

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians meet in Portland

■ Native leaders celebrate the demise of Washington Senator Slade Gorton.

By Chris Mercier

Consider it Indian Country's own All-Star game.

More than 25 Tribes were represented February 5 through February 8 at Embassy Suites in Portland for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Winter Conference. The nine Oregon Tribes congregated with representatives from Alaska, California, Montana, Nevada and Washington to socialize, fraternize, pontificate and ultimately celebrate virtually every victory and issue pertaining to Native Americans today.

Indeed no topic was left untouched as Tribal members, through committees and workshops, tackled health, gaming, tourism, natural resources, education, welfare,



Photo by Chris Mercier

TRIBAL GATHERING — Grand Ronde Tribal Chair Kathryn Harrison (center) meets with the Honorable Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse and former Nez Perce Tribal Chairman Allen Pinkham at this year's first Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Conference in Portland.

housing and economic development.

Representatives from notable government agencies were on hand as well, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs,

the National Congress of American Indians, and Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, a long-time ally of Tribes. Also attending was a representative of the suddenly unpopular Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Everybody walked away smarter.

"Honestly, I've gotten so much good information from all this," Tribal Council member Butch LaBonte said. "And I've had fun too."

Like many present, LaBonte became well informed of the issues at stake in the Northwest power emergency, particularly following the unfriendly verbal assault directed at the representative of the BPA, which finds itself in a precarious position. The BPA faces the prospect of satisfying both new demand for power along the West Coast and its subsequent effect on salmon runs, for which many Tribes near the Columbia River take issue.

"I can see now why this issue is so important," said LaBonte.

On February 5 the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde sponsored the Victory Celebration Reception, a "come one, come all" event honoring not only Tribal Council Chair Kathryn Harrison, but also the exit of former Washington Senator Slade Gorton, seen by many Natives in the region as a threat to sovereignty.

"What can I say — Slade Gorton's out," she said. "Yay!"

Harrison spoke during lunch on February 7, offering thanks not only to Furse, but Mark Hatfield, whose positive history of working with Tribes is revered throughout Oregon.

"I'm very thankful for all this, and to them (Furse and Hatfield)," Harrison said. "There is a very steady, positive move in Indian country."

"We need input from all Indians," she added.

NEXT GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 4

11:30 a.m. at the Tribal Community Center

Subject: Social Services Program



SMOKE SIGNALS

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Tues., March 20	APRIL 1
Thurs., April 5	APRIL 15
Fri., April 20	MAY 1
Fri., May 4	MAY 15
Mon., May 21	JUNE 1
Tues., June 5	JUNE 15
Wed., June 20	JULY 1
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Fri., August 3	AUGUST 15
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Fri., October 19	NOVEMBER 1
Mon., November 5	NOVEMBER 15
Mon., November 19	DECEMBER 1
Wed., December 5	DECEMBER 15
Mon., December 17	JANUARY 1



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Tribal Council Actions

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

4:00 p.m. — Meeting was called to order by Kathryn Harrison. Ed Pearsall and Ed Larsen were both excused. All other Council was present.

Reyn Leno moved, Jan D. Reibach seconded to approve the previous December 20, 2000 Tribal Council meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

RESOURCE SUBCOMMITTEE

■ **Vocational Rehabilitation Match.** Bob Haller moved, Cheryle Kennedy seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 001-01** approving \$42,000 for the Vocational Rehabilitation Program to meet their federal match requirements prior to 09-30-99. The funds will be charged to the contingency funds of the Tribe. Motion carried 6-0-0.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

■ **2001-2002 Membership Fee Schedules — MWVCOG and EDD.** June Sell-Sherer moved, Reyn Leno seconded to renew membership for 2001-2002 for Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (COG) in the amount of \$1,530 and Economic Development District (EDD) in the amount of \$173. Motion carried 5-0-1 with Butch LaBonte abstaining.

■ **Tribal Travel Policy Adoption.** Jan D. Reibach moved, Bob Haller seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 002-01** approving the Tribal Travel Policy as submitted, to become effective immediately (with the changes made), which includes: federal rate requirements, exceptions for travel changes and GSA rates; to be implemented by the Executive Officer. Motion carried 6-0-0.

■ **Down Payment Grant Revision.** June Sell-Sherer moved, Cheryle Kennedy seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 003-01** that revises the 2001 Down Payment Grant Program Policy as follows:

- 1) remove parts 2 & 3 of the definition of "First Time Homebuyer;"
- 2) add a match of additional grant funds of up to \$2,500 to a one-to-one (1:1) match for additional cash contribution by the applicant (subject to additional Tribal funding). Motion carried 6-0-0.

■ **Contract for Judicial Services.** June Sell-Sherer moved, Jan D. Reibach seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 004-01** approving and authorizing the Tribal Chairperson to execute the 2001-2002 Contract for Judicial Services with the Chief Judge of the Tribal Court. This Contract contains terms substantially similar to the 2000 Contract for Judicial Services. Motion carried 5-0-1 with Reyn Leno abstaining.

LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

■ **Amendments Enrollment Ordinance.** Reyn Leno moved, June Sell-Sherer seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 005-01** amending the Enrollment Ordinance to make technical changes and to include provisions allowing Enrollment staff to submit applications for infants under 6 months of age directly to Tribal Council, requiring submission of certified true copies of documents supporting an application for enrollment, clarifying individuals with access to enrollment records, affirmatively stating the burden and standards of proof for enrollment applications, clarifying limits on Tribal Court remedies for appeals of enrollment decisions, limiting persons authorized to submit applications for enrollment on behalf of minors, and affirmatively providing retroactive effect of the amended Enrollment Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0-0.

■ **Member Benefit Fund Ordinance.** First reading acknowledged.

OTHER BUSINESS

Patti Tom-Martin thanked the Tribal Council for their continued support of the Vocational Rehabilitation program.