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Ziisabaakdoke-Giizis (Sugar Moon)  
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## Stafford Act changed!

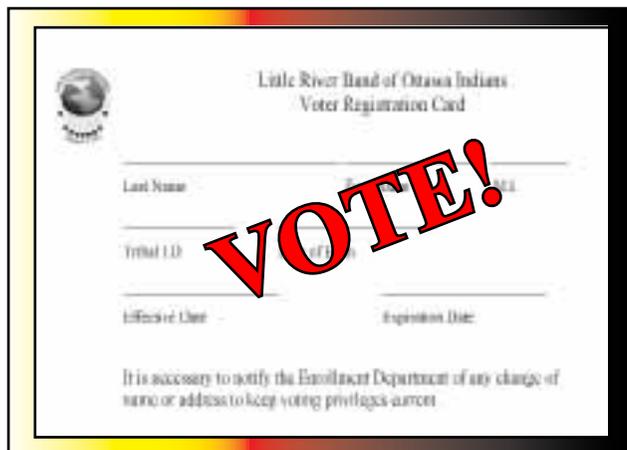


### President Barack Obama signs changes to Stafford Act

For years many of the native sovereign nations like the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians have been hobbled in handling emergencies and disasters on their lands by the Stafford Act which forced us to go through our state governors to request aid and assistance.

That changed with recent action in Washington DC. See page 18 for details.

## LRBOI Election Time



Starting on page 10 we have candidate profiles and comments for the Tribal Council, Judiciary and Election Board contests. Remember to register by March 1st for the general election and watch Facebook on the 15th for up-to-the-minute Primary results.



## “Sandy” sinks in Ludington

The commercial fishing trawler “Sandy” sank at the beginning of February and the tribal team successfully raised it. Read the story beginning on page 31.

Aanii:

Where to start? Weather? I believe we recently had a winter, spring, summer and fall day all in one week.

The 2013 Budget is a done deal with the exception of a few minor adjustments. By the time you read this the Primary Election results will have been tallied. Again, I want to thank everyone who put their names in for the various positions.

The new Government Center is coming along. We are hoping to be able to schedule a "tour" of the facility during the Spring Membership Meeting if possible. Not sure if it will be possible but we are working on it. Again, the Spring Membership Meeting is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> with the Ogema's Meet and Greet on Friday April 12<sup>th</sup>.

In January I had the opportunity to attend the Presidential Inauguration in Washington DC. While it was interesting, I was actually there for other meetings which included a meeting at the Department of Interior on Self Governance negotiations. I also attended a Pow Wow and Ball hosted by the American Indian Society and the Annual Tribal Leaders Meeting at the Smithsonian's National Indian Museum hosted by the National Congress of American Indians.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, United Tribes of Michigan will be hosting its Annual Legislative Reception in Lansing at the Radisson Hotel. The next day on February 20<sup>th</sup> will be the United Tribes Meeting at Clark Construction offices. Two

important topics to be discussed will be the recent Wolf Hunt Bill which gives the State Natural Resources Commission the authority to decide whether there should be a wolf hunt on the grey wolf. Tribes are banding together to oppose the hunt. The other legislation on the National level is the Violence Against Women Act which is legislation to reauthorize the same act of 1994 to fight domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Until next month...

REMEMBER

When you have a hard decision to make, flip a coin. Why? Because while the coin is in the air you realize what you are hoping for.



## Self-Governance

### Self-Governance: Accountability, Flexibility, Opportunity and Sovereignty – Why These Ideas are to Our Benefit

Over the past two-and-a-half years, Little River Band has been working toward the attainment of full Tribal Self-Governance, *a way of providing Little River Band community specific services with federal monies without federal agency interference.*

It is important to understand that **Self-Governance**, is not a new idea or activity for LRBOI—the Tribe has been doing 'self-governance' since 2009 when our Tribal Government, (the Ogema and Tribal Council) signed and adopted by Tribal Council resolution, the Tribe's first self-governance agreement with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service. This agreement has two parts:

- the Compact, which describes the nature of the relationship between the US Government, DHHS/IHS and LRBOI, the how we relate in efforts to provide health care, and which Federal/Tribal laws apply to that effort, and
- the Annual Funding Agreement, which describes the types of services that will be delivered to LRBOI Tribal members, by purchasing (making benefit payments) care or by having providers treat and manage health issues in a facility owned by the Tribe

At that time, our elected officials determined that negotiating a self-governance agreement was the path to improve the health service delivery at LRBOI. The Tribe needed greater flexibility in the types of services LRBOI would provide. This also meant that *the accountability for responding to the needs of LRBOI Tribal members rested directly on the shoulders of the LRBOI Tribal Government*; its Ogema and Tribal Councilors elected to

represent them. The negotiation of that agreement was an exercise of our sovereign rights as Indians. LRBOI is in government-to-government relations with the US (federal) government, for our health care dollars. LRBOI adopted by Tribal Council action, a compact and annual funding agreement that included the descriptions of programs/services; what we will do, how we will do it, who will benefit and the 'rules' to receive benefits which are set in place by LRBOI elected officials. The transition was 'seamless'; no services were drastically changed, business moved along as usual, without any detrimental effects to our Tribe or its people. Most Tribal members did not realize the change-over had happened, as there were no real negative impacts. The Tribe however, during that same time frame, received \$2.5 million in additional federal dollars due to the self-governance agreement. This is because of the inclusive service descriptions and increased 'user population counts' that resulted from being able to purchase and provide directly, more types of services LRBOI members needed. Overall, this was a smooth process with positive impacts for LRBOI.

