



# CORPORATE VENTURES INTERNS COMPLETE SUMMER EXPERIENCE



Sixteen Mille Lacs Band members explored career interests, learned about their personal strengths, and experimented with new ways of thinking during their summer internship with Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures.

## Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

The value of internships, both to organizations and students, is well-known. The idea of a Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) internship came after the 2018/2019 Adopt-a-School program when Onamia Indian Education Director Chris Nayquonabe asked MLCV to consider creating a program for her students.

She said internships and other forms of experiential education help students make a seamless transition to the world of work and are a perfect vehicle for organizations to increase retention rates, complete short-term projects, and identify future hires. She also stressed the importance of the students understanding how to work in a corporate setting, gaining business skills, and learning about leadership.

The idea was so great that MLCV opened the inaugural Summer Internship Workshop program and encouraged all Mille Lacs Band students to apply.

The curriculum was designed by Band member Alyssa Enno, based on her experience as an intern just six years ago. Today, she serves as MLCV's Brand Communication Specialist.

"Alyssa identified experiential learning scenarios where the interns could absorb the information, analyze what they learned, apply it to a real-life problem, and reflect upon it," said Nayquonabe.

Four weeks of learning, discovering, exploring, and innovating made up a transformational learning experience for 16 Mille Lacs Band community students: Amelio Merrill, Derek Smith, Jr., Jaeden King, Jenai Beaulieu, Curtis Jackson, Kyle Bush, Corey Bush, Carlos Saice, Madeline Boyd, Josef Boyd, Ashton Smith, Kaitlin Wind, Madison Sam, Amanda Eagle, Trinity Blake, and Kevin Harrington.

On Tuesday, August 6, the interns shared their experience with the local community at a luncheon celebration at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events Center. They discussed how they utilized their internship to develop their personal brand, plan multiple events, explore their career interests, and identify and build upon their strengths.

"At the end of this internship workshop, we wanted each of the students to walk away with two things: understanding their path to leadership and solving interesting problems," said Joe Nayquonabe, CEO of MLCV. "For each of the interns to move forward on their leadership path, they have to look inward and explore what makes them a leader. Just as important, at the center of every significant innovation is always an idea. The best ideas come in response to an important problem that needs to be solved and requires more creativity and abstract thinking, as well as an ability to see the bigger picture."

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Ben Sam, right, was gifted with the regalia of his late uncle, Herb Sam, by Herb's wife Patty and daughter Arianna.

## DISPATCHES FROM THE MILLE LACS POWWOW

By Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member

Each year, there are hundreds of stories that could be told about the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow, and this year is no different.

There are stories of dancers, drummers, and the beautiful regalia worn during the three-day event.

This year, Band member Ben Sam has such a story. He grew up as a grass dancer and hasn't danced in a powwow in nearly 10 years, so when he was gifted with regalia that belonged to his Uncle, Herb Sam, who passed away last year, Ben decided he would dance.

"Herb helped guide me on my own path in teaching me how to find guidance and help in a traditional way. It's fitting that guidance from the path of a medicine man led me into medicine," said Ben. "Wearing the regalia made for my uncle, with our Awaazisii clan marker and my colors, felt like home. I have never danced traditional style."

When Ben entered the arena behind the royalty, along with the rest of the dancers, he felt like he had never left.

"The drum has a sobering, healing power, and each drumbeat through Grand Entry felt like my own heartbeat," he added. "I began to tear up partway through the first song and again during our honor song as we honored our veterans and flags. It was humbling to be in the center of our grounds, dancing in threads gifted but felt like they were made for me. I was just happy to be home."

Band member David Sam and his wife, Mary Sam, who are Ben's parents, said Herb played an instrumental role in providing Ben with a spiritual foundation when he left for college seven years ago, up until he graduated as a Doctor of Physical Therapy in May.

"Ben, wearing Herb's regalia with our Awaazisii clan symbol represented throughout the regalia, would have made his Uncle Herb proud," said Dave and Mary. "We are all proud of the healing work Ben is embarking on."

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# M E S S A G E F R O M T H E C H I E F E X E C U T I V E

Boozhoo! This past month, something very historic happened in Indian Country, which I want to focus on for this column. On August 19-20, the first-ever forum was held for Presidential candidates to focus exclusively on American Indian issues. The forum was held in Sioux City, Iowa, and named after Frank LaMere, a prominent Winnebago activist from Sioux City, Nebraska, which is just across the river from where the Forum was held. Frank LaMere passed away in June after a lifetime spent advancing American Indian causes, and he was active in elevating Indian issues within the Democratic Party.

Eleven candidates attended, including: Amy Klobuchar, our U.S. Senator from Minnesota; Independent Candidate Mark Charles, a citizen of the Navajo Nation; Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator from Massachusetts; Bill de Blasio, the mayor of New York City; Bernie Sanders, U.S. Senator from Vermont; Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator from California; Joe Sestak, former U.S. Congressman from Pennsylvania; author Marianne Williamson; Steve Bullock, Governor of Montana; Julián Castro, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; John Delaney, a former U.S. Congressman from Maryland.

This was an amazing event. It was structured to provide each candidate with an hour of time to share their views on issues that impact Indian tribes and people. After each candidate provided a brief summary of their platform for how they would address Indian issues as President, a panel of tribal representatives asked questions which the candidate would then answer.

Several of the candidates did an outstanding job of addressing our issues. I was very impressed with how knowledgeable some of them were about topics in Indian Country that can be very complex. Matters such as dual taxation and jurisdictional disputes can be very difficult to understand, because they require knowledge of Supreme Court cases, Executive Orders, and legislation sometimes going back centuries. Several candidates demonstrated a strong grasp of federal-Indian law, which is good news.

I was honored to have the opportunity to introduce our own Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar and serve on the panel which asked her questions. There is not enough space in this column to highlight all 11 candidates who spoke, but I do want to at least summarize Senator Klobuchar's comments since she is our

sitting U.S. Senator from Minnesota, and she shared information about her positions on several critical issues that matter to tribes in Minnesota.

Senator Klobuchar provided an opening statement about her work championing key legislation such as Savanna's Act, which is a new law that requires the federal government to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address missing and murdered Indigenous women. She also talked about the need for more support to construct new tribal schools, improve health care, and fight the opioid epidemic. She talked about the Violence Against Women Act and the need for more federal prosecution of violent crimes committed in Indian country. She also committed to upholding the government-to-government relationship and protecting treaty rights.

During her question and answer portion, Senator Klobuchar did a very good job addressing some complicated topics. She brought up the topic of wanting to undo, through legislation, the Supreme Court's decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*, which was a case in which the Supreme Court of the United States reversed federal policy regarding taking land into trust for Indian tribes. This was a terrible Supreme Court decision that has potential to cause a lot of damage. She also pledged to change taxation laws that harm tribal economic development, such as dual taxation, another complicated topic.

The biggest takeaway, from my perspective, is that there are numerous outstanding candidates running for President, and they very much want and need our vote. Thirty years ago, when I first became the Commissioner of Administration for the Mille Lacs Band, I don't recall any state or federal candidate courting the Indian vote. We were considered too small of a population with too little resources to make an impact. Things have dramatically changed over 30 years. We are now a force to be reckoned with, which is why 11 candidates running for President took time to participate in this forum to court the Native vote for the first time in history.

While the election is just over one year away, it is important for every Band member and Indian person in Minnesota to know right now how powerful your vote is for the 2020 election. The State of Minnesota is considered a "swing state"; although Hillary Clinton won Minnesota, the final vote tallies were excep-

tionally close. Hillary Clinton won 46.99 percent of the vote in Minnesota, and Donald Trump won 45.4 percent of the vote — a difference of only 1.5 percent. But as Indian people — we were 3.2 percent of the total vote in Minnesota in 2016.

The Indian vote in our state has the potential to make the difference between who wins Minnesota in 2020. There are seven swing states in total — Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, and North Carolina — all of which have significant Indian voters who can make the difference in those states. If a candidate has a meaningful platform that respects tribal sovereignty and honors the treaty and trust responsibility

**"ONCE YOU HAVE SELECTED A CANDIDATE TO GET BEHIND, TRY TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE PROCESS, BECAUSE AS INDIAN PEOPLE WE DO HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT VOICE IN THE 2020 ELECTIONS."**

for what we pre-paid, they could win each of these swing states and win the election.

I encourage all Band Members to start learning right now how the candidates stand on the issues, especially the candidates you are most attracted to. Study their Indian platform before you commit to supporting someone — several have come out with platforms and are available on-line. Once you have selected a candidate to get behind, try to get involved with the process, because as Indian people we do have a very important voice in the 2020 elections.

I want to extend my appreciation to all the Band members who traveled to Iowa to attend this event. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe was one of many sponsors for this Forum, and my office was able to sponsor a few youth to attend as well. As a final note, it is especially important that we hold whomever wins accountable for making good on their promises to Indian Country, if those promises would create positive change for our people. We have the power to make a difference in 2020! Miigwech!



## CLINIC, COMMUNITY CENTER ON TRACK FOR FALL OPENING

On August 21, Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin and Project Manager Ryan Jendro gave a tour of the new District I Community Center to Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle, Commissioner of Administration Baabiiaw Boyd, Commissioner of Education Joycelyn Shingobe, and Deputy Assistant to the Chief Executive Arlyn Sam. The community center is nearing completion and includes public meeting spaces, a full commercial kitchen, a large workout center with a boxing ring, a gymnasium with an elevated running track, locker rooms with saunas, and three pools: a lap pool, a therapy pool, and a kiddie pool. Construction is expected to conclude in October. The adjacent Health and Human Services building (above right) is also nearing completion, with furnishings and equipment installation underway.



## DISTRICT IIA COMMUNITY MEETING ADVOCATES AVAILABLE FOR ELDERS, FAMILIES

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor



Left: Michael Davis is an Elder Abuse Advocate with the Family Violence Prevention Program. Right: Carrie Sam is a Community Advocate with the program. She is pictured with her husband Jason. Carrie and Jason started a support group for people in recovery called Bi Mawadishiwen or "Come Visit." The group meets on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. (with the exception of holidays and half-days) at Chiminising Community Center.

Elder Abuse Advocate Michael Davis attended the District IIA community meeting at Chiminising Community Center on August 21 to share information about the Band's Elder Abuse Prevention Program.

Michael said Elder abuse can include physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, self-neglect, sexual abuse, and financial exploitation. The program is currently working on 60 cases and has many success stories.

Financial exploitation is present in all Mille Lacs communities, Michael said, because Elders have a hard time saying no to their family members. Mike and his colleagues can help Elders and their families find the resources they need to end financial exploitation and other forms of abuse.

"If you have a concern, call us, and we will investigate," said Michael. "We have people working for the Band who care about our people, and we put our Elders first."

Carrie Sam, a Community Advocate with the Family Violence Prevention Program, was also in attendance at the meeting. Carrie brought information about the Family Violence Prevention Program and the Women's Group that meets on Thursdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the District I Community Center's community room.

The Family Violence Prevention Program's 24-hour crisis line number is 1-866-867-4006. You can also call Community Advocates directly: Carrie Sam, 320-630-3811; Winnie Davis, 320-674-0790; Nan Desjarlait, 320-362-0642.

### WOMEN'S GROUP MEETS IN DISTRICT I

When: Thursdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Where: District I Community Center

As women, we recognize that through supporting one another, we gain both strength and support for ourselves. Join us in a safe and positive environment where you can rediscover your own voice as you give and receive support for the many issues that we struggle with as women.

Compassionate women who are seeking to provide and receive support from other like-minded women are invited to join us for a time of healing, sharing, and empowerment.

Coffee and light snack provided. Sponsored by the Mille Lacs Band's Family Violence Prevention Program.

## LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

**August 1:** Band Assembly and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin held a compromise hearing after the Chief Executive vetoed proposed changes to Title 1 and Title 5. A new version of the proposed amendments will be presented to Band members in the near future. Band Assembly approved a Joint Resolution Approving a Donation from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Foundation to the Indian Legal Assistance Program in Duluth.

**August 8:** Band Assembly approved a contract with Rosetta Stone to develop Ojibwe language learning tools and approved a law enforcement joint powers agreement with the State of Minnesota.

**August 13:** Band Assembly heard an update on the lawsuit against Mille Lacs County from attorney Marc Slonim.



Mary Otto and Steve Kelley

Minnesota Commissioner of Commerce Steve Kelley, who attended the meeting with Tribal Liaison Mary Otto, spoke about the Commerce Department's ongoing desire to consult with the Band about issues affecting Minnesota's Indian tribes.

Gilda Burr and Judge David Christensen of the Mille Lacs Tribal Court introduced Diane Hammonds and Katie Proctor, who reported on tribal court assessment conducted by the Tribal Justice Support Program of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services. Diane and Katie complimented the Tribal Court for always looking for ways to improve services to Band members. Their report recommended security improvements, training, and additions to staff. Funding to meet some of the needs is available through the Office of Justice Services.



David Christensen, Amy Proctor, Diane Hammons, and Gilda Burr

*Band Assembly meetings are open to all Band members. Your representatives encourage you to attend! Tentative September calendar:*

- September 3: Chiminising Community Center
- September 5: Minisinaakwaang (East Lake) ALU
- September 10: Aazhoomog Community Center
- September 12: Special TEC Meeting, Vermilion, MN
- September 17: Biidaabinookwe Government Center
- September 19: Biidaabinookwe Government Center
- September 24: Meshakwad Community Center
- September 26: All Nations Church, Minneapolis



District I Rep. Sandra Blake attended the Minnesota Indian Housing Conference with Housing Board Members Pam Eagle, Bonnie Matrious, Reine Garbow, and Janice Taylor.

## REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDS HOUSING CONFERENCE

Representative Sandra Blake, along with Housing Board Members Pam Eagle, Bonnie Matrious, Reine Garbow, and Janice Taylor, attended the 2019 Minnesota Indian Housing Conference along with Housing Department staff at Prairie Island on August 21, 22, and 23.

Rep. Blake said the conference included a host of topics, which were all interesting and of importance to the Band.

"Urban homelessness among our Band members in Minneapolis and St Paul is of great concern to me, and I want to be able to help to come up with solutions to solving or curbing the issue," said Rep. Blake. "One of the things that I was able to be a part of in the past Band Assembly was a huge donation to the building of the new Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung homeless shelter.

The shelter, which will house homeless youth ages 18 to 22, is now coming to fruition and should be opening sometime in the fall. "I would like to continue to work with Ain Dah Yung and see if there is a way for us as a Band to sponsor some of these beds to go toward our homeless youth in the Urban

area."

Another area of interest was transitional housing for Band members in recovery. "People may complain about certain topics within housing, and I may agree on some issues that we need to focus on, but not everything is wrong, and no department is perfect," Rep. Blake said. "One area that I am proud of, and our employees are doing a great job with, is the agreement between Wraparound and Transitional Housing. This will allow Band members in recovery to have housing and the assistance of case management to help with services to get on their feet."

Another showcase topic close to Rep. Blake's heart is Elder Housing. "I'm thankful for the importance Elders are held to in our Band," she said. "I still feel there could be improvement, with more memorandums of agreement between departments to bring services together. I would like there to be an Elder Advocate visiting all Elder homes to ensure they are safe and happy and not living in an abusive environment."



## STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Minneapolis park board moves ahead with name changes:

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is renaming streets around Bde Maka Ska — the urban lake formerly known as Calhoun. John C. Calhoun, the lake's former namesake, was a supporter of slavery, and public comment showed support for the change to the Dakota name, Bde Maka Ska. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Landwehr ordered that Lake Calhoun revert to its Native American name in January 2018, but the Minnesota Court of Appeals deemed that only the state Legislature can change the name. The city intends to challenge that ruling in the Minnesota Supreme Court. Despite this opposition, the park board does have the authority to rename streets and parks. *Source: bringmethenews.com.*

### Fairbanks wins lopsided victory in race for White Earth chair:

Michael Fairbanks defeated Brent Gish 1,352 to 679 to fill out the term of the late Chairman Terry Tibbetts, who was elected to a four-year term in 2016 and passed away in March. Gish finished ahead of Fairbanks in the June primary, with 523 votes compared to 391 for Fairbanks, who has worked in tribal administration in various jobs for 18 years, including deputy director of the White Earth Band. Fairbanks thanked Gish for running a clean campaign and said the two of them remain on good terms. Fairbanks was sworn into office Aug. 16. *Source: dl-online.com.*

### DHS overpaid tribes and now wants the money back:

The Minnesota Department of Human Services overpaid the Leech Lake and White Earth Bands by \$25.3 million over five years for medication-assisted therapy treatments. Both tribes have produced email correspondence in which DHS officials appeared to tell them to bill at the higher rate for take-home medicine, but state officials say they are legally obligated to take back the federal funds, even if DHS was at fault. Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, a member of White Earth Nation, said in a statement that the situation is "unacceptable." Leech Lake Chairman Faron Jackson said the agency had not "meaningfully consulted" tribal leaders on the issue. *Source: St. Paul Pioneer Press.*

### Mille Lacs County led state in opioid prescriptions per capita:

Data released last month from the Drug Enforcement Administration showed that Mille Lacs County pharmacies distributed 50 opioid pills per person annually — the most pills per capita in Minnesota. Pharmacy-specific numbers in the county draw out what would have been an out-of-proportion pill-to-population ratio. The drug store in Onamia, a town of 861 residents, received 1.6 million pills over six years — a sum equal to 22,000 opioids a month. "For those who live here, and fight daily to combat the devastating effects of drug addiction in our communities, it comes as no surprise to learn that this area is ground zero for commercial opioid distribution," said Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band. "The system is flawed when it allows such high quantities of addictive prescription drugs to flood into our streets unchecked." *Source: brainerddispatch.com.*

Stay up to speed on news from Indian Country at [millelacsband.com/news](http://millelacsband.com/news).

## COMMISSIONER BRINGS COMMITMENT TO CULTURE

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Commissioner of Administration Baabiiitaw Boyd, who was sworn in on July 22, is motivated each day by a lifelong commitment to Mille Lacs Band members, Anishinaabe culture, and the Ojibwe language.

As head of the Department of Administration, Baabiiitaw oversees a wide variety of departments and programs: Government Affairs, Child Support, Human Resources, Aanji-Bimaadizing, Information Services, Self Governance, Elder Supplemental, Grants, the Urban Office, and four community centers: Neyaashing (District I), Minisinaakwaang, Chiminising, Aazhoomog, and Meshakwad.

The Commissioner of Administration also serves as the Chief Executive's Chief of Staff, allowing Baabiiitaw to work with other commissioners in developing strategic plans, implementing government-wide projects, and preparing the Executive Branch budget.

"I see my role as helping employees solve problems to meet the needs of Band members," said Baabiiitaw. "I've been lucky to learn from many tenured employees who have shared their expertise. Those directors and managers taught me a lot in my first few months."

Baabiiitaw worked as a Master Apprentice with several Mille Lacs Band Elders beginning in 2005 and said she draws on that experience daily in her new position.

### Creative leadership

Baabiiitaw also learned about "servant leadership" from Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe Jr. "Leadership is about helping people be comfortable with being uncomfortable," she said. "It can be hard to receive honest feedback, but it's always going to help us put our best foot forward."

Tribal governments, Baabiiitaw said, are often in reactive mode, responding to crises or "putting out fires," leaving little time to step back and reflect on what is working and what needs to be improved. "Reflection can be intimidating and scary, because we may see things in ourselves we're not super happy with," she said.

To encourage reflection, Baabiiitaw has initiated an employee engagement survey and focus groups in each department to determine what's working well and what needs to change. "The ultimate goal is to develop strategies to make our government a happier, healthier work environment and more effective for those accessing services."

Much of Baabiiitaw's attention as Assistant Commissioner and Commissioner has been devoted to the AanjiBimaadizing Program, which has been in transition for several years due to a high turnover of directors. The AanjiBimaadizing Program receives funding from the federal government through the Public Law 102-477, a federal law that allows tribes to combine grant funding from different federal agencies into a single plan focused on economic development, employment and job training, higher education, and skill development for youth and adults.

Beginning in 2004, carry-over funds have accumulated due to the low number of eligible Band members who participated.

Baabiiitaw and Interim Director Tammy Wickstrom developed a plan to use the carry-over funds for childcare in Districts



Baabiiitaw Boyd, center, was sworn in on July 22 along with Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin, third from left. Also in attendance were (left to right) District II Representative Marvin Bruneau, District I Representative Sandra Blake, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, and District Court Judge David Christensen.

II and III and for the development of a Rosetta Stone Ojibwe language-learning program. The program will consist of six language levels that target the development of high-level and functionally communicative language proficiency and will result in jobs for Band members.

### Culture and language

Baabiiitaw grew up in the Chi-manoominikaang (Minnewawa) community in District II and graduated from McGregor High School in 2003. Two years later she became a language apprentice with the Education Department, working with Lee Obizaan Staples, Larry Amik Smallwood, Millie Zhaawan Benjamin, and Marge Biidaabinookwe Anderson. After that she worked as an Ojibwe immersion teacher at Wewinabi Early Education while attending college.

In 2015, Baabiiitaw was part of Cohort 6 of the Native Nations Rebuilders, which taught her that "Anishinaabe people face the same social disparities across the nation, and we can learn a lot from working with other communities." The experience also taught her gratitude as she realized that most reservations don't have the resources Mille Lacs does, or the degree of self-determination.

In 2017, Baabiiitaw was awarded a prestigious Bush Foundation Fellowship. During her two-year fellowship, she took a global cultures and languages internship with Dr. Brenda Child at the U of M, participated in work retreats with faculty from Stanford Medical School, attended Brené Brown's "Shame and Vulnerability" seminar, and launched an Ojibwe recording project with Dr. John Nichols, preparing recordings from first language speakers for the Ojibwe People's Dictionary Project.

She also found time to complete a certificate in contemporary Indigenous multilingualism from the University of Hawaii-Hilo.

Baabiiitaw sees her new role as a continuation of her efforts to revitalize Anishinaabe language and culture. She wants to reform government to reflect Ojibwe traditions and elevate the culture and language. "The most rewarding part of my job is knowing that we're going to impact the language for coming generations, giving people access to their inherent right to speak Ojibwe and communicate with the natural world the way they were intended to."



### A HEALTHY HEALTH DEPARTMENT!

The Health and Human Services Running Team participated in the RBC Race for the Kids in downtown St. Paul on August 3. RBC Race for the Kids is an exciting global race series promoting the well-being of kids and youth around the world. Carol Hernandez and Michelle Beaulieu completed the 5K, Greta Sorvik completed the 10 mile, and Jennifer Ballinger and Samantha Merrill completed in a half marathon relay. Also, sending a powerful message to other race participants and viewers along the route, Jennifer and Samantha brought awareness to #MMIW Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and children. It was hot and sticky, a high of 87 that day! The HHS Running Team has been training since April for this event.



# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION SURVEY RESULTS

A survey of 531 Band members taken at the State of the Band Address in January showed that Band members are aware of the Constitutional Convention and want to receive monthly updates via the Band newsletter.

About two thirds of Band members said they are aware of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Constitutional Convention, while 70 percent are aware that delegates have been chosen to represent Band members at the Convention.

More than four out of five Band members — 81.34 percent — want changes made to the current Constitution.

Comments received with the survey were sorted into seven categories, with the following results:

- Need for more information: 83 (31.09 percent)
- Update the Constitution: 83 (31.09 percent)
- More autonomy, separate from MCT: 29 (10.86 percent)
- Misc/Random comments: 26 (9.74 percent)
- Blood Quantum: 22 (8.24 percent)

- No updating/No opinion: 19 (7.12 percent)
- More transparency: 5 (1.87 percent)

## Get involved

The next Constitutional Convention meeting will be held September 27 at 10 a.m. at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The meetings are open to all MCT members.

To share your ideas or ask questions, contact your delegates: District I: Curt Kalk and Danielle Smith; District II: Tom Benjamin and Michael Davis; District IIa: Michele Palomaki and Todd Sam; District III: Maria Costello and Birdie Roberts; Urban: Al Olson.

You can also speak with your delegates at community meetings in each district and the urban area.

The urban area is currently seeking a second delegate. If you are interested in serving in this role, contact Al at 612-746-4819.

## KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall consist of the following:

(a) Basic Membership Roll. All persons of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood whose names appear on the annuity roll of April 14, 1941, prepared pursuant to the Treaty with said Indians as enacted by Congress in the Act of January 14, 1889 (25 Stat. 642) and Acts amendatory thereof, and as corrected by the Tribal Executive Committee and ratified by the Tribal Delegates, which roll shall be known as the basic membership roll of the Tribe.

(b) All children of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood born between April 14, 1941, the date of the annuity roll, and July 3, 1961, the date of approval of the membership ordinance by the Area Director, to a parent or parents, either or both of whose names appear on the basic membership roll, provided an application for enrollment was filed with the Secretary of the Tribal Delegates by July 4, 1962, one year after the date of approval of the ordinance by the Area Director.

(c) All children of at least one quarter (1/4) degree Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood born after July 3, 1961, to a member, provided that an application for enrollment was or is filed with the Secretary of the Tribal Delegates or the Tribal Executive Committee within one year after the date of birth of such children.

Sec. 2. No person born after July 3, 1961, shall be eligible for enrollment if enrolled as a member of another tribe, or if not an American citizen.

Sec. 3. Any person of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood who meets the membership requirements of the Tribe, but who because of an error has not been enrolled, may be admitted to membership in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by adoption, if such adoption is approved by the Tribal Executive Committee, and shall have full membership privileges from the date the adoption is approved.

Sec. 4. Any person who has been rejected for enrollment as a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall have the right of appeal within sixty days from the date of written notice of rejection to the Secretary of the Interior from the decision of the Tribal Executive Committee and the decision of the Secretary of Interior shall be final.

Sec. 5. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to deprive any descendant of a Minnesota Chippewa Indian of the right to participate in any benefits derived from claims against the U.S. Government when awards are made for and on behalf and for the benefit of descendants of members of said tribe.

## MEET YOUR DISTRICT II CONVENTION DELEGATES!

In this issue and upcoming issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*, Constitutional Convention delegates will share information about themselves and why they choose to participate in the Conventions. This month, District II delegates Tom Benjamin and Michael Davis are featured.

### Michael Davis

**Why did you decide to become a delegate to the Constitutional Convention?** I want to be part of this big change in the six-tribe MCT Constitution if it is decided that changes should be made to the Constitution. After nine months of gathering information from our delegate meetings with the six other tribes and sharing with our Band members, we all see that this is going to be a long process. We who have committed to serve on the committee are in for the long haul. As we move on, the members of the Mille Lacs Band will decide how we should move forward.

**What do Band members need to know about the Constitutional Convention?** The changes that are being looked at will be made by the membership of the MCT, but as one of six tribes, we the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe must always look at what is the best for our tribe as the other five tribes will do also. Our delegation is committed to educating our members on the MCT Constitution.

### Tom Benjamin

**Why did you decide to become a delegate to the Constitutional Convention?** I decided to get involved because I know there needs to be a change for the people, an upgrade of our Constitution.

