

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings
DATE **TIME**
 Wednesday, May 14.....5 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 28.....5 p.m.
Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.

Letters

Dear Smoke Signals:
 Hello, fellow members. I am writing this letter out of concern for eligible Tribal members who are not registered to vote or don't exercise their right to vote. The number of CTGR members who do not vote is shocking, especially when you consider what they have to lose by not voting in Tribal elections. This "not interested in voting" mentality harms not just non-voters, but other members as well.

There is great power as a Tribal member in being able to vote on Tribal issues and council candidates. As Tribal members, we are very fortunate to be able to cast our vote by absentee ballot. This ballot is sent to registered voters and can be returned postage free in the United States. How easy is that to vote? This is very important to know if you're a person who hasn't voted in the past. Also, have a solid address on file so that the ballot will get to you in plenty of time to vote and returned in time to be counted.

I realize that there are many people who think voting doesn't matter. Never think for one moment that your vote doesn't count! Why did I just say that? I worked at the Oregon State Legislature before CTGR was restored to federal Tribal status in 1983 and voting played a major role in making it happen. Our Restoration could not have occurred without the support of others. The experience taught me that Tribal members also have a certain responsibility to participate in their government by voting. Changes in Tribal Council and every benefit you are entitled to will be determined by voting members. Being a dedicated voter will keep your rights, benefits and basic freedoms intact. Large voting turnouts by Tribal members make it harder for the group I call "the tail that wags the dog" voters to control important decisions which have far-reaching results in our community.

It is my belief that being a Tribal member comes with many responsibilities. These responsibilities are yours to bear when you become a member. I want to mention a few that I think every Tribal member will agree are important to uphold and pass on to future generations:

- First, looking out for Tribal Elders and educating the young in useful life skills.
- Second, making it a priority in your life by demonstrating a positive behavior and standing up as a servant leader in the community.
- Next, finding your inner voice and expressing your concerns or thanks in a way that contributes a meaningful dialogue for all Tribal members.
- Last, and perhaps the hardest part for some, will be stopping to think about what's in this for you.

I would like to conclude this letter by saying that voting today is more important than ever due to self-seeking individuals within CTGR. Every Tribal member who has been following today's issues knows what one-sided voting outcomes lead to. So, take time to consider your membership responsibilities and then cast your vote. Please, do not let yourself fall into a mindset that other members will vote the way you would, or that their concerns are the same as yours. Don't get caught up in a robot voter mentality; you're an individual, so vote that way.

Again, I want to ask you to register to vote if you're not already registered, and if you are registered, vote! Remember, not voting hurts you and harms other members who want our government run by all the people. If you have any questions regarding voting, call CTGR at 503-879-5211 or 800-422-0232.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and please pass the message on to friends and family to vote because every vote counts.

Sequoia "Tall Timber" Raya
 Roll #2313

See page 15 for more letters.

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 Undergraduate degrees offered: BA/BS in Social Science, BA/BS in Arts & Letters and BA/BS in Liberal Studies.
 For more information about online degree programs, contact the PSU Salem Center at 503-315-4281 or e-mail psusalem@pdx.edu. ■

Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closing at noon Friday, May 23, and be closed on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.

General Council meeting

Sunday, May 18 — 11 a.m.
 Tribal Community Center

Smoke Signals

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Monday, May 5	May 15
Tuesday, May 20	June 1
Friday, June 6	June 15

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.

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2014 Tribal Council

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