LRBOI is now in negotiation for similar types of agreements with the Department of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This process has been ongoing since 2010, when LRBOI adopted a Tribal Council resolution to submit a planning document required to submit a request to negotiate. Those foundational blocks were already planned; the Council passed a resolution and the Ogema submitted the letter requesting opening negotiations. Due to material findings in audits submitted in prior years, that request was denied.

The Tribe continued efforts by correcting audit findings, and once all of the necessary criteria were met, submitted a request to negotiate again in late 2011 to negotiate an agreement in 2012. The request was granted and the Agency agreed to enter into negotiations to conclude with a 2013 agreement. Through all of that time and discussion, the Ogema and Tribal Council continued to support the effort to attain self-governance status with the BIA. However, now there seems to be competing interests at work in the information being put out to membership. To date, all of the efforts have been based in the previous works adopted and approved for submission by the Tribal Council and Ogema. None of the efforts have been done independently of the Ogema's office or absent the blessing of Tribal Council. All information has been shared with all relevant parties as soon as it is discussed, learned and received. Still, misperceptions persist as to what this self-governance will mean for LRBOI.

The most damaging misperceptions are the extremely negative impacts on the Tribe and its Tribal Members if LRBOI 'pursues' this path with DOI/BIA. There are so many rumors swirling around the discussions; how does one separate fact from fiction?

It's best to begin where the biggest misconceptions are:

- Self-governance **WILL NOT CHANGE per capita payments** to members; the revenue allocation plan is a law passed by the Tribe and adopted by the Secretary of Interior—it will have no impact WHATSOEVER on that law as the two are SEPARATE

- Self-governance **WILL NOT ERODE TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY**, in fact, it does just the opposite; sovereignty will strengthen for LRBOI because of our enhanced status/relationship with the federal government
- Self-governance **WILL NOT CLOSE OR IMPACT ENROLLMENT IN LRBOI**; enrollment is defined in the LRBOI Constitution and a Tribal decision, federal program eligibility follows different criteria established by the Congress
- Self-governance **WILL NOT TAKE EVERYTHING FROM MEMBERS IN MUSKEGON (or any other area)**; we are working very hard to ensure all of our service area counties are included in BIA program delivery just like they are in IHS
- Self-governance **WILL NOT GIVE MORE 'POWER' TO THE TRIBAL COUNCIL**; the powers of the Tribal Council are defined in the LRBOI Constitution and the Council *already have* inherent powers to adopt appropriations (budgets)—*it will make* the OGEMA AND TRIBAL COUNCIL **responsible** for determining the types of services the BIA funding will provide, and **directly accountable to the membership they govern**.

These negotiations have not been easy. In addition to the misinformation that has been represented to Tribal members, LRBOI has uncovered a few more 'truths':

- The agency did not always act in LRBOI's best interests, and
- LRBOI did not always ask enough questions or request enough funding or assistance, and
- It is difficult to play catch up in the funding game when one doesn't know where all the 'chips' are on the table or how a lack of 'chips' in a certain pile can be detrimental to us.

Case in point: Many of the programs the Tribe runs under our BIA agreement are severely underfunded. This has been a result over time—rather than the BIA providing resources to meet those needs, or the Tribe receiving increases to certain activities/services when Congress dedicated more funding, LRBOI received nothing in additional support dollars. In most cases, we provided those dollars to fund the activities/services from our own revenue sources.

Here's just one example:

- Over a ten year span 2001 – 2011, Higher Education scholarships were requested by LRBOI eligible students totaling \$6,058,000. Of that requested assistance, LRBOI DIRECTLY FUNDED \$4.2 million, BIA funded approximately \$258,000. The remaining \$1.6 million of the actual need was left unfunded. (Yvonne Parsons, Education Director, LRBOI)

The BIA has a direct responsibility to fund those scholarships; they were guaranteed to us in treaties, which are the law of the land, and prepaid by the acquisition of tribally held lands, and with the lives of our ancestors. Self-governance can enhance LRBOI's ability to reverse that funding disparity.

So why does LRBOI need to be self-governing under BIA? The answer lies in part in the example provided; the agency has very simply not lived up to its treaty obligations to LRBOI. In addition to the shortfalls in funding, the agency time and time again fails to be forthcoming with information and especially, provide the necessary technical assistance to our leadership to allow them to make informed decisions about service delivery. LRBOI has been left out of essential funding increase realized through Congressional appropriations—all to our detriment. LRBOI's best opportunity to capture those dollars is through a self-governance agreement that defines the types of service, where it will be delivered and to whom. In addition, LRBOI should be in control of determining where the funding received to provide services should be prioritized. That decision should be a Tribal decision, not a federal determination. Additionally, that decision should be representative of the needs of the LRBOI community. It should not be pre-determined by an obscure set of rules crafted by federal bureaucrats.

Recent negotiations have been tough; LRBOI has learned a great deal about historical funding to the Tribe, how funds have changed over time without our input and knowledge, and most recently, that the very offices we relied on were less than forthcoming with appropriate information to better inform decision makers. LRBOI had a full day of negotiations on January 18, 2013; we learned some valuable lessons regarding communications between the Agency and the Tribe, funds that we should have received but didn't due to our administrative decisions in some cases, and most importantly, that leadership must engage with federal decision makers on a regular basis—even if that means travel to Washington, D.C. We also learned about the implications of service delivery areas and geography, how that impacts certain services and where we can deliver them.

LRBOI will be entering into another round of discussion, tentatively scheduled for February 15, 2013. LRBOI will continue to seek the strongest language possible to protect the Tribes interests, and ultimately the interests of the individual member to the fullest extent possible in law. It is not the intention of the negotiation team to place any language that will diminish the rights of LRBOI into the documents under discussion. As documentation becomes available (the amended annual funding agreement and financial resource details), it will be made available to membership for review.

