

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

November/December 2012

"The story as it's told"

Volume 14 • Number 11

'We Have the Power to Make a Difference'



Band members rally to spread awareness on the Voter ID Amendment.



Bonnie Matrious and her daughter Jurney Matrious. This was Jurney's first election because she just turned 18!



(L-R) Nadine Wade, Carolyn Shaw, Angela Matrious, Jamie Edwards, Sally Fineday, Katie Draper. In front: Quentin and Marcel. Angela won the grand prize TV at the rally.

Toya Stewart Downey, Staff Writer

Hundreds of Band and community members attended the "Voter ID Rally" held days before Election Day. The Nov. 2 event was organized by the Band's



(L-R) Shawn Kingbird, Darcie Big Bear, Jenelle Kingbird.

Department of Government Affairs as a way to encourage participants to make their voices heard by exercising their right to vote.

"The main focus was how the Voter ID amendment could greatly affect Indian County if it were to pass on the State General Election Ballot," said Katie Draper, Local Coordinator for Government Affairs. "If that happened, it could have potentially eliminated

American Indians right to vote using their tribal ID cards."

While the festive event was filled with activities for people of all ages and included a Karaoke contest, the messages included throughout the day were quite serious as evidenced in a slideshow presentation that played during the rally.

During the slideshow presentation, elected officials and



One of our guest speakers, Salvador Miranda from Organizing Apprenticeship Project through Voices for Voting Rights. A multiracial, multicultural group of organizations focused on building community power, voice, and access at the polling booth and beyond. Strong advocates for VOTE NO.

Band Members gave powerful testimonies for why they vote.

Some of the comments included in the slideshow ...*Story continued on page 2*



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included Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin saying, "I vote because I want my voice to be heard and it is my responsibility to vote."

It also included District III Representative Marvin Bruneau saying, "It is my duty, right and privilege that others fought and give their lives for. I vote to honor them."

Katie said the crowd was engaged and was many other attendees were eager to share their reasons for voting while they were at the rally.

"We also did some chanting, 'Vote No, Vote Gaawiiin!' Gaawiiin means no in Ojibwe," Katie added.

During the rally, attendees were reminded the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has over 3,000 members who are over the age of 18, and if everyone voted what a tremendous impact they would make on the Native vote.

It is worth noting, Katie said, that Minnesota was recognized by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) for the strong turnout of American Indian voters on Election Day.

"They recognized Minnesota nationally for its efforts to defeat amendment question two, the voter ID question, on the ballot."

In an email the NCAI wrote, "The Native Vote campaign focused national attention on the issue of voter ID with the release of a report identifying six states of concern."

"The constitutional amendment to require photo ID in Minnesota was one race where Native voters had a chance to make their voice heard. The final results showed that high Native population precincts voted "no" by almost 10 points above the state average. One of the state's largest Native districts voted "no" at the stunning rate of 86 percent. This was a big victory for the freedom of Native people to vote in Minnesota."

Voter ID has become a hot topic around the country and it seemed as though the issue gained steam in Minnesota in recent weeks. However, closer to the election, it began to lose ground. By the time the election was over, only 46 percent of voters wanted to change the amendment. Since 2001, nearly 1,000 voter ID bills have been introduced in 46 states, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Thirty-three of those states passed voter ID laws.

"It's important that the Band, and our Native people, pay attention to what's happening nationally, and what's happening locally," Katie said. "We have the power to make a difference as evidenced in this election cycle. Our vote matters."

New Team Working On Paper

Letter from the publisher to MLB members and community members

Dear Readers:

Take a look at this paper and you'll see that it's very different from what you've seen in recent years. First, it was published later in the month than you've become accustomed to and it is a combined issue for the months of November and December.

Beginning in January, we'll be back to a monthly production schedule and will send the paper out around the beginning of the month. As the newspaper evolves you may notice other changes such as more color, more photos and new design elements.

You will also notice a different kind of writing, and different

news stories than you've become accustomed to. We will still include department updates, but we might format them differently. We're still in the decision-making process and soon enough we will unveil the new components of your newspaper.

You will see new features such as a "Message From the Chief Executive", a monthly column that will provide news and updates from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. You will see more news from the Administrative Policy Board and the Band Assembly and other departments. We want to be informative, transparent and give you the news you need to know.

Our hope is to highlight local and national news that may be important to our people. We want to share stories that are relevant, timely and honor our cultures and traditions. We welcome feedback, good and bad (please be kind though), as we

undergo this new journey together. We will rely on direction from our elected officials and Band leadership and will hope to hear from you with ideas and suggestions.

Red Circle Agency, owned by Band Member Chad Germann, is leading the way in this new endeavor. The staff at Red Circle will play a key role in the paper production along with Band Member Toya Stewart Downey and Deborah Locke, who is an enrolled Band Member of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Over the coming months you'll hear from us, see our faces and together we'll produce a product that we hope will make you proud.

On page three you will see contact information for the new team and we encourage you to reach out to us on a regular basis.

Migwetch.



Hard at work on the new project.

Chad Germann, Publisher



I'm an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe/District III Aazhomoog.

I'm also the founder and owner of Red Circle Agency, a specialty marketing agency providing creative, media and marketing technology solutions to Native American tribes and their various businesses, with a special focus on casinos.

I started the agency as a way to provide my own tribe with a better, more efficient, more effective solution. But we've expanded our vision to include any and all Native Tribal Nations that might need our help.

Red Circle has worked with more than 60 Indian casinos, providing a variety of creative

and media and, more recently, marketing technology services, and is currently active with 22 Indian casino clients.

Indian gaming is the economic engine for many tribes, and those casino dollars do a lot of good for the communities. Gaming revenues provide services that would otherwise not be available. And allow for wonderful things like cultural and language preservation programs. We know that gaming won't last forever. The white man will some day take it from us. Our goal at Red Circle is help our tribal clients maximize their earnings during this limited time when we can make good money from gaming.

My career started with summer internships during my undergraduate college years. Each summer I'd work with a different division of our casino marketing department. Those internships were tremendous learning opportunities. I was

very lucky. That learning opportunity set me on the path to where I am today. I am thankful to those who helped me then. After attending graduate school in Florida, I returned to take a job in marketing at Grand Casino Hinkley as the Advertising Manager. I learned so much in the position. I wouldn't be where I am today had I not put in the time at Hinkley. During my time at Grand Casino, I served as editor of the internal casino newsletter and also contributed regularly to the Inaajimowin, writing about casino events and business activities.

After three years as advertising manager, and with the help of the casino management and tribal leadership, I left the casino to start Red Circle. The last 11 years have been amazing.

It's been such a great honor to work with so many different Indian Nations, helping them ...*Story continued on page 3*

build their resources up so they could do more in their communities. I feel so very good about the work I do. Because it's really important. And now that my role with my own tribe will involve this newspaper and other communication tools... Well, that's a dream come true for me.

More than anything, I hope the work I do for Mille Lacs helps my people access more information that is relevant to them. I truly believe that news and information provided by Native people, written for Native people, about Native people will be a better answer for our People. And I am both excited to be a part of this new direction and thankful our elected officials are taking us down this new path.

Red Circle is 100 percent Native American-owned business with offices in the warehouse district of downtown Minneapolis, MN.

Internship opportunities with Red Circle are available for Mille Lacs Band members studying Mass Communications and living in the Twin Cities metro area.

Deborah Locke, Editor



If you ever watched "Lone Ranger" reruns on television, you know that American Indians are cast as grammar-challenged and mostly silent. Their role is supportive to the masked white guy.

What I know about Indians is this.

We talk a lot. Not with a choppy odd sentence structure lacking correct pronoun use. Not with grunts, pained grimaces and a Brooklyn accent, as seen on one "Lone Ranger" segment.

Instead, our oral storytelling tradition goes back thousands of years when during the long winter months, Ojibwe families gathered in the wigwam around the designated storyteller for tales of survival, warfare, history, and more. Between those well-spoken sentences, laughter undoubtedly rang out often. We laugh a lot, too.

Writing for a newsletter is a different way of gathering around a winter fire but it serves some of the same purposes. It passes along information. It can entertain. It captures and stops time so you can go back and reread something of interest. It paints images that can linger in the mind.

Now you may think that's a pretty high falutin' expectation

from a small reservation newsletter out of rural central Minnesota. We're no New York Times.

When I edited the newspaper at the Fond du Lac Band, however, I realized something right away. To those readers, our little newspaper was their version of the New York Times.

It's a pleasure to start writing for the Mille Lacs audience. I am an enrolled Ojibwe with family at the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota, and with family at the Fond du Lac Lake Superior Band near Cloquet, Minn. For 18 years before my current job with the Minnesota Historical Society, I wrote for newspapers including the Milwaukee Journal and St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The writing jobs resembled work as a facilitator in a giant classroom. Reporters and editors figured out what may be important to readers. We knew that people are most interested in events and information that touch their lives immediately. Examples are road closures, weather, movie and entertainment reviews, local politics, sports, food, health, natural resources and more.

For a few weeks now, Jamie Edwards, Government Affairs Director for the Mille Lacs Band, as well as Toya Stewart Downey and Chad Germann and me have met to plan the first editions of your newsletter. All of my colleagues are Mille Lacs Band Members.

My ties to Mille Lacs go back quite a few years. In the late 1970s I worked with Martin Kegg and Don Wedll on a curriculum project through the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. As a member of the Pioneer Press Editorial Board, I frequently wrote about American Indian issues in Minnesota and met with Marge Anderson and then Melanie Benjamin. I remember well the day that the Ojibwe bands won a Supreme Court lawsuit that reinforced their centuries-old hunting and fishing traditions. I remember Baptiste Sam, a beloved Mille Lacs elder who explained her bead work one winter day at the Mille Lacs Museum. I wrote about Baptiste then and later after she passed away. I will never forget her.

A resume? You want a resume? Let's just say I finished college. And even graduate school. Grammar challenged? Not really. I love to report and write and tell people things they didn't know.

It will be a pleasure to get to know you.

Toya Stewart Downey, Editor



If this were a movie, the fact that my parents had their wedding reception at the

Minneapolis Star Tribune back in the 1960's when such events could happen at local newspapers it would seem like the film's writer foreshadowed what would happen later in my life.

Before making you all wonder what the punch line is, I'll tell you before getting back to my story. I ended up being a newspaper reporter for 15 years at major daily newspapers across the country. So, in some ways it almost seems like fate decided long before I did that I would end up choosing a career in journalism.

