

## Tribal Committees Seeking New Members

Recent changes in the General Committee Ordinance has created vacancies in the Fish/Wildlife Committee and the Cemetery Committee.

It has been resolved that only one family member shall serve on a committee and only one Tribal Council member per committee. Also, all committee members must physically reside within one of the counties of the six county service area.

Members of the committees encourages interested tribal members to apply.

"The idea of a committee is to provide a link between the community and the government," said Jim Willis, General Manager of the Tribe. "A broader representation of the community will bring the community input into the tribal governmental process. These changes are designed to open committee involvement to tribal community members. We appreciate your interest and willingness to participate in tribal government."

Individuals interested in applying for a committee position should fill out the committee application form and return it to Jackie Whisler. Applications can be hand-delivered or mailed to: 9615 Grand Ronde Road Grand Ronde, Oregon, 97347

### CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

#### COMMITTEE APPLICATION FORM - 1992

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Is transportation a problem? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Can you travel overnight? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

When are you available for meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you interested in serving on this committee? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any background in this committee area?(optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## Moving...Let us know

If you have recently moved or are planning on moving, let us know so you won't have to miss a single copy of your favorite newsletter. Just fill out this form with your new address and mail it back to Smoke Signals at 9615 Grand Ronde Rd., Grand Ronde, OR 97347

**NEW**

**OLD**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## Coalition Created to Defend American Indian Religious Freedoms

Washington, D.C.—Traditional Native spiritual leaders and 24 non-Indian clergy and human rights leaders announced the creation of a historic coalition to defend the right of Native Americans to practice their religion and to protect the cultural survival of Indians in the United States on October 14, 1992 in Washington, D.C. The coalition will push Congress to strengthen the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA).

Because the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that no protection exists for tribal religions under the U.S. Constitution, the door has been opened for a narrow rule-making and federal regulations that restrict Indian access to some of their most sacred land—where ceremonies are held that constitute the spiritual life of tribal communities. Pressure from developers has led to bulldozers and cranes, destroying sites where rituals have been performed for centuries.

"We are fighting for the most fundamental right Indian people hold: the right to practice our religion," said Gaiashkibos, president of the National Congress of American Indians, a national organization representing 151 tribes. "The cultural and spiritual survival of Native Americans is tied closely to the preservation and well-being of our tribal religious traditions."

"Creation of this historic coalition marks the birth of one of the most significant human rights and religious liberties movements in our century, said Hilary Shelton, chair of the inter-religious coalition supporting this bill.

"This nation's treatment of the Native American religious community has been shameful. We as a nation have destroyed their sacred sites, pulled Indians away from their culture, undermined their ability to worship with dignity and trivialized their beliefs. The human rights and religious communities are joining together to defend traditional Indian worship and to preserve Indian communities as distinct cultural entities," Shelton said.

Senator Daniel Inouye, a Democrat from Hawaii, is expected to introduce in January a bill to protect sites considered sacred by traditional Native American religious practitioners and establish a mechanism for resolving disputes. It would also give Native American prisoners access to traditional religious practices—now denied them in many states.

According to John Ecohawk, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), "By failing to safeguard Indian holy ground and religious practices, the government is demonstrating a willingness to sacrifice its indigenous people—and to lose an important piece of this country's heritage."

## Smoke Signals

EDITOR  
TRACY OLSON

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