states know who is running and some of their background and so on. When you submit your intent to run for Council, please give a "resume" of yourself and why we should vote for you for Tribal Council, and a photo of yourself.

Hopefully the Council or somebody will have figured out what the Election Board is suppose to do before it is too late to do anything. For instance, if we are going to have Candidates fairs, the time table for candidates to apply.

The Election Board needs time to get their business together, getting the printing of the ballots and the mailing list envelopes addressed and mailed out with plenty of time for returns and remail with updated addresses. It does get a little hectic for a while, like that fool dog trying to catch his tail, that has been cut off.

Mail in Voting!

By: Walt Klamath, Staff Rep, Election Board

At the General Council meeting Aug. 6, there will be a discussion on the voting procedures. One of the things that will be discussed is the elimination of the voting at the area offices.

There will be discussion on having a total mail voting system, with the exception of Siletz, where on election day, the first Saturday in Feburary, there will be voting in person facilities.

Also, at the General Council meeting, there will probably be a discussion on the Candidate's Fairs & if the General Council will want to continue this practice. Most of the people at the fairs are family of the candidates and the Election Board members.

It is very important that all Tribal Members attend this very important meeting and voice your concerns about the election process. Those of you that live beyond physical communications, by all means write to the Council, let it be known your feelings on this matter, and any other concern that you may have.

Probably, at this time, will be the matter I've written earlier about voting pamphlets to be mailed out to all Tribal Members.

I can't stress enough how important this General Council meeting is... well all of them for that matter. **Attend, Be Heard**, your voice counts. The polls are where the power is. This is our connection with the Tribal Council. They will listen, and act accordingly with the voice of our people. Those that can't make it, write. When you write that is recorded and is permanent with a name.

I keep repeating myself. But it is so important. Thank You.

ps... Still looking for a staff rep !
Qualifications; breathing, or maybe gasping.

Election Board Application

Tribal Members are needed to serve as members of the election Board. If interested, complete the following form and return to the address below

NAME _____

ROLL # _____
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____
STATE _____

I understand that I must be an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, and I must be 18 years of age or older.

(signature)

(date)

Mail to: Confederated Tribes of Siletz
Attn: Personnel Manager
PO Box 549
Siletz, OR. 97380

Application for name to be placed on the 1994 Ballot for Candidate on the Siletz Tribal Council

NAME _____

ROLL # _____
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____
STATE _____

I understand that I must be an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, and 18 years of age or older.

This application must be filed with the election board with resume, and black and white picture for voters pamphlet (pending) **NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 31, 1994.**

(signature)

(date)

Mail to: Confederated Tribes of Siletz
Attn: Election Board
PO Box 549
Siletz, OR. 97380

Request for comments and suggestions Amendments to Tribal Election Ordinance

At the regular Council meeting on July 16th, 1994 the Tribal Council decided to consider making some changes to the Tribal Election Ordinance. This action was precipitated by concerns expressed by Council members, elections board members and Tribal members. Some of the concerns expressed were: (1) The accuracy of the voters mailing address, (2) The complexity of the mail in voting process, (3) The poor turn out at the polls and candidates fair in the areas, (4) Limited interest in serving on the election board and (5) The responsibilities of the election board for the candidates fairs.

Before the Council makes a final decision they are by this notice requesting that the membership submit comments or suggestions directly to them. Comments or suggestions may be submitted to the Tribal Council Secretary, PO Box 549, Siletz, OR. 97380

Some of the proposals that are being considered:

- (1) To Streamline the mail-in voting process, perhaps pattern it after the State or County system. Include stamped envelopes for returning the ballots.
- (2) Update the voters mailing list to insure it's accuracy.
- (3) Have a total mail-in vote - no polls at any locations.
- (4) Discontinuing polls (voting) at the Area Offices. Siletz Tribal Community Center would be the only location you would be able to vote in person.
- (5) Develop a voters pamphlet which would have the candidates statements and picture which could be mailed out to the voters or picked up at the Tribal offices.
- (6) Each community would be responsible for the candidates fair in their area. The election board would not be arranging or inviting the candidates.
- (7) Resolve any and all contradictions which may exist between constitution and election ordinance and other elections documents.

Remember these are only points which were discussed and this is your opportunity to make comments or suggestions. The Tribal Council has delayed any action on the ordinance until the regular Council meeting in August.