

Letters To The Editor

To Tribal Members,

I have received information that a recall of Clifford Case, Geneva Johnson, Denise Petersen, Reggie Butler and myself is in progress. The purpose for the recall is not known by those requested to sign the petition. However, recent decisions of the quorum of the Tribal Council, that have angered a few Tribal Members, include:

Not hiring Phil Rilatos for General Manager. My decision was based upon the following:

- a. A one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000.00) loan received by Phil Rilatos from Ross Simmons, while he was Executive Director of STEDCO. Council did not know about this loan, but is obligated to honor the arrangement as the money has been expended.
- b. Sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) expended by STEDCO for an option to purchase property while Phil Rilatos was the Executive Director of STEDCO. Council knew we could not come up with the rest of the capital so the property was not purchased, and the money was forfeited. Delores Pigsley, Jessie Davis, Phil Rilatos, STEDCO Executive Director, Craig Dorsay, Tribal Attorney, and Zak Zakoji, Gaming Consultant, arranged the option. Clifford Case, Geneva Johnson, Reggie Butler and myself voted against this. Denise Petersen was not on Council at the time.
- c. Then quorum of the Council voted to give STEDCO a one million dollar (\$1,000,000.00) general line of credit. The money would have come from a bank loan. Phil Rilatos, Executive Director of STEDCO, did not have a budget or established business plan for use of the money. Geneva Johnson, Clifford Case, Lillie Butler, and Reggie Butler voted against this. Denise Petersen was not on Council.

A recommendation that the General Manager move the Clinic Director from the medical clinic to the Administration building until personnel issues involving the Clinic Director were resolved.

Reduction in force at the Tribal government, resulting in elimination of the Assistant CEO position which was created in January, 1993. The position was set up as a training position so that when the CEO left, the Assistant would step into that position. It was not a permanent trainee position.

The Assistant CEO had, since 1993, two opportunities to compete for the CEO position. She did not meet minimum qualifications, as stated by Delores Pigsley at a General Council meeting, because her physical education credentials were not considered management experience.

I don't feel I was wrong in the decisions I made. The confidential information letter sent to Tribal members tells the status of our finances. The Assistant CEO position was a trainee position that

was created by the Council. The relocation of the Clinic Director to the Administration building, until the General Manager addressed the personnel issues, was essential. Does this justify a recall?

Lillie Butler

Tribal Members:

Seems to be much controversy placed on the decision of elected Council and their operation of Tribal economy. There is a 5 to 4 number dispute, civil rivalry; "those" and "them" at the cost of "us". General Council should summon an audit for the last 20 years to disclose the moneys earned and spent by the Confederation. General Council should summon an audit on all moneys spent on sending tribal members into higher education, so they could return to take a position within the tribal corp. function. We may be surprised! Our Tribal Chairman's own daughter graduated from college with a degree as Corp. Attorney, as fate would have it, the Confederation was in dire need of a Corp. Attorney. Then Chairman and Council and CEO elected a non-tribal member into this position, claiming "more qualified". General Council should call an audit on this position and summarize how much money the Confederation must pay and what for? One must ponder the logic, seems the weight of logic would go on the side of a tribal member that served six years or more to obtain her degree, with the goal to enter back into the Confederation in support. To only be told by her tribal government "she did not qualify!" No one protested this political ploy, why? The time of change has come, it's inevitable. The social structure of our tribe must perceive where we are going and whom we are to allow to guide us into the future of our people. Predaceous is system of government of civilization; we as a people are better then that, we don't have to rely on turning against one another, and personal animosity should not govern our tribe.

For to many years the tribal government has been allowed to operate under their code of ethics, the free ride can come to a halt. Then all your assimilation traits would come to surface, the power of your master "the almighty pay check" would take control. No more hustle and bustle, airline deadlines, \$200.00 suites, with room service, the rent-a-cars, the endless nights in barroom lounges. Allowing the alcohol to taint the mind, so all rational decisions for the welfare and future of our coming generations are made from the thought of the hangover. We should be thankful to find one or two Tribal Council members strong enough to achieve sobriety and carry the thoughts of our future in their hearts. Dispute we could, without a doubt, but that is not what we need as a people. We need jobs education, economic security for all tribal members. We need to demand more for the sake of our own knowledge, we need to be instructed to our tribal economy.

Mr. Ulysses Simmons roll # 864

Dear Tribal Members,

Well I have seen just about everything when it comes to a Tribal Council meeting. I have attended meetings since 1981 and some heated discussions, but I've never witnessed what I did at the 11/22 & 23 meeting. I witnessed a dysfunctional Council. I saw heartbreak, insults, disrespect, outrageous behavior tolerated, and selective memory. I witnessed Council members degrading one another and not listening to the voice of the people.

I witnessed Clifford Case say he didn't care what the people had to say, his concern was what was on the table before him. This person campaigned on the platform that the voice of the people should be heard. I heard Jessie Davis say, through her broken voice and tear-filled eyes, that she was ashamed to be a part of this Tribal Council. I witnessed Geneva Johnson not knowing what she was voting on and then requesting to change her vote from a YES to a NO!

After the meeting, Geneva was overheard accusing Pat Duncan of "joining them" and telling Pat that she was done on Council, she would never be re-elected. Geneva verbally attacked Rena Philbrook about the millions of timber dollars the tribe lost "thanks to Phil Rilatos" (this attack didn't make any sense). Rena was terribly upset at the way Council was treating one another and at their failure to deal with the issue that they had gone into Executive Session to discuss. Geneva made disgusting insults against Dee Pigsley and her personal life. Another tribal member told me that Reggie Butler and Geneva verbally attacked him at this meeting, accusing him of signing the recall petitions.

I witnessed the Tribal Chairperson lose control of her Council members during these incidents. In fact the meeting ended with such hard feelings and in such chaos that the Council didn't even hold the STEDCO meeting scheduled to follow the regular meeting.

Tribal members, if you had witnessed this meeting and the actions of the Council, you would sign those recall petitions without hesitation. The elected position of Council is not to be taken lightly and should be one of dignity, intelligence and compassion for the tribal people at all times. One has to put aside animosity against individual people and do what is right for all the General Membership.

This position demands that a Council member treat the whole membership with the same respect they are demanding. But, remember, respect is earned and not given freely with the position. These last two days were sad, dark ones for our tribe. I can only pray that we all see the light and vote for our next Council, members who are above such actions.

Sincerely, Kristi Martin-Bayya