This sounds like a cliché but writing has always been a big part of my life as evidenced by the childhood diaries I used to keep and the long letters I wrote to friends and family before we had email addresses and sent text messages via cell phones.

Long before I ended up becoming a journalist I spent hours reading the newspapers and wondering why there weren't stories in there about people like me, or the people I knew. By high school I had determined that I wanted to become a writer so that I could tell the kinds of stories that were missing in the papers I read. One hurdle was that I wasn't sure how to do it. I did know that college would help me reach my goals, so that's what I did - went to college to major in journalism.

I was proud to become the first college graduate in my family. I knew that if my mother, Mille Lacs Band member, Sheila Sutton Stewart (daughter of George and Marion Sutton) were alive she would have been over the moon by my accomplishments, as well as that of my sisters, Tawnya and Dawne Stewart who are also college graduates.

There's another thing that makes me proud and it's that through this forum I will be able to serve my community and my relatives. I first started writing for the Band newsletter in 2008 while I was in graduate school (more college) and continued to write stories and take photos for the publication.

I was able to meet or get reacquainted with my relatives during those three years working for the Band, as well as learn more about our culture. It's been just about a year since the last

time I wrote for the Band and I'm thrilled to be back telling our stories, serving you and our community.

Contact the team

We hope to hear from you with ideas and suggestions.

Meanwhile, we will continue to develop ideas of our own. Co-editors Toya Stewart Downey and Deborah Locke have a combined 33 years of experience in U.S. newsrooms including work for major metropolitan newspapers and for tribal newspapers here at Mille Lacs and at the Fond du Lac Band. The niche paper they envision will contain the traditionally reported stories that answer these age-old journalism questions: who, what, where, when and how.

The context for those questions, however, will be the rich history and culture of the Mille Lacs Band. The staff will develop a mission statement that will appear in every issue as a promise to you the reader that excellence and innovation are our goals. We want you to be eager to receive this newspaper each month and enlightened and surprised by the content. We want you to be so happy with this newspaper that you pass it around to non-subscribers for their enjoyment.

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13th Annual Fall Feast

Sarah C. Barten, Staff Writer

For the past 13 years, thousands of Mille Lacs Band members have gathered for the Corporate

Commission's Fall Feast. It has become a Holiday tradition for the community.
 "This event is a way for the Associates of the Corporate

Commission to extend their gratitude to the elected officials as well as Band members for their continued support of the Band's business," said Joseph Nayquonabe,

Jr., Commissioner of Corporate Affairs.
 This year, the Corporate Commission served more than 1,100 meals to Band families.

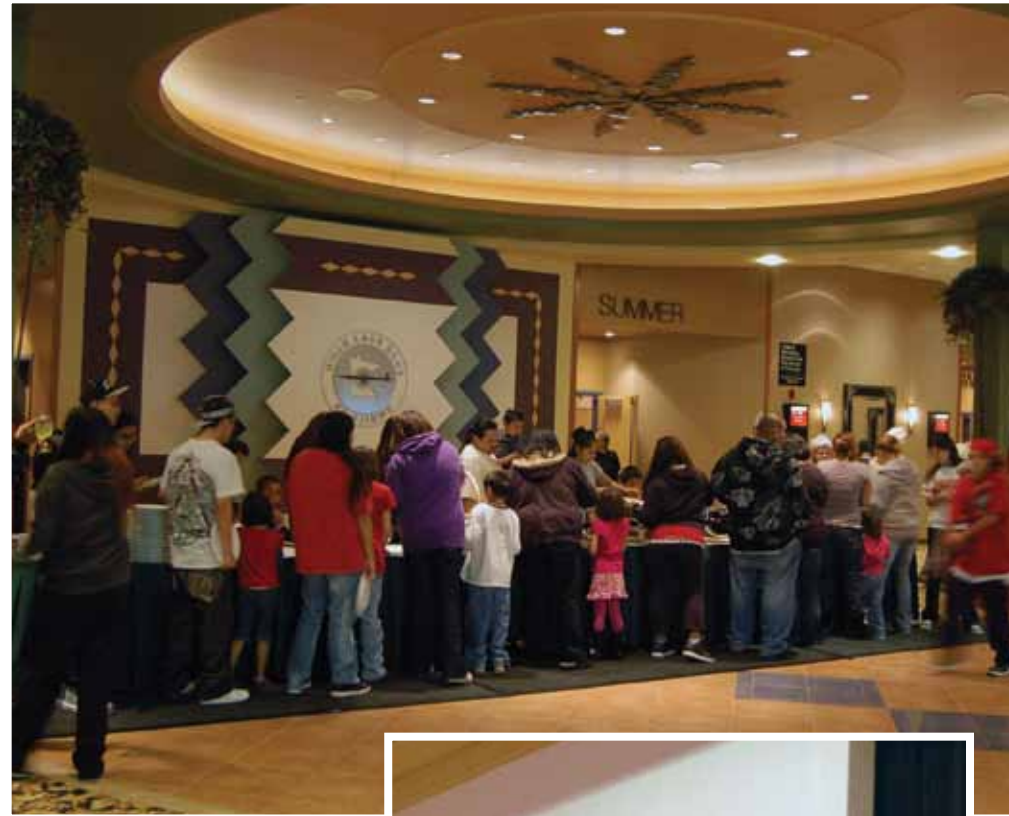


Photo courtesy of Andy McPartland

First Nelson Act Payments to Mail on December 14th



Senator Amy Klobuchar

A remedy of sorts for 1800's malfeasance

Deborah Locke, Staff Writer

Following decades of wrangling and bureaucratic red tape, Ojibwe Band Members in Minnesota will be receiving payments as a result of illegal land deals that occurred 123 years ago. Band members at Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, White Earth, Leech Lake, Bois Forte and Grand Portage will receive \$300 each from a \$20 million settlement that's been sitting in a federal trust account since 1999. The checks will be distributed to Mille Lacs Band Members on Dec. 14, 2012.

The Nelson Act is named after Minnesota Congressman Knute Nelson who introduced legislation in 1889 that removed many of the state's Ojibwe to the



Senator Al Franken

White Earth Reservation. The act also forced Ojibwe families to live on 80-acre land allotments, become farmers and abandon

“ There were many details to work out, with many parties involved, but we are pleased that these first checks will be in the mail on December 14th. ”

hunting and gathering traditions.

The goal of the federal government was assimilation and consolidation of American Indians during a period of racial tension following the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. The “surplus” land not assigned to Indian farmers was to be available for sale to non-Indians

settlers and entrepreneurs from the logging, railroad and steel industries.

The Ojibwe at that time believed that the money from the land sale to non-Indians would be placed in trust by the U.S. Treasury and would benefit all Ojibwe in the state as a permanent trust fund. Instead, the sale and process were mismanaged, and the Ojibwe received far less in revenue than that actual worth of the land and timber.

Individual land allottees didn't fare much better. Schemes surfaced to defraud individuals from their land. By the early 1900s, much of the original

government and agreed to the \$20 million settlement, but the bands couldn't agree on how to divide the money which grew to \$28 million with interest. Finally, the division of funds was settled.

Then came the bureaucratic tangle from Washington. Congress had to pass legislation to authorize the distribution of money. Minnesota's U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken introduced “The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 2011” to provide congressional authorization. Additionally, Rep. Collin Peterson and Rep. Chip Cravaak introduced companion legislation in the House.

Eventually the bill was signed by President Barack Obama, and the proceeds were forwarded to the bands.

The process to right a wrong from many years past has been complicated and lengthy, said Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. She added that it's possible that no amount of money could replace the way of life that the Nelson Act removed from the Ojibwe. However, this is as close as the Tribe will get to restitution in today's political climate. “There were many details to work out, with many parties involved” she said. “But we are pleased that these first checks will be in the mail on December 14th.”

Ojibwe reservation lands had been stolen from the allottees or their heirs through tax forfeit, minor sales or administrative sales. Timber was cleared and much land passed in a short time to non-Indian ownership.

In the late 1990s, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe successfully sued the federal

Change in Per Capita Distribution

Toya Stewart Downey, Staff Writer

Beginning in January Band members can begin picking up their per capita checks every month at each of the Districts community centers rather than the Government Center in Mille Lacs.

The change was made to make it more convenient for Band members, said Michele Palomaki, Assistant Commissioner of Administration.

All changes must be cleared with the per capita office one week prior to the distribution date. Per capita checks that are not picked up will be mailed out on Friday following the distribution dates.

If Band members would like their per capita checks to be sent to their home districts they should call Band employees Danni Jo Harkness at 320-532-7592, Jana Sam at 320-532-7466 or Kathy Heyer at 320-532-7472.

Feds Get Involved in LCO Arson Investigation

Deborah Locke, Staff Writer

Starting in July 2012, a rash of fires destroyed or damaged spiritual and ceremonial sites at the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa located in northern Wisconsin. Tribal officials has sought help with the investigation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Wisconsin, according to a story aired on Wisconsin Public Radio in November.

The fires destroyed or damaged two sweat lodges, a historic drum lodge and a ceremonial circle at the Honor the Earth Pow Wow grounds.

A news release from the LCO Police Department reported that law enforcement officials believed the fires were criminal in nature.

Prairie Island Residents Still Want Answers on Fate of Nuclear Waste Storage

Deborah Locke, Staff Writer

A recent court ruling on the safety of the nuclear waste stored near the Prairie Island Community claims that current rules on nuclear waste storage are inadequate. A law suit was filed by Prairie Island and several states to force the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to examine the environmental effects of temporary storage of nuclear waste.

Some Prairie Island Indian Community members lives only a few blocks from the Xcel Energy twin reactors in Goodhue County. For years, the Dakota have expressed unease about the waste stored in 29 casks behind an earthen berm next to the plant. The fuel bundles once provided enough energy for 750,000 homes in the region. Now the bundles are no longer useable but are still radioactive.

The general counsel for Prairie Island said that the NRC is ignoring the federal government's failure to find a permanent location for the waste. The story was reported on Minnesota Public Radio.



NCAI Conference

Katie Draper, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Government Affairs Coordinator - Local

“I am grateful to all attendees for expressing their genuine concerns and ambitions for the Band throughout the event. The participation in NCAI is crucial in ensuring the Mille Lacs Band's voice is heard throughout Indian Country,” said Peter Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Administration. “This is our best opportunity to meet with other tribal leaders, exchange information about successes and challenges, and discuss the issues that will shape our future. The knowledge gained at this event will directly benefit the entire Band.”