**What do Band members need to know about the Constitutional Convention?** Band members need to educate themselves about the Constitution and the history of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe so they can understand what is happening and offer their ideas to their delegates.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**Eight Democratic candidates participate in Native Presidential Forum:** Eight candidates vying for the Democratic nomination met in a two-day Frank LaMere Native Presidential Forum in Sioux City, Iowa, on August 19 and 20. The lineup included Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Kamala Harris, Julian Castro, Marianne Williamson, Steve Bullock, and John Delaney — as well as Independent candidate Mark Charles, a member of the Navajo (Dine') Nation. Mark Trahan, the editor of *Indian Country Today* and a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, moderated the forum. Those who declined included Democrats Joe Biden and Beto O'Rourke and Republican William Weld. President Trump did not respond to his invitation. *Source: newrepublic.com.*

**MGM sues over federal approval of tribal casinos:** MGM Resorts filed a lawsuit last month challenging the federal approval of a deal that would allow Connecticut's two Indian tribes to open a third casino in the state. The lawsuit, filed in Washington D.C., seeks to overturn the Department of the Interior's March approval of amendments to the gaming agreements between the state and the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, which will allow the tribes to jointly operate a casino in East Windsor, 12 miles from MGM's casino in Springfield, Massachusetts. *Source: startribune.com.*

**Eight charged in Florida with \$5 million theft from casino:** Eight people — four of them former employees of a casino run by the Miccosukee tribe — are accused of stealing more than \$5 million from the casino by tampering with gambling machines to generate credit vouchers that were exchanged for cash. Money from the scheme, which ran from 2011 to 2015, was used for real estate, investments, vehicles, and children's college funds. The 63-count indictment charges the defendants with computer fraud, embezzlement, money laundering, and making false statements to law enforcement. *Source: startribune.com.*

**Enbridge pipeline explosion kills one, injures five:** An explosion on an Enbridge-owned pipeline in Kentucky killed one person and injured five others, prompting questions about the safety of the firm's pipelines in the Upper Midwest. In a news release on its financial results, Enbridge's CEO said the Kentucky pipeline won't be back in service until it's considered safe. Enbridge has been facing opposition and multiple lawsuits from state administrations, environmental groups, and tribes who have questioned the safety of its aging Line 3 that runs through northern Minnesota and 66-year-old Line 5 running through northern Wisconsin and Michigan. *Source: Wisconsin Public Radio.*

**Court sides with North Dakota in voter ID dispute:** A federal appeals court says North Dakota's voter identification requirements are constitutional, rejecting an argument by a group of American Indians who said they are a form of voter suppression. A three-judge panel of the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the state last month, overturning a lower-court ruling. The law requires identification that includes street addresses, which is unfair to Native Americans, who are more likely to lack such identification. Members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa sued the state in 2016 over the ID requirements. *Source: Wisconsin Public Radio.*

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, GO TO MILLE-LACSBAND.COM/GOVERNMENT/STATUTES-POLICIES/CONSTITUTIONAL-CONVENTION-INFORMATION



## MENDING BROKEN HEARTS

# HEART-MENDING, LIFE-CHANGING

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Wally St. John didn't know what he was in for when he signed up for Mending Broken Hearts training when it was first offered in District III in 2017 — before he was elected District III Representative. His main motivation was to support community member Briana (Matrious) Michels, who was facilitating the training.

"I'm a firm believer in Briana's compassion and passion, and I wanted to support her and show that I believed what she was doing is a good thing," said Wally. "Mending Broken Hearts is very enlightening. To enlighten is to let go of the darkness, and Briana is an enlightened person who sacrifices her time for the sake of everyone else."

Now that he is an elected official, Wally is even more grateful that he participated in the training when he did.

"If you're going to be in a leadership position, you need to exorcise your demons, because if you go in there toxic, you're not going to be an effective leader," Wally said. "You'll be too mean and vicious because of the pain inside. In my administration, my motto is 'Love is the key,' and this program helps you get back to the understanding and the belief that there is love, that people can love, that you yourself can love unconditionally. To me, that's a godsend."

Wally thought of himself as a pretty healthy person when he embarked on the training, but he soon realized that there were issues in his life that he hadn't dealt with. Facing those issues and learning to forgive has lifted a heavy load from his shoulders, he said.

"It's a very in-depth, healthy tool. It helps you to explore the dark corners of your mind, your psyche — not skeletons, so to speak, but the pain. We're compassionate as humans, and we like to fix people, but in order to fix others, you have to fix yourself first."

Monica Haglund, a chemical dependency counselor in District III, was attracted to the program the first time she heard about it. "I've always been interested in grief, working



Mending Broken Hearts will be held at the Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Immersion Grounds in Rutledge September 26–28, December 5–7, and March 26–28. Registration forms need to be submitted at least two weeks prior to the workshop. For registration forms, e-mail [kala.roberts@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov](mailto:kala.roberts@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov).

in the addiction field," said Monica. "Addiction often times comes from sadness, but it's something we don't talk about. I've always been drawn towards the Wellbriety concept and movement, and when I saw they were doing Mending Broken Hearts, I was really excited."

After going through the training herself, Monica applied for a grant to bring the training to Four Winds Lodge, the Band's treatment center in Brainerd. She encouraged Briana to attend the training, and the two of them decided to offer the program in District III.

Monica encourages everyone to consider the training, and she says there's no need to worry if you're reluctant to share the details of your past.

"I would just say come and listen, and you may be surprised at what happens," said Monica. "There's no pressure to talk or share before you're ready. It's just an awesome opportunity for personal healing. I wish everybody could go through it."

Matt Roberson, a member of the Wichita Tribe and the Executive Director of the Mille Lacs Department of Athletic Regulation, also gave the program high marks. "As Indigenous people, we all have some form of intergenerational trauma," said Matt. "Briana does an amazing job of explaining how our history of forced assimilation and genocide has negatively affected our mental well being. The Boarding School era robbed

many of our family members of a loving family environment. This class has changed my life and given me understanding of why certain behavior patterns surface from generation to generation. I would recommend this class for anyone that is interested or feels they may need it. The friendships and bonds with others were an unexpected and welcome surprise. This is a great program."

District I Band member Val Harrington agreed. "I initially thought this would be a way for me to take responsibility for hurting others and myself, and I thought this would be a great time to learn to let go of past hurt," said Val. "I had no idea how this training was going to affect me and bring so many things that I had stuffed for the past years to the surface. It was an honor to be able to attend this training, and I wouldn't have made it through without the love, care, and support of the other attendees."

Val attended with her partner and said it was good to have him with her and also beneficial for their relationship. "I think this is something that all Band members and non-Band members should get a chance to attend," she said. "It is life-changing to be able to deal with baggage that you have been holding in for years — things you didn't even realize that still affected you from long ago. The tools and resources I have gained are priceless."

## MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

# GROWING UP WITH TRADITIONS

By Loretta Kegg-Kalk

*This article by the late Loretta Kegg-Kalk was first published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted here to help preserve her teachings for the next generation.*

I was born the second-youngest of 11 children, and raised on Shawbushkung Point in District I of the Mille Lacs Reservation (where the powwow grounds are located today). The main village of the reservation was on the next point over, called Indian Point. We lived on the outskirts of it. When they had ceremonial powwows on the reservation, we could hear the drums all around the lake. My dad was involved in the big drum, and he and my brothers went to the ceremonial powwows. The rest of us went down to the lake and listened to the drums. The sound carried so beautifully across the water.

Both my mother and father were very traditional people. My dad, Martin Kegg, could speak some English, but not much. My mother, Maude Kegg, could read and write some English. I heard more Ojibwe than English, so I never forgot it. I can still speak it fluently today.

Growing up, my mother tried to keep me in the house and teach me how to cook and do the things girls are "supposed" to do. But I was more the outside type. My older sister, Betty, was the inside girl. She was the one who was inside cooking and cleaning. I followed my dad and brothers in the woods. They were always hunting, fishing, ricing, and trapping. I guess that's where I got my hunting and fishing skills, which I later helped teach my sons.

During ricing season, they would gather the rice and cook it in big kettles. After it cooled, they put it in another big pot. They told us that the youngest or the lightest one had to jig (dance) on it, because they wouldn't crush it. I found out years later that this was just a

way to get the kids involved and help their parents. Even when we were little, we were always helping out.

After ricing season was done, we took our annual trip into town to buy school clothes. My mom would flag down a Greyhound bus and take us to Aitkin. My mom would buy shoes, coats, material, and thread. Then we'd take the bus back home in the evening — that was a big trip. Only going into town once a year, I didn't know that people were different. I had no idea that we were from the reservation.

I went to school in Onamia and had to fight my way through, because I was from the reservation. I learned what racism is when I was in seventh grade. If my brother was picked on while riding the school bus, I was the one who stuck up for him.

When I grew up, I got married and moved to Anoka. I lived there for about 12 years. My husband passed away in 1972, and I decided to move back to the reservation with my five boys. They were pretty young — my oldest was 11 years old and my youngest was four — so we moved in with my mother in a two-bedroom house on the reservation. We had a lot of memories in that house.

My father had passed away several years before I moved back, so it was always me, the boys, and my mother. I have to give credit to my mother, because she was the one who kept us together. As busy as my mother was, she always had time for the boys. She would walk down to the lake and take them fishing. She helped raise my boys. She was a magnificent woman.



# URBAN OFFICE SPONSORS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT IN MINNEAPOLIS

By Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member

Photos by Bradley Roache Jr. Mille Lacs Band Member

National Night Out in the Twin Cities turned out to be a success, with hundreds of people flocking to the event sponsored by the Urban Office and AanjiBimaadizing (formerly the Band's Department of Labor).

"We were able to show our urban community that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe sees the importance of building partnerships between our communities, Native and non-Native alike, and the local police departments," said Wahbon Spears, the Urban Office Site Manager.

"The neighborhoods we live in are broad and diverse, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is pleased to sponsor this great effort to develop a united community," Wahbon added.

An estimated 450 people attended the carnival-themed event, which featured a dunk tank, cotton candy, a bouncy house, and face-painting by Band member Anita Lovelace. Book bingo, juicebox ring toss, and bean bag toss also contributed to the festivities.

The Franklin Avenue branch of the Hennepin County Public Library donated books, and staff volunteered. Band member Cheryl Minnema attended to sign books and give away copies of her book "Hungry Johnny."

A representative from the Minnesota Timberwolves gave away Prince records and raffled off a special edition purple Timberwolves jersey signed by Prince. He also supplied the very fun blow-up basketball shot tic-tac-toe game that was a hit with all the kids.

Like any good party, there was lots of free food, along with prizes and drawings for gift cards to Target and Walmart.

Representatives from the 2020 Census, the Red Cross, Takoda Institute, Red Cap CPR, and the Indian Health Board attended, and some donated cool swag and lots of great information.



Another highlight of the event was the demonstration on how to extinguish a fire. The tutorial was offered by Band Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk and drew several excited participants who lined up to use the fire extinguisher.

Several first responders and emergency service personnel attended, including the FBI, Metro Transit, the Minneapolis Mounted Police, various fire department stations, and the Minneapolis Police Department.

Wahbon thanked those who helped put the event together. "None of this would've been possible without the dedicated employees and more than 20 volunteers who ran the event."



**Powwow** continued from page 1

They added that they were "honored by Patty's gesture to bestow Herb's beautiful regalia, along with the responsibility it carries, to Ben."

"He will wear it with humility, honor, and much gratitude," the couple said.

## Special 'homecoming'

This year's powwow also was a homecoming of sorts for some Band members who grew up in Texas and had never experienced the beauty and majesty of the annual event.

For siblings Tamika Johnson, Raya Smith, Mark Swist, Ariel Swist, Alan Swist, and his twin brother Adam Swist, it was important to be at the powwow as a tribute to their mom, Sharon "Penny" Sutton — a Band member who passed away five years ago.

Since their mom's passing, the remaining family members — including Jamie Edwards, who works for the Band's Government Affairs department, and two other brothers, Reggie Smith and Troy Zoschke — have made it a point to spend time together in Minnesota where their mom grew up.

They've also made an effort to connect as often as possible since they grew up in different households and states.

Raya, who lives in San Francisco, said it was "great to be home." She lived on the reservation until she was three years old and then moved away. She went back once to see her mom and Dorothy (Smith) Passehl about 25 years ago.

She plans to come back to next year's powwow.

Her sister, Tamika, said she is also planning to return and bring her children, Anyah and Jaden, back to their grandmother's place of birth.

"I loved the powwow and it felt like home," said Tamika. "I could see so much of my mom, but the best thing was seeing the beauty in it — something she never had an opportunity to share because of all of the pain that she associated with Minnesota."

"For me, the powwow was grounding. I felt like I belonged,"

she added.

Ariel, who brought her daughters Kelis and Karree, called it an amazing experience.

"I'm looking forward to coming more often and for my children to dance the next time we come," said Ariel, adding that being in Mille Lacs felt like home to her, too.

Plans are already underway for next summer to have a "coming home ceremony" for Sharon's children.

Dave Sam, who is their uncle, will set a dish and lead a ceremony to welcome the family back home in a good way.

It's an experience that Mark is looking forward to. For him, meeting Dave and hearing about the history of the makizin-ataagewin (moccasin game) was a highlight of the powwow weekend. It's a story he said he will never forget.

## Other powwow news

Thousands of people attended the powwow this weekend and according to Master of Ceremonies Bradley Harrington there were 494 dancers registered for the 1 p.m. Grand Entry on Saturday.

One highlight for Band member Carmen Weous was the special that happened during the afternoon event in honor of the missing and murdered Indigenous women.

