

Eugene meeting focuses on enrollment election

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

EUGENE — The Tribe kicked off its educational effort regarding the Nov. 15 vote on a proposed constitutional amendment to revamp enrollment requirements on Sunday, Oct. 2, at the Valley River Inn.

About 50 Tribal members, as well as Tribal Council members and Tribal staff, packed a conference room to listen to Tribal Executive Officer Chris Leno give a briefing on the amendment proposal and its possible effects.

Held in an almost three-hour executive session because it delved into Tribal financial matters, the briefing cannot be reported on in detail in *Smoke Signals*.

The Eugene meeting was the first of four scheduled educational meetings where Tribal Council members and Tribal staff were on hand to answer questions and listen to concerns about the amendment proposal.

Meetings also were held Oct. 7 in Portland, Oct. 8 in Bend and Oct. 12 in Grand Ronde following the regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting that day.

Tribal Council members attending the Eugene meeting included Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Vice Chair Reyn Leno, Secretary Jack Giffen Jr. and Tribal Council members Kathleen Tom, Chris Mercier and Valorie Sheker.

Tribal Council member Toby McClary was traveling to a gaming conference and Tribal Council members June Sherer and Steve Bobb Sr. were on medical leave.

In June, Tribal Council voted 5-4 to send a bundle of four proposed enrollment changes to the General Membership. The Bureau of Indian Affairs approved the calling of the election on June 16.

The all-or-nothing proposal would change the following requirements for Tribal enrollment:



Photo by Dean Rhodes

Tribal Council members, from left, Kathleen Tom, Chris Mercier, Secretary Jack Giffen Jr., Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Vice Chair Reyn Leno and Valorie Sheker attended the Oct. 2 General Council meeting in Eugene. The meeting included the first of four education briefings for the General Membership about the Nov. 15 Enrollment Amendment election. Other briefings were held in Portland, Bend and Grand Ronde.

- It would reduce the relinquishment time from five years to two years that a person must wait to become a member of the Grand Ronde Tribe after officially leaving another Tribe;
- It would eliminate the requirement that new members have a parent on a Tribal membership roll at the time of their birth or at the time of their application;
- It would redefine Grand Ronde blood as "all Indian blood derived from a direct ancestor whose name validly appears on any roll or record of Grand Ronde members prepared by the Department of Interior or the Tribe prior to or since the effective date of this Constitution."
- And it would establish an annual quota of no more than 5 percent and no less than 2 percent of currently enrolled members may be accepted as new members, excluding newborns.

On Sept. 14, Tribal Council voted 4-3 to continue with the election process and rebuffed an effort to put it on hold and seek an advisory

vote on whether Tribal members wanted the proposal bundled or as four separate votes.

Tribal members who will be at least 18 years of age on Nov. 15 have until Monday, Oct. 17, to register to vote in the election. If Tribal members do not specifically register to vote in this election, they will not be eligible to vote.

For the amendment to change the Tribal Constitution, at least 30 percent of registered Tribal members must cast ballots and at least

two-thirds of those voters have to approve it.

This is the third time since 1983's Restoration that Tribal members are voting on enrollment requirements. In 1999, Tribal members approved tightening up enrollment requirements and in 2008, one of three proposals — the current five-year relinquishment period — received enough support to be written into the Tribal Constitution.

Before the executive session began, Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach played a blessing song on flute and Tribal member and Cultural Resources Manager David Lewis briefed the General Membership on the recent return of a Kalapuya shovel-nose river canoe to the Tribe by the Willamette Heritage Center at Mission Mill.

Lewis also said he is currently working on a comprehensive history of the Grand Ronde Tribe.

Tribal members Delores Edwards, Perri McDaniel and Eloise Winter won the \$50 door prizes while Tribal spouse Boaz Wolpe won the \$100 door prize.

The next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Tribal Community Center in Grand Ronde. It will discuss the proposed 2012 Tribal budget. ■

Flu Vaccine Clinics slated for October

The Tribe's Health & Wellness Center will offer Flu Vaccine Clinics every Thursday in October.

Hours will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m.

People seeking vaccinations should check in at the registration desk and complete and sign the flu vaccine questionnaire. There is no co-pay for the shot.

For more information, call the clinic at 503-879-2002. ■

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

Below is the most current information on the meeting days and times for Tribal Committees and Special Event Boards:

- Ceremonial Hunt Board meets as needed. Chair: Shonn Leno.
- Cultural Trust Board meets at 4 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Chair: Perri McDaniel.
- Culture Committee meets at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Modular No. 3. Chair: Kathy Provost.
- Education Committee meets at 5:15 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in the Adult Education Building. Chair: Shelby Rogers.
- Elders' Committee meets at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Elders' Activity Center. Chair: Gladys Hobbs.
- Enrollment Committee meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Building. Acting Chair: Robert Schmid.
- Fish & Wildlife Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- Health Committee meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month in the Tribal Wellness Center. Acting Chair: Patti Tom-Martin.
- Powwow Special Event Board meets at 5 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- Rodeo Special Event Board meets at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Rodeo Office. Acting Chair: Harold Lyon.
- Social Services Committee meets at 4 p.m. the second Monday of the month in the Social Services Conference Room. Chair: Ron Hudson.
- Timber Committee meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Bob Mercier.
- Veterans Special Event Board meets at 4 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dakota Whitecloud.

Elders Christmas Bazaar set

The annual Elders Christmas Bazaar will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18-19, in the Tribal gym.

Forty tables are available for \$20 per table. In addition, there will be a snack bar and prizes.

For a vendor application, contact Elder Activity Assistant Daniel Ham at 503-879-2233 or Daniel.ham@grandronde.org. ■

Basket weaving
with Connie Graves

Where: Elders' Activity Center
When: Every Tuesday
Time: 12:30 P.M.

We will be having a basket weaving class every Tuesday that is open to the public. If you have any questions, contact Brian Krehbiel at 503-879-4639

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