We asked the conference attendees from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to share their highlights:

Mille Lacs Band Contingent Attends NCAI Conference

From October 21 – 26, a small group of Band Officials and Staff Members attended the 69th Annual National Congress of American Indians Conference (NCAI).

Joe Nayquonabe

Corporate Commissioner



“I was excited to attend the NCAI conference this year, and it didn't disappoint.”

The top highlights for me were the business meetings I attended, different educational breakout sessions and the General Assembly updates. All of which provided insight on how to take on some of Indian Country's greatest challenges, some of which we face in our own Tribe, like economic development, encouraging the Native Vote and finding government contracting opportunities.

I was able to attend a session put on by Kevin Allis from the Native American Contract Association and chairman of the board for the Potawatomi Business Development Council to discuss government contracting opportunities. There are plenty of programs that exist at the federal, state and local levels intended to increase the participation of minority owned businesses - and The Mille Lacs Band wants to be considered for these programs. This is an important insight as we move forward with our new economic development plan for the Corporate Commission. Other educational topics that were covered in the breakout sessions

were also timely. The educational topics focused on Internet gambling, TERO, financing options, an overall update on the market and employment network creation - all relevant subjects to our businesses today.

The information they shared in General Assembly about the different campaigns they are focused on was encouraging. Get out the Native Vote is critical to bring together the collective interest and energy of tribes to build stronger communities.

Lastly, the representatives that spoke to tribal leadership on behalf of President Obama and Mitt Romney was a highlight.”

Katie Draper

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Govt. Affairs Coordinator - Local



The National Congress of American Indians is an extraordinary experience for myself as a band member employee. The exposure to other tribal communities and some of their traditions all across America is almost unbelievable. So far away from home, but being in the company of leaders at all levels in attendance brings a feeling of comfort. There are so many different seminars and meetings to attend; it is nice to know that others attending can bring back different points to our communities.

I attended the Land and Natural Resources Committee meetings; although a lot of their information was mainly pertinent to the West Coast Natives, I found that the US Fish and Wildlife Service showed extreme interest in partnering with Native communities in all areas of the nation. They would like to have assistance from Tribal Communities to revise and update their government to government relations. There has been millions of dollars that have been appropriated to achieve these efforts. While attending this meeting, I immediately thought of the Rice Lake National Wildlife refuge that is near our DII community, and feel this maybe an opportunity to partner our conservation efforts with a refuge in our state, and possibly create jobs for some of our community members in the East Lake area.

We are in an extraordinary time of technology, and I found the “Trading Laptops for Arrows”, a partnership between an indigenous tribe in South America and Google Earth is an awesome representation of a relationship between two worlds. I see an opportunity for

us to teach our youth about the woods in an exciting manner. We can engage them by being a part of cultural mapping, and use it in our schools to teach others about our land. I found this piece to be unique because we could make this information for us exclusively or share it with others. Yes, we as Anishinaabe want to teach our youth about our surroundings in our traditional ways, but it also could be an excited opportunity to partner with an outside entity, and in turn help teach our youth in an interactive technological way.

The Presidential Campaigns for both parties interested me because we had a Republican talk to us about the possibilities that the Republican candidate could offer Indian country, but no concrete information was provided. It was interesting to see how the audience perceived this information. When the Democratic speaker for Presidential candidate spoke, her statistics were concrete, and the message was evident. The incumbent, Barack Obama has followed through with his campaign from 4 years earlier to Indian country, and the video shown was so powerful to because we as Tribal Nations all across America finally have a President that truly has empathy for our past, and wants to move forward together for a better future. It was very moving, and I am excited to be a part of that future.

I was honored to go to NCAI, and I am grateful to the band and its leadership for giving me the opportunity to do so.

Mii Gwetch!

Carolyn Shaw

Area Relations/Special Projects Coordinator



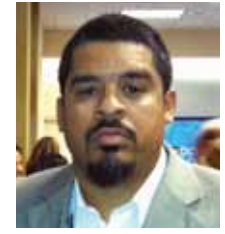
“There were many highlights to this year's convention, but one thing that made a string impression on me was the Veterans Committee meeting. I was encouraged to learn that some attention is being paid to Native American Veterans, and how to provide better mental health services.

I also attended the Native Vote Alliance. It was great to meet some of the main players, and learn about the past and current efforts to get Indians to the polls. It's about education and communicating the importance of voting – because folks in elected positions can either negatively or positively impact Native Nations.

And I loved the documentary about Billy Mills, who won the Gold Medal in the 10,000 Meter Run at the 1964 Olympics. Super inspiring!”

Jamie Edwards

Director of Government Affairs Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe



In addition to listening to numerous reports during general assembly and attending committee and breakout

sessions at NCAI's Annual Conference, I also spent hours networking with a variety of very talented individuals doing great work throughout Indian Country.

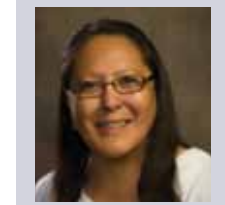
In areas ranging from federal Indian policy, to economic development, education, child welfare – and even the arts – incredible projects and efforts are underway to improve the lives and livelihood of Indian people across the U.S. (some of which might be of benefit to the Band one day).

Considered a leader in tribal governance, the Mille Lacs Band is often approached to share our expertise (and in some cases our financial support).

It is my job to gather information about projects and efforts then share the information with elected and appointed officials of the Band for possible consideration.

Diane Gibbs Elected to NCAI Midwest Leadership Council

Trip Johnson, Staff Writer



One final highlight of the NCAI Convention was the nomination and election of Diane Gibbs, current District III Representative of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, as the NCAI Midwest Area Vice President Alternate.

“It was a great honor to be nominated by our Chief Executive, and also to be voted in by the tribal leaders of all of the Midwest Tribes,” said Gibbs. “I look forward to participating in this group, and helping to advance the causes of our Band.”

Gibbs' primary responsibility will be to convene the bi-monthly meetings, and to assist the sitting Vice President. The NCAI Midwest Leadership Council includes tribal leaders from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and discusses policies and actions which impact all tribes in the region.

Changing Expectations: Band Members Take More Responsibility For Housing Stock As Maintenance Crew Hustles To Keep Up With Demand



Deborah Locke, Staff Writer

Walk onto almost any Reservation and the same issue will surface. Housing. Who gets it, who takes care of it, who pays for it.

The Mille Lacs Band changed its focus in recent years, shifting higher expectations to renters so labor and tight budget dollars could be delegated to the growing population of elders. Consequently, some services were cut to save money, like snow removal for everyone, furnace filter changes, and free repairs to non-essential appliances.

These decisions were based partly on this equation. How many hours of work would it take to preserve, improve and expand the current housing stock in light of reduced budgets and a staff of 16 workers who covered an area of 360 square miles?

Currently there are 450 rental homes within the three Mille Lacs Band Districts. In addition, about 200 Band Members own their own homes on tribal land. Each month Community Development receives about 300 work orders, said Peter Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Community Development. Each day the maintenance employees weigh the emergency calls such as a broken furnace or air conditioner order against a clogged sink order.

"Our priority is safety and health, but when our elders have needs versus a clogged sink, we'll get the sink done but not at the same time," said Arlene Weous, Director of Housing.

The Band's oldest rental homes were built in 1987; homes currently scheduled for renovation or repairs were built from 1987 to 2005. Thirty homes were renovated last year. Now two homes are currently being worked on for demolition or replacement, at a total cost of \$291,998. In short, when tenants trash or destroy a home, the whole Band indirectly pays the cost.

Complicating the matter further are those tenants who resist calling in for repairs. Regular wear and tear in rental homes is expected and the Band will replace

or repair items based on that wear. But when units are damaged or neglected, tenants are responsible for the cost.

In fact, tenants are finding themselves increasingly responsible for their own keep. At one time, the Band went so far as to replace light bulbs. Today a "Home Maintenance Check List" is used to teach tenants of home upkeep and assure that repairs are kept to a minimum. The list instructs tenants to clean their dishwasher and air conditioner filters, remove lint from the clothes dryer exhaust duct, vacuum carpets daily, clean the gutters and downspouts each year and vacuum refrigerator and freezer coils. The check list provides solid, practical guidelines for every renter or homeowner in the country.

"Our mission is to provide safe, affordable housing stock, to educate the tenant and to protect the stock," said Richard Hill, General Manager of Housing.

When tenants fail to keep a home in good condition and leave the premises for whatever reason, the maintenance crew is assigned a review and perhaps renovation of the home. A full renovation takes two months, or 200 to 400 hours of work. Last year 30 homes were renovated for new tenants. Multiply those 30 homes by approximately 200 to 400 hours each and it is evident to see why the maintenance staff is stretched pretty thin.

Also, it's easier to understand why a request for a clogged sink may have slipped to the bottom of the work order pile.

Yet there is an upside. The housing stock continues to increase by one to two percent each year, Peter said, in spite of the fact that the staff has been reduced since 2005.

Additionally, the annual housing inspections permit the staff to learn of problems before they become insurmountable. Tenants occasionally complain about paying for damages they created. Some Band Members remain shocked that they even have to pay rent, Arlene said. Consequently, it became important for the Band to view the housing stock as a Band-wide asset that needed to be run more like a business, and protected. "We need to take care of our assets," she added.

Another positive note: of the maintenance staff of 16, two employees are dedicated to weatherization. The Band received

a grant to install solar panels in 38 homes by next spring. So far, 16 homes now have the panels that imposed no additional costs to the tenant while at the same time, helped reduce heating costs of each home.

Meanwhile, the population of elders is expected to increase as the generation of Baby Boomers continues to age. The

phenomena will create more work orders that require immediate attention. In 2012, 13 elders received renovations to their privately-owned homes at a cost of \$415,314.

That means the Band will have increased costs, along with a larger housing stock, which is why it matters what happens today.

Circle of Health Updates

Circle of Health Staff

Ameritas Vision plan will be cancelled December 31, 2012:

As a reminder, the Ameritas Vision Plan (previously Brokers National) has been cancelled effective 1/1/2013. Band members currently enrolled in this plan may continue to use the service until 12/31/12. Band members continue to have a \$250.00 annual eyewear benefit to use at a provider of their choice.

