

Attention Tribal Members

2007 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

■ Sunday, Oct. 7 — Grand Ronde, 11 a.m.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE TIME
Wednesday, September 26 5 p.m.

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed. Please call Dakota Whitecloud, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator, at 503-879-1309 to confirm.

Letters

Dear Fellow Tribal Members:

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We are the Grand Ronde Families for Enrollment, a group of dedicated Tribal members from all walks of life and from around the country.

Many of us are part of those "split families" you may have read or heard about. Also, a number of us are parents to that large group of children who will be kicked out of the Tribe should the upcoming amendment fail. As you can tell, the constitutional amendment of 1999 had a very adverse and negative impact on many of our lives. Our goal is to correct that.

To be completely honest, we don't disagree with the intent of 1999 constitutional amendment. Like any other Tribe, government, business, organization or community, you must grow at a rate you can cope with and administer. We understand fully why the 1999 amendment was brought forth for a vote of the membership.

However, like any major decision, there are always unintended consequences. In our case, the new requirements for enrollment divided our families, leaving some of our children able to enjoy life as Tribal members, and some of their siblings unable. We believe this scenario to be very unjust, and if many of you were in the same situation, you would probably feel the same way.

Like many of you, we don't want to see the floodgates to our Tribal membership opened. The new proposed amendment does not do that. It corrects the unfair situation for us and for many other Tribal families.

If you attended the community meetings in the Northwest or saw the reprints of handouts in the May issue of *Tilixam Wawa*, you would know that should the amendment pass maybe 300 new Tribal members would be able to enroll. That is roughly a 6 percent increase in our population, with little impact on the services you receive as a Tribal member. Per capita is still likely to be at an all-time high by 2009.

The question we ask then is if something costs very little to you, but would make a world of difference in the lives of others, would open up numerous educational and financial opportunities for the next generation of Tribal children, what possible reasons could somebody have to not support that?

We can't think of any.

We would like to see the new amendment pass. It is the right thing to do. It corrects a situation without putting the Tribe at risk and has little impact on everybody else. Please join us in voting "yes" on the 2007 constitutional amendment.

For those who are interested, we hold weekly meetings in Eugene. In addition, we have also started a Web site that puts a face to the ugly impacts of the 1999 amendment at www.grenrollment.blogspot.com. You can also call Dee Edwards at 541-206-3477.

All who are interested are welcome to join us. We also can dispel a lot of the rumors and exaggerations that are floating around regarding this amendment.

Hayu Masi,

Dee Edwards, Marilyn Portwood, Butch Parazoo, Diana Norton, Monty Parazoo, Marta Clifford, Dell Dickison, Stephanie Boteilho, Eli Dickison, Carrie Taylor, Becky Weston, Dwane Modrell, Jennifer O'Neal

Dear Editor:

I wanted to let Grand Ronde employees know that they work with a great group of people.

For three years now, I have been the captain of a team that has walked in the longest relay race in the world. All three years I have had employees mixed in with my family members and have had great teams.

It is a lot of hard work and you get out of it what you put into it. Everyone has their own personal goals and I try to help them reach them. Everyone did a great job this year and we all finished the race in wonderful time.

For those of you who have not heard of this race, it runs the same time as the Hood to Coast race, but we walk (as fast as we can) from Portland to the Coast (Seaside). It starts on Friday morning (we started at 7 a.m.) and ends on Saturday (we ended around 12:45 p.m.), so not only does it test your physical strength but also how well you do without any sleep.

We have 12 people on the team that race in two legs of the race. There are 35 countries and 49 states that have teams. Money is raised to help find a cure for cancer. So not only is it a test for yourself, it is for a good cause. So if you see any of these great people around, tell them good job, they deserve it: Genifer Grout, Shanna Eide, Dr. Charlean White and Michelle Sweeney.

Other people on my team you might know are Mark White, Crissy Weber, Matt Weber, Mary Otjen, Ernie Turnidge, Larry Pain and Danny Spaulding.

I want to say thank you to all of you and it was a lot of fun.

Donnette Spaulding

Tribal Office Closures

All Tribal offices will be closed on Friday, Sept. 28, in observance of National Indian Day.

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

Election Board Alternate Positions Vacancy

Applications may be picked up at the Governance Center. Please submit applications to Dakota Whitecloud, TCRC, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.

For more information, contact Dakota Whitecloud at 503-879-1309 or dakota.whitecloud@grandronde.org

Smoke Signals

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Editorial Policy

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Our editorial policy is intended to encourage input from Tribal members and readers about stories printed in the Tribal newspaper. However, all letters received must be signed by the author, an address must be given and a phone number or e-mail address must be included for verification purposes. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published unless requested.

SMOKE SIGNALS reserves the right to edit letters and to refuse letters that are determined to contain libelous statements or personal attacks on individuals, staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Letters to the editor are the opinions and views of the writer. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of **SMOKE SIGNALS**, Tribal staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council.

Members of: ■ Native American Journalists Association
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2007-08 Tribal Council

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