

Agency District candidates

Valerie Switzler



First I would like to say thank you to those who are responsible for nominating me. It is an honor just to be regarded as person who can diligently represent our people.

My entire life I have served my people. I will do my best to be an advocate for the people, whether it is in the community, at state or federal government proceedings or international settings. It has always been a strength of mine to work with people and come to agreement or understanding.

I believe in education, whether it is stemmed in the community or at a college institution. And I believe in balance. For example, not everyone wants a desk job, but in order to become experts out in the field, education and training are needed to speak the language of those who make the rules.

We need scientists in forestry, botany, water and air. It would be good to find those who are strong in these skills when they are young, so they may be guided in this manner.

Several members of our community do not want to follow the traditional route of education

at a university, but feel they can contribute to our community in the wide array of vocational training, which is greatly needed.

Learning at the university or vocational school is only one type of learning. In order to survive and know our rights as Indian people we need to go back to our roots.

Lessons in language, culture and tradition need to be taught. Our children need to know: What is the ceded area? What is sovereignty? What are the rights we reserved in the 1855 treaty?

All these teachings are needed here. Whether our children like it or not, they are born into a political arena, sometimes speaking out on behalf of our people, and they need to know what they are talking about or know

how to find out the answers. Sometimes they will find they are the only person of color in the room.

Many things fall in line once you teach a child. We will come out of poverty, our health will improve, our economics will become self-sustaining once we have learned how to handle and take care of our resources.

Whether you can contribute because you went to university, vocational or longhouse, we all have an important role in the economics of this reservation. And if we have two or three of these trainings, the better it would be for our tribe.

We have been blessed with many gifts, the most precious of those are our elders, our children and our caregivers.

There were hard decisions made, and still more to make as we travel this road of uncertainty. But it has been done before, and if we seek that balance and work hard—like our elders—we too can bequest an abundance of resources like our ancestors left for us.

Valerie Switzler

Carina Miller



My name is Carina Miller. I am an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and I am running for a seat on Tribal Council from the Agency District.

My parents are Ken "Kenman" Miller and Sue Matters. My grandmother was atwai Faye Waheneka and my grandfather was atwai Sidney Miller. My great grandparents were Fannie Waheneka, Grant Waheneka, Lucy and Walter Miller and Walter and Eleanor Matters.

I was born and raised in Warm Springs. I went to Warm Springs Elementary, then Jefferson County Middle School and graduated from Madras High School.

Growing up I participated in many different clubs and activities. The older I got the more I realized what made these experiences so wonderful were the people. Whether it was high school sports or 4-H camp, I learned a lot by being involved and by spending time with my peers in different settings. Looking back I'm thankful for the adults who made youth activities a priority.

I have a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Oregon. Go Ducks!

After college I worked for Warm Springs Tribes Children's Protective Services, then went on to work for the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla at Cay Uma Wa Head Start. I also volunteered doing Girl Scouts, Warm

Springs Little League, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

I am qualified and capable to serve you on our Tribal Council. My experience lobbying for the Oregon Student Association and the United States Student Association in Salem and Washington D.C. gives me insight into policy and advocacy work in government to government relations.

My time serving on the University of Oregon Students Senate taught me how official meetings are conducted using Roberts Rules of Order. My Senate work also sharpened my skills for heated debates and conversation without losing respect for others and while also maintaining good working relationships. As a senator I also learned how to administer budgets and track expenditures.

I am motivated by the time I have spent working with families. Their needs give me the heart I need to stay strong. For families and our children I see that we must better understand the past and its impact on us all. Then collectively we

need to begin to heal together as an entire community.

We need hope, and as a candidate I have tried to represent the best parts of who we are—as strong, resilient, culturally rich, rooted, smart, healthy people.

I truly believe our people can return to a good place, with the right leaders who lead by example, who treat everyone equally and have respect for all.

Experience, education and passion for our people is why I am seeking your vote as Agency District Representative on Tribal Council for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

I realize I must learn more in the areas of: Tribal operations; the economic forecast; priorities and strategic plans; opportunities, and good things in the works. But I am ready and able to work hard to learn and apply my skills and energy to contribute to advancing the tribes from where we are—to a better place for Our People, Our Land and our Financial Health.

I am a young, progressive thinker who believes in respect, hard work and caring about each other.

I appreciate the time you took to read this letter and hope you consider casting a vote for me as your Tribal Council Agency District Representative.