Ameritas Dental Plan:

Band members with dental coverage through Ameritas may continue to use this plan until further notice. If you are without dental coverage please contact your claims processor for assistance in enrolling into the Ameritas Dental Plan.

MLTC (Mille Lacs Tribal Community):

The next open enrollment period in Jan. 1, 2013. Circle of Health mails out notices to eligible Band members prior to each open enrollment period. If you do not have health insurance please contact your claims processor for assistance.

Medicare Award Letter:

Please watch your mail closely for your 2013 letter showing the amount that is deducted from your check for Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. Please forward a copy of the new award letter to Roberta at the Circle of Health as soon as you can to assure a timely reimbursement in January. The reimbursement

checks will be mailed on January 11th. If you would like to pick up your check please contact Carol at the Circle of Health office prior to that date

Medicare Part D (Prescription Coverage):

Now is the time to enroll or change your current plan. Open enrollment is now through December 17th 2012. Coverage will be effective on Jan. 1, 2013.

There are many ways to get information about Medicare Part D:

1. The website medicare.gov has great information. You can explore plans and sign up online.
2. You may call 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-42273) Have your Medicare number available when you call.
3. You may call the Senior LinkAge Line at 1-800-333-2433 for assistance.
4. You may come in to the Circle of Health office for personal assistance. Please call Roberta for an appointment. Please note we can't assist you in signing up unless you can come in to the office. We can't sign you up over the phone.

It is very important that Band members notify Circle of Health of contact information changes (address/phone). We make every attempt to notify Band members of important changes especially when it requires action on their part.

Claims Processors

A-L: Roberta Lemieux
M-Z: Tammy Smith
1-800-491-6106 or
320-676-8214

Hunting and Gun Safety Tips

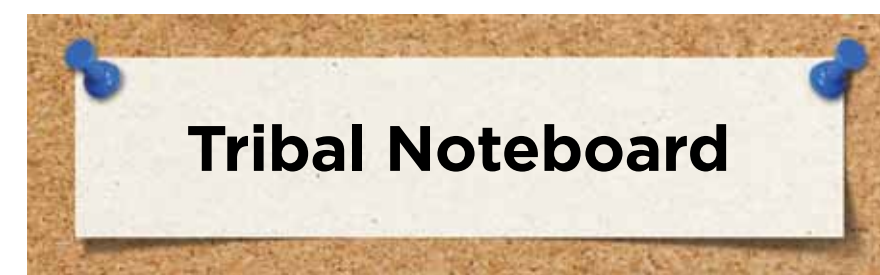
Deborah Locke, Staff Writer

Throughout the state's Indian Country during hunting season, dads and uncles – and maybe a few moms and aunts – take young people out to hunt for the first time. For centuries, Ojibwe people have received excellent instruction on preparation for a hunt, tracking, firearm use, and safety.

Below are a few safety tips for the novice to consider, taken from online websites including the National Rifle Association website.

- Wear brightly colored hunting clothing so you can be easily seen and not confused with a deer.
- If you are unfamiliar with the area you are hunting in, carry a map and review it before you leave.
- Take along a compass. Before you start, decide on a direction to head for if you are lost or disoriented.
- If you are on water, wear a life jacket.
- Check the weather forecast. Weather changes quickly in Minnesota. Bring a small survival kit in case you need to stay overnight in the field. Your kit should contain rope, a knife, water, waterproof matches, an emergency shelter and first aid supplies.
- Avoid hunting alone. Know your hunting partners' physical and emotional limitations, as well as your own, and don't push your partners or yourself beyond those limits.
- Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Know your target and what is beyond. Be absolutely sure you have identified your target beyond any doubt. Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target. This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap. Think first. Shoot second.
- Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.

- Keep the gun unloaded until you are ready to use it. Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible, and, if the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.
- Know how to use the gun safely. Before handling a gun, learn how it operates. Know its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action and remove any ammunition from the gun or magazine. Remember, a gun's mechanical safety device is never foolproof. Nothing can ever replace safe gun handling.
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate. Just like other tools, guns need regular maintenance to remain operable. Regular cleaning and proper storage are a part of the gun's general upkeep. If there is any question concerning a gun's ability to function, a knowledgeable gunsmith should look at it.
- Use only the correct ammunition for your gun. Only BBs, pellets, cartridges or shells designed for a particular gun can be fired safely in that gun. Most guns have the ammunition type stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and sometimes stamped on the cartridge. Do not shoot the gun unless you know you have the proper ammunition.
- Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate. The noise from a discharge can cause hearing damage. Guns can also emit debris and hot gas that could cause eye injury. For these reasons, shooting glasses and hearing protectors should be worn by shooters and spectators.
- Never use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription or other drugs before or while shooting. Alcohol, as well as any other substance likely to impair normal mental or physical bodily functions, must not be used before or while handling or shooting guns.
- Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons. Dozens of gun storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach directly to the gun, are available. However, mechanical locking devices, like the mechanical safeties built into guns, can fail and should not be used as a substitute for safe gun handling and the observance of all gun safety rules.



Tribal Noteboard

Happy November birthdays:

Happy 1st birthday to **Lillian Wade** on November 2nd. Love from Gram-ma Judy & Papa Juice
• Happy 13th birthday to **Marquis** on November 4th, with love from Dad, Mom and Senicka. • Happy birthday **Beast**, I love ya, Mom. • Happy birthday **Goose**, from the Rez Kidz. • Happy birthday to **Marquis** on November 4th. We love ya lots, Grandma Bugs and Grandpa Brett, Grissum, Mr. Kitty, and Summer. • Happy birthday **Quis, Miss Kitty and Charlie**. • Happy 36th anniversary to **Clarence (Tarz) & Irene Boyd** on November 26th. Love Judy Rodney and all the kids.

Happy November birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Floyd James Ballinger
Barbara J. Benjamin-Robertson
Carleen Maurice Benjamin
Clifford Wayne Benjamin
Irene Bernice Benjamin
Charles Alvin Boyd
Alice Elizabeth Carter
Mary Ann Curfman
Richard Thomas Dakota
Michael Roger Dorr
Melvin Eagle
Thomas Rodney Evans
Donald Ross Eubanks
Terrance Wayne Feltmann
Roger Granger
Eileen Marjorie Johnson
Jo Ann Lynn Johnson
George Vernon LaFave
Sidney Ray Lucas
Darlene Doris Meyer
Mary Ellen Meyer
Marie Linda Nahorniak
Elizabeth Anne Peterson
Ralph Pewaush
Dale William Roy
David Wayne Sam
Leonard Sam
Karen Renee Sampson
Mary Ann Shedd
Kenneth Daryl Shingobe
Ronald Eugene Smith
Maria Ellena Spears
David Le Roy Staples
Nora Grace St. John
Beatrice Mae Taylor
Donald Gerard Thomas
John Henry Thomas
Joyce Laverne Trudell
Lawrence Eli II Wade
Linda Marie Wade
Jennie Weyaus
Natalie Yvonne Weyaus
Sylvia Jane Wise
Patricia Beatrice Xerikos

Happy December birthdays:

Happy birthday to **Judge Osburn** from Tribal Court Staff • Happy birthday **Delsie** on December 6th. Love Dylan and Shelly. • Happy birthday to **Judith Ballinger** on December 23rd; Love, Heather, Daniel, Thomas and Tyler Virnig
• Happy 18th birthday **Dylan Aubid** on December 30th. Your best years are still ahead of you. Love Mom.

Happy December birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Judith Louise Beaulieu
Gayle Marie Bender
Pamela Jean Bixby
Henry Benjamin Bonga
Loann Dana Boyd
Phyllis Ann Boyd
Vicki Marie Burton
Kyle Matthew Cash
Lawrence Churchill
Frances Davis
Marilyn Ann Davis
Winifred Marie Davis
Delsie Louise Day
June Louise Day
Randy James Dorr
Rodney John Dorr
Ernestine Michelle Durant
Timothy Craig Foreman
Diane Marie Gibbs
David Darryl Granger
Dale Herbert Sr. Greene
Angeline Hawk
Viola Mary Hendren
Carole Anne Higgins
Frank Jr. Hill
Esther Marie Johnson
Peggy Lou Klapel
Larry Allen Koeppe
Renda Lynn Leslie
Daniel Rae Matrious
Gordon Wayne Matrious
Kim Alane Modaff
Debra Jean Morrison
Richard Raymond Mortenson
Linda Lou Moxness
Clifford Wayne Pewaush
Agnes Pingedagayosh
Dale John Pingedagayosh
William Richard Jr. Premo
Catherine Sam
Herbert Sam
Susan M. Shingobe
Laura Ruth Shingobe-Garbow
Steven Lee Smith
Louis Franklin Jr. St. John
Anita Louise Upegui
Kenneth Laverne Sr. Wade
Yvonne Cecelia Winiecki
Douglas Alan Wistrom
Lucille Mabel Woyak

Child Support Program Offers “Survival Kits” to Its Clients



Photo courtesy of Chad Germann

Toya Stewart Downey, Staff Writer

Tis the season...for more than just the holidays, it is also prime time for common seasonal maladies such as the flu and colds.

That's one reason why the Mille Lacs Band Child Support

Enforcement Program is offering a care package to its clients. Any active client can pick up a free cold and flu “survival kit” to help speed recovery of those pesky illnesses.

“This is a way to get our clients in the door to make sure their case files are updated and

complete,” said Amy Doyle, director of the program. “We want to touch base with them at least annually to answer questions they may have on their cases or to give them information about our services they may not know we offer.”

The kit includes tea, honey, Kleenex, bleach wipes, wet wipes, vapor chest rub, cough drops, chap stick, hand sanitizer and saline nose spray, and it all comes in a reusable grocery bag, Amy said.

A certificate for the kit was sent to all eligible households. Any client who has an active case as of Oct. 31, 2012 is eligible, though those who have foreign jurisdictions cases are not. To receive the kit, clients must return the completed certificate.

The kit must be picked up in person at the Child Support

Office at the Mille Lacs Band Government Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Urban area residents can pick theirs up at the urban area office, 1404 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404, on Mondays from noon to 4 p.m., but must call the Child Support Office in advance to ensure it is delivered to the Minneapolis location. It cannot be mailed, or delivered.

Details

- Only the custodial parent may redeem the certificate for a kit
- One kit per household
- Photo ID is required when signing for the kit

For more information, or questions contact Amy Doyle 320-532-7752.

