

## ✓ June Sell Sherer

Fellow Tribal members:

My name is June Sherer and I am again standing for Tribal Council. I am the daughter of Joseph Sell and Emma LaBonte Sell. I grew up in Grand Ronde and the Willamette Valley. After graduating from high school in 1966, I served in the military.

My previous job history remains unchanged covering employment with Washington Public Power, Exxon Company, and Westinghouse. Personal changes include completion of my Associate's Degree in Administration and Medical Office Assistant's Degree at Columbia Basin College last summer, and our move to Grand Ronde in September. Returning to my ancestral home is quite a change from the desert of Eastern Washington. Mike, my husband, says it reminds him of Minnesota where he grew up.

Changes have taken place for us as a tribe also. The casino has of course opened, and is rapidly expanding. We tribal members have listed and set priorities for those things that affect us now and in the future: health, education, housing, retirement, per capita, etc. We have addressed all these, and for those of you who are living in the Six County Area, most are adequate.

Now, however, we need to reach out to those of us not in a position to return. An HMO to cover tribal members health concerns outside the Six County Area must be enacted upon. We should expand our available funding for education and job training so that it is made more readily available. Retraining to adapt to an ever-changing job market will help maintain stability for our families.

I maintain my stand on per capita as I feel that it is the only way some families can purchase those necessities not covered by available funds, or used as a savings account for the future. I understand the fears that some members voice concerning the possible substance abuse, but the roots of these are problems which must be dealt with separately. Withholding per capita only penalizes those with serious financial hardships.

We should make available housing assistance for all tribal members in need. I would undertake the task of involving the local Habitat for Humanity chapter in establishing low-cost housing for working tribal members. Such a program, with tribal help, could conceivably lead to housing for tribal members outside the Six County Area. As a Council member, I would bring an impartial opinion and fairness toward all tribal members as one who has lived both in and out of the Service Area.

Other matters need to be addressed. While as a group we share a culture, we are a political entity which must both interact with other groups and look out for our own well-being. Some of these items include further acquisition of tribal lands and continued support from the federal government. We must also make sure that the politicians and bureaucrats do not succeed in paying their tax bills with our revenue.

Another proposal worth mentioning is the establishment of an ombudsman position between tribal members and Spirit Mountain Development Corporation to deal with the perceived unjust hiring practices and other complaints.

I hope to see all of you at the Candidate Forum so that I may elaborate on these matters and learn about other issues important to you.

## ✓ Dee Edwards

Hello fellow tribal members. My name is Delores "Dee" Parazoo-Edwards, I am 39 years old. I am married and have three daughters - 18, 15, and 12. My Native American heritage comes from my father, Walter "Dewey" Parazoo. My father, and some of his family members attended many meetings in the Grand Ronde area back in the 1950s, working toward what is now a reality. Although the casino would be a surprise to him and many others who attended meetings back then, but have since passed away, I think they would be pleased. I am, and always have been very proud to be part Chinook Indian. I currently work for a state-wide economic development program called the Government Contract Acquisition Program (GCAP), that assists small Oregon businesses with federal and state contracting.

I am running for Tribal Council because I, like many other tribal members, feel left out of tribal activities and changes because I don't live in the Six County Service Area. I live in Eugene, but like you, I want to belong.

As a Tribal Council member I would like the chance to represent all of the tribal members who live outside of the Six County Service Area. If geographically convenient meetings were held you could be updated on all events with an opportunity to ask questions and give input. Currently, the only way for you to find out about changes that affect you is the newsletter. If elected, I could hold these meetings in areas convenient to you. I would be open to your questions and concerns and would relay your comments back to the rest of the Council. I would also like you to feel that you could call me anytime to voice a concern, complaint, or ask a question. If I didn't have an answer for you - I would find out and let you know.

We need to be one tribe, but to do this everyone has to feel equal and feel that they are important in the daily workings of the Tribe. I think that many of you feel as I do, that all of the services and benefits should be for all of the Tribe - not just the ones who live in the area. Wanting these services and benefits to be equal doesn't mean we are looking for a handout, it just means we want to be equal.