"The women wore red ribbon skirts or red regalia and formed the inner circle," she said. "Men were invited in the outer circle. To me it was powerful, meaningful, and beautiful. I was very happy to participate."

## New Royalty

As always, new royalty were chosen who will represent the Band at powwows and other events throughout the year. Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 Royalty Contest:

Senior Princess: Damita Great Shield

Senior Brave: Adrian Wade Jr.

Junior Princess: Ziizibaakwad Sam

Junior Brave: Cayson Graves

## 'WE ARE WATER' EXHIBIT OPENING SEPTEMBER 21

Explore the new interactive exhibit "We Are Water MN" during an opening celebration highlighting wild rice and how it, and everything around us, is impacted by water. The opening of the exhibit, which is free to Mille Lacs Band members, is September 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mille Lacs Indian Museum, with an opening ceremony at noon.

Head to the lakeshore to watch museum staff process wild rice, including drying, parching, threshing, and winnowing the rice. See the entire process from raw material to finished product during 20-minute demonstrations offered on the hour. Sample wild rice dishes, learn more about the importance of water to wild rice, and enjoy a day at the lake.

"We Are Water MN" reveals the central nature of water in our lives by exploring how we relate to water — how we use water, how water unites communities, how water affects every element of life, and how we care for our water and protect it for the future. Visitors can reflect on local stories and the meaning and experiences of water in Minnesota with space to add their own stories. By creating relationships around water, we are creating networks that can promote positive social norms and share a vision for, and participate in, water stewardship.

## Watercolor Night at Eddy's Resort

On Friday, September 20, from 6 to 8 p.m., join instructors Carol Hernandez and Linda Stevens in using water as medium to create colorful designs and washes with a water theme. Learn tips and techniques to help you work with this unique form of painting. All skill levels are welcome, ages 15 and up.

All supplies will be provided for you to walk away from the night with a framed and matted masterpiece FREE of charge! Drinks and food will be available for purchase.

Registration IS required. Please call the Mille Lacs Indian Museum to register at (320) 532-3632.



# PROJECT MEZINICHIGEJIG

ARTISTS HELP BAND YOUTH FIND THEIR VOICE, DISCOVER TALENTS

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Reservation youth don't have the same opportunities as their urban peers to participate in the arts. Band member Adrienne Benjamin made tremendous strides to change that this summer with the launch of Project Mezinichigejig.

Adrienne has traveled widely in recent years thanks to several grants and fellowships she's been awarded. Along the way, she has made many connections with artists and activists of all ethnicities.

"We can't bring our kids everywhere, but we can bring artists here," said Adrienne.

And bring them she has! The list of events held this summer is impressive:

June 13: Youth field trip to Walker Art Center for a Gender Fluid Indigenous Fashion Show,

June 16: A youth trip to the Hinckley Powwow to learn from Nichole Ray, owner/founder of Pow Wow Fabrics,

June 18: Walker Art Center and Sculpture Garden tour,

June 20: Minneapolis College of Art and Design and Minneapolis Institute of Art tour,

June 22-23: Ribbon skirt/shirt making class in District III with Buckanaga Social Club,

June 25-27: Silver jewelry workshop in District I and II with Jodi Webster,

June 29-30: Poetry workshop with Somali poet Nimo Farah,

July 8-12: Youth playwriting workshop with Claro De Los Reyes of Atlantic Pacific Theatre,

July 16-19: Community Mural Week in District II with Char-



Claro De Los Reyes led students and adults in writing and acting workshops in July and August. Five students wrote plays that were shared in a staged reading. Back, left to right: Louis Whiteman, DeAngelo Sam, Henry Sam, Taliya Hansen, and Manook Whiteman. Front: Charlie Smith, Naawakwe, Claro De Los Reyes, Adrienne Benjamin, Ace Collie, Charmaine Shivers.

maine Shivers,

July 22-26: Community Mural Week at Nay Ah Shing High School with Jonathan Thunder,

August 2: Field trip to Fiddler on the Roof at the Orpheum Theatre in Minneapolis,

August 7-8: Belt workshop with Tony Buckanaga at Nay Ah Shing,

August 10-11: Ribbon skirt/shirt panel making class with Buckanaga Social Club,

August 14-16: Foraging/Nature Art with Scott Shigeoka and Linda Black Elk,

August 19-23: Poetry workshop with Tish Jones at Big Sandy Lodge and Resort.

As you can see, it's been an incredibly busy and inspirational summer for Adrienne and the Project Mezinichigejig staff.

More importantly, it's been a learning and growing experience for the artists, youth, and families who have been in-

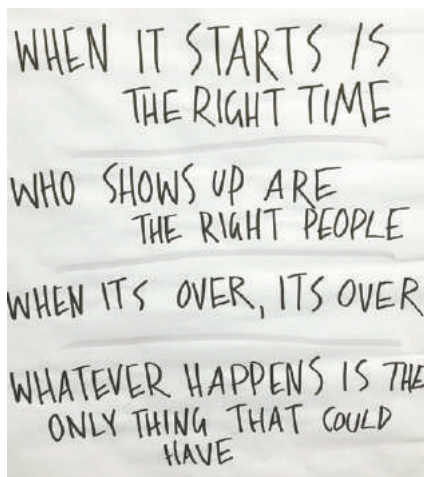
olved.

Claro De Los Reyes, who met Adrienne during a National Arts Strategies fellowship, was impressed with the community after spending a week working with students and Ojibwe language teachers Waabishkigaabaw and Naawakwe.

"I love the fact that there was a strong component of uplifting the local culture," said Claro, who is of Filipino descent. "Adrienne has a clear objective to uplift the local voice, and it's been beautiful for me to hear the language and work with the students to assert their identity."

Naawakwe said, "It's been great to be here to work on this project and make sure our language is alive, and being used, and being honored."

After only a week, students and staff held a staged reading of short plays by playwrights Manook Wilson, Henry Sam, DeAngelo Sam, Taliya Hansen, and Louis Whiteman.



Top left: Charmaine Shivers worked with the students to create a mural at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy. Top center: The Project Mezinichigejig logo was created by Lucie Skjette. Top right: Jonathan Thunder worked with Nay Ah Shing students, staff, and families on a mural at Nay Ah Shing Upper School. Bottom left: The Project has taken students on several field trips during the summer. Bottom right: Artist Jodi Webster led a jewelry workshop at Big Sandy Lodge and Resort in June.



# DNR, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS HOST TELEMTRY OPEN HOUSE DURING WAHKON DAYS

The Government Affairs Department and the Department of Natural Resources hosted an open house during Wahkon Days on Saturday, August 1, with two presentations by Biologist Carl Klimah about the Fisheries Programs ogaa (walleye) tracking study.

An informed and engaged audience listened closely to Carl's presentation, asked questions, and enjoyed lunch courtesy of the Band. Wahkon Days visitors also had a chance to tour the Government Affairs office and see an aquarium stocked with walleyes and perch hatched by the Band's aquaculture program.

Carl's presentation summarized data about the ogaa population in Mille Lacs and showed how the tracking study may help to explain the apparent decline of the species in the lake.

Scientists have been concerned about the declining number of ogaa in Mille Lacs since population estimates in 2013 showed a record low number of the iconic fish. Although ogaa reproduction has been good, surveys indicate that young walleyes are disappearing after their first year, and the Band's tracking study is an attempt to find out why.

Beginning in the mid-1990s, state and tribal biologists started seeing increases in water clarity, which has continued to increase with the invasion of zebra mussels and spiny water fleas. Since ogaa prefer darkness, water clarity may be shrinking their optimal habitat in the lake.

Average air temperatures have increased 1.8 degrees since the '90s as well, which may further reduce the optimal habitat for ogaa.

The study uses acoustic telemetry to monitor the location, behavior, movements, and survival of fish by emitting sound waves from surgically implanted transmitters to a grid of receivers anchored to the lake bottom.



Biologist Carl Klimah of the Mille Lacs Band DNR's Fisheries Program gave two presentations on the ogaa tracking study at Wahkon Days on Saturday, August 17, at the Government Affairs office in Wahkon.

The transmitters in the fish send "pings" to the receivers, which record the depth, water temperature, and habitat of the fish. To date, the receivers have collected over 100,000 pings.

The study is testing the hypothesis that increased water clarity and air temperatures have reduced the optimal thermal habitat for ogaa, forcing both adults and juveniles into smaller areas, leading to competition for limited food and even cannibalism of juvenile fish by adults.

Tribal researchers — including biologists and technicians from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLI-FWC) — have surgically implanted transmitters into the bellies

of 70 adult ogaa (greater than 18 inches) and 70 juveniles (7-11 inches).

They have also tagged 20 yellow perch (5.5-10 inches) and 20 northern pike (19-43 inches).

The Mille Lacs Band takes the health of the lake seriously and is making an investment in the future of Mille Lacs Lake for all. The information gathered from the study will be used to develop management strategies that may include rehabilitation or protection of key habitats and aid in the recovery of the walleye population.



## INDIAN MUSEUM HOSTS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!

Three hundred District I community members attended this year's National Night Out event at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum on August 6 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. They enjoyed music, food, information booths, a scavenger hunt for all ages, free museum admission, inflatables, lacrosse, and yard games. A big thank you to all those who sponsored or were involved with the event including AanjiBimaadizing, Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources, Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services, Mille Lacs Band Public Health/SHIP, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Mille Lacs Tribal Police, Niigaan Youth Program, Office of Government Affairs, Onamia Fire and Police Departments, Mille Lacs Area Health Foundation, Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention, Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Department, Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Mille Lacs Scenic Byway, Onamia Community Education, and Onamia Public Schools.

## ADVICE FOR ASPIRING COLLEGE AND TRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS

By Alyssa Enno, Mille Lacs Band Member

Graduation is a rite of passage into adulthood. It's a great accomplishment for students and their families. Today, after high school, students have different options. Some go on to college, some attend a trade or vocational school, some head right into the workforce, and some take time for themselves. Whichever path you decide is best for you, know that there are steps to take to ensure you are successful.

1. Maintain your grades — your high school GPA will follow your academic career.
2. Research scholarships, grants, and other types of financial aid.
3. Research required entrance exams and take practice tests.
4. Visit schools you're interested in to get a feel for the environment and to ask about programs, courses, and activities that interest you.
5. Be open to meeting new people! You're going to make a lot of new connections, starting with orientation.
6. Don't be afraid to reach out to your professors, instructors, or teaching assistants for help.
7. School can be challenging, so be sure to take care of yourself and surround yourself with people you can lean on.
8. Stay in touch with your high school friends, family, cousins, and other relatives. Having people to talk to is always helpful.
9. Don't silence yourself — your narrative and point of view matter, so embrace the opportunities to educate others.
10. Venture outside of your comfort zone.
11. Believe in yourself!



# GII-ISHKONIGEWAG POWWOW WHAT THEY LEFT FOR US

*District II hosts annual celebration*

Photos by **Bradley Roache Jr.** *Mille Lacs Band Member*

The Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow was held at the District II Powwow Grounds in Minisinaakwaang July 26-28.





# 53RD ANNUAL MILLE LACS TRADITIONAL POWWOW

Annual celebration includes tribute to missing and murdered Indigenous women

Photos by Bradley Roache Jr. Mille Lacs Band Member



## GICHI-MIIGWECH TO OUR POWWOW COMMITTEES

Photos by Rhonda Mitchell Mille Lacs Band Member

The sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of a powwow are well known and loved by all, from the colorful regalia to the flag songs, and from frybread burgers to sweetgrass and sage. But none of that would be possible if it weren't for those who work behind the scenes year-round to make their local powwows happen.

This year's 53rd Annual Mille Lacs Band Powwow was made possible by co-chairs Tony Pike and Tammy Smith — but they are quick to share credit with others: Christine Pewaush, who was in charge of the royalty contest; Barb Martin, who has coordinated the first aid tent and been powwow committee secretary for 10 years; Sober Squad members, who coordinated the Saturday morning parade; Lance Dorr, who organized the makizinataagewin (moccasin game) contest; and Joe Nayquonabe Sr., the Elder advisor who comes to meetings to offer advice and support for new features — like this year's decision to encourage people to wear red in honor of missing and murdered Indigenous women (see photo above).

Powwow committee meetings occur monthly throughout the year and weekly beginning in July.

For Tammy, who has been on the committee for six years, the reward of a job well done makes all the work worthwhile. "I enjoy doing something for my culture, and I love watching my kids and grandkids dance," said Tammy.

Tony is employed in Public Works, and it's crucial to have someone from his department closely involved in powwow preparations. "Each year we try to add something different," said Tony. "This year we upgraded the waterline, added lighting, and cleaned out some trees."



Powwow committee co-chairs Tony Pike and Tammy Smith.







Interns worked closely with Sarah Barten and Commissioner Joe Nayquonabe of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures.

**Interns** continued from page 1

The goal for this Internship program was to create a space where the interns were able to explore and experiment with new ways of thinking and work together collaboratively. And that's exactly what they did.

### Learning about Teamwork

The workshop began on Monday, July 8. The interns would start each day with an ice breaker exercise to get to know each other and begin the process of forming themselves into solid teams.

Teamwork in the workplace can increase efficiency, improve communication, expedite idea generation, distribute workload, and establish a culture where each person feels a sense of belonging and empowerment. Prior to breaking into teams, each person had to identify their own personal strengths and understand the value that they brought to a team setting.

Each team was designed to include people with different passions and capabilities. "We saw camaraderie form in the best way with every intern," said Nayquonabe. "They embraced and celebrated their team's individuality, expressed out-of-the-box ideas to push each other forward and work together to complete their final presentations. It was super cool to watch."