Healthy Holiday Eating Tips



Toya Stewart Downey, Staff Writer

During the holiday season it's common for food to take the center stage. Family celebrations frequently include favorite foods and elaborate culinary masterpieces that makes everyone want to go back for second or third helpings of the delicious dish.

However, experts warn against over-indulgence and urge eaters to practice healthy habits during the festive holiday season. Here are a few tips to remember:

- Incorporating traditional foods such as fish, rice and corn can help cut the calories and fat that can be found in the typical holiday meal.
- Don't skip meals because you'll end up hungrier and will eat more than intended.
- Eat slowly and savor every bite. Stop when you are full.
- Don't waste calories on foods you don't like. Choose the foods you really want and keep the portions small.
- Choose smaller portions of foods so you can sample

several food items.

- Balance your meals to include equal portions of healthy choices and rich, high calorie foods.
- Fill up on fruits and veggies and other healthy snacks.
- Drink lots of water, cut back on high calorie beverages.
- Don't diet during the holidays. You could end up feeling deprived and could end up overeating. Focus on weight management instead.
- Be cautious of sugary foods – rich, sugary treats tend to make you crave more. Fight the urge with fruit or a small, satisfying portion of your favorite treat.
- Eat a light snack before going to holiday gatherings.
- Don't skip on your exercise routines.
- Enjoy your time with your family and friends and make them the center of attention, not the food.

Around this time of year commons foods that grace dinner

tables include turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, gravy, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, buttered rolls and pumpkin pie has about 3000 calories.

- 6 oz. Turkey with mixed meat and untrimmed has about 350 calories
- 1 cup of stuffing – 340 calories
- ¾ cups of turkey gravy – 375 calories
- 1 cup of mashed potatoes – 240 calories
- ¾ cups of candied yams – 365 calories
- 1 cup of green bean casserole – 180 calories
- ½ cup of cranberry sauce – 210 calories
- 1 slice of pumpkin pie with whipped cream – 500 calories

Heating, Water, and Home-Related Maintenance Problems

During normal business hours, tenants in Band rentals and private Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders.

After business hours, tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2 or 3 for their respective district.

Child Support Program to hold Cash Drawings

Toya Stewart Downey, Staff Writer

- The Child support program is holding quarterly drawings for Non-custodial parents who have paid consistently and fulfilled their full monthly obligations each month of the quarter. Three names will be drawn and each will receive a \$50 MLB Business gift card. Winners will be notified by mail each quarter. Thank you for being responsible and providing for your children.
- Voluntary garnishments are available on the child support webpage or in the office to request additional funds beyond the amount that can be taken per MLB statute to cover a full monthly obligation of payers using per capita.
- Flu Kits are still available for those clients who received an invitation by mail to pick up at either the urban office or the child support office at the Government center.
- The Child support office will be closed at noon on 12/21 and will be closed 12/24, 12/25 and any checks not picked up Friday 12/21 will be put in the mail.

Elections: Tribes Becoming Increasingly Sophisticated

Holly Cook Macarro, Partner at Ietan Consulting

November 17, 2012 – Just one year ago, the Democrats were written off as likely to lose their majority and control of the Senate to the Republicans. Today, they are looking at a gain of two seats and a 10-seat majority as a result of a near sweep of the top Senate races. While I've indulged in a little celebrating over these victories, I've been doing this long enough to know that everything is cyclical (remember 2000? 2010?) and we all get to be winners and losers some days.

Election 2012 is the strongest indication yet of the political sophistication that tribes have achieved. This election demonstrated an effective combination of political participation at the policy level, Native voter turnout, and strategic giving to races across the country.

Once again, each presidential campaign had a Native American outreach component to it and tribal planks in each party's platform. This is the minimum that is expected out of a candidate nowadays, but I remember when it was a big deal to even get the candidate to utter the words “Native American” in a speech. As a veteran of several presidential campaigns, I know how difficult it is to get the top officials in a presidential campaign to engage on tribal issues. President Obama's national political director, Katherine Archuleta, ensured that tribal leaders and Native politicians were part of the Obama 2012 campaign's plan and Indian country has benefited throughout his tenure from the tribal experience several of his top advisers have—Jim Messina, his campaign manager, has extensive roots in Montana, and Pete Rouse was with former senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota before joining the president's team. That deep familiarity with tribal issues at the highest levels is invaluable—it cannot be taught in a briefing.

One area Indian country did suffer in the presidential campaigns was a result of the changing makeup of the battleground states. The top battleground states (New Hampshire, Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, Colorado, Nevada, Iowa, Wisconsin) were not the same states as the last three elections and did not include several key Native vote states. For example, New Mexico, with its sizable Pueblo, Navajo and urban tribal populations was not on the list, and as a result, many tribal issues were less publicized.

In addition to the partisan efforts that were in place this cycle, the nonpartisan efforts played a larger role than ever before. The National Congress of American Indians' well-organized messaging and resource tool kits for tribes to utilize were high-profile in Indian country. There were also tribal efforts within national voter-organizing and training groups like Wellstone Action and Rock the Vote.

All of these efforts combined to give Indian country a few sweet victories on November 6. Senator Jon Tester (D-Montana) and Senator-elect Heidi Heitkamp (D-North Dakota) were two long-shot Democratic victories achieved with tremendous help from the tribes in their respective states. I guarantee they won't forget it.

The effectiveness of tribal efforts was also a result of thoughtful political giving. Both Presidential campaigns hosted tribal political fundraisers this cycle—again, almost the norm now but practically unheard of 10 years ago. We won't know the extent of tribal political giving until final reports from all the committees are released, but I'm sure it will make the headlines of some papers as if we were the cycle's major donors. The fact is, tribal contributions are one small drop in the bucket of the \$6 billion that was spent on election 2012. Probably the biggest message that came from the voters in 2012 was that this was still an election, not an auction.

Looking forward to 2014, there will be another battle for control of the closely divided House of Representatives. The Senate provides several opportunities for tribes to once again play an influential role: senators Max Baucus (D-Montana), Mark Begich (D-Alaska), Al Franken (D-Minnesota), Tim Johnson (D-South Dakota), and Tom Udall (D-New Mexico) are all up for re-election in a cycle that has 20 Democratic Senators and 13 Republican Senators facing re-election. Each of these senators will be looking to tribes for support. Let's prepare for the opportunity to play a decisive role in these races once again.

Holly Cook Macarro is a partner at Ietan Consulting. From 1999 to 2001, she served as director of the Office of Native American Affairs at the Democratic National Committee. She also served in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in 1997 and 1998, where she worked primarily on Native American issues.

The Honorable Richard Osburn Completes General Jurisdiction at The National Judicial College



Photo courtesy of Sarah C. Barrett

The Honorable Richard Osburn

Stacey Raitz, The National Judicial College

RENO, NV – The National Judicial College (NJC) is pleased to announce that the Honorable Richard Osburn of the Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction in Onamia, Minnesota has completed General Jurisdiction, October 14-25, 2012 at The National Judicial College in Reno, Nev.

This course supplements state-provided judicial education for judges by providing a solid foundation for a judicial career. After attending this course, participants are able to manage their courtrooms and individual cases, including cases involving self-represented litigants; conduct jury and non-jury trials more effectively; summarize and apply developments in criminal law and procedure, family law, judicial discretion, judicial ethics and sentencing; rule on evidence more confidently; make fair and unbiased decisions; and interact with the media in a positive manner.

By completing General Jurisdiction, Judge Osburn earned the Professional Certificate in Judicial Development for Tribal Judicial Skills from the NJC.

The National Judicial College was founded in 1963 and is the nation's leading provider of judicial education – offering courses to improve judicial productivity, challenge current perceptions of justice and inspire judges to achieve judicial excellence. Since it opened, the NJC has awarded more than 85,000 professional judicial education certificates to judges from all 50 states and more than 150 countries worldwide.

The NJC is also home to the National Tribal Judicial Center and an International Program. The College's curricula include a Seminar Series, made up of courses that provide judges the opportunity to study diverse and interesting topics at historically and culturally rich locations across the United States. Web-based courses are also offered enabling participants to explore a variety of subject areas online.

The National Judicial College has an appointed 18-member Board of Trustees and became a Nevada not-for-profit (501)(c)(3) educational corporation on January 1, 1978. Please visit the NJC website at www.judges.org for NJC news, ways to donate, course information and more. Or, call (800) 25-JUDGE for more information.

Winter Car Survival Kit List



Don't get caught unprepared this winter.

By Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Band

Items in kit should include:

- Candle & Matches
- Metal Cup/Soup Can
- Whistle
- Alert Tie/Flag
- Pencil & Paper
- Flashlight & Extra Batteries

- Garbage Bags & Rubber Bands
- Snack Foods for Energy
- Water
- Kleenex/Paper Towels
- Hand Warmers
- Emergency Blanket
- Needed Medications

Other Suggested Items:

- Jumper Cables
- Snowmobile Suit
- Sleeping Bag
- Shovel
- Sand/Cat Litter
- Reflectors
- Rope
- Boots
- Gloves
- Extra Clothing

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



MELANIE BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Boozhoo. Aaniin. Greetings. I am returning from a meeting between tribal leaders and President Obama. It was historic, and the President understands our issues and advocates for our causes because he consults with tribes. Flying home, I was thinking back over two decades ago: My first trip to Washington DC for the Band was as Commissioner of Administration for Chief Executive Art Gahbow. He told me that every time he took a trip, he tried to get at least one important thing done. I have always kept that in mind and judge myself by that standard. On this trip, I laid a foundation for the next trip and set up meetings on federal policies. If I am in Washington, or St. Paul at the Capitol, or if I am in a Congressman's office or if I am meeting with the head of an agency: My duty for the Band is to get things done.

In my role as Chief Executive I am also following Band Statutes that require me to "conduct relations with all other government and their political subdivision." Last month, the Mille Lacs Band took the lead on getting the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to try to get Governor Dayton to strengthen his Executive Order on Tribal Consultation. We know that issues such as wolf hunts and health policy need to be shared by the State with tribes on a Government to Government basis. If the state does not consult with us, they will make mistakes: as they did with the wolf hunt. We are always pushing for stronger consultation policies at the state and federal levels.