## How Do Tribes Become Self-Governing?

- Tribes must meet **CRITERIA!**
- 3 years of clean financial audits
- Must create a plan for service delivery and demonstrate capacity
- Must successfully file an application and be accepted

## TRIBAL COUNCIL BREAKS SILENCE REGARDING THE PURPORTED BUDGET CRISIS

### No True Budget Crisis Existed

The Tribal Council wishes to set straight the misconceptions that are circulating, even within our own publication, the Currents, about the purported 'budget crisis' and the ensuing unilateral decision by Ogema Romanelli to cease government operations effective 5 p.m., January 3, 2013.

It has been reported to you that there has been an ongoing "budget dispute" between the Tribal Council and the Ogema. The Ogema has characterized it during the last publication as a "difference of opinion". The Tribal Council respectfully disagrees with that characterization. And although the shutdown was only for one day, the ramifications of that decision are long reaching.

The FY 2013 Government Budget was submitted to the Tribal Council, and there were ongoing meetings between members of Tribal Council and the Executive Branch Staff. The Ogema did not attend any budget meeting with the Tribal Council, during the budget review process, but instead, sent the Tribal CFO, Tribal Manager, and Budget Manager, to review the submission with the Council. During this process, there was a specific work session held on November 20, 2012, during which the Tribal Council reviewed its final recommendations for amendments to the FY 2013 budget. Those amendments included inclusion of a 'future debt' allocation, in the event the Tribe needed to incur any financing for capital projects such as the Government Center, Lagoon system, or other capital needs. It was also noted during that meeting that the Gaming Tax Revenue number was not adjusted, which impacts overall revenue to the Tribe, but since the Gaming Tax Ordinance restricts its use to regulatory purposes, there would need to be an adjustment of nearly \$900 thousand dollars. The Tribal Council does not see that as a difference of opinion, the Tribal Council views that as a potential material audit finding, if not corrected.

Following the November 20, 2012, work session, a final budget draft was not resubmitted by the Executive Branch. The Tribal Council also met on November 26, December 11, and December 17, in effort to address amendments to the Budget which it has not received in final form. Meaning, there was not an amended document created to include those changes identified from prior work sessions. At this point it bears noting that the Tribal Council cannot direct the activities of Executive Staff in the Finance Department. As of this publication, the Tribal Council has not completed an analysis to identify the contributing factors which prevented a final document from being filed after the November 20 work session, however it remains clear that once amendments were discussed, they were not included into a master document which would have allowed the Tribal Council to take action. This defect in the process is what the Tribal Council believes contributes to the finger pointing between branches, as to who did or didn't do what to adopt the budget prior to the end of the fiscal year.

The Tribal Council assures the membership that this loophole has been clearly identified, and there are new changes being proposed in law to ensure that there will not be an opportunity in the future for such a default to take place. The Tribal Council will address the changes in law that will mandate additional public meetings, filing deadlines, and mechanisms that will automatically take effect if the deadlines are not adhered to, for all areas. To avoid placing our Tribe

at risk through negative publicity both internally and externally, a default level of base funding will be in place to ensure that an interruption of Tribal operations never occurs as a result of "differences of opinion".

### Cease of Operations not warranted

The Tribal Council shares with the Membership its belief that the Ogema's unilateral decision to shut down government operations was not in the best interest of the Tribe and its members, and was not even necessary. The Tribal Council had taken a legal action to prevent such a drastic measure, in December.

The Council has the authority to pass a "continuing resolution", which is what was done on December 19, 2012. When it became clear to the Tribal Council that a final budget was not going to be filed, the Council decided to enact what is known as a 'continuing resolution' to provide for a \$2 million dollar appropriation for the month of January 2013, to ensure that operations would not be interrupted because there was no final approval of the FY 2013 budget. That Resolution was presented to the Ogema, and he signed it, making the action Law (see Article V, Section 5(c) of the Constitution.) Based on past needs, the Tribal Council believed that \$2 million dollars was sufficient to carry forward operations until the budget was finished. The Tribal Council expected that issue to be resolved within the first week of January.

The Ogema contacted Tribal Council by letter to Speaker Steve Parsons approximately 3:00 p.m. on January 3, notifying him that he was going to shut down the government. Speaker Parsons responded by letter to the Ogema, notifying him that a shutdown was not necessary, as the Council passed a continuing resolution so that operations could continue. It is important to note that until the Speaker received the letter, the Ogema had not met with, had not discussed, had not consulted the Tribal Council regarding his intent to shut down. It is also important to note that while the Ogema's letter was circulated to membership via Facebook post and Rapid River News, the Speaker's response was NOT.

The Tribal Council takes exception to this very one sided misrepresentation of this issue to the membership. That one sided misrepresentation was compounded, when press releases were made and newspaper articles were published by outside media, as well as local news crews being contacted. Again, the press releases claim that there was not a 'legal action' taken to provide for operations, which has proven untrue. The Speaker's letter, which is published here in its entirety, clearly informs the Ogema of the process, and that cease of operations was not warranted. One point of fact: The Ogema knew that the Tribal Council had called an Emergency Meeting to address the Budget, but shut the Government down anyhow.

### Letter from Speaker Parsons to Ogema Romanelli January 3, 2013

Dear Ogema Romanelli:

I have received and reviewed your letter to me dated today's date. Please note that given the short time that you provided for me to respond, and in an effort to avoid unwarranted and unnecessary harm to the Tribe if you carry out your threat to suspend operations at 5:00 pm today, I have called an emergency meeting of the Tribal Council tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. to approve the final FY 2013 budget.