Each team worked together in various ways: completing their MLCV Friday 5 e-mail, which is a weekly e-mail that is sent company-wide that is a digest of relevant information contributors want to share; their MLCV advertisement that highlighted the company's mission; and their final presentation, which included their personal brand highlights, an event they had to plan, and top takeaways.

### Discovering Strengths

MLCV brought in the Insights Discovery® Personal Profile, which is a personal and team development tool that gives individuals an engaging and transformational insight into themselves and others.

"I was able to clearly call out my strengths and learn about my weaknesses so I can work on those," Amelio Merrill shared as a top takeaway during his final presentation.

Throughout the internship, the students worked on com-

pleting a personal brand workbook utilizing their insights as a reference. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, is famously quoted as saying, "your brand is what people say about you when you're not in the room." A personal brand is the unique combination of skills and experiences that make you who you are.

The interns learned that personal branding is a matter of being honest, transparent, and authentic as to what makes them unique.

"Learning about branding helped me realize things about myself and to think about the image I want to create of myself," said intern Jaeden King. "I learned how to highlight my best traits and how to showcase them in a personal and professional setting."

**"THIS WAS A VERY IMPACTFUL EXPERIENCE FOR US AS MUCH AS IT WAS FOR THE STUDENTS. EACH INTERN DEDICATED THEIR TIME, TALENT, AND IDEAS WITH US, AND WE FEEL VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE MILLE LACS BAND WITH THESE BRIGHT MINDS."**

– COMMISSIONER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS  
JOE NAYQUONABE JR.

### Exploring Various Business Topics

Each day was filled with essential business topics such as personal branding and identifying the value that they bring to a team, company branding and marketing, communication techniques, business writing, how to evaluate a business, managing budgets, and event planning.

For example, they learned about how to plan the July Bi-widoopamishinaam Come Eat With Us Elder Event with Beth Gruber. Interns selected the location and menu, set the agenda, determined the prizes, and managed the overall budget.

On the opposite end, there are instances where events



don't necessarily go as planned, so Alyssa created a Fyre Festival Case Study that the Interns analyzed to understand and identify where the event failed. Fyre Festival was a music festival scheduled for two weekends in Spring 2017 that seemingly lacked any infrastructure.

Equipped with the original pitch deck and various news articles about the festival's mishaps, the interns quickly identified that having a contingency plan, setting realistic expectations, and staying within the allotted budget were all ways to avoid the backlash the festival received.

The interns even joined the MLCV Board of Directors for their quarterly meeting. There, each person introduced themselves, discussed their interests for their academic careers, and expressed what they had learned so far throughout the board meeting.

### Innovation at Work

Innovation happens when we provide creative, challenging, and fun opportunities for people to build up an excellent environment with productivity.

MLCV made sure the interns had some fun along the way — having dance-offs, creating advertisements, and doing a cooking chef challenge with Tony Buckanaga (see page 1).

The chef challenge resonated with all the interns, but this experience really stood out for Kyle Bush. "I learned that teamwork is the best way to get anything done," said intern Kyle Bush during his final presentation. "In our cooking challenge, each person cooked a different ingredient. Those ingredients alone would have been boring and plain, but when we put it all together, we made something incredible — chicken alfredo."

"This was a very impactful experience for us as much as it was for the students," Nayquonabe said. "Each intern dedicated their time, talent, and ideas with us, and we feel very excited about for future of the Mille Lacs Band with these bright minds."

## MILLE LACS BAND WOMEN BRING ENERGY TO WEWIN

Women Empowering Women for Indigenous Nations (WEWIN) prepares hundreds, if not thousands, of Native American women for leadership roles for communities across the country, and the Mille Lacs Band is proud to have had many Band members attend the conference over the years to learn, become inspired, and grow. This year's conference was held July 28-31 at the Viejas Casino and Resort.

Attending the conference can be a life-changing experience for young women. Valerie Harrington attended her first conference in 2011. At the time, she was shy and uncertain. After attending the conference, she had a renewed spirit. "There's just an energy around these women," she said recently during an interview with Minnesota Public Radio. "It's just so welcoming. They give you the strength that you had all the time and you didn't know that you had it."

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin is proud of the women of the Mille Lacs Band. She feels humbled and encouraged at the same time for her own opportunity to mentor many Band

members — men and women alike. For Melanie, WEWIN is an opportunity for women to feed off the energy of other women. Melanie said she was proud to introduce Minnesota's Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan at this year's convention. Melanie was inspired as the Lt. Governor spoke about attending her first conference many years ago and how being surrounded by Indian women who are committed to making a difference in their own communities gave her added energy to make a difference for Indian women then and now.

Melanie says women have always been strong in Indian communities, and that has a ripple effect on other women. She emphasized that one does not need to be elected to a position to be a leader. Valerie agreed. "It doesn't take a title to make you a leader," said Valerie in June during the MPR interview. "Anything that you're doing for your family, the tribe, your community, it makes you a leader, and you don't even realize because it's just something that you have a passion for."



Above: Brandi Smith, Val Harrington, Tammy Smith, and Shannon Porter were among the Mille Lacs Band women who attended the WEWIN conference in California this summer. Left: Val and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan.



# NIIZHING AKEYAA GE-IZHI-GIKINOO'AMAWIND A'AW ANISHINAABE-ABINOOJINH

## TWO WAYS OF EDUCATING ANISHINAABE CHILDREN — PART I

By Lee Staples Gaa-anishinaabemod Obizaan

and Chato Gonzalez Gaa-anishinaabebii'ang Ombishkebines

This article was originally published in the September 2014 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. It is reprinted here to give Band members a chance to reflect further on Obizaan's teachings.

Mii-go noomaya gii-maajitaawaagwen ingiw abinoojiinyag gikinoo'amaagoziwaad. Niizhiing i'iw akeyaa ge-izhi-gikinoo'amawind a'aw Anishinaabe-abinoojiinh niwitazhindaan.

It was just recently that the kids started back to school again. I am going to talk about the two ways in educating Anishinaabe children.

Mii i'iw nitam waa-tazhindamaan a'aw wayaabishkiiwed akeyaa ezhigikinoo'amaaged. Ishke ani-asemaakawind a'aw Anishinaabe-abinoojiinh, mii imaa ani-dazhinjigaadenig da-wawiingezid a'aw Anishinaabe-abinoojiinh da-wendagikendang inow wayaabishkiuwen akeyaa izhi-gikinoo'amaagenid. Mii imaa geondinigid isa da-gashki'ewizid weweni da-bami'idizod oniigaaniiming.

The first form of education I want to talk about is the education offered in non-Indian schools. When tobacco is offered up to benefit our young Anishinaabe, the speaker asks the Manidoo that the child is real efficient learning all he can about the white man's books. It is from there that he will get his ability to support himself.

Ishke ingiw gaa-nitaawigi'ijig aanawi-go gii-kikendanzigwaa zhaaganaashiimowin booch igo ingii-ayaangwaamimigoog da-gikinoo'amaagoziyaan.

Even though those old people who raised me knew very little

English they still encouraged me to pursue my education in that other world.

Ishke wayeshkad gii-kikinoo'amaagoziyaan, mii eta-go bezhig abiwining imaa giiyaamagag da-dazhi-gikinoo'amaagooyang gakina. Moozhag dash ingii-tazhindaan aakoshkad-eyaan. Ishke dash mindimooyenyiban gaa-ikidod, "Gaawiin weweni giikiziibiinaaganesiidogenag ingiw ikwezensag imaa gaa-tazhi-gikinoo'amaagozijig." Mii dash a'aw mindimooyenyiban gaa-ikidod, "Booch igo giwii-ayaawin dagikinoo'amaagooyan, mii dash waa-izhichigeyaan, mashkimod giwii-ozhitamoon, mii dash onaagaans, emikwaanens, onaagan da-atooyaan, mii dash endaso-giizhik damaajidooyan da-aabajitooyan iniw azhigwa ashamigooyan, da-bi-azhegiwewidooyan dash weweni inda-giziibiinaanan." Mii dash i'iw gaa-izhichigeyaan endaso-giizhik.

When I first went to school I went to a one-roomed school-house where we all attended classes. I came home quite often and complained about having stomach aches. That old lady said, "The young girls who were doing the dishes at the school must not be doing a very good job at cleaning the dishes." And then that old lady said, "I want you to continue your schooling. What I will do is sew you a bag where I will put your cup, spoon, and plate. Each day you will take those with you to school to use when they feed you, and then you will bring those home and I will wash them out good." So that is what I did each day when I went to school.

Miinawaa a'aw akiwenziyiban ingii-wiindamaag, "Ayaangwaamitoon igo daagindaman da-dazhiikaman iniw mazina'iganan gaa-pi-giiwewidooyan. Gego babaamendangen da-biindi-

geniseyan naa gaye nibinaadiyan, niin igo gakina gidanigiizhiikamoon ge-gii-izhichigeyamban." Mii dash i'iw gaa-izhichigeyaan azhigwa gaa-ishkwaa-aabitaadi-bikak gii-kiizhiikamaan iniw mazina'iganan.

That old man also told me, "Work hard at reading and studying your books that you brought home. Do not worry about hauling in wood and hauling in water, I will take care of the chores that you should be doing. That is what I did; I worked on my studies until after midnight.

Azhigwa dash gaa-kiizhiitaad a'aw nisayenh dabazhish asind megwaa gikinoo'amaagozid, gaawiin ogii-ayaanziin nawaj ish-piming da-izhaapan gekinoo'maagozid. Gaawiin bemiwizhiwed gii-pi-izhaasiin imaa Aazhoomog giitaayaang.

When my older brother finished the lower grades there was no way to continue his education. He had no way to get to high school since there was no bus that went to Aazhoomog where we lived at the time.

Mii dash ingiw nigitiziiminaanig gaa-nitaawigi'ijig ogii-tiba'aanaawaa abiwini imaa Gaa-zhiigwanaabikokaag. Mii dash imaa agaamikana gii-atemagag i'iw gikinoo'amaadiiwigamig gii-izhaad nisayenyiban nawaj ishpiming gii-izhaad gikinoo'amaagozid.

So our parents, those old people who raised me, rented an apartment in Hinckley. The high school was across the road from the apartment so my brother could go to high school.

Ishke dash gaye gaa-izhichigeyaan miskodesiminag ingii-mawinz endasoniibing. Mii dash imaa gaa-ondinagwaa ingiw zhooniyaansag gii-asigishimaad a'aw mindimooyenyiban gii-maajiniza'waad gii-tiba'ang nibiizikaaganan gebiizikamaanin azhigwa gii-maajitaayaan gii-kikinoo'amaagoziyaan. Mii a'aw ishwaaso-miskwaabikoons endaso-dibaabiishkoojigan ingiw miskodesiminag, mii iw minik gaa-izhi-diba'amaagooyaan. Ishke dash mii imaa waabanjigaadeg gaaizhi-apiitendamowaad weweni ani-giizhiikamaan gikinoo'amaagoziyaan ingiw gaanitaawigi'ijig.

What I also did was pick beans every summer. It is from there that I got the money that old lady collected and that she sent off to pay for my school clothes to wear when I started school. I was paid eight cents a pound to pay for the beans that I picked. It shows here how those old people who raised me valued the importance of my education.

Ishke dash ingiw niizh nawaj gaa-gichi-aya'aawijig apiidash niin gaa-tazhiganawenjigaazoyaan ogii-kiizhiikaanaawaa weweni gii-kikinoo'amaagoziwaad. Ishke dash mii imaa gaa-onjikaamagag ge-niin da-kiizhiikamaan weweni. Gaawiin ganage ingii-pabaamendanziiin da-bagijwebinamaan da-ni-giizhiikanziwaan gikinoo'amaagoziyaan.

The other two that were older than me and that were raised with me completed their education. As a result it never occurred to me to even think about dropping out and not finishing my schooling.

Azhigwa ishpiming gii-izhaayaan gekinoo'amaagoziyaan eta-go niizh giianishinaabewiyaang ingiw naanimidana gaa-kikinoo'amaagozijig. Gaawiin ingiiaanishendanziiin megwe-chimookamaaning gikinoo'amaagoziyaan, Mii eta-go gii-ayaangwaamitooyaan wii-gagwe-gikendamaan gaa-gikinoo'amaagooyaan. Ishke ingii-wenda-minwendaan gii-aada'wagwaa chi-mookimaanensag niiji-gikinoo'amaaganag. Ginwenzh igo ingii-nanaamadab gii-tazhiikamaan nimazina'iganan.

When I went on to high school there was only two of us that were Anishinaabe in a class of fifty. I was not discouraged being taught among white people. All I did was concentrate on my studies. I really enjoyed getting better grades than my fellow white classmates. I sat for a long time working on my studies.



### Bezhiig—1

#### OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.  
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO  
Gaawiin—as in father  
Gaye—as in jay  
Jijman—as in seen  
Adoopowin—as in moon  
—Short Vowels: A, I, O  
Idash—as in about  
Nitam—as in tin  
Qmaa—as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.

—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

#### Verbs, Transitive, Inanimate (VTI)

Use VTI grammar patterns when verb action is directed to a non-living thing. Study this pattern that's used with verb root commands ending in -oon.

Biidoon!—Bring it!  
Nimbiidoon.—I bring it. (nonliving thing)  
Gibiidoon(an).—You bring it (them).  
Obiidoon(an).—He/She brings it (them).  
Nimbiidoomin.—We bring it/them.  
Gibiidoomin.—We all bring it/them.  
Gibiidoonaawaa(n).—You all bring it (pl).  
Obiidoonaawaa(n).—They bring it (pl).

