

Attention Tribal Members:

The Tribal Council is requesting your input for the Community Meetings that will be held in 2005.

Please bring written items to be considered to the January 2005 General Council meeting or call Dakota Whitecloud at 1-800-422-0232 ext.1309, direct at 503-879-1309 or email at dakota.whitecloud@grandronde.org.

All items received will be reviewed by the Tribal Council. The issues appearing to be most important to the General Membership will be discussed at the Community Meetings.

Thank you for your assistance.

2005 General Council Meeting Schedule

January 9 — Grand Ronde — **Please bring a canned food or cash donation to benefit the Grand Ronde Community Resource Center and Food Bank.**

February 6 — Portland, Oregon — Address To Be Announced

March 6 — Grand Ronde

April 3 — Eugene, Oregon — Address To Be Announced

May 1 — Grand Ronde

June 26 — Grand Ronde — Tribal Council - Nominations

SUMMER BREAK

September 11 — Grand Ronde — (Second Sunday — Labor Day)

October 9 — Grand Ronde — (Second Sunday — Hunting)

November 6 — Grand Ronde

December 4 — Grand Ronde

Letters

Dear Tribal members,

I have heard a number of Tribal members bring up the issue of blood quantum and the stand that some of our Tribal leadership candidates have taken. It makes my heart sad to see such a division and disagreement on an issue that should unite us. We are all descendants in a family tree of ever-thinning blood lines. Many of us were lucky enough to be born into the "right" generation to be an official member of the Tribe.

The truth is that the blood quantum requirement was originally a U.S. government imposed regulation that was designed to thin out Indian Nations and free the U.S. government from any treaties they may have made with the Indian people. By limiting the numbers, they were limiting the length of their contracts.

Few, if any of us, were born into money. The per capita, health benefits, education scholarships and housing fund have all been amazing blessings to me and my family year after year. However, I was a member of the Tribe long before I ever received a single penny. My grandfather, John Pichette, never got to see the great things the Tribe has done in recent years. He would have been proud of the great strides we have made financially. But most of all, he would have wanted to see that his children, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren were a part of a bigger circle of culture that, for centuries, survived without per capita.

I am saddened that many of us have lost sight of what it means to be a member of the Tribe. I will argue passionately that in our heart of hearts, all of us have a deep, undying love for our culture over the money.

When we are considering leadership for our tribe, we need to consider how long we can keep our heritage from disappearing into meaningless statistics of blood quantum. When we allow our Indian brothers and sisters to be denied entry, into some exclusive club, than the U.S. government has won.

Lets focus our efforts on opening our arms to ALL of our children, our grandchildren and cousins who have a desire to carry on the legacy of a great Indian Nation. When we begin squabbling over pennies, our Nation becomes a mirror of the money-hungry culture that set out to diminish our numbers in the first place.

We need to ask ourselves, in the end, what truly is important. Per capita can only take us so far. Our future depends entirely on individuals who love, honor and know the culture that we have all fought so hard to build up and protect.

Blessings,

Sarah Ross

Roll #1366

Still Giving —

Doug Bartlett, Yamhill Community Assistance Program (YCAP) Director (left), presents former Tribal Council member Ed Larsen a plaque recognizing 9 years of service to YCAP. Larsen served as a board member during the years he served on Tribal Council.

Photo by Peta Tinda



Smoke Signals 2005 Deadlines

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Wed., Jan. 5	JAN. 15
Fri., Jan. 21	FEB. 1
Fri., Feb. 4	FEB. 15
Fri., Feb. 18	MAR. 1
Fri., Mar. 4	MAR. 15
Fri., Mar. 18	APR. 1
Mon., Apr. 4	APR. 15
Wed., Apr. 20	MAY. 1
Fri., May 6	MAY. 15
Fri., May 20	JUNE 1
Mon., June 6	JUNE 15
Fri., June 17	JULY 1
Tues., July 5	JULY 15
Wed., July 20	AUG. 1



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