

## Letters to the editor

### Constitution

I'm no different than any other tribal member, and can deal with most challenges that arise. I am a Wasco elder, and there are very few of us left.

Growing up in my family, we have been taught to believe in and respect our Tribal Constitution and By-Laws.

They are our guiding principles and our Bible, laws by which we live. It is a shame that others haven't been taught this important concept.

I understand there may be an election to change certain laws in this Constitution.

Without getting into too much detail, obtaining petition signatures lacked coordination. Some were allowed to sign more than once. Non-tribal members signed the petition. Under-age individuals signed. Deceased people signed (how?). And the BIA legal counsel agrees with this?

Tribal members need to question the integrity (and legality) of this petition document and process, and the election, should it be allowed to go forward.

This election proposes to eliminate Chiefs from the Tribal Council, and have only nine Council members chosen at large.

This election eliminates district elections, leaving the potential of some districts having no representation on Council.

Where is the fairness in these proposed changes? There is none.

I urge tribal members to think twice before voting in these changes. The changes will affect whether or not your district will be represented on Council.

The proposed staggered terms will affect other areas and other documents. These proposals have not been well thought out.

For example the Council selects the secretary-treasurer, who normally serves the same term as elected Council members. How will the S-T term be determined if Council terms are staggered?

How will tribal judges terms be determined? How will changes affect the Management Plan?

So, before we go trying to change one of the Confederated Tribes' major documents like the Constitution, we must first figure out the consequences of our action.

Our Constitution ensures that all three tribes are represented, and this was the intent and mandate of our elders who knew what would best serve We The People.

Also, with Tribal Council nominations and elections just around the corner, be thinking about who will best represent you and your district, and put the interest of all three tribes first. Thank you.

**Ginger Smith**, Wasco Elder.

### Births

*Tants'leli Ts'Ilii Frank*

Tracy Frank and Louisa Fuentes of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Tants'leli Ts'Ilii Frank, born on February 2, 2016.

Tants'leli joins brothers Joe-Willis and Peyton.

Grandparents on the father's side are Georgiana Frank, and the late Joe Frank, White Swan, Washington.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Lori and Thomas Fuentes of Warm Springs.

*Marbella F. Stormbringer*

Shard Stormbringer and Cari Stormbringer of Warm

Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Marbella F. Stormbringer, born on February 5, 2016.

Marbella joins brothers Taylor and Osten, and sister Francien.

Grandparents on the father's side are Tyree Tufu Stormbringer, and atwai Cecilia Ann Winishut Stormbringer.

Grandparents on the mother's side are atwai Jesslyn Kim Allen Heath, and Ronald Heath Leon Tenorio.

*Curtis Joseph Stacona Jr.*

Curtis Joseph Stacona and Josephine Teeman Zacarias of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Curtis Joseph Stacona Jr., born on February 3, 2016.

Grandparents on the father's side are Mark Stacona of Pendleton, and Carol Lawrence of Warm Springs.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Dionne Thomas of Warm Springs, and Alroy Teeman Zacarias Sr. of Burns.

### Indian Business Talk

## Financial success is a 'business team' effort - part 2

**By Bruce Engle**

*Loan officer  
W.S. Credit Enterprise*

*(Your Business Success Team includes many players. In the previous Spilyay, I talked about how parents are an important part of the team. We continue in this edition with some of the other players.)*

So, there is a point where we take over full responsibility for our success. The system is built for success, not rigged for failure.

Believe it! That is, as long as we pay attention to the details, work hard, and work smart.

I was 7 years old when I became involved with my first calving. I learned what a stockman would do if one cow had a cripple and another cow died when calving. The choice was to save one calf or lose both.

My uncle did what stockmen had done for thousands of years, and still do.

An enterprising youngster might think up, develop, and market a better way. He or she might even make some serious money. Who knows?

We usually have to keep on learning because things seem to be changing quicker than in years past.

We didn't have hand-held calculators when I was a kid. A slide rule was a wonderful tool.

Sputnik hadn't gone up yet. Home computers and cell phones were unknowns.

A penny postcard was a penny, and airmail was three cents. Gas was nine cents.

We used to rely on Consumer Reports to check on a product. Some of us still do. Now, we might Google it or use another on-line service.

Our almost constant task is to keep up—sometimes, catch up—and move ahead.

Pioneers are all about being first. They often face the scary and the dangerous. Winning and losing are always possibilities. Risk is a factor and reward a possibility.