In short, your allegations that Council's actions violated the Constitution and Tribal law are without

merit. The Constitution clearly vests the Council with sole authority to "adopt, approve or amend the annual budget," and further vests sole authority in the Council to "manage any funds within the exclusive control" of the Tribe and to "appropriate these funds for the benefit of the Tribe and its members." The Constitutional requirement that Council only authorize expenditures by appropriations or budgets by Resolution has also clearly been met, which triggers your Constitutional responsibility to "manage [he economic affairs ... consistent with ordinances and resolutions enacted by the Tribal Council." Article V, Section 5(c) of the Constitution specifically refers to "action[s]" taken by the Council which modifies the budget submitted for approval, and authorizes modifications by Resolution. It is wholly within the power of the Tribal Council to extend appropriations to fund the Tribal Government for the month of January 2013 in the absence of an approved budget.

Frankly, I am also puzzled with your recent position based on the fact that you approved Resolution #12- 1219-336 before the holiday break with the understanding that the Tribal Council was authorizing continuing funding into 2013. There was also no indication that you were taking this extreme position when Dan Velikan and I met with you and members of your staff yesterday.

Since you seem perfectly willing to take the Tribe to the brink this afternoon by suspending operations at 5:00 pm today, I am respectfully requesting that you rescind that directive and allow Tribal Council to approve the budget at its emergency meeting tomorrow. There is no need for staff and our members to potentially suffer from your directive if this situation can be rectified tomorrow. I will await your response to this communication.

*Sincerely, Stephen Parsons- Tribal Council Speaker*

### The Closure Order

What is compelling is that within the Ogema's Order to cease operations, he specifically exempts three areas from the shutdown: Surveillance, Public Safety, and Utilities. When the Ogema informed the Speaker that the shutdown was imminent, the Recorder notified the Ogema that those three areas must be operational in order to allow the Little River Casino to operate without interruption. The Tribal Council points out that whatever reasons the Ogema had to stop the entire government, would also apply to those three areas. The Ogema cannot simply, by waiving a pen, decide that Healthcare would be operating 'illegally' but Public Safety would not be, in absence of an approved budget. If one division must be shut down due to legal concerns, then the same concerns would apply to all divisions. Thus the very fact that the Ogema allowed three divisions to remain open demonstrates that there was not a true legal concern for any division of government to continue to operate. Or in the alternative, the Ogema compelled those divisions to remain operational knowing that they were not operating legally. It simply cannot be both ways, because the Government is all one operation, comprised of divisions. The Tribal Council believes that no division should have been shut down, especially not after the Ogema had already exercised his "authority" to close the Government offices for the Holiday season. The Executive Order that the Ogema executed, itself, proves that there was no legal hindrance to any other department remaining operation. If the Ogema can

incur expenses in those areas from the funds authorized by the Continuing Resolution, the same is true for every other area of Government.

## **Another Lawsuit in Tribal Court**

The Tribal Council clearly understands the Membership's feelings about "the Branches" going into Tribal Court to resolve questions. However, in this instance, the Tribal Council believes that the unilateral decision made by one person, no matter what Office that person holds, is not a valid exercise of Constitutional authority. The Tribal Council believes that this is a very important question to have a final answer on. In this instance, the Tribal Court has already ruled that the Continuing Resolution adopted by the Tribal Council was valid, and has the weight of law. What that means is that the Ogema was bound to administer the Government Operation consistent with that Resolution. The Tribal Court also ordered that Government Operations were to resume immediately. The Question of whether or not the Ogema actually has the Constitutional authority to issue an Executive Order to shut down the government in these circumstances is still pending in Tribal Court. The Tribal Council does not believe the Ogema can make such a decision based on a funding issue, when the funding to operate is provided by Action of the Council.

In the past, the Ogema thought he could turn over the General Membership meeting to be run by the Election Board, and the Court ruled that the Ogema violated the Constitution by doing so. In a different question, the Ogema had unilaterally changed an entire department operation, without a Resolution of the Tribal Council adopting the same change (for the Be-Da-Bin Department.) Again, the Tribal Council had to petition the Court to get an answer, and in that matter, the Court also ruled that the Ogema could not make such a change absent an authorizing resolution. In both matters, the Ogema was wrong. In both matters, prior to taking the question to Tribal Court, the Tribal Council had attempted to convince the Ogema that he was not taking action consistent with the Constitution of the Tribe. Unfortunately, when the Ogema decides to act, and refuses to reconsider that action, the Tribal Council must do what is necessary to ensure the Constitution is complied with.

When the Tribal Council takes these matters to Tribal Court, it is because we have no choice. The decision to file suit in Tribal Court is never made arbitrarily or capriciously, and we fully understand that in doing so, people will characterize the decision as a "political" issue. Nothing is farther from the truth. The Tribal Council recognizes that when an action is taken that is not consistent with the Constitution or laws of the Tribe, and that action remains unchallenged or unchanged, the result is the Tribe itself is exposed to risk. The Tribe itself is exposed to liability for non-compliance with its own laws. The Tribe's very sovereignty is dependent on its compliance (or not) with its own laws, so the importance of this issue cannot be overstated. In addition, there are also federal mandates that govern our grant funded programs that could be applied to the Tribe as well.

