

# Member Services Department Reports At December's General Council Meeting

■ General meetings will go on the road to Eugene and Portland next year.

By Ron Karten

The December General Council meeting was held on Sunday, December 5th, at the Tribal Community Center in Grand Ronde. Here are the highlights:

Tribal Vice Chair Reyn Leno called the meeting to order. Tribal Council member Wesley West offered the invocation.

The Elders' Committee held nominations for three committee openings. Arlene Beck nominated Louise Coulson.

Monty Parazoo nominated Betty Bly. Charlotte Gray nominated Dakota Whitecloud. Sharon Hanson nominated Ruth Rickard. Anna Hannon nominated Tom LaChance. And Tom LaChance nominated Anna Hannon. All are Tribal Elders. The results will be announced in January.

Tribal Operations Director Chris Leno gave detailed information about Members Services with a nod to the personnel who keep the programs going.

**The Tribe offers the following services to members:**

- Medical and dental insurance

- Per capita and timber distributions

- Elders pension, SSI (Social Security Insurance) and SSD (Social Security Disability)

- Non-Elder SSI, SSD

- Medicare Part B reimbursement

- Tax preparation assistance

- Enrollment

- Burial assistance

Of all benefits offered, the Tribe offers the following services to Elders (age 55+)

- Elder's pension/SSI/SSD

- Medical and dental insurance

- Medicare Part B reimbursement

- Per capita and timber distributions

- Non-member spouse health insurance (age 55+)

ance (age 55+)

- Tax preparation

Of all benefits offered, the Tribe offers the following benefits to members age 18-54:

- Medical and dental insurance

- Medicare Part B reimbursement

- Per capita (age 18+) and timber distribution (age 21+)

- Enrollment services

- Tribal SSI/SSD (if eligible)

Of all benefits offered, the Tribe of-

Coordinator, 503-879-2253; or Sharon Grout, Enrollment Specialist, 503-879-2116.

- For Medical and dental insurance, contact Francine Peterson, Member Services Assistant, 503-879-2221.

- For departmental assistance, contact Hollie Mercier, Administrative Assistant, 503-879-2490.

For tax purposes, said Leno, the per capita should be listed under Indian gaming proceeds, Tribal distribution

The presentation avoided a number of still-confidential issues and facts, but was designed to let the membership know that the process to recover all losses continues as the Tribe works to keep such problems from cropping up again.

As information becomes available, *Smoke Signals* or *Council News* will provide it.

Tribal member Jeff Mercier brought forward a family concern to Tribal Council seeking an explanation.

Former Tribal Council member and Elder Val Grout thanked the council for this year's benefits, noting, "Our grandparents fought the hardest for us and never got a thing."

She received a standing ovation.

Discussion followed about whether General Council meetings were the right place for raising personal issues.

Tribal Elder Lottie Child said that nobody thanks graveyard employees at the casino. "They're treated different," she said.

The \$50 door prizes went to Tribal Elders Tom Bean, Carol Gleason and June Olson. Tribal Elder Gene LaBonte won the \$100 prize.

The Royalty Committee held drawings for winners of its fund raising raffle.

Tribal Elder Rebecca Crocker won a Pendleton blanket. Tribal Elders Tom Linton, Marcia Bolton and Norma Lee won fruit baskets.

**Announcements:**

- The Tribal Council will take its General Council meetings on the road in February (to Portland) and in April (to Eugene).

- The next General Council Meeting will be Sunday, January 9, 2004, at 11 a.m. in the Tribal Community Center. ■



**Presentation** — Tribal Operations Director Chris Leno described services available to members through Tribal programs.



**Here To Help** — Steve English, an attorney with Bullivant Houser Bailey, PC, described how the Tribe is continuing to pursue investments lost when Strategic Wealth Management was handling Tribal investments.

Photos by Ron Karten

fers the following benefits to members age 0-17:

- Medical and dental insurance

- Per capita (under 18) and timber distribution (under 21) deposited into trust accounts

- Enrollment services

**Contacts:**

- For per capita and timber distributions, contact Liz Leno, Member Benefits Administrator, 503-879-2082.

- For Enrollment and burial benefits, contact Margo Mercier, Enrollment

or Native American distribution, not employment income.

Steve English and Jeff Eden, lawyers from Bullivant Houser Bailey PC, a Portland law firm that is reviewing a range of issues for the Tribe, highlighted the Tribe's effort to recover investments lost between 1992, when the Tribe hired Strategic Wealth Management (SWM) to handle investments, and 2001 when the agreement with SWM was terminated and legal proceedings began.

## Alaskan Wins \$1.9 Million At Spirit Mountain Casino

By Peta Tinda

A lucky visitor to Spirit Mountain Casino struck it rich, winning \$1,999,467 on the Wheel of Fortune dollar machine.

The jackpot is the largest in the history of Spirit Mountain Casino and the fourth largest payout in the state of Oregon.

The winner, Lorene Alexan Anelon, resides in Iliamna, Alaska. She stopped in at Spirit Mountain Casino while visiting family.

"I've never played Wheel of Fortune but my family loves the game," said Anelon. "I put in \$100 and had \$66 left when I hit the Wheel of Fortune. And when I knew I hit the \$1.9 million I started crying. I just couldn't believe it."

The Wheel of Fortune game is a wide area progressive, linked

nationally with other Native American casinos. The progressive meter grows for all participating Tribal properties as guests play at each casino.

Spirit Mountain Casino is wholly owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and is the key economic resource in the Tribe's on-going effort to gain self-sufficiency for the Tribe and its members.

Spirit Mountain Casino has 1,500 slot machines, Keno, three Craps tables, four Roulette tables, 29 Blackjack tables, three Let It Ride Poker tables, three Pai Gow Poker tables, one Big 6 Wheel, an 850-seat Bingo Hall, 16 poker tables and an Off-track Betting area.

It has six different dining options and includes the 100-room Spirit

Mountain Lodge and 4,800 square feet of meeting and banquet space with full-service catering and other conference services.

Each year, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, through its Spirit Mountain Community Fund, gives six percent of the profits of Spirit Mountain Casino to non-profit organizations.

The Community Fund also contributes to government — running programs in Polk and Yamhill counties — the two counties most heavily impacted by the casino.

In addition, Spirit Mountain Casino supports a variety of community organizations and activities through corporate sponsorships and other donations. The casino has sponsored such worthy causes as Salem Art Associates, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry



**Lorene Alexan Anelon**

(OMSI), Zoolala and local food banks and charities.

Spirit Mountain continues to be Oregon's number one tourist attraction. ■

Photo courtesy of Spirit Mountain Casino