

Agency District candidates

Jeff Sanders



I have worked in tribal government for 49 years. I worked all my adult life for the tribes, from 1960 to December 2009, in one capacity or another.

My years of employment include six years as a line supervisor within the department and/or offices, and 10 years as a department head supervisor (six or more offices or departments supervised). I served eight years as a general manager with over four or more departments. This totals 24 years of work experience as a supervisor or manager within the tribal organization.

I have received over 200 hours of management training that was specifically related to senior management. This training included but was not limited to strategic planning, executive management courses, executive forum training, total quality management, work life training, team building, BIA budget training/workshops, general manager workshop training, budget training and internal audit.

I am a lifetime member of the Elliott Palmer VFW Post 4217, with service in Germany in the U.S. Army, serving in the Sixty-Eighth Armored Division, 1957-1959.

In addition to organizational training I have been a part of other organizational related committees and appointments:

I served 21 years on the Jefferson County 509-J School District Board of Directors. I served a number of terms as the board chairman, in addition to being on the 509-J budget committee for 21 years. I also served on the Education Service District budget committee.

I have been elected to the Oregon State School Board Association, and served two 4-year terms. I held the position of secretary treasurer, vice chairman, president-elect, and president of the Oregon School Board Association. While on this board I was also appointed to the National School Board, as the Oregon minority representative for the state of Oregon.

I have served on the tribal Alcohol and Drug Council for 20-plus years, and was chairman for nine years. We administered a \$600,000 grant from the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation for Substance Abuse Preven-

tion. The governor of the state of Oregon appointed me to two 2-year terms on the state Alcohol and Drugs Council. This council has the oversight responsibility for reviewing all state agencies, departments, programs and services on alcohol and drug matters.

I have served on three Oregon State task forces on education and school board issues, minority issues, and state Vocational Rehabilitation reform.

I also served as the chairman for the Jefferson County Community Task Force on race relations between Native American and Hispanic, and the non-Indian communities.

Positive changes I would like to see in Warm Springs over the next 10 years:

Development of a positive cash flow from current and future tribal enterprises.

To have tribal members with four-year college degrees, and/or two-year AA degrees that reflect the needs of tribal government, its enterprises, and private business needs of the community.

Solutions to, or significant results to our drugs and alcohol problems, with partnerships between tribal programs and services, Indian Health Services, and outside alcohol and drug providers.

Jeff Sanders

Jason Smith



Good day, Warm Springs. My name is Jason Wesley Smith. I am a 49 year old Wasco tribal member (2451). My truly amazing wife Snuffy is a Umatilla tribal member who was raised on the Yakama Reservation. We have two beautiful daughters who are 27 and 23. Both of them have recently graduated from college. We are very proud of the accomplishments that our children have achieved, and grateful that they strived to please their parents and come home for a bit after college. This means so much as a parent.

My parents are Buck and Susie Smith of Warm Springs. They are very well known in our community. I believe I have the best parents in the entire world, and I'm so proud to be their son. I lost my brother, Troy, in 1983, and can't imagine our relationship and partnerships if we were given the opportunity to grow into adults together. My family is a huge part of who I am; my late grandparents are Dorothy and Stanley Smith Sr., and great grandparents are Anne and Wesley Smith of Dry Hollow.

I also have a brother and sister, Butch and Lori Smith of Madras, along with my nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles that are all a part of me as well. Last, but probably first, are all my favorite cousins. I want to name them all but not enough ink (aye). As

you can see, I am very family oriented, and think family is the cornerstone and backbone of our reservation. We should strive to become one Big Happy Family.

Education/work history

I graduated from Madras High School in 1985. I went on to receive my Bachelor of Science Degree from Oregon State University in June of 1991. I started working for the tribe in September of 1991 as a Range Specialist for the Range and Agriculture Department. After seven or eight years in that position I was promoted to the Range and Ag Manager from within the Branch of Natural Resources. I have been working on the range my whole life as a rancher with cattle and horses.

In the '90s I served two terms on the Range and Ag Committee. I also served on the Inter-tribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Board of Directors for eight years, and

five years as the vice president of the Northwest Inter-Tribal Ag Council (NWIAC). From 1999-2006 I owned and operated the very well known Deschutes Crossing Restaurant.

I have served as the Warm Springs Baptist Church treasurer for 12 years. I have been the president of the Warm Springs Rodeo Association since the early 2000s. I was appointed by Pres. Obama to the Farm Service Agency Oregon State Technical Committee.

One of my lifelong commitments has been being a member of the Professional Wild Horse Racers Association (PWHRA) for 33 years. I have been the president of the PWHRA the last five years. I was appointed by Tribal Council to the Warm Springs Casino and Resort Enterprises board for five years, and served as chairman from 2014-2015. I am also a member of the National Tribal Horse Coalition, which is an organization close to my heart for the protection and management of our tribal horse population since its inception in 2009, and have served as their president since 2011.

Enough about myself, now I would like to talk about serving our membership, our community, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

John Katchia Sr.



My name is John Katchia Sr., and I am seeking your vote for Tribal Council for the Agency District. I have worked in logging, and at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

At WSFPI I worked as a saw filer, oiler and millwright helper, then as a moulder set-up and quality control technician. My other positions at the mill include quality control supervisor, production coordinator, operations manager, and chief executive officer.