For example, the Tribe operates its healthcare and clinic in accordance with the Indian Self Determination Act. Within that act, there are mandatory provisions, including Reassumption by the Secretary (25 U.S.C. § 458aaa-6. Provisions relating to the Secretary). Within this clause, the Secretary is mandated to reassume an operation if there is an

imminent endangerment of the public health caused by an act or omission of the Indian Tribe. When the Tribal Council consulted with the Indian Health Service, it was told two things: 1) The Secretary has never reassumed any program of a Tribe before. And 2) The action to close the clinic is an action "of the Tribe" that could be viewed as act that may create imminent endangerment of the public health. To be clear, the Secretary has never reassumed a healthcare program, but the Tribe's decision to cease operations could be considered a deliberate act by the Tribe-even though it was made by only one person. The Tribal Council believes that this circumstance warranted an immediate corrective action, and the only mechanism available to the Tribal Council was to go to Court.

In short, the Tribal Council filed in Tribal Court, hoping the Court would order the restoration of Government Services to its People. The Tribal Council was gravely concerned about members not being able to access Healthcare, Domestic Violence, Public Safety, Indian Child Welfare, Emergency Energy Assistance, and numerous other critical services to the membership. The Tribal Council has a very different view of what constitutes "critical services" from the Ogema, as he had only mandated the three areas necessary to keep the Casino operational. The Tribal Council believes that critical services are substantially more than just those areas that enable the Casino to operate. Tribal Council views the government services that provide for the safety, health, and well-being of Tribal members as the critical services. That was the core reason why Council filed in Court, to protect the welfare of the Tribe and its members.

## **FY 2013 Budget Adopted-Ogema Veto**

On January 4, 2013, the Tribal Council adopted Resolution # 13-0104-001, which made several amendments to the Tribal Government Operations budget. Those amendments included reducing a number of new positions the Ogema was adding to the Tribal Government, providing for future debt service, and other areas as outlined within the Resolution. The Ogema issued his Veto of that action, and provided his reasons in writing. The Ogema's rationale is provided here:

### **Ogema Romanelli written objections to FY 2013 Budget justifying disapproval**

Dear Speaker Parsons:- January 7, 2013

Please accept the following as the Ogema's objections to the 2013 Tribal Budget. This list of objections follows the statements from Judge Sherigans conference between the parties on Friday, January 4, 2013. I indicated to Judge Sherigan that the Tribal Budget amendments contained at least four changes that are of great concern to the Ogema's Office. These amendments seriously undermine the ability of the Executive Branch to provide services to the Tribal citizenry. Also included is the 2013 Contingency Plan.

**1. Reduce Funding for the Strategic Planning Initiative** Funding for the strategic planning initiative is in preparation for the pending Budget and Appropriations Act. Article V, Section 5.02 of the Act requires a five year strategic plan to be developed by the Ogema. The initial plan would be due on January 15, 2013. In addition, the strategic plan is required to comply with an illogical and objectionable Government Performance and Results Act (GPRa).

There are no financial and programmatic resources available to the Ogema in developing a 5

year strategic plan. Such an effort requires focused planning, community meetings, tribal member input, administrator participation, travel and technical support and supplies. In the event that the Tribal Council adopts the new Budget and Appropriations Act, the Ogema will submit a request for a supplemental appropriation of \$250,000. to carry out these duties pursuant to the Constitution.

**2. Removing Executive Legal and Family Services Administrative Assistant** Removing all funding for these two positions will severely undermine the capacity and capability of these two offices.

**RE: Ogema's Objections to 2013 Tribal Budget**  
The Executive Legal Administrative Assistant provides a highly demanding service that requires knowledge of the legal system at all levels of government. The Assistant is responsible for managing the schedule of the Executive General Counsel, interacting with the general public, reviewing statutory language in correspondence, handling court schedules, filing court documents, typing and administrative filing.

The Family Services Administrative Assistance is critical to the function of the Family Services Department. Confidentiality and attention to families and the public is an essential component of providing services for all of the staff of Family Services. This person is on duty for all staff that are busy working on tribal cases. The Assistant's daily duties include being the front line for the social services aspect of the membership. Due to the present lack of an Administrative Assistant, the Family Services Department cannot attend to their daily duties and also be on the job as an Assistant. Families are already stressed out when needing services and that lack of a front line Assistant negatively affects the capacity and image of the Department.

**3. Executive Legal- Associate Attorney for Business Enterprises** The Associate Attorney for the Enterprises is misplaced as a function within the Executive Branch.

The Enterprises and the Casino Board of Directors are legislatively created entities. As such, they report to the Tribal Council. This position should not be funded based upon 2 conditions because the function goes directly back to the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council should be more forthright in placing this position where it should be Constitutionally: within the Legislative Branch.

The Executive Legal Associate Attorney is urgently needed as a true associate within the Executive Legal Office. There are extensive duties included litigation, research, preparation of legal Memoranda, reviewing contracts, attending meetings, representing the Ogema in all of his duties, representing the various Departments of the Executive Branch and interacting with the Tribal Council and Tribal Court.

**4. Member's Legal Assistance - Remove Funding for a Paralegal Position** Removing the position of the Member's Assistance paralegal position jeopardizes the level for service that can be provided to tribal members. This is the one unique program wherein a number of services can be provided directly to the tribal membership. Without this key position, tribal members do not receive the quantity and quality of services needed. This important function is for the paralegal to provide a unique skill set in the field of law on legal matters, documents, research, letters and assist the attorney in all the functions of a legal counsel.

## REQUEST FOR 2013 CONTINGENCY PLAN

Ogema's response for Resolution Whereas: "Ogema shall present to Tribal Council by January 31, 2013, contingency plans that will be initiated if at the end of any calendar quarter the year RE: Ogema's Objections to 2013 Tribal Budget to date gaming distribution from the Little River Casino Resort is 10% lower than budget and if the gaming distribution is 10% greater than budget" The 2013 Annual budget presented by the Ogema includes an Operating Reserve amount of \$1,256,904 in the Government Operations section of the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) and an Operating Reserve amount of \$157,940 in the Economic Development section of the RAP. These reserve amounts are net of the affect of the 11 amendments included in Resolution #13- 0104-001.

