

Chairman's Report

From: Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley

Several hundred friends and supporters, tribal members, non-Indian residents of the community, civic leaders and members of the Lincoln City council joined the Siletz Tribal Council on February 25th to dedicate the site of our Chinook Winds Gaming and Convention Center.

Besides dedicating the land for our enterprise, the ceremony signified the restoration of land to tribal ownership which was, a century ago, part of our reservation, and as recently as 40 years ago, an allotment belonging to a member of our Tribe.

We have come full circle. The ownership of the land is once again ours - where it rightly belongs!

Stan Speaks, Bia Area Director expressed his congratulations and good wishes as did Lori Ann Sheridan of the Chamber of Commerce. Mark Hemstreet donated food for the occasion and was represented by John Kneeland, General Counsel of Shilo Inns.

And, of course, our drummers, singers and dancers were there to give cultural and spiritual meaning to this important historic event.

THE FEATHER DANCERS

I want to take this opportunity to give special recognition to the Tribal Feather Dancers that have been performing at many tribal and other events. We are proud that under the leadership of Bud Lane and Advisor Nellie Orton, the Feather Dancers have been helping to keep our heritage alive.

TRIBAL COUNCIL RETREAT

On March 25 and 26th the entire Tribal Council held a retreat at the Comstock in Reno. We discussed, in depth, some of our basic tribal issues and plans for addressing them.

We have been growing at such a fast pace that meeting only once a month is not enough time to adequately address all the issues that come before us. In addition to our own tribal issues, we must also attend regional and national meetings where critical national Indian issues are addressed. We may need to meet two or three times a month.

STEDCO REORGANIZATION

When STEDCO was restructured a year ago, it was intended to be an interim measure. The Council had decided that a newly organized, more efficient and productive STEDCO was needed. Since then, we have been considering various options for meeting this objective. As soon as we have completed our work of restructuring STEDCO, we will provide you with a report.

TEMPORARY CHINOOK WINDS GAMING AND CONVENTION CENTER

The tribal Gaming Commission is of major importance as the Tribe's "watchdog" to make certain that our Gaming enterprise complies with all appropriate federal, state and tribal laws and policies.

I have every confidence that the newly appointed Commissioners, Joe Lane, Brad Darcy, Mike Fisher, Cy Hill and Mark Pullam will represent the Tribe's interests with competence and dedication.

NEWS ABOUT THE GAMING PROJECT

I'd like to commend Jessie and her

crew for the excellent Chinook Winds Bulletin. Special recognition goes to Barbara Watson, a tribal member, who received her training under ONABEN and has been publishing similar bulletins for other organizations.

For more details on our gaming project, I refer you, once again, to Jessie Davis's status report elsewhere in this issue.

REMINDER OF SCHEDULE AHEAD

- May 6: General Council meeting in Salem.
- May 23: Constitutional election to amend blood quantum.
- May 24: Temporary Chinook Winds open to Tribal Members.
- May 25: Temporary facility open to the public
- May 29: Memorial Services

Gaming Report

From: Jessie Davis, Ad Hoc Gaming Chairman

GAMING COMMISSION MEMBERS APPOINTED! CONGRATULATIONS!

The Tribal Council spent the entire week-end of March 11 and 12, interviewing and evaluating applicants for the five member Tribal Gaming Commission. Of the thirty-one tribal members who were interviewed and screened, five highly qualified candidates were selected.

Our congratulations to Joe Lane and Brad Darcy who were appointed for three year terms, to Mike Fisher and Cy Hill for two years and to Mark Pullam for one year!

We also want to express our appreciation to all the other tribal members who took the time and effort to apply and to undergo the screening process.

THE GAMING COMMISSION SELECTION PROCESS

It was not an easy task to select only five from among the thirty-one candidates. The selection process revealed once again that we have many highly capable tribal members.

Before the appointments are made official each appointee will undergo a background check, required of all management officials and key employees of the gaming enterprise. In the meantime, the appointees will be issued provisional licenses.

The Commission's job is extremely difficult, sensitive and crucial, to make sure that all applicable laws, regulations and policies are complied with. The Commission is the regulatory body over the gaming center.

Commission members will begin their intensive training program on April 10th.

APPOINTMENT OF GAMING CENTER MANAGERS

At the last General Council meeting, I was charged with appointing the General Manager of the Gaming Center.

I regret that misinformation continues to be disseminated regarding my role as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Gaming Committee. I believe it is important to set the record straight.

I personally did not appoint the General Manager. The interview committee was comprised of representatives of the Comstock, (our management company which is investing up to \$20 million dollars in Chinook Winds) Bill & John Douglas, Burgess Harmer and three Siletz Tribal Council members. They interviewed and selected John Fultz from a list of five candidates.

Only candidates with extensive casino management backgrounds were considered for the interviews, John Fultz was selected and comes to us highly qualified, with over 20 years of gaming and hospitality experience.

The bottom line is that the Siletz Tribal Council can't afford to appoint a person with little or no qualifications to manage a multi-million dollar enterprise with a staff of 500-600 employees. It would be a disservice to our Tribe if we did.

As in all major decisions regarding the Gaming project, it is my responsibility, as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Gaming Committee to make recommendations to Tribal Council and to actively participate in the decision making process.

Some decisions are specifically delegated to a core group of the Council, but are then brought back to full Council for their consideration or vote.

At the same General Council meeting, concern was also expressed that tribal members are not being considered for management positions.

Your attention is called to the fact that the recent Chinook Winds Bulletin, advertising management positions, was sent only to our tribal members, all who were encouraged to apply for positions for which they are interested and are qualified. Any qualified tribal member has an excellent chance of being hired. Once again, Siletz tribal preference applies.

It must also be remembered that based on our recommendations, the Tribal Council decided to appoint only tribal members to the Gaming Commission to oversee the enterprise. This differs from other Oregon tribes that have appointed non-Indians to their commissions.

For the management positions that require considerable gaming experience, we hope that tribal members who want to be appointed to those positions will make the commitment to gain experience so they can qualify. It is the Tribal Councils intent that within 3-5 years all management positions as well as other gaming positions will be filled by tribal members. Under our management agreement, Comstock is also committed to this goal.

TRIBAL/STATE COMPACT APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT

Another major milestone has been crossed! Our Tribal/State Compact for Class III gaming has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. By the time you receive this bulletin it may already be published in the Federal Register.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPORARY FACILITY

Although our timeline is very tight, the target date for the opening of the Temporary Chinook Winds is still May 24th.

Among other things, we have selected Trans Sierra to install our surveillance system and we have negotiated with Bill Gram, of Tierra, to do our environmental assessment.

Dennis Lowery and Dietmer Goebel of Creative Design and Engineering, who represent the Tribe's interest in the construction project, have been coordinating the planning and construction of the temporary facility.

They have been putting together all the key components of this project including PCL

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