On a personal note I have coached teen club basketball, t-ball and Little League baseball.

Tribally I have participated as Housing board commissioner, and on the Timber Committee, and the WSFPI board.

I have hunted for the longhouse, first with my uncles Harvey Tohet and Perry Greene. Later on Isaac Mitchell and I were appointed as head hunters for the longhouse. From 1999-2006 I was on Western Wood Products Association Technical Services, Quality Assurance, and grade rules committee.

My wife is Lupe Katchia. Children are Damion, John Jr., Rodney, Kara Katchia and Danni Herkshan.

The tribes' per capita has gone from \$100 to \$25, and a similar event happened with our Senior Pension. A number of our enterprises are teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. A long series of events have occurred to get us in this predicament.

When the membership voted for the Gorge casino, the wheels came off. There were visions of \$100 million a year, with

prudent budgeting being forgotten. The thought process at the time was the tribe would easily become fiscally solvent with gaming profits. Dollars from the mill and Power and Water Enterprises were greatly reduced at the time of the Gorge vote. The price of wholesale electricity dropped, and the price of logs in the marketplace dropped by as much as 600 percent.

Spending by the tribe increased dramatically. Millions were spent to try and gain favor for the Gorge casino. The revenue spending imbalance quickly emptied the coffers of the tribe. Winning a mismanagement of the forest lawsuit gave a brief reprieve. Unfortunately, prudent budgeting was not done, and the rainy day buffer was emptied. The enterprises bank accounts were drained.

There are bright spots to look forward to, such as the cannabis initiative, with a \$28 million revenue stream anticipated. The cultivation of hemp should also be considered.

The Moody and Culpus farms should be a jumpstart in the use of our senior water rights. Central Oregon has almost reached the limits of water usage. It appears we are in a use-it or lose-it situation. Groundwater use has to be considered also.

All the business ventures have sovereignty issues that need close attention. We have circumvented our self determination rights through NOAA, Marine Fisheries, federal Fish and Wildlife, gaming compacts, OLCC rules and regulations.

The various tribal committees need to have a greater voice in the activities of the tribes. The committees ensure tribal member participation in the tribal government. They give continuity of tribal affairs, including our unwritten laws (Taman wit). IRMP and funding agency regulations have made tribal wants and views irrelevant. Put knowledgeable, credible tribal people on the committees and enterprise boards.

Diversity of opinion has long been a cornerstone of our strength. Like spokes on a wagon wheel, there are many paths to the center of truth or accomplishment.

The world of commerce is flowing, moving, changing. If we are to thrive, we need to be in stop with the times. Our challenge is to remain true to our core beliefs, and change the tribes into a sustainable organization.

Having dealt with numerous changes, we will have to deal with the normal negative passive-aggressive resistance to change. In closing, I would urge you to get out and vote in the Tribal Council election. If you read this, I thank you for your time.

John Katchia Sr.

My vision

When thinking of running for Tribal Council, I believe we need to be on a quest to serve our people. We need to keep our youth and elders in the forefront of our decisions. How do we do this? We do this with Love, Spirituality and Unification!

We must have love for one another, and care for all our people. From the beginning of my existence I've always heard of reasons, rumors and recommendations of how people should feel, think or act towards different families or groups of people. In my mind we are all good people. We can be slow to anger, and be open to discussions, with well thought out solutions before a quick knee jerk reaction. We can change our mindsets to that frame of thinking. We can help one another over the hurdle, through the hard times, on to a promotion, with our sincere support and encouragement for the good will of our people. Our good will bring others to join our team.

We as Indian people have always been spiritual people. I believe we need to step back and take a look and see where, and perhaps why we

have wandered, and strive to start a path back to where our Elders have once had us. Unification is strength. We are weak if we are divided and not one. No matter the district, the tribe, or the last name, we are still Warm Springs.

Let's band together and become the power that we once were. Let's forgive and forget, and remember that together we can all work side by side towards success.

Then to the grind, jobs, jobs, jobs

It seems that "jobs" is what we've been hearing about for years now. How do we best create and maintain jobs? By actively creating our economy. If we promote economic opportunities, support business developments, provide education opportunities and incentives, develop recreational opportunities (just to name a few), we will be well on our way.

We need 100-plus small businesses that make a buck, or even break even, that will employ a tribal member or two. Looking for one silver bullet that will solve all our financial problems is maybe unrealistic. Maybe a franchise or two, a warehouse, a mall

with food courts: these can help build our local economy that we need here in Warm Springs.

We are a resource rich tribe that can explore many possibilities to utilize our land. Sovereignty is a powerful word, we need to exercise it. We have existing tribal jobs and departments that can think "outside the box." We need internships with colleges and trade schools. We can even create our own local interns with our own criteria. Many of our people have special needs or handicaps that need careers and employment as well.

This is just a start to some ideas, concepts and possibilities. We can work as a team so that we as a tribe can implement and start achievement into some great possibilities.

Thank you

I want to take the time to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to run for Tribal Council and serve our people. It's a very prestigious honor to be a nominee and given a chance to be at the table with our well respected elders, Chiefs and leaders. God Bless,

Jason W. Smith