### Niswi—3

#### IKIDOWIN (ODAMINOWIN) (word play)

#### Down:

2. hunting blind
3. also
6. those
7. tobacco

#### Across:

1. It is cool weather.
4. canoe
5. I buy
8. he/she hunts
9. first

#### Translations:

**Niizh—2** A. I have them many tools. B. When it is fall, I paddle and I have that canoe. C. When I go ricing at the lake, they are useful those rice knockers. D. First I buy it that little ricing-paper (license). E. Also I bring them those rice bags and scale. F. When I hunt ducks, I carry along that duck shot-gun. G. No, I don't forget him/her that tobacco.  
**Niswi—3** Down: 2. Akaadoowin 3. Gaye 6. Ingiw 7. Asemaa Across: 1. Dakaayaa 4. Jiimaan 5. Nindadaawe 8. Giyyose 9. Nitam  
**Niiwin—4** 1. We tie them those shoelaces. 2. I am bringing that wild rice broth to the table. 3. You cleaned those, did you? those cups? 4. Yesterday they used that frypan. 5. She brought the coffee (black-medicine-liquid).  
There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

### Niizh—2

Circle the 11 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Nindaabajitoonan niibowaa aabajichiganan.

B. Dagwaaging, niijiime. Nindayaan i'iw jiimaan.

C. Manoominkeyaan zaaga'iganing minwaabadiziwag ingiw bawaa'iganaakoog.

D. Nitam nindadaawe i'iw manoominike-mazina'igaans.

E. Gaye nimbiidoonan inwi manoomini-mashkimodan idash dibaabiishkoojigan.

F. Nandawishibeyaan nimbimiwidoon i'iw zhiishiibanwii-baashkizigan.

G. Gaawiin niwanenimaasii a'aw asemaa.

D O M K  
A C A V G G  
G A S E M A A  
W X H L B A Y I  
A A K I X W A E Z  
A N I N J I I M E J  
G B M G C I N D I E R  
I P O I O N I I B O W A  
N D D W H M G N W F K Q  
B A A S H K I Z I G A N  
M A N O O M I N I K E L

### Niiwin—4

#### Verbs Transitive Inanimate

Biinitoon!—Clean something for someone!  
Nimbiinitoon i'iw gitagaan.—I clean the garden.  
Gibiinitoonan iniw abwiin.—You clean them those canoe paddles.  
Dakobidoon!—Tie it!  
Odakobidoon i'iw wiigob.—S/he ties that inner basswood bark.  
Aabajitoon!—Use it!  
Dagwaaging nindaabajitoomin iniw nooshkaachinaaganan.  
When it is fall, we use winnowing baskets.

#### Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

1.     dakobidoo     iniw makizineyaabiin.
2.     biidoon i'iw manoominaaboo adoopowining?
3.     biinitoon ina iniw onaagaansan?
4. Biijinaago     gii-aabajitoon     i'iw abwewin.
5.     gii-piidoon makade-mashkiki-waaboo.

- Nim
- Gi
- O
- Nin —min
- o— —aawaa



## AROUND THE RESERVATION

### BI-MAWADISHIWEN — COME VISIT AT CHIMINISING

Bi-mawadishiwen (come visit) with Jason and Carrie Sam every Friday (except holidays and half-days) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Chiminising Community Center in Isle.

All in recovery are welcome. This group is aligned with our cultural and traditional ways.

Bring any dish you would like to share for a potluck-style dinner.

### COMMUNITY DRUMMING MONDAYS AT THE CABIN

Forget about Monday Night Football! Instead, come drum and sing at the cabin next to the men's halfway house in District I.

Bring your knowledge or eagerness to learn. Be willing to teach what is old to you and learn what is new. Meal provided. This is a sober event!

### FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASSES

First-time Homebuyer Education is a requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation for qualified buyers. Please reserve your spot in one of these free classes with Cyndi Cwikla at 218-335-8582, ext. 150 or ccwikla@mnchippewatribe.org. No childcare is provided so please make other arrangements.

Saturday, September 28, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

OR

Saturday, October 19, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Building, 15542 State 371 NW, Cass Lake, Minnesota

### FOND DU LAC OFFERS ITV AND ONLINE CLASSES

Mille Lacs Band students can earn credits from Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College without leaving their communities.

The Higher Education Department is offering ITV classes and online classes for Fall 2019. Students can access online classes at the Higher Education Media Center located at District I OR with their laptop at home.

ITV classes are offered at the District I Community Center, District II East Lake Community Center, and Meshakwad Community Center/Hinckley.

The following ITV and online courses are offered this fall:

**ITV:** Introduction to Anishinaabe Language, Anishinaabe Language III, Introduction to American Indian Studies, Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics, American Indian Music, Human Diversity, Interpersonal Communication.

**Online:** Anishinaabeg of Lake Superior, Special Educations Foundations, College Composition, Advanced College Composition, Writing for Professionals, American Indian Literature, Physical Geography, Indigenous Psychology.

To register, visit [fdltcc.edu](http://fdltcc.edu). If you have other questions, contact the Higher Education Department at 1-800-709-6445 ext 4775, fax to 320-532-7826, or e-mail [mlb.scholarships@millelacsband.com](mailto:mlb.scholarships@millelacsband.com).

### SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!

*Ojibwe Inaajimowin* is always looking for submissions from Band members! Compensation is available for stories and/or photographic coverage of tribal events. If you're interested in submitting a story or covering an event, please call 320-237-6851 or e-mail [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com).

## PARTNERSHIP SEEKS BETTER CANCER OUTCOMES FOR AMERICAN INDIANS THROUGH RESEARCH

American Indians face disparities in many areas of health care, including cancer. American Indians in Minnesota have not experienced a decline in cancer incidence and mortality like the rest of the general population. Cancer is the leading cause of death for American Indian women, and the second for American Indian men. Some of the most common cancers affecting American Indians are lung, breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer.

"Historically, American Indians have not had access to preventative care. Many American Indians live in rural Minnesota and aren't in close proximity to clinics. Many are also uninsured or underinsured," said Carol Hernandez, Research Coordinator for Ne-la-Shing Clinic and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe tribal member. "These are just some of the many factors that lead to health care gaps for American Indians."

A partnership between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO), the Minnesota Precision Medicine Collaborative (MPMC) at the University of Minnesota (UMN), and the Minnesota Cancer Clinical Trials Network (MNCCTN) is working to close these gaps in cancer through access to cancer clinical trials.

Clinical trials are research studies that work to develop new treatments for diseases, such as cancer. There are also clinical trials in cancer detection, diagnosis, and prevention. People volunteer to be involved in clinical trials. Today's cancer treatments were developed as the result of clinical trials. By participating in clinical trials, participants are able to potentially improve their lives as well as the lives of others in the future.

"It is important for American Indians to participate in clinical trials so we can gather data specific to American Indians. Current data tends to be gathered from studies on Caucasians and results may not be in line with what is best for American Indians," Hernandez said. "Research can lead to better treatment options, new medications, new interventions, and possi-

bly cures for American Indian populations."

The goal of the partnership is to create studies that are tailored specifically to American Indians in Minnesota, while ensuring the studies are respectful to cultural beliefs and practices. The partnership decided to focus on reducing lung cancer because lung cancer is one of the most frequent cancers affecting American Indians in Minnesota.

Funding to set up the needed infrastructure and staffing to conduct the studies was provided by MNCCTN. One example of funded infrastructure was the purchase of a freezer to store research samples at the Ne-la-Shing Clinic. MNCCTN is a statewide clinical trials network funded by the state legislature. The network aims to improve cancer outcomes for all Minnesotans through greater access to cancer clinical trials in prevention and treatment.

A research study is open now at Ne-la-Shing Clinic in Onamia. The study examines nicotine metabolism, the speed at which nicotine is processed, in current smokers as a potential reason for the high level of smoking and lung cancer in American Indians. American Indians smoke at much higher rates than the general population. For example, 59% of American Indian adults in Hennepin and Ramsey counties report that they are cigarette smokers, while the state of Minnesota's overall smoking rate is 16%. While the current study is not a treatment study, data collected on nicotine metabolism may provide useful insight into what treatment works best for each smoker.

To participate in the study, individuals are asked to complete a phone screening with Carol Hernandez. If eligible, they can come to the clinic for another screening. After the in-person screening, eligible participants can continue and complete the study. Participants are compensated for completing the study. The clinic visit typically takes two to three hours in total.

To find out more, call Carol Hernandez at 320-532-7575.



GRA Board members are Wendy Merrill, Megan Ballinger, Shannon Thomas, Michael Davis, and Michelle Pomerleau.



## GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY

*Dedicated to providing protection, value, and regulatory excellence in gaming for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.*

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function.

The purpose of the GRA is to ensure that all gaming activities on Mille Lacs Band land are carried out in compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, Title 15 of the Mille Lacs

Band statutes, tribal and state compacts, the GRA's Detailed Gaming Regulations (DGR), and all other applicable laws.

The GRA is governed by five board members that meet twice a month. Board members include Chairperson Wendy Merrill, Vice Chairperson Michelle Pomerleau, Shannon Thomas, Michael Davis, and Megan Ballinger.

Watch this space for regular GRA updates!





## DNR, TRIBAL POLICE SPONSOR YOUTH FISHING TOURNAMENT

The Department of Natural Resources and Tribal Police Department held their third annual youth fishing tournament August 8 at Eddy's Resort in District I. Captain Travis pulled the kids into the perfect spot to start hauling smallmouth bass into the boat. It was a fun and gorgeous morning. Miigwech to Eddy's Resort, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Captain Travis, and his crew. Photos by Mille Lacs Band member Li Boyd.

## MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES ASSOCIATES 'UNLEASH THE POWER WITHIN'

By Kelly Sam Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

In July, 10 associates from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and Grand Casinos attended a three and a half day Tony Robbins seminar in Dallas, TX called Unleash the Power Within (UPW). The conference is an immersive experience that helps unlock and unleash the forces inside you to break through your limitations and take control of your life. Over 7,000 people attended from 56 different countries.

The associates that attended were: Kelly Sam, Dayna Pearson, Jenny Buchholz, John Van House, Blake Johnson, Kate Anderson, Amanda Churchill, and Zeph Snead. The associates were part of the first cohort of the NXT Level Leader program.

NXT Level Leader program was created to help develop their capabilities that will enable MLCV to continuously compete and grow; identify and equip leaders to take MLCV into the future; emphasize development and serve Associates; and identify skills, curriculum, and experiential alignment with purpose and passion.

The experience was unreal and like nothing any of us had experienced before. Tony Robbins likes to keep the venue cold to maintain your awareness. You are always on your feet jumping, dancing, and interacting which also helps to get your blood flowing and keep your brain working. We were encouraged to "be a 10" every day which helped us optimize our performance and be our best selves.

Day one was all about creating an extraordinary life. Band member Jenny Buchholz said, "One of the things that Tony said that really got me thinking on day one was in regards to rising above others. He said, 'making you smaller will not make someone else bigger.' To me that meant by continuing to hold back, it will not make someone else better, it only keeps you from growing. Successful people surround themselves with other successful people as a way to push each other to do better, and be better."

The first day was 12 hours long, and after being mentally



Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures associates walked on coals at a Tony Robbins seminar in Dallas in July.

and physically challenged, we had the opportunity to walk on fire — literally. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Tony Robbins helped us get into a peak state, we stepped up to the hot coals, and without a second thought, we walked across the coals. We hugged and celebrated, and it will always be a great memory our group will have together.

On day 2, James McClendon spoke about the power of momentum and creating an abundant mindset. His talk focused on identifying our passion. He asked, "what do you love? What are you grateful for?" I committed to go back to school last year to finish my bachelor's degree. It hasn't been easy, and it's hard to find the time to study between a full-time job and two young boys at home, but once you decide to make a change, you must commit to that decision, and then take massive action or nothing will change.

Day 3 and 4 were about eliminating inner conflicts, unlocking your true potential and creating a vital life. It helped us identify the internal baggage we carry around, eliminate it, and embrace the new tools that set us up to become the best ver-



sion of ourselves. How to work more efficiently, how to better connect with family and coworkers, and how to organize our time and life better.

No matter what we all want in life — joy, love, passion, fulfillment — Unleash the Power Within helped give us the drive and momentum to achieve it. We shouldn't settle for an ordinary life when we can create an extraordinary one!



## MLCV FAMILY GOLF OUTING

On the morning of Sunday, August 11, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures held its 6th Annual Family Golf Outing at Grand National Golf Course in Hinckley. The Family Golf Outing is one MLCV's most popular events each year as it brings over 30 families together to enjoy nine-holes of golf, but more importantly, to spend quality family time together. This year, golfers participated in various games along the way to earn entries into the door prize drawing. Prizes included Walmart gift cards, iTunes gift cards, Bluetooth earbuds, and backpacks stuffed with school supplies. All participants also left with an exclusive MLCV tumbler and were treated to a buffet lunch.



# HANDS-FREE CELLPHONE LAW IS NOW IN EFFECT

On August 1, 2019, a new hands-free law went into effect for Minnesota drivers. Governor Tim Walz signed the bill April 12, 2019. The law was created to keep drivers off their phones so the roads are free of distracted drivers.

Here are a few reminders on what you can and can't do under the new law:

## Drivers can:

- Use their cell phones to make calls, text, listen to music, and get directions ONLY by voice commands OR single-touch activation.
- Use hand-held phone for emergency assistance needs, an immediate threat to life and safety, or when in an authorized emergency vehicle.
- Use their phone as a GPS navigation device only if it is used for navigation purposes.

## Drivers can't:

- Hold the phone in their hand.
- Use their phone at any time for video calling, live-streaming, social media use, gaming, looking at videos or photos, using non-navigation apps, reading or composing text messages, checking emails, and scrolling or typing on their phone.
- Stop on the shoulder of an interstate freeway or a controlled access highway.