By participating in the local, state and national meetings, it means that the Mille Lacs Band is represented, the voice of Band members are heard and the Band's issues are addressed. Without the Chief Executive's presence, the Band would likely be left out of the discussions when decisions that are made. In recent months, I have attended the Indian Affairs Council Meeting at Bois Forte

to participate in the discussion about "Why Treaties Matter," and met with national elected officials at the Democratic National Convention held in North Carolina. I always try to push both political parties and advocacy organizations to adopt policies to improve the lives of Band members, protect our rights, and preserve our way of life.

The voice of the Band needs to be heard at many levels. I recently spoke at the National Tribal Gaming Commissioners/Regulators conference in Hinckley because the Band is a leader in gaming. I also attended the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) meeting to discuss the Nelson Act and enrollment. In order to make new business contacts, I participated in the Native American Business Forum. By engaging in these events and others like them, I am representing the Band, seeking new opportunities and building strong relationships with the people and entities that are important to the work and business of the Band.

I'm looking at how they can provide services to the Band through contracts and grants, how they can help move the Band forward in its goals and health policy need to be shared by the State with tribes on a Government to Government basis. This is why when I am invited to go to places like Washington, D.C. to meet with lawmakers, I go and try to accomplish something for the Band. For example, recently at the National Congress of American Indians, I met with the new Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn (the head of the BIA) and briefed him on Mille Lacs Band issues. At the Global Gaming Expo we made many new contacts and we are always striving to improve our existing businesses and look to the future for new opportunities. I met with the National Indian Gaming Commission to learn the best practices for gaming

regulation. The key is always to get something done, learn something new, make new contacts, and then bring that knowledge back and put it to use for the Band.

My goal is to always seek and establish more ways to provide for the programs the Band offers its members. The Mille Lacs Band's Chief Executives have always taken a lead in regional and national issues. We help to move the policies ahead for our Band and other tribes benefit. Like you, I would like to spend more time with my grandchildren. However, as every Chief Executive of the Band has learned over the years, the Band needs to be represented at meetings. If we were not politically active during Art Gahbow's time, we would not have the Tribal Self-Governance Act. If we were not pro-active on our treaty rights, we would not have those rights today. If we were not pro-active on gaming at the state legislature, our economy and all of our programs would suffer. The Chief Executive needs to be representing the Band at all levels of government so that the Band members can prosper. As Art Gahbow told me all those years ago, I have to get things done when I travel or I have not done my duty which is to advance and better the lives of the Band members.

It is important to remember what relations with the federal government can get us. Our \$21 million wastewater treatment facility could not have been built without multiple trips to Washington. The Mille Lacs lobbying team and tribal leaders took a lead on getting the Nelson Act Claim Settlement Act through the Congress. These trips eventually pay off. However, it takes time to build relationships in Washington and St. Paul. We must go to these cities so that the needs of Band members can be heard. Whoever the Mille Lacs tribal leaders are at any point in history, they provided an important voice for the people

of the Band. The leaders of the Mille Lacs Band, past, present and future will always be at the table with the Governor, the Interior Secretary, or the President. We do it for the people of the Band. That is our duty.

Equally important to the external meetings are those that are held closer to home. I meet with Band members every day and get their views on all issues. Recently, I met with Elders in Districts I, II, IIA and III to begin dialogues on what matters most to them. Those conversations have already helped me and will continue to help me in my role as Chief Executive as I work to meet the needs of the Elders and the community as a whole. My heart is always with the elders, the children and the Band members as I travel on the reservation or across the country. As hard and lonely as travel can get, I keep the needs of the Band members at the forefront of my thoughts and you inspire me to open my mouth to advocate for our causes.

As I move forward on behalf of the Band and the community, I would like to encourage you to contact me anytime, by whatever method of communication you prefer. You can send me an email at Melanie.benjamin@millelacsband.com, call my office at 320-532-7486, or if you feel like it, just stop by to chat. My door is always open to Band Members!

I believe our best days are ahead of us, but that will entail hard work. Let us work together to continue to build a community that our grandchildren will be proud to advocate for when it is their turn to lead.

Miigwech!

Melanie Benjamin
Chief Executive

2013 State of the Band Address



Tuesday, January 8, 2013
Starts at 10 a.m. Doors open at 9:30 am.
Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events and Convention Center

All Band Members are welcome to attend!

Band Statutes Title IV § 6 (i)
(i) To present to the Band Assembly an annual State of the Band Address on the second Tuesday of January of each calendar year.

Halloween Party

Scenes from the District 1 Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Halloween Party, held at the new Early Education Building and sponsored by Family Services. As the photos attest, the event was so fun it was scary!



Photos courtesy of Shenna Sawyer-Matronics

CMD Notes

CMD Monthly Directors Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2012
12:00pm - GCML Grand Grill

Present
Peter Nayquonabe - Commissioner of Administration
Michelle Palomaki - Assistant Commissioner of Administration
Curtis Dunkley - Executive Assistant
Brian Scheinost - Director of Public Works
Arlene Wocous - Director of Housing
Mike Moilanen - Director of Planning & Project Management
Shauna Coons, Deputy OSG/Housing Attorney
Jodi Benson - Operations Manager
Jackie McRea - Finance Manager

Absent
None

I. Operations Manager

A. Report Highlights

- Contracts - 68 contracts were processed in September.
- Personnel -
 - An updated printout of each staff's annual and sick leave balance was supplied.
 - Still need to start visiting the facilities in the outer districts to check up on staff.
 - Issues with hiring process include delays in posting and scheduling of interviews; and lack of candidates with a drivers license.
- Vehicles - No vehicle log sheets were supplied for review.
- Scanning -
 - Check requests, POs, budget revisions, journal vouchers, and approved contracts are scanned daily.
 - Complete tenant files are now being scanned into Laserfiche.

B. Commissioner's Directives/ Comments -

- Commissioner Nayquonabe thought the Department Commissioner, Housing Director and Attorney should have access to the complete tenant files. He requested that both Shauna Coons and Sara Rice in the Chief's Office be given licenses.

II. Director of Public Works

A. Report Highlights

- BIA Projects -
 - Wise Owl (BLA/ARRA) District III - This project was completed in July. Earthworks completed the stormwater ponds. BIA submitted final payment to the Band. Funds were JV'd to appropriate line items. The final ARRA report was submitted Oct. 9th.
 - Atage Drive Extension (BIA) - NO progress with getting EAW approved with the MLB DNR.
 - Zhingwaak II Housing Development contract was awarded to Redstone Construction. Work started on this project in September.
 - BIA Dist. Bids were opened on this project with Tri-City Paving being awarded the contract. This is for paving Mosey Dr. and several repairs in the Bugg Hill II and Wagidaaki Rd. Mille

CMD Director's Meeting
October 12, 2012/ CJD

Lacs Electric is working on a lighting design for the East Lake Community Center Parking lot. Bids for the East Lake Community Center Paving project were opened with Anderson Brothers being awarded the contract. Both of these paving projects are going to be completed in late spring of 2013 due to the end of construction season coming.

2. IHS -

- Existing I.H.S. projects include: a well pump and onsite septic systems in District II; a well in Mille Lacs County; and an onsite septic system in Sandstone. The Dirt Doctor has a contract for the Sandstone site.
- I.H.S. is in the process of writing a MOA for a portion of the funding for the Zhingwaak Oodema phase II housing development, this grant will be in the amount of \$250,000. It is currently in the appropriation process.

3. Accounts Receivable -

- Commercial Solid Waste - Invoiced a total of \$3,582.50. Total A/R for September was \$1,317.50 of which 92% were for invoices < 30 days.
- Commercial Water/ WW - Invoiced a total of \$43,235.75 for August Water/ WW. Total A/R for September was \$46,462.20 of which 100% were for invoices < 30 days.
- Residential Solid Waste - Received total payments of \$3,076.41 down from \$2,831.17 received in August.
- The following problematic Commercial accounts still have outstanding delinquent invoices (90 days or more): Homeless Shelter, Bus Garage, Lake Lena Community Center, NAS Upper and Lower Schools.
- Need to figure out how we will proceed with billing customer list versus driver's route. Need to know what action we plan to take; will we pursue garnishments? Need all customers to complete service applications. Multiple customers have their bills return undeliverable, even if we are picking up at the service address. Also, need to know what billing system we are going to continue using.
- Have been using the new SW customer forms.

4. Solid Waste -

- Customers - 10 new; 1 cancellation.
- We filled the vacant FT SW Driver position.
- Water/ WW and Roads staff assisted 19 times due to staff shortage.
- Miscellaneous Activities - Got new ties installed on one of the trucks.

5. Water/ Wastewater -

- Water Plant -
 - Water Pump -
 - Pumped 4.6 million gallons.
 - Changed 2 C12 cylinders.
 - Replaced 2 meters; and had a valve changed out. Please note changes in meter numbers.
 - Had reoccurring C12 system failures due to brittle lines; are in the process of getting parts to repair, which should be done in October.
 - Water samples taken in September all came back negative.
 - Staff treated 1 onsite residential well site.
 - There was 1 water shut off.
- Waste Water -
 - Lift station #1 -
 - Ran 166.7 hours with a 97.2 variance with a large variance these numbers cannot be authenticated due to transducer failure and are suspected to be incorrect.
 - Pumped 16 tanks this month.
 - Checked out 1 onsite system.
 - Repaired one cleanout in D1 this month.

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CMD Notes Continued

- c. Miscellaneous Activities -
 - 1) Had 6 funerals in September.
 - 2) Got new tires installed on trucks.
 - 3) Assisted with SW route pick-up.
- 6. Roads -
 - a. Mowing -
 - 1) District I & IIa - Continued with mowing for the first part of the month, but has since stopped for the year.
 - 2) District III - Continued with mowing for the first part of the month, but has since stopped for the year.
 - 3) Have all the mowers put away in the DECO garage and winterized.
 - 4) Will be utilizing one with a leaf vector to clean up Lake Side Park.
 - b. Roads Maintenance - Completed some street cleaning in Districts I & III.
 - c. Plowing -
 - 1) Prepared all trucks for upcoming plow season.
 - 2) Will be reworking the plow routes in the next month.
 - d. Other activities -
 - 1) Assisted with SW route pick-up.
 - 2) Completed some minor vehicle repairs.
 - e. Staffing -
 - 1) We filled the vacant FT Roads Technician position in DI. The new hire will be completing his road test in the first part of November.
 - 2) Roads Technician who was on FMLA has now come back to work full-time.
 - 3) DIII Seasonal Roads Technician will work until the end of October to complete some extra clean up in the area.