In the event of any calendar quarter gaming distribution that is 10% lower than budgeted or a distribution that is 10% greater than budgeted, these Operating Reserves would be affected first, either by reducing the budgeted reserve amount or increasing the budgeted reserve amount in accordance with the RAP. If the Operating Reserves are increased, it would then be the decision of elected officials as to what programs could receive additional funding, if any. If the Operating Reserves are decreased up to the amount approved, any additional decreases to budgets in these sections would be at discretion of elected officials.

The General Welfare section of the RAP does not have a budgeted Operating Reserve, due to the nature and use of the funds allocated to this section and the 13.65% allocation to this section. In the event that the gaming distribution is 10% lower than budgeted

or a distribution is 10% greater than budgeted, every effort would be made to not affect services to Tribal Citizens in a negative manner. Education, Members Assistance and Contract Health would most likely be affected either negatively or positively, based on the fact that they are the largest budget components of this section of the RAP.

### In Closing:

The remainder of the items I will consider agreeable without prejudice; that is, I would not offer substantive objection to the amendments at this time in the overall approval process, but do not agree with the amendments in total. I do wish to state for the record, however, that prior to the final passage, the opportunity to present these items in writing, and the facilitation of one final negotiation session prior to the overall approval of the continuing budget activity on December 19, 2012 and the passage on January 4, 2013 of the amendments to the annual budget, as per the Budget and Appropriations Act did not occur. While verbal discussion took place, a final writing of the concerns of Tribal Council would have facilitated agreement, in my belief, in a much more productive manner.

Respectfully, Larry Romanelli, -Ogema

### Tribal Council Voted to Override the Veto

As you read the Ogema's veto, please note that the Ogema disapproved the entire FY 2013 Government Operations Budget as Adopted by **Tribal Council essentially because he didn't agree with 4 changes:**

Council reduced the original allocation requested by the Ogema of \$250,000.00 for a Strategic Planning Initiative to \$75,000.00. (The Ogema indicated that he will seek a supplemental appropriation to restore the funding.)

Council removed funding for two executive secretary positions for the Ogema's Executive Legal department and Family Services Administrative Assistant. The Ogema believes these positions are crucial to the department's functions.

Council approved funding a new Attorney position for the Ogema, but wanted the position to serve the enterprises of the Tribe. The Ogema does not want that stipulation to remain on that position.

Council removed funding for a new Paralegal in the Members' Assistance Legal Department. The Ogema believes that without that position, the level of service provided by that department will suffer.

The Tribal Council voted to reaffirm its passing of the FY 2013 Government Budget as Amended on January 16, 2013, with those 4 changes included. Although the Ogema may believe that those four positions are crucial to the operation, the Government has been operating without those positions for a number of years. The Tribal Council points out that the government is operational now, and although those extra positions may add additional support for the departments, it is arguable if they are crucial to the operation. The Tribal Council did leave the funding in place for an additional attorney for the Executive Branch.

As of this publication, the Tribal Council had sponsored a Resolution to amend the budget to fund two of the measures requested by the Ogema, which the Ogema has since requested be removed from the Agenda.

Prior to this publication, the Tribal Council had not publicly addressed these issues, because to do so may only cause additional strife between the branches. However, after reading all the negative

press and the faulty assertions of what was or was not legal, it became clear to the Tribal Council that it could not allow the issues to continue without at least providing a limited explanation for the situation. There is much more to the issue than what you have been led to believe, which is mainly that the "crisis" resulted from Council failing to adopt a budget in November in accordance with the law. In fact, the Tribal Council did act, to ensure stability of operations pending a final adoption of the budget. Regardless of the contributing factors that resulted in no final FY 2013 budget being adopted in November, the Tribal Council does not support how the situation was managed; does not support closing the operations, nor the camera crews and newspaper articles put into mainstream media.

And certainly, the Council recognizes that the closure of operations is such an extreme action with potentially devastating impact to the members that it is now addressing new legislation to ensure that the membership cannot ever be deprived of critical services again, without notice or just cause.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janine M. Sam-Recorder

Work Session Attendance											
Date	Work Session Title	Steve Parsons	Janine Sam	Kimberly Alexander	Candace Chapman	Virgil Johnson	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruitter	Lee Sprague	Michael Ceplina	Total Attending
01/02/13	2013 Budget	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	7
01/07/13	Adding commissioners to Natural Resource Commission	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	8
01/07/13	Little River Casino Resort Financial Review	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	7
01/07/13	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	8
01/07/13	Review of email communications	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	8
01/08/13	Government Structure Ordinance and Budget and Appropriations Ordinance	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	8
01/08/13	Chapter 6 Vendor Licensing Regulations	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	8
01/10/13	Review of Budget	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	7
01/14/13	Emergency Management	x		x	x	x	x			x	6
01/14/13	Agenda Review	x			x	x	x			x	5
01/15/13	Binojeecuk Commission	x		x	x	x				x	5
01/15/13	Legislative Priorities	x		x	x	x				x	5
01/18/13	Self-Governance Conference Call - morning session	x			x	x				x	4
01/18/13	Self-Governance Conference Call - afternoon session	x		x	x	x				x	5
01/21/13	Commercial Fishery					x			x	x	3
01/21/13	Agenda Review					x			x	x	3
01/22/13	Substance Abuse Counselor Job Description		x	x		x				x	4
01/25/13	Callagher Benefit Services	x			x	x	x			x	5
01/28/13	Casino Expansion	x		x	x	x	x			x	6
01/28/13	Resident and Self-Sufficiency Service	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	7
01/28/13	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	7
01/29/13	Budget and Appropriations Ordinance	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	7
01/29/13	Commission Secretary Job Description	x		x	x	x	x			x	6
01/29/13	Ethics Ordinance	x	x		x	x	x			x	6
01/29/13	Freedom Of Information Act	x	x		x	x	x			x	6
	Total - 25	22	12	17	22	25	18	0	10	25	