## Fines

If you are caught breaking the hands-free law, the first ticket is \$50 but jumps to \$275 for each violation after that.



**HANDS-FREE  
MINNESOTA LAW**  
HandsFreeMN.org

Be careful with smartwatches; under the new law they are considered an electronic communications device! This means they have the same restrictions as cell phones.

If you have to respond to a text, phone call, e-mail, or need to check directions, wait until you are off the road and parked. With the new hands-free law you cannot do any of those things while you are stopped at a light in traffic.

Let's keep our roads safe and stay off our phones!

## HOW YOU CAN GO HANDS-FREE

1. Pair your phone to your vehicle using Bluetooth connectivity.
2. Buy an auxiliary cable to connect your phone to your vehicle to use voice-activation or single touch.
3. Older vehicles can use an adapter that fits into the cassette player.
4. Buy a holder to clip or mount your phone to the dash. You can use voice-activation or single touch.
5. Don't use your phone when you drive. Put it away or use a do-not-disturb mode or app.

# OPPRESSION — A BAND ELDER REFLECTS

By JuJu Mille Lacs Band Elder

Well, I would like to ask myself a question: Do I know what it is that would make me decide to treat someone as if their feelings don't mean a thing to me?

I guess at one time or another I have been guilty of this act of selfishness and cruelty. If I have ever done this to anyone reading my story, please forgive me.

Here is an explanation of my actions. I was a student at Onamia High School during a time of "prejudice." We as a group stood up for ourselves and for our honor. The non-Indians — I like to call them "non-Indians" rather than "white people" because I would like to think I don't see a person's color. Besides, they appear to be kind of beige. To me, white is the color of snow or writing paper. I think I look somewhat dark brown, so would I call myself a dark brown person?

But back to my self-analyzing story. Bottom line is, we all said, "Enough is enough." I mean, the stupidity was so bad. The teachers would stand in front of us and announce — and I quote — "Yes, I am prejudiced towards anyone I decide to be prejudiced towards and there is nothing you can do about it." So as young American Indians/First People, we stood our ground. We decided to walk out of the school as a group. We were sick of being treated badly. We all ended up at our community center and decided to start our own school, which is now Nay Ah Shing School. The rest is history.

I have been a victim of stupid actions in my life. Let me give you another example. Over the years I have noticed some strange things about our Band. I remember Mille Lacs Band members only pointing out negative things about other Band members. This was supposed to be humorous or a joke. I think a put-down is a put-down. It seems to me that I could be wrong, but it appears that people only want to focus on negative things. Saying negative things about each other is no joke, but it seems to be how we treat each other.

So I have sat and tried to figure out why people would only remember negative things about someone. A few years ago, I was asked to say something about post-trauma to a group of people at an Intergenerational Conference held in Hinckley. I don't recall exactly what I said, but I know it was an ear beat-

ing. And I will always remember the looks on everyone's faces when I expressed how I really felt about the state of our Band. This is solely my idea of what might be troubling us. I could be totally wrong, but here it goes.

There was a time when it was common to hear the Beige people calling us names like "dirty Indians," "stupid Indians," and "drunken Indians." When I was a teenager, there was a resort on Virgo Road which is now closed. It was located where our park is today. Anyways, we were having fun, and people staying at the resort starting shooting at us. Someone from our group (I won't say the name) went home and got his uncle's 22-gauge shotgun and peppered the cars parked at the resort. He wasn't trying to hurt anyone and he didn't do this out of anger. He was simply standing up to the oppressor who at that moment happened to be the fool shooting at us. Self-defense is what I would call it. But let's not dwell on the negativity.

You see, I could go on all day about how we were treated, which would fill you and me with negative feelings. As a kid, I remember playing in a closed down bar in Wigwam Bay, and there was a sign hanging on the wall that read "No Indians or dogs allowed." I couldn't understand why anyone would write that on a sign or even take the time to paint that sign.

So here's my idea of what could be happening to us as Intergenerational Trauma survivors. When Mille Lacs Band put the casino money towards positive things like our roads, schools, clinics, and other things, the non-Indians kind of backed off from their stupidity. We were not being called negative names or being treated as negatively.

Maybe — just my idea, as I said, and I'm sure I will be told if I'm wrong — but I say our history has been oppression. I think that we have gotten used to having our backs against the wall. So now, unconsciously, we are oppressing ourselves because that is what we feel comfortable with. I'm not saying we hurt each other on purpose, but we are hurting each other.

Let me know what you think of this crazy idea I have about why we treat each other so negatively. This is what I said at the Hinckley conference.

Let's forget about the negative and promote the positive.

Ah how! All my relations, JuJu

## PRISON CEREMONY

By Dawn Renee Peel

Brown skinned, dark-haired women  
Walking in circle  
Following the direction, the path of the Sun  
Dressed casually in prison greys  
The smell of fall clinging to the air  
Blue jays trilling in grandmother tree  
The silence is reverent  
The sacred circle calms  
The offering song begins  
"Niiganii Asema," as the women join in  
Rich brown Asema placed in each one's hand  
Pulling mine close to my heart  
My eyes are closed in thoughtful prayer  
I taste the cool autumn air through my teeth  
Cool, fresh soothing in its relief  
Suddenly, a waft of smoke comes before me  
It's cedar, sweet grass, and sage  
With heart open, I receive the healing smudge  
My long dark hair, my face, my heart  
The smudge is a gift with fragrant zaaga'idiwin  
"My Creator," I whisper deep inside  
Sweet release of any angst in a sigh  
With One in Spirit, my feet firmly planted  
Mother Earth's strength is granted  
O' sacred Opwaagan comes to my rescue  
My lips embrace the stem, as I draw sacred  
smoke in  
I offer my prayers with its gentle release  
Thank you, My Creator  
Thank you, Mother Earth  
Thank you, my Ancestors  
Thank you, for blessed ceremony.

*Ojibwe vocabulary:*

*Niiganii: To lead, go ahead*

*Asema: Offering tobacco*

*Zaaga'idiwin: Love*

*Opwaagan: Sacred prayer pipe*

## MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES AND FINANCING USES:	APPROVED BUDGET FOR FY 2019	EXPENDITURES THROUGH 7/31/19	% OF BUDGET EXPENDED
Administration (1)	20,696,617	14,077,359	68%
Department of Labor	22,256,153	3,854,525	17%
Judicial	2,395,725	1,016,941	42%
Department of Justice	7,960,844	4,466,456	56%
Education	20,634,575	13,834,263	67%
Health and Human Services	34,963,511	22,876,611	65%
Circle of Health Insurance	5,720,000	4,260,811	74%
Natural Resources	11,127,456	7,790,692	70%
Community Development	65,463,383	27,742,117	42%
Gaming Authority	5,332,641	3,661,330	69%
Bonus Distribution	48,725,085	38,254,814	79%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	6,623,000	3,295,332	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>251,898,990</b>	<b>145,131,251</b>	<b>58%</b>

(1) Administration includes chief executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.

(2) Casino operations are not reported above; however, they do include government operations funded by casino operations.

(3) The financial statements of the Band are audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.

(4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997.



# DISTRICT III MEMBERS RECEIVE PROGRAM UPDATES

At the August 14 community meeting at Grand Casino Hinckley, District III Band members heard from Rep. Wally St. John, Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, Community Support Services Director Kristian Theisz, and Pine County Cultural Community Coach Bill Schaaf.

Wally pointed out that it had been just over a year since he took office, and he reiterated the theme he has spoken about throughout his term: the importance of unconditional love for fellow community members.

Sheldon reviewed the progress that has been made on his top three priorities: transparency, establishment of a Revisor's Office, and improved oversight of the Band's investments.

Although live-streaming of Band Assembly meetings has not yet occurred due to concerns of District Representatives, Sheldon said Wally will introduce a data practices bill to en-

sure that government records are available to Band members.

Regarding the Revisor's Office, Sheldon said an attorney has been hired who will begin the process of updating Mille Lacs Band statutes.

In an attempt to improve oversight of the Band's investments, Sheldon said Band Assembly has prepared a Request for Proposals for an audit of the Band's finances, and he hopes to establish an Investment Board of Band members who will oversee the Band's investments.

Kristian reviewed the programs that are part of Community Support Services, including food shelves, violence prevention, Elder services, and Wraparound.

Bill spoke about his desire to provide healthy activities for District III youth, including athletic programs. He asked parents and guardians to contact him to share ideas.

## AROUND THE RESERVATION

### SEPTEMBER EVENTS AT MILLE LACS INDIAN MUSEUM

**Hide Processing Demonstration:** Saturday, September 7, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Throughout the day, museum staff will work to transform a deer hide into buckskin, or leather, which is used by Ojibwe people in a variety of ways. Learn what tools and techniques are used in this age-old practice. Cost: Included with \$6-10 site admission. MNHS members and Mille Lacs Band members free.

**Corn Husk Doll:** Saturday, September 14, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Learn how to make a corn husk doll to take home. Corn husk dolls are made from the outer covering of an ear of corn and are typically made during the fall. Allow an hour to make the craft. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Cost: \$6/kit, museum admission not included.

**Sweetgrass Basket 2-Day Workshop:** Saturday, September 14, Noon – 4 p.m. and Sunday, September 15, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Learn the art of making a coil sweetgrass basket in this two-day workshop. Registration is required three days prior to workshop. Cost: \$75. MNHS and Mille Lacs Band members save 20 percent. \$15 supply fee.

**'We Are Water MN' Exhibit Opening: Wild for Wild Rice:** Saturday, September 21, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. See page 7 for details.

### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR IMMERSION ACADEMY

Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang with Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College is pleased to announce the ninth annual Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort to be held over the upcoming school year at the Cloquet Forestry Center in Cloquet. The Ojibwe Immersion Academy Weekend Cohort is a rare opportunity for language-learners who are interested in a complete immersion experience to study one-on-one and in small groups with Ojibwe elder-first speakers and faculty. Participants meet one weekend a month for six months beginning November 2019 and ending April 2020.

Please help us spread the word by sharing our website at <http://ojibwemotaadidaa.weebly.com/>. For more information, please check the website or e-mail us at [ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com](mailto:ojibwemotaadidaa@gmail.com). All applications are due by noon on Wednesday, September 11, 2019.

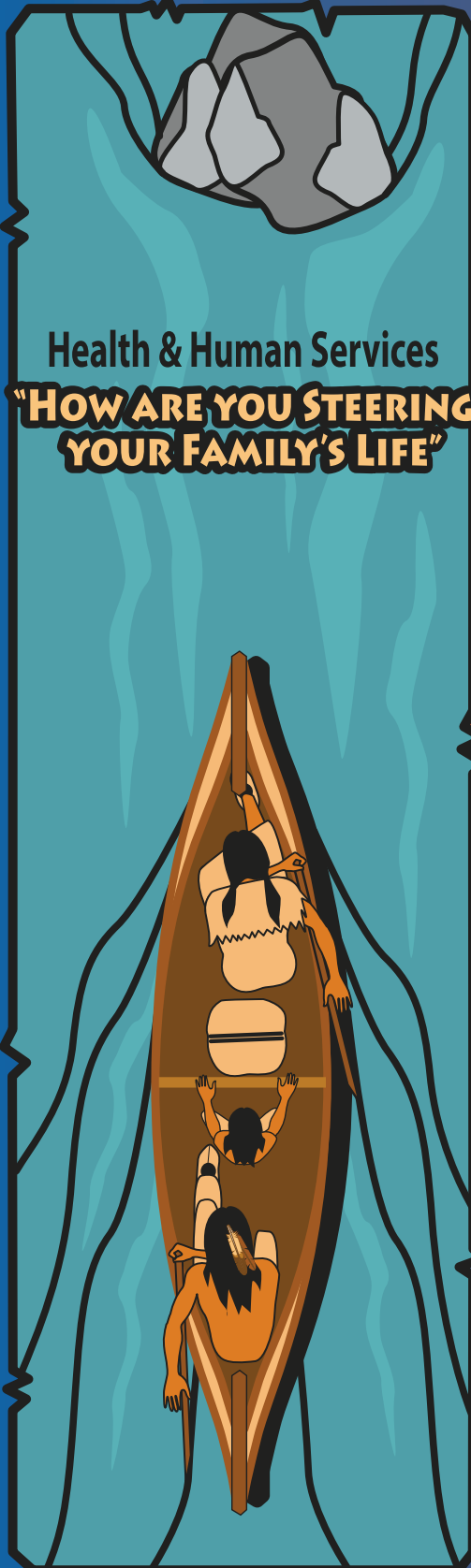
### MENTOR ARTIST FELLOWSHIP OPEN CALL

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation's (NACF) Mentor Artist Fellowship is a regional individual artist project award that focuses on artistic mentoring in the Upper Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and Southwest regions. The Fellowship is open to eligible, established American Indian and Alaska Native artists of 10 years or more who want to mentor an emerging American Indian or Alaska Native artist apprentice in either the Traditional or Contemporary Visual Arts categories for a period of fifteen months, beginning April 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

To apply, go to [bit.ly/nacf-2019mentor](http://bit.ly/nacf-2019mentor). The call for submissions for the NACF Mentor Artist Fellowship is now open until Monday, September 30, 2019 at 5 p.m. Pacific time. Notifications will be sent by March 2020.

Mentor Artist Fellowship is a \$30,000 award distributed to the mentor artist. The award will be divided as follows: \$20,000 for the mentor, \$5,000 for the joint art project, and \$5,000 for the apprentice's participation (travel expenses, supplies, stipend, etc.).

## MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE HEALTH FAIRS 2019



Health & Human Services  
"HOW ARE YOU STEERING  
YOUR FAMILY'S LIFE?"