Think Microsoft, Heinz, KFC, Coors, etc. There are a lot of those etc's. What are your favorites?

### Bookkeepers and accountants

Businesspeople need both. Time, available skills and cost will determine who will do what, because somebody must.

My wife did it for our businesses. She did a darn good job and we didn't have computers then.

However they get done, good books are a necessity for financial statement preparation, analysis and sound business decision making.

Don't go into business without them.

'No books' equals 'no business success.' Repeat seven times!

### Bankers and lenders

Bankers are happy to open saving and checking accounts for clients who have

### A random act of kindness



Tilden McDonald, Viola Govenor, Sarah Wolfe and Kanet Wolfe presented the Valentine's Day card to KWSO's Brutus 'Big B' Baez.

As Valentine's Day was approaching, the Guiding Butterflies and Mighty Warriors adult classes wanted to commit some random acts of kindness.

The idea they came up with was to create Valentine's Day cards for

20 organizations on the reservation.

Guiding Butterflies and the Mighty Warriors then delivered the cards, showing appreciation for services these organization provide on the reservation. The cards turned out very nice.

The card to KWSO mentioned some of their favorite things about the station: the rez updates, school notices, sports updates, meetings and public appearances, Birthday Grand Entries, great music and more.

good credit. Business loans come once the business-person has jumped through the bank policy hoops.

As a rule, mainline banks don't finance start-ups. They usually want a minimum of two years profitable business experience. Properly prepared financial statements will help make your case to a lender.

Lenders for start-ups are fewer. Savings, friends and family come to mind and to the table.

Micro business lending is a specialty. Financing may come with training and supervision requirements.

Ask around.

### Attorneys

You want a pro. Pick one that has been around a long time. You will be hiring their abilities and their experience.

That experience is important and can help you to avoid 'structural' errors when setting up the business, and later when legal issues arise. That happens.

Remember the Boy Scout Marching Song, 'Be Prepared.'

### Investment advisors

Successful businesses have profits. That's one way of measuring success.

What they do with those profits is important.

Some of those profits may stay in the business. We call them 'retained earnings.' They may be cash or other assets such as inventory and equipment. They might become a building.

Some companies offer 401Ks to their employees. Profits make 401Ks with matching monies possible. That's a good thing for the company and for the employees.

Some profits are distributed to owners as dividends,

and to employees as bonuses. That's another good thing. They might even be loaned back to the business at a later time.

In that case, the cash would become an asset of the business and also a liability on the books. Cut the bookkeeper and the accountant.

Best advice would be to use an investment advisor if and when you decide to invest in anything you are not really savvy about. Select yours carefully and count their fee as part of your investment in success.

Your other Business Success Team members may be able to help with the selection of that advisor.

### Mentors

They come in all shapes and sizes. Some mentorships are formal and some informal.

Formal might have 'rules' and "requirements" as to when, how often, where and for how long you will meet. Homework may be assigned.

Informal can be a whole lot less structured and yet it is often enough. It can be accidental. Often is.

Some mentors don't even know they are mentors. Those are the ones whose examples are inspirational and whose contact may be infrequent or from a distance.

You might imagine that occasionally those who have been "mentored" won't even realize it until afterward. Belated thanks are still in order.

We need to mention SCORE. It is a nonprofit organization comprised of retired executives who have been there and done that.

They were doing business when younger. Now in retirement, they have the time and an inclination to help others.

Their representatives

come to some of our Indianpreneurship classes, and are available to help tribal businesspeople at other times. They can also be contacted at [www.score.com](http://www.score.com).

### Employees

You may teach them. They will often teach you. It's a sharing thing. Select them carefully.

Think of them as 'family.' They will be your business family.

Take joy in their growth and make provision for them to enjoy yours. Your rewards will be in different and wonderful ways.

Good grief! That's a lot of people and a bunch of different skill sets. They are usually needed, and sometimes too often not heeded.

Who might not need that kind of help?

One example could be the retired executive who gets restless and goes into business again. I'm thinking of someone who worked his or her way up from the bottom to the top of their business ladder.

They have the experience, the tools and the money to set up and simplify their operation so as to make it a paragon of efficiency and profit. I have seen it done in a one-man shop.

But they are the exception rather than the rule. The rest of us usually don't have all those resources. We are in the building/learning stage.

That's okay. That's what our Business Success Team is for—to help us get to the top of our own business ladder.

So what's the message?

How about, "Build your Business Success Team before you open your business, and your business just might be a success."

**Spilyay Tymoo**  
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