The Constitution of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Article III – *Constitutional Rights*, Section 1 – *Civil Rights* states, “**The Little River Band in exercising the powers of self-government shall not: (a) Make or enforce any law prohibiting the free exercise of religion, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition for a redress of grievances;**”

The Ogema acknowledges the inclusion of the February 2013 Tribal Council news article “*TRIBAL COUNCIL BREAKS SILENCE REGARDING THE PURPORTED BUDGET CRISIS*”, in the spirit of Article III, Section 1 (a). It is not the intent of the Ogema’s office (me) to undermine constitutionally guaranteed rights pertaining to the freedom of the press. Further, individual opinions may differ, conflicts may arise and remedies to those conflicts are sought through many mechanisms; open discussion, correspondence, public hearings and in some cases, relief through decisions in the courts. It is important for the membership of Little River Band to know that many of the points outlined in the report are presently being debated in the Tribal Court. This is right and good and appropriate. I await the due process of the court, in good faith, as LRBOI’s constitution provides. However, many of the points raised in that particular article are total inaccuracies; and this is concerning to me. I believe this is a political ploy to redirect attention away from what is not happening; the governance of a sovereign people that “provides for the welfare and prosperity of our people.”

While I cannot openly take on many of the points in the interest of the courts due process, I do need to provide some information to you, the membership, to clarify some of these inaccuracies.

The Budget and Appropriations Ordinance [adopted December 12, 2008 by Tribal Council resolution #04-100-04] provides for the process of the development of the annual budget of LRBOI by the Ogema’s office, and the engagement of both the Ogema and Tribal Council in that process with the people. Article V. *Tribal Budget Formulation and Transmittal*, 5.02 *Membership Input Through Tribal Council*, provides for a public hearing to be held by the Council, and that, “*such public hearing comments shall be transmitted to the Ogema no later than the last day of May.*” In the history of my term in office, I cannot point to an instance that this has happened; no such transmittal of the public comment gathered by the Council at any hearing has been forwarded to me. The process of budget formulation begins very early in the year, with the *input of Tribal membership*. Additionally, 5.03, *Estimated Projected Revenues – Tribal Enterprises*, compel the enterprises to “submit an estimate of projected revenues for the next fiscal year **by July 15<sup>th</sup> of each year to the Ogema, with a copy forwarded to the Tribal Council.**” This information comes from the Board of Directors. There are times when this information doesn’t come to my office directly; sometimes it goes to the Legislative Branch and I learn about the projection afterward. In any case, both of these efforts are supposed to occur and assist my office in the formulation of an annual government operations budget.

For this years’ operating budget, I awaited the input from the Tribal Council’s hearing; as no hearing was held, none was provided. The Casino Enterprise did forward by email the *initial* budget projections, approved by the Casino Board of Directors on July 3, 2012, to the Executive Branch on August 7, 2012. While this submission was being reviewed by the CFO and appropriate staffs, Executive lead staffs were asked to formulate an annual budget. The Revenue Allocation Ordinance was applied to the enterprise projections, and all of the information rolls into the goals and objectives LRBOI can accomplish. Special consideration is given to ensure the Revenue Allocation Plan percentages are assigned appropriately. This budget changed however, when a *second* version of the Casino Enterprise budget was approved by the Board of Directors September 1, 2012; my office received that version by email on September 18, 2012.

Once the annual budget drafts are completed, as per Section 5.03 of the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance, I schedule a budget hearing for Tribal Members to attend and provide input to me, “**no later than August 31<sup>st</sup>.**” Since I have been in office, I have kept to that schedule to gather the members’ comments; this year’s budget hearing was held on August 4, 2012. The comments I receive are shared with Department Directors for their review, and most instances, incorporation into the draft that goes to Tribal Council. Section 5.06 requires the initial proposed government operations budget be submitted “**no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of September.**” This year’s budget was submitted to Tribal Council on September 13, 2012. As in year’s past, this office met the deadline for the submission of the annual operations budget, with the input of members and directors, applying the Revenue Allocation Plan designations.

There were at least two work sessions between Executive staffs and Tribal Council to review the proposed budget; September 24 and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012. I delegated the CFO, Tribal Manager and Budget Coordinator to attend those sessions. Those staffs advised me of the outcome of those meetings. I did receive a memorandum on October 4, 2012, *dated* September 28<sup>th</sup>, outlining several questions, and the memo included some suggested changes to the proposed budget. I reviewed the memo with the CFO, Tribal Manager, and Budget Coordinator and sought input from Departmental Directors to address their long list of concerns and suggestions. Due to the nature of their suggestions, this process took our revision process beyond the deadline stated in Section 5.08, requiring the tribal budget proposal is sent “**to the Tribal Council by October 31<sup>st</sup>.**” The response to their memo was sent from this office on November 8, 2012. A subsequent work session was then scheduled for November 20, 2012. The CFO, Tribal Manager and Budget Coordinator attended that session and reported the meeting ‘went well.’ They further reported that the Tribal Council had advised they would present any amendments back to my office; this is consistent with Section 5.08. “**...the Tribal Council may reconcile or adjust the budget requests from the Ogema with available funding from grants, contracts, Revenue Allocation Ordinance funds, and any other revenues.**” I awaited notification of those adjustments. The next communication from the Tribal Council came in the form of the action taken on December 19, 2012; adoption of Continuing Resolution #12-1219-336.