Thank you,
Carina Miller

Mona Smith-Cochran



Itukdi Chuusdi Naika itgulxam, Naika ishawahxlyi X'yoya is my Indian name. My given name is Mona Smith-Cochran. I always turn to my Creator God for guidance and our elders. My elder parent atwi' Alvis W. Smith Sr. showed me, and taught me how to be a hard working person. These teachings showed me at a young age to take care of business, and not to be dependent on other people to take care of me. I have always been a hard worker, since my first job at twelve years of age.

I will be committed to my people and dedicated to creating solutions for our Tribal members. I have attained three undergraduate degrees, and was successful in receiving my Masters degree.

My life experiences as an employee with the state, federal and tribal entities—providing me professional social skills and social interaction—enable me to be objective, neutral and open minded. These qualities will have a positive benefit for the tribes and tribal members.

My concerns include protection of Tribal Sover-

eignty, Economic Development, Implementing the Tribal hire policy, and providing positive support and services for tribal members who are seeking a higher education. Another priority is improved recreation for a healthier quality of life for our people and families. I would like to see the Tribal Council representatives have positive collaboration and team work for the betterment of the people.

These are a few of the critical areas that I prioritize for the future of our youth, adolescents and for the generations to come.

With all due respect I am seeking your support and your vote.

God Bless You and Yours.

Mona Smith-Cochran

Ryan G. Smith Sr.



Greetings, my name is Ryan G. Smith Sr. (Smitty), son of Lepha Marie Smith and Raymond Gene Smith.

My grandparents belong to the Miller, Adams and Smith families, and my family relations further include the Tohet, Thompson, McCorkel and Tufti families.

I am asking for your support to represent the Agency District in the Tribal Council election.

The pressing job at hand is to help better the daily lives of the people of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

I believe that I have the knowledge and skill set to do this. I am currently a member of the Fish & Wildlife committee (since 2002) and work for the tribe as the Hydrologist in the Tribal Environmental Office. In 1997 I received my degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon.

I grew up fishing and hunting this reservation, and continue to do so on and off our reservation.

I feel qualified to help our tribe and its members to gain economic health and stability in the coming years. The experiences I've gained and shared by being part of the Fish & Wildlife committee, Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission, Resource Management Inter-disciplinary Team, and Project Inter-disciplinary Team, have taught me policy, management and cooperative skills. I have a good attendance record, a decent grasp of scientific principles, and I'm willing and open to hear concerns, issues and new ideas!

With a shrinking and uncertain tribal budget we have to use tribal dol-

critically review plans and strategies for tribal use of funds. I don't believe we need to increase revenues by increasing resource extraction. Treaty reserved resources on this reservation are struggling to survive.

I saw a missed opportunity when Warm Springs K-8 was occupied, and there were no plans about how to use the Warm Springs Elementary area. I think that the campus area has been talked about long enough.

A fresh produce store, bakery or laundry mat could create great tribal businesses and tribal jobs.

The campus plan has to be a priority for this Council! Trout Lake, Dry Creek and Blue Lake campgrounds are seriously lacking upgrades, and investments in all our parks are low hanging fruit options.

The executive, judicial and Congressional entities have failed miserably to meet our tribal trust responsibilities. We do need to better organize this for sure.

We are a culturally rich people with customs, practices and beliefs where unique niches have flourished. We as a tribe caught all fish destined for everywhere. We must retain rights to hunt and fish, and exercising that right is fundamental as a tribal member of Warm Spring.

I would push to be the steward for Council on natural resources issues. A true co-management status and integrated tribal philosophies can't be over emphasized. Thanks for your time and hope to have your support.

Ryan G. Smith Sr.

lars to benefit our tribal people. Our budget needs to allow for growth and expansion. In the past we have always valued and utilized outside recommendations and insights like Oregon state studies, third party recommendations, consultants and legal council. They have all had their opportunities to contribute, yet we are still waiting for the very low hanging fruit to be produced and used to tribal members' benefit.

We will be competing for state and federal funds in the coming years, and adjusting to very aggressive outside influences. Other tribal nations have truly raised the bar on what the CTWS will need to do for these dollars in the future.

Considering demographics of our tribe, a majority of our people are below 30 years of age. This is our workforce. So should the young people be our main focus, and how can we adjust our priorities?

Every year an additional 60-100 people are added to our workforce. What are their options? Very few limited duration, seasonal and part time jobs seem to be the only option for them.

Youth work experience has always been a Council priority, but what is the track record for this concern? We still need all of Council to champion this!

I hope to take part and