### Da Apiitendamang Gimino Ayaawininaan *As We Value Our Health*

**District 3** Tuesday, September 17  
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
Meshakwad Community Center  
38043 Hinckley Road,  
Hinckley, MN 55037



**District 2** Wednesday, September 18  
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
East Lake Community Center  
46666 State Hwy 65  
McGregor, MN 55760

**District 1** Thursday, September 19  
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
Mille Lacs Community Center  
43500 Virgo Rd  
Onamia, MN 56359

**District 2A** Friday, September 20  
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
Chiminising Community Center  
2605 Chiminising Drive  
Isle, MN 56342

**30+ Booths Promoting  
Health & Fitness**

- Medication Assisted Recovery
- Lactation Station
- Rural AIDS Action Network
- Fun Fitness Breaks
- Hourly Door Prizes
- Grand Prize Gift Cards
- Healthy Lunch Provided
- Traditional Wild Plant  
Medicine Information
- And Much, Much More!

Everyone Welcome!

Colleen McKinney  
SHIP Coordinator 320-532-7812



# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO MILLE LACS BAND ELDERS!

Julie Louise Benjamin  
Dennis Wayne Benjamin  
Cynthia Mae Benjamin  
Joyce Marie Benjamin  
Daniel Boyd  
Joanne Frances Boyd  
Rose Marie Bugg  
James Douglas Colstrud  
Raymond Allen Eubanks  
Lloyd Dale Evans  
Shirley Ann Evans  
Rina Margaret Fonder  
Lorena Joy Gahbow  
Ricky Joe Garbow  
Roger Duane Garbow  
Joseph Wm. Garbow  
Bernice Bea Gardner  
Lisa Celeste Griffin  
John Alan Grothe  
Loretta Lea Hansen  
Carol Anne Hernandez  
Bernida Mae Humetewa  
Donna Lianne Iverson  
Kathleen Lorena Johnson

Beverly Marie Jones  
Rodney Charles Matrious  
Lauren Lynn Matrious  
Carol Jean Mojica  
Jacqueline Jean Moltaji  
Sherri Lee Monroe  
Elmer Eugene Nayquonabe  
Joseph Leonard Nayquonabe  
Laureen Jennifer Nickaboine  
DeWayne Michael Pike  
Alan Ray Premo  
Jane Yvonne Rea Bruce  
Bernadine Joyce Roberts  
Melanie Lou Sam  
Karen Louise Sam  
Carol Ann Sam  
Darlene Joyce Sam  
Kevin Duane Schaaf  
Janice Arlene StandingCloud  
John Duane Stokke  
Charles W. Sutton  
Judie Erma Thomas  
Marty Russell Thomas  
Russell Harvey Thomas  
Arne Vainio  
Leonard Wayne Weyaus  
Bonita Diane White  
Donald Ray Williams  
Dale Barnet Wind

## HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Happy Birthday **Destanie Anderson** on 9/3, with love from your son Carter James, nephew Caden, Mom, Shyla, Jordan, Dilly Bar and Gamma Gina • Happy birthday **Joe Nayquonabe** on 9/4 from Great-Grandma June, Grandpa David, Elvis, Sunshine, Amber, Hunter, Shyla, Caden, Manny, Elliot, the Smith and Shingobe families • Happy 5th birthday **Christopher Shingobe** on 9/11 from Great-Grandma June, Grandpa David, Elvis, Sunshine, Amber, Hunter, Shyla, Caden, Manny, Elliot, the Smith and Shingobe families • Happy birthday **Elmer Nayquonabe** on 9/12 from Great-Grandma June, Grandpa David, Elvis, Sunshine, Amber, Hunter, Shyla, Caden, Manny, Elliot, the Smith and Shingobe families • Happy birthday **Baby** on 9/14 love Val • Happy birthday **Brother** on 9/17 love brothers and sissys • Happy birthday **Raining Nayquonabe** 9/20 from Maanan, Montie, Momma and Gramma Deuce • Happy birthday **Tracy** on 9/29 with love from all your family



## NEW SIGN AT FOUR WINDS LODGE

The Four Winds Lodge Program would like to say miigwech to Darrell Sam for designing and creating the new Four Winds Lodge Program sign and Bobby Eagle for installing the new sign. Below are some of the Four Winds Lodge Staff: from right Sean Mello, HHS Commissioner Nicole Anderson, Director of Four Winds Lindsay Misquadance-Berg, Mike Edelbrock, Kaitlin Eck, Paulett Wozinak, Jo Moore, Barb Cole, Dylan Adams, Deb Ash, Sandra Stangle, Dondi Jonelle, Lisa Levig, Nona Gallent, Amanda Fuchs, Sue Noor, Joshua Augst, Bobby Eagle, Sandy Edelbrock.

## WEWINABI INC. UPDATE

# MARKET GIVES 5 PERCENT DISCOUNT WITH TRIBAL ID

Effective September 1, 2019, present an active Mille Lacs Band Tribal ID card and receive 5 percent off your bill over \$25. The ID must match the customer for the discount to be honored. This excludes tobacco and postage stamps.

Store Manager *Tim Trosen* and Assistant Store Manager *Chris Weston*.



## BAR ASSOCIATION MEETS

The board of the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association met at Meshakwad Community Center on Friday, August 23. Chief Legislative Counsel Christine Jordan hosted the meeting, and Thomas F. Nelson, President of the Minnesota State Bar Association, was also in attendance.



# MILLE LACS BAND RECOVERY GROUPS

### District I Mille Lacs

#### **Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition**

Mondays, 5:30–7 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (brown building next to the Halfway House). Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-4768

#### **Wellbriety Migizi Meeting**

Mondays, 7 p.m., Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel, 777 Grand Avenue, Onamia, Minnesota

#### **Wellbriety Celebrating Families**

Tuesdays, 6–8 p.m., Mille Lacs Band Halfway House Group, 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia, Minnesota. Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

#### **NA/AA Welcome**

Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Hosted by Mille Lacs Band Halfway House, 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia (Red

Brick Building) Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

#### **Wellbriety Sons of Tradition**

Sundays, 1–3 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia. Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-4768

### District II East Lake

#### **AA Group**

Mondays, 5–6 p.m., East Lake Community Center. Contact Rob Nelson at 218-768-2431

#### **District IIa Chiminising**

**Bi-mawadishiwen**  
Fridays, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Chiminising Community Center.

#### **District III Hinckley & Aazhoomog**

#### **Wellbriety Talking Circle**

Mondays, 6 p.m., Aazhoomog Community Center

#### **Wellbriety 12 Step Group**

Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Aazhoomog Clinic Conference Room. Contact Monica Haglund at 320-384-0149

#### **Wellbriety 12 Step Group**

Thursdays, 6 p.m., Meshakwad Community Center

## DRUG TIP HOTLINE

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department's anonymous drug tip line is 320-630-2458. Feel free to leave voicemails and/or text messages. If you would like a call back, be sure to leave your name and phone number. In case of emergency, dial 911.



## RECURRING EVENTS

**Language tables:** Tuesdays 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center, Thursdays 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center

**Co-ed Volleyball:** Tuesdays, Meshakwad Community Center

**Co-ed Basketball:** Wednesdays, Meshakwad CC

**Volleyball:** Thursdays, noon, District I CC

**Zumba:** Wednesdays, noon, District I CC

**Open Gym:** M-Th 5–9 p.m., District I CC



## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

The Tribal Emergency Management program provided CPR/AED and First Aid training at Wewinabi Early Education on August 12 and 13. For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b> 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><i>Check for events at <a href="http://millelacsband.com/calendar/">millelacsband.com/calendar/</a>!</i></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Labor Day</b> Government Offices Closed.</p> <p><b>Community Drumming</b> 6 p.m. The Cabin <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Inaajimowin Meeting</b> 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Government Affairs Office, Wahkon</p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>NA/AA Welcome</b> District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Grand Market Ribfest</b> 11 a.m.–6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wellbriety 12-Step</b> <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> East Lake ALU</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Bi-mawadishiwen</b> 5:30–7:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><b>Wisdom Steps Golf Tournament</b> 9 a.m. Black Bear Golf Course <i>See below</i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Hide Processing Demonstration</b> 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 17</i></p> <p><b>Urban Elder Fishing Trip</b> 1 p.m. Eddy's Resort</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b> 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><i>The deadline for the October issue is September 15. Send submissions to <a href="mailto:news@millelacsband.com">news@millelacsband.com</a>.</i></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety, AA, NA</b> District I, II, III <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><b>Community Drumming</b> 6 p.m. The Cabin <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> Aazhoomog Community Center</p> <p><b>Language Table</b> 6–8 p.m. District I</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>NA/AA Welcome</b> District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>District I Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Community Center</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>MCT Tribal Executive Committee Meeting</b> Vermilion, Minnesota</p> <p><b>Language Table</b> 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety 12-Step</b> <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Bi-mawadishiwen</b> 5:30–7:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><b>Gaming Regulatory Authority Meeting</b> 9 a.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Firearms Safety</b> 9 a.m. District I <i>See below</i></p> <p><b>Corn Husk Doll</b> 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See 17</i></p> <p><b>2-Day Sweetgrass Basket Workshop</b> Noon–4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See 17</i></p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>2-Day Sweetgrass Basket Workshop</b> 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 17</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b> 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety, AA, NA</b> District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>Community Drumming</b> 6 p.m. The Cabin <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>District III Health Fair</b> 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> Government Center</p> <p><b>Language Table</b> 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>District II Health Fair</b> 10 a.m.–2 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p> <p><b>NA/AA Welcome</b> <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>District III Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p><b>District Ila Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>District I Health Fair</b> 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Community Center</p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> Government Center</p> <p><b>Language Table</b> 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>Urban Elders Picnic</b> 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Minnehaha Park</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>District Ila Health Fair</b> 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p><b>Bi-mawadishiwen</b> 5:30–7:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><b>We Are Water Pub Paint Night</b> 6–8 p.m. Eddy's Resort</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>'We Are Water MN' Exhibit Opening</b> 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 12</i></p> <p><b>Firearms Safety</b> 9 a.m. District III <i>See below</i></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b> 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Community Drumming</b> 6 p.m. The Cabin <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p><b>Language Table</b> 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> District I, III. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>NA/AA Welcome</b> District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>District II Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Urban Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church</p> <p><b>Language Table</b> 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p><b>District Ila Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> All Nations Church</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Constitutional Convention</b> 10 a.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs <i>See page 5</i></p> <p><b>Bi-mawadishiwen</b> 5:30–7:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Firearms Safety</b> 9 a.m. District II</p> <p><i>To register for Youth Firearms Safety Training, visit <a href="https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/firearms/index.html">https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/firearms/index.html</a></i></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b> 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety, AA, NA</b> <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>Community Drumming</b> <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>Language Table</b> 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> District I, III. <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>WISDOM STEPS GOLF TOURNAMENT</b></p> <p>The 16th Annual Wisdom Steps Golf Tournament will be held September 6 at Black Bear Golf Course in Carlton. The tournament is a four-person scramble with registration beginning at 9 a.m. and a shotgun start at 10 a.m. The event includes gift bags, contests, a silent auction, raffles, lunch, and a social hour. For information, e-mail <a href="mailto:dolson2@d.umn.edu">dolson2@d.umn.edu</a> or call 218-499-8218.</p> <p>Wisdom Steps is a Minnesota statewide non-profit preventative health program that relies solely on fundraising, donations, and volunteers to support health promotion incentives. Elders participate year-round in healthy living activities and health screening and are recognized at the annual Wisdom Steps Conference. For more information, visit <a href="http://wisdomsteps.org">wisdomsteps.org</a>.</p> <p><b>BAND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS</b></p> <p>Band Assembly meetings are open to the public at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. <b>Dates, times, and locations are subject to change.</b> Call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181 with questions.</p>			





**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE**  
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## UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

If your address on file with the Enrollments Office or Office of Management and Budget is incorrect, you may not be receiving important mail from the Band. Each time you move, you need to fill out a Change of Address form from Enrollments (320-532-7730) and OMB. You can download a Change of Address form at [millelacsband.com/services/tribal-enrollments](http://millelacsband.com/services/tribal-enrollments).

## ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or call 320-495-5006. The October issue deadline is September 15.

## NEED HELP?

If you or someone you know is injured or in immediate danger, call 911 first.

**Tribal Police Department dispatch:**  
 888-609-5006; 320-532-3430.

**Emergency Management Services:**  
 24-hour fire, disaster, and emergency management response: Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator: 320-362-0435.

**Addiction/Behavioral Health:** 800-709-6445, ext. 7776.

**Community Support Services:** For emergencies related to food and nutrition, Elder services, Elder abuse, sexual assault, or emergency loans, call 320-532-7539 or 320-630-2687.

**Domestic violence:** (c) 320-630-2499.

**Women's Shelter:** 866-867-4006.

**Batterers' Intervention:** 320-532-8909.

**Heating, water, or other home-related maintenance problems:** If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call our Customer Service Representative during regular business hours at 800-709-6445, ext. 7799. If you live in a home not maintained by the Mille Lacs Band and need assistance after hours with utilities or heating, please contact: 866-822-8538 (Press 1, 2, or 3 for respective districts).

**Mille Lacs Band Family Services:** Foster Care: 320-630-2663; Social Worker: 320-630-2444; 800-709-6445, ext. 7588; Family Violence Prevention: District I 320-532-4780; East Lake 218-768-4412; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 866-867-4006.



# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

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# THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

Powwow dancers paid tribute to missing and murdered Indigenous women at the Mille Lacs Band Powwow August 17. Photo by Bradley Roache Jr.

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