III. Director of Planning and Project Management

A. Report Highlights

a. Project Updates

- 1) New Residential Construction - 1 started; 0 ongoing; 1 completed
- 2) Residential Remodels - 1 started; 0 ongoing; 0 completed
- 3) Commercial -
 - a) DI Head Start Facility - Construction was completed and the Grand Opening was held. Still working on some HVAC commissioning.
 - b) NAS Flooring Replacement - Contract has been approved.
 - c) Government Center Admin. Area Remodel - Cobra Construction completed.
 - d) Government Center HR Remodel - Construction is underway.
 - e) Government Center Re-roofing - United Roofing completed; contractor is processing a claim for damages incurred during the project.
 - f) NIS Clinic Exterior Door Replacement - Contract is in place.

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- g) NIS Clinic Card Access & Cameras - Near completion.
- District II Projects -
 - 1) New Residential Construction - 0 started; 0 ongoing; 2 completed
 - 2) Residential Remodels - 0 started; 0 ongoing; 0 completed
 - 3) Commercial -
 - a) ALU Roof - Applied for possible product warranty claim.
 - b) Minis. Academy/ East Lake Comm. Center Security - Repair work completed.
 - c) Women's Shelter Flooring Replacement - Contract is in process.
- District III Projects -
 - 1) New Residential Construction - 2 started; 0 ongoing; 2 completed
 - a) One of the new homes being constructed by Jack's Construction was vandalized and reported to law enforcement. The home was near substantial completion at the time that the vandalism took place.
 - 2) Residential Remodels - 1 started; 3 ongoing; 0 completed
 - 3) Commercial -
 - a) Lake Lena Community Center Canopy & Stevens Lake Cemetery Signage - Both in scoping stage and waiting for input from project committee yet to form.
 - b) Community Center & Ceremonial Building Re-roofing - An appropriation request is in process based on the bids received.
- Off-Reservation Residential Remodels - 0 started; 0 ongoing; 2 completed
- Earthworks -
 - a. Spent the majority of the month at the new DI Headstart site completing:
 - 1) final grading; spreading black dirt; laying sod; and blanketing and seeding various areas around the building; and
 - 2) preparation of its playground sites.
 - b. Completed the final grade and seeding of 7 yards in DII. Also, worked on reseeded and touch-up of a couple of yards.
 - c. Delivered some black dirt to Elders.
- Planning -
 - a. Zhingwaak Oodena Phase II Housing Development - Lot clearing & pipe installation started in September.
 - b. Sher Property -
 - 1) The preliminary plat was approved by the Mille Lacs County Planning Commission on June 11th.
 - 2) We have also been meeting with the Timber Bay camp about a possible land donation from the camp in exchange for leaving part of our property undeveloped, this issue has not moved forward to date.
 - 3) The EA should be submitted to the BIA in early October.
 - c. Wise Owl Development - Received a message from Elisse Aune on 9/20 that the Elders on the Federation Cultural Resources Board don't want any more construction in the Wise Owl Subdivision, as it is all cemetery. Carla requested something in writing to document the decision but to date nothing has been received.
- Atage Drive Extension -
 - a. MLB DNR decision on the EAW is still needed as soon as possible.
 - b. Further delays in the project's progress may result in the loss of \$600,000 Federal dollars.
 - c. No progress has been made on environmental or archeological clearance for project.
 - d. Contacted by BIA again requesting status of project.
- Building Inspector's Report -
 - a. 23 building permits were issued.
 - b. Approximately 81 inspections were conducted.
 - c. 2010 total permits - 116; 2011 total permits - 236; 2012 permits subtotal - 183.
 - d. 2012 inspections to date - 632.

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IV. Director of Housing

1) Report Highlights

a. Elder Renovations -

- 1) District I -
 - a) One (1) application was denied as the applicant did not hold ownership interest in the home.
 - b) Applicants that need project work scopes for review - two (2).
 - c) One (1) applicant with an approved work scope was posted for bid.
 - d) One (1) project has a contract in process.
 - e) Two (2) projects received contract approval, however, one (1) project is now pending as the land lease has not yet been transferred into the applicant's name.
- 2) District IIa -
 - a) One (1) project with a partial elder/ disabled work scope received contract approval, however, the project is now on hold due to the applicant's hospitalize and health.
- 3) District II - No applications or projects at this time.
- 4) District III -
 - a) One (1) application remains on hold, as the Commissioner needs to discuss her situation with the Housing Board.
 - b) One (1) project received contract approval.
 - c) One (1) project started.
 - d) Two (2) projects were ongoing.
- 5) Urban -
 - a) Two (2) applicants need a work scope for review.
 - b) Two (2) projects with minor work scopes were completed.
 - c) One (1) approved work scope need to be posted for bid.
 - d) One (1) project was posted for bid.
 - e) Three (3) projects had contracts in process.

- 2) Disabled Housing Renovation Projects -
- a. Spreadsheet of each project's status was prepared by the Executive Assistant.
 - 1) District I -
 - a) One (1) application was denied as the applicant did not hold ownership interest in the home.
 - b) One (1) project was posted for bid.
 - c) One (1) project has an approved contract.
 - d) One (1) project received contract approval, however, construction cannot start until the applicant returns his signed retention agreement.
 - 2) District IIa -
 - a) One (1) project with a partial elder/ disabled work scope received contract approval, however, the project is now on hold due to the applicant's hospitalize and health.
 - 3) District III -
 - a) One (1) project was ongoing.
- 3. Transitional Housing -
- a. 5 Notices sent to tenants -
 - 1) District I-3 were eviction notices. One tenant has received 2 breaches this month for no pet policy and alcohol in unit. One of the breaches were cured through an MOA but no pet policy and alcohol in unit. One of the breaches which has now become an eviction. Tenant #2 has until response on the last notice which has now become an eviction. Tenant #3 has until response on the last notice which has now become an eviction. Tenant #3, the head of household which is a Mille Lacs Band October to cure this notice. Tenant #3, the head of household which is a Mille Lacs Band

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- member has vacated the unit. The decision was made to allow the non band member thirty days to find housing for her and the children.
- District II-2 notices sent to tenants. One tenant received a notice of breach in August and failed to respond which led to an eviction notice. Tenant #2 was served an eviction notice in August that allowed them to remove their property in September. Typically at this point the status would move to unlawful detainer.
- ICRs - DI - 10; DII - 0.
- Tenants with case plans - All new tenants have been beginning case plans. We are attempting to work more closely with Family Services which will provide documentation if the family is not complying with their case plans. We are currently working with Family Services to have their staff assigned to our tenants when their case plans were developed. In addition, we are collaborating with the DOL to meet the needs of the tenants through their course offerings to August. We are attempting to collaborate with DOL to allow our tenants the opportunity to attend educational opportunities. We have attended a meeting with Behavioral Health staff to discuss how we could improve our process and work more effectively with our clients.
- Move outs - DI - 2; DII - 0.
- Move outs - DI - 4; DII - 2.
- Vacant units - DI - 4; DII - 2.
- Waiting list - DI - 45; DII - 0.
- We have discontinued our District I program of the temporary employment.
- All of the DII occupied units have been renovated by the Maintenance staff with all the carpet having been replaced with vinyl.
- Resident Services -
 - a. Annual inspections completed - DI - 0, DIIa - 0; DII - 0; DIII - 0.
 - b. Walk through inspections:
 - 1) DI - 1 weekly; 3 bi-weekly; 8 monthly; 0 quarterly.
 - 2) DIIa - 2 weekly; 3 bi-weekly; 0 monthly; 0 quarterly.
 - 3) DII - 3 weekly; 3 bi-weekly; 4 monthly; 0 quarterly.
 - 4) DIII - 5 weekly; 7 bi-weekly; 5 monthly; 0 quarterly.
 - c. Full inspections - DI - 17; DIIa - 3; DII - 7; DIII - 13.
 - d. Move ins: DI - 1, DIIa - 1, DII - 1, DIII - 1.
 - e. Move outs: DI - 0, DIIa - 0, DII - 0, DIII - 0.
 - f. Lease violations: DI - 8, DIIa - 3, DII - 3, DIII - 3.
 - g. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) - 3 of 3 are in compliance.
 - h. 3 Drug tests -
 - 1) DI - 0
 - 2) DIIa - 0
 - 3) DII - 1 with passing results.
 - 4) DIII - 0
 - i. Transitional - 2 with passing results.
- Staffing - R.S. Supervisor; 2 R.S. Assistants, 1 vacant position which was reposted.
- Housing Maintenance -
 - a. 320 Work Orders Completed - DI & DIIa - 221; DII - 51; DIII - 48
 - b. DI Maintenance -
 - 1) Staffing - 1 Supervisor, 5 Technicians, 2 temp. day labor
 - 2) 140 DI homes serviced: Housing stock - \$1; Private Elder - 89.
 - 3) 23 DIIa homes serviced: Housing stock - 12; Private Elder - 11.
 - c. DII Maintenance -
 - 1) Staffing - 1 Supervisor, who has given his 30 day notice of retirement, 1 Technicians, 1 vacant Technician, 1 day labor.
 - 2) 20 homes serviced: Housing stock - 17; Private Elder - 3.