Granted, I don't know all of the inner workings of the Tribe or all of the federal laws that apply, but I will learn them and find out the best ways to be of help to tribal members. I have thought that we should be able to have satellite offices, similar to what the Siletz Tribe has in Eugene, maybe open only one or two days per week. If we cannot have satellite offices in other areas, then there still should be a way for all of us to obtain services. I would make it my main concern to alert all of the tribal members to how they could obtain services.

At the last Council meeting some tribal members were concerned about the low number of tribal members working at the casino. After the meeting I asked a Council member what the actual figure was - and I was quoted 10%. Only 10% of all of the employees working at the casino are tribal members! This figure is shocking to me. Especially since at the meeting two tribal members had expressed how upset they, or their family members were, after applying for jobs at the casino that they felt qualified for, but did not get hired. They were not only not given a good reason for not being hired - they were given no reason at all. Wouldn't it be better to help tribal members? Even if a short training period would be needed to hire the tribal member, wouldn't this serve the purpose of the casino?

If you feel as I do on many of these issues, please vote for me in the next Grand Ronde tribal election. I am eager to serve on the Tribal Council and look forward to meeting with you and discussing any problems or concerns that you have. If you have any questions please call me at (541) 688-4710.

## ✓ Joyce DeHart

My name is Joyce DeHart. I grew up in the Hood River Valley and chose a career in nursing. I have worked for the Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles for the past twenty-five years. My husband and I raised our children in the small town of Mosier. We have been operating a chain of grocery outlets throughout the Columbia Gorge since 1970.

I have attended General Council meetings over the years, and I believe the Tribal Council is responsible for the allocation of our money and it is our duty as individual members to express our needs to them so that they know the best way to do this. When a tribal member who lives outside of the Six County Service Area asks for additional benefits, they are not asking for more benefits. They are asking for equal distribution of payment (dollars).

This is an important concern which I believe will tear our tribe apart if not rectified. While federal guidelines restrict health services to the Six County Area, there is nothing to prevent Tribal Council from making other adjustments with funds to provide tribal members outside the area with equivalent economic benefit.

The Tribal Council recognized the issue of "fairness in distribution of benefits" in a recent General Council meeting. During that meeting, it was pointed out to a tribal member that under the Supplemental Budget, people living outside of the Six County Area would receive some benefits: a retirement fund for those over 55, additional education dollars, and an investment fund. After all the hard work that went into the Supplemental Budget, many of the Tribal Council and membership seemed surprised and somewhat exasperated that the tribal members at the meeting who live outside of the area were not satisfied with this budget or the gesture behind it.

While the Tribal Council needs to be applauded for the gains made through this budget, they also need to acknowledge that it does nothing to address the "equal share" issue. This is a very old issue which Tribal Council members coming up for re-election have had three years to address, and others running for Council do not support.

I believe that the community of Grand Ronde should operate from a strong economic base in order to ensure continuous benefits to tribal members and maintain our tribal identity. Therefore, equal benefits for those living on and off the reservation will always be somewhat inequitable. However, casino profits should go to those living outside the Six County Area, either directly or indirectly, in order to bridge the huge economic gap in services to these people.

If elected to Council, I would like to address this issue by working to achieve an appropriate balance in benefits for all members. This is the only way we can become a strong Indian Nation with everyone working together for the benefit of all.

Further, I believe that Tribal Council and the Board of Spirit Mountain Corporation should be actively working to ensure that any tribal member who wants to work at the casino is given that opportunity, even if it means that the tribal member must bump a non-member out of a job.

If elected to Council, I would ask for periodic reports of the numbers of tribal members working at the casino, their positions, the training plan in place for them to advance within this company, and documentation on cases where applications were rejected or tribal members were terminated.

We voted to go forward with this Casino Project because of assurances that any tribal member willing to work would be employed. As a member of Tribal Council, I will hold the Corporation accountable to these assurances as long as the general membership understands there can be no free rides. Individual tribal members must be capable of performing duties of the job, produce the same quality of work as their counterparts, and must qualify for a gaming license.

These issues are all of great importance. If you support my position on issues, I need your vote in September. If I haven't addressed an area of concern for you, or if you would like to discuss an issue in greater length, please contact me at (503) 478-3319, or write: P.O. Box 596 Mosier, Oregon 97040. I am planning a picnic next month where I hope to talk with tribal members and their families. If you would like to come, please contact me for specific information.