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CMD Notes Continued

- DIII Maintenance -
 - 1) Staffing - 1 Supervisor, 2 Technicians
 - 2) 71 homes serviced: Housing stock - 30; Private Elder - 41.
- For the period of October 2011 to September 2012, the maintenance staff and renovation carpenters have returned 36 units back into operation. DI-18, DIIa - 1, DII-3, DIII-14.
- Two DI maintenance staff are assigned to other districts on the Get Ready for Next Tenants (GNT) projects due to the lack of manpower in District II & III.
- Property Management -
 - a. We continue to experience applicants of not meeting income guidelines, especially for our Regular Rental units. This is quite evident in the District II area. The majority of Band Members, who have applied for our rental units, continue to have the Tribal bonus as their only source of income. This makes them not generating enough monthly income to sustain a regular rental unit. This problem can and has created a unit not being occupied in a timely manner. The department will send letters out from our waiting list to the next five (5) band members on the list based on the bedroom size. We give that individual 15 days to respond. If they do not respond or the letter comes back to the department, we will send to the next and so on. This becomes a problem with occupancy of a unit. Another barrier that has happened is the next band member on the waiting list has not updated their address on their application. Consequently letters come back to the office.
 - b. Waiting Lists/ Occupancy -
 - 1) District I -
 - a) Six (6) offers were made to applicants on the waiting list: 4 family rental units; 1 Elder/H/C unit; 1 single unit.
 - b) 17 Vacancies: 11 family rental units; 1 Elder/ H/C; 4 transitional housing unit; 1 single unit.
 - c) 205 Units Ready for Occupancy - 98 family rental units, 24 single unit, 32 transitional housing unit, 51 Elder/ H/C units.
 - d) 279 Waiting list applicants: 78 single; 119 families; 45 transitional; 37 Elder/ H/C.
 - 2) District IIa -
 - a) An offer was made to an applicant for a family rental unit.
 - b) 1 Vacancy - family rental unit.
 - c) 40 Units Ready for Occupancy - 28 family rental units, 12 Elder/ H/C units.
 - d) 38 Waiting list applicants: 8 single; 24 families; 6 Elder/ H/C.
 - 3) District II -
 - a) Two (2) offers were made to applicants on the waiting list: 1 family rental unit; 1 Elder/H/C unit.
 - b) 42 Waiting list applicants: 16 single; 21 families; 0 transitional; 5 Elder/ H/C.
 - c) 12 Vacancies: 8 family rental units; 1 Elder/ H/C; 1 single unit; 2 transitional unit.
 - d) 76 Units Ready for Occupancy - 44 family rental units, 4 single unit, 12 transitional housing unit, 16 Elder/ H/C units.
 - 4) District III -
 - a) Two (2) letters were sent to applicants for vacant family rental units.
 - b) 9 Vacancies: 6 family rental units; 2 single units (duplex); 1 elder unit.
 - c) 127 Units Ready for Occupancy - 78 family rental units, 20 single units, 29 Elder/ H/C units.
 - d) 143 Waiting list applicants: 39 single; 73 families; 31 Elder/ H/C.
 - Land Lease Violations - These numbers do not include Pine or Aitkin County, only Tribal P.D.
 - 1) District I - 106 ICR's; 20 elder/h/c unit; 9 single unit; 64 family unit; 10 transitional.
 - 2) District IIa - 11 ICR's; 9 family unit; 2 elder/h/c unit.
 - 3) District II - 1 ICR's; 1 elder/h/c unit.
 - 4) District III - 2 ICR's; 1 elder/h/c unit; 1 family unit.

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- Evictions - DI - 15; DIIa - 2; DII - 4; DII - 3 with all requiring an unlawful detainer to be filed.
- One (1) Low Rent unit eviction was upheld in court, with the tenant/ power of attorney being given until September 30, 2012 to remove all property from the unit.
- Sent out recertification letters to HUD tenants. Those tenants not responding have received a lease violation and a notification of rent increase to the maximum amount allowed.
- 8 applicants approved through the Emergency Rental Assistance grant program.
- 15 applicants were assisted with the Emergency Loan Program.
- Property Manager and Accounts Coordinator have continued to compile the rental delinquency payments. Notices have been sent for those who are delinquent.
- Staffing - 1 FT Property Assistants; 1 vacant Property Assistant position which was reposted; 1 temp. hire to mow lawns at vacant units in DII until October 31st.
- TRR Crew -
 - a. Projects -
 - 1) 16384 Nay Ah Shing Drive - project is approx. 85% complete.
 - a) Work scope included new roof, siding, windows, concrete work, flooring, cabinets, millwork, interior, exterior doors, electrical and paint.
 - 2) 36435 197th Place - project was completed October 4, 2012.
 - a) Extensive interior and exterior work scope.
 - b) Solar heat panel was installed on August 20th.
 - 3) 63233 Grouse Trail - project is approx. 90% complete.
 - a) Home was renovated 8 years ago so it didn't need much interior work.
 - 4) Upcoming Projects -
 - a) District I - 44042 Anishinabe Drive
 - b) District III - 63170 Grouse Trail
 - b. Staffing - 1 Supervisor, 9 carpenters (3 assigned to each district).
- Weatherization - The Weatherization department has slowed down due to the ARRA program closing.
 - a. Had one SERC install which brings the completed installs to 19.
 - b. One inspection was completed and had one weatherization furnace call out.
 - c. Assisted HHS with income guidelines.
 - d. Received approval for weatherization to cover the cost of some work needed at the Women's Shelter.
 - e. Staffing - 1 Auditor; 1 Technician
- Staffing -
 - a. Since the month of May, the department has held monthly staff meetings in each district. A mandatory meeting for General Manager, Property Manager, Resident Services Supervisor, Maintenance Coordinator, and all Maintenance supervisors.
 - b. Training - Housing Director and the General Manager attended the Minnesota Coalition for Homelessness in Duluth.

B. Commissioner's Directives/ Comments -

- 1. In response to the request of having Kristi Owens come back to assist with training the new Transitional Housing Coordinator, Commissioner Nayquonabe stated that would be fine but a PPAAN should be processed for her resignation. If she comes back to assist with training, a PPAAN would be processed for her as a temporary employee.

V. Deputy OSO/ Housing Attorney

A. Report Highlights

- 1. Housing -
 - a. Tenant Issues

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- Draft Elder Life Estate.
- Reviewed K.M. housing issue with Department, revise letter.
- Unlawful Detainers -
 - 1) MLBO-HD v. S.H.: Draft U.D., Affidavit & Subpoenas; and attend hearing. Settlement discussions held with Department, SH & opposing counsel.
 - 2) MLBO-HD v. S.H.: Deputy Cole prosecuted; obtained writ and order.
 - 3) MLBO-HD v. L.B.: Deputy Cole prosecuted; obtained writ and order.
- Bid Openings - Approximately 17 openings held.
- Mortgages/ Loans -
 - a. M.R. Land Lease Cancellation: Reviewed DNR land lease cancellation appeal motions; consulted with Marc Slonim & Lisa Johnson; drafted delegation; and discussed case & settlement with CMD & opposing counsel. Also, advised on insurance issue.
 - b. Foreclosures/suits -
 - 1) MLBO-HD v. B&NC: researched service issue; and attempted to re-serve.
 - 2) MLBO-HD v. R&K: notice & motion to amend scheduling order and proposed amended scheduling order.
 - 3) MLBO-HD v. ML: discussed settlement options with CMD & opposing counsel; and drafted letter.
 - 4) MLBO-HD v. DA: drafted discovery requests; discussed scheduling order with CMD & opposing counsel; drafted notice & motion for scheduling order and proposed scheduling order.
- Contracts -
 - a. Reviewed all contracts over \$5,000.
 - b. Consult on annual contracts and procurement compliance; draft procurement compliance memo.
- Commissioner's Directives/ Comments -
 - 1. Commissioner Nayquonabe planned to meet with Shaun the following week to discuss the status of evictions, cases and grievances.
 - 2. Commissioner Nayquonabe stated that he would speak to Solicitor General Matha about the possibility of getting an outside contractor to assist with the unlawful detainer and eviction cases to expedite the process.

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- Mary has 2 closing scheduled in October, and 2 in November.
- Budgets - Requested copies of the budgets to start to familiarize myself.
- Software - Met briefly with Inter-Tribal Software Consultants on Mortgage Software; and getting the home loan documents into Laserfiche.
- Policy & Procedure -
 - a. Worked on recommendations for Real Estate Taxes; Insurance & Home Maintenance Escrow Plan; and Buy-Back Program for Disabled Elders and/or Veterans.
 - 1) Documents were sent to OSO & Commissioner Nayquonabe for review.
- Manager Activities -
 - a. Trying to familiarize myself with the tasks completed by both the Loan Coordinator and Accounts Coordinator.
 - b. Trying to familiarize myself with policy & procedure; different home loan programs; bankruptcy & collection issues; tax & insurance issues; problematic properties; and basically all aspects of the mortgages & A/R.
 - c. Drafted a Strategic Home Loan Program.

B. Commissioner's Directives/ Comments -

- 1. Commissioner Nayquonabe stated that the policies drafted were forwarded to Richard & Arlene for review and he would send her the marked up copies for revision. Also, it was reviewed that any policy brought forward to the Housing Board must be done so only upon approval of the Department Commissioner.
- 2. Commissioner Nayquonabe planned to meet with Jackie the following week to discuss the job duties of the Finance Manager.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Commissioner of Community Development
10/29/12
Date

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Calendar of Events

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Birch Bark Ornament Workshop Noon to 4 p.m. Fee: \$25/\$20 MHS members; Additional supply fee of \$15. Reservations: required, call 320-532-3632
9	10	11	12 District I Christmas Party 5 p.m. @ Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center District 2 Christmas Party 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. @ East Lake Community Center District 2 - A Christmas Party 5:30 p.m. @ Chiminsing Community Center	13	14	15 Elders Holiday Party Contact: Denise Sargent 320-532-7854
16 The People of Big Lake 8 p.m. On tpt Life Channel 2.3	17	18	19	20 Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. @ All Nations Indian Church District III Christmas Party  6 p.m. @ Grand Casino Hinckley Ballroom. Performance by comedian Tito Ybarra. Contact Jenelle Kingbird for more info. 320-384-6240	21	22
23 The People of Big Lake 2 a.m., 8 a.m., 12 p.m. & 2 p.m. On tpt Life Channel 2.3	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28 The Shirelles 7 p.m. @ Grand Casino Hinckley Tickets: \$10	29 The Shirelles 7 p.m. @ Grand Casino Hinckley Tickets: \$10 Wayne Brady 7 p.m. @ Grand Casino Mille Lacs Tickets: \$15
30 Wayne Brady 7 p.m. @ Grand Casino Mille Lacs Tickets: \$15	31 New Year's Eve Sobriety Feast Pow Wow	Jan. 1 New Year's Day Tribal Holiday Government offices closed all day	2	3	January 21 Tribal Holiday Government offices will close at noon January 24, 25 & 31 Tribal Holiday Government offices closed all day	



'The People' of Big Lake on Twin Cities Public Television

The traditions of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, shown in historic film footage and today, demonstrates the importance of family, relationships and cultural continuity among this Band from central Minnesota. This film is produced by Band member Rick Anderson, with archives coming from the Band's Historic Preservation office. Make sure to mark your calendars to watch this show!

Check out our calendar above for show times or visit <http://www.tpt.org/?a=programs&id=22577> for additional information.