It is significant to note the work session of November 20, 2012. Tribal Council asserts their concerns were not addressed as raised during that work session. Staffs in attendance at that session, as per their capacities in our organization and respective roles in the budget formulation process, reported that ‘very few concerns were actually raised’. In fact, the session was relatively short in comparison to previous work sessions on the budget. There were no apparent ‘issues’ to those staffs that would prohibit the passage of the annual budget. Section 5.09 *Enactment and Execution of Tribal Budget* in the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance *requires* this to happen, as per 5.09 (a); “**The tribal budget for the next fiscal year shall be approved by the Tribal Council in the month of November.**” This did not happen, even though the November 20 work session occurred and the budget could have been passed; it has not happened in most of the budget years I have been in office for, due to some reason or another.

It is also significant to point out that by their own admission in their February 2013 report, at least three (3) additional work sessions took place with the Tribal Council that my office was not invited to attend; those occurred November 26, December 11 and December 17, 2012. It is stated, “**...in effort to address amendments to the Budget which was not received in final form.**” I must differ with the Tribal Council on this point. My office did submit a budget; my delegated personnel attended work sessions and believed we had reached a workable document on November 20, 2012. For whatever reason, it is being characterized that I did not submit a final budget incorporating the amendments. I did; a work session on the incorporation of the amendments presented to me in writing by Tribal Council memorandum was held on November 20, 2012, allowing for appropriate actions as outlined in Section 5.09 of the Ordinance to occur.

It is true; I did sign the Tribal Council’s continuing resolution #12-1219-336 with much trepidation. I believed the action to sign was all I *could do* at the time. Absent an appropriate budget of some sort, the government operations would shut down completely, and *that is in no one’s interests*. This is now where I assert the Tribal Court will need to look at those related issues; many of the points raised in the article are up for debate and I will respect that process. But I must address two of them directly with respect to their characterization in the article.

The first is the “**Cease of Operations not warranted.**” After returning from our scheduled shut down during the holidays, I asked key staffs to look at the Continuing Resolution and advise me regarding any untoward impacts of the language on operations, and any ‘glitches’ that might occur due to the appropriated funding level. They did their job; they advised me of not only the ‘glitches,’ they advised me of some serious issues with respect to our Tribal laws and constitutional authorities. This raised enough concern for me to correspond to the Tribal Council Speaker outlining the issues and advising him of my intent to suspend operations, pending adoption of an annual budget.



It is a key inaccuracy; I did not “shut down the government”! I suspended operations creating a temporary interruption in daily operational aspects. Also, in reference to statements that the Ogema did it “...with a stroke of a pen...” or “...by waiving a pen...” our Constitution gives the Ogema certain authorities which *are* “...by the Ogema’s signature...” The Ogema rarely takes any major action before consulting with top staffs. It was not a “unilateral decision”, rather an informed response due to the lack of the Tribal Council’s communication and engagement on my written concerns to them, to address the budget concerns raised by my office. In my role as Ogema, I must also protect the government, making the best decisions I can *when the need arises*. I also want to note: staffs reported to work and were ready to work on that date. I thank them for their dedication to do so, even with the uncertainty of the budget situation. In my view, I was left with little option but to issue the suspension order to protect the financial integrity of the Tribe.

The second is the assertion that my order to suspend operations put the Tribe at risk; I do not believe the Tribe was at risk at any time with the order of suspension. I believe to operate absent appropriate budgetary actions as defined in our own laws, *does put the Tribe at risk*. The Tribal Council cites 25-USC-458 aaa-6, *PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SECRETARY* a section written into the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA). The Tribal Council attests they “consulted with the Indian Health Service” on this matter and were “told two things: 1) The Secretary has never reassumed any program of the Tribe before. And 2) The Action to close the clinic is an action “of the Tribe” that could be viewed as an act that may create imminent endangerment of the public health.” I believe it is irresponsible to engage with an external agency in an internal matter. I also don’t believe a suspension, with staffs reporting to the service site, ready to work, and *available to work*, presents a danger to the *public health*. Creating a risk to the *public health* is a very difficult standard to prove.

In addition, an IHS official can assert anything; that doesn’t mean it’s true. I would defend this Tribe to the fullest against any such assertion by an external agency, even those raised inadvertently through a Tribal Council ‘consultation.’ I find it concerning that such a ‘consultation’ would be engaged in unless the intent is to *deliberately erode the Tribes sovereignty*. In closing, I have not been apprised of any “devastating impact to the members” as the result of a *less than eight hour suspension* of services. If such an impact were truly the case, anytime elected officials were not in their offices to conduct business would have the same devastating effect. Similarly there would be no suspension (interruption of service) for significant community events such as funerals for Tribal members, particularly funerals of elders, for cultural events or emergent matters including delayed opening for weather events. Certainly, there would be no legislative recesses or holiday shutdowns. I am apprised however; of the devastating impacts to the members the ongoing politics and power struggles in our government continue to have on the growth of a nation and the prosperity of LRBOI.

As for the article, I respect the constitutionally guaranteed right of the Tribal Council to exercise freedom of speech and press. It is unfortunate that in this instance, rather than allowing the constitutional right of due process in our Tribal Courts to proceed in regard to the issues raised, it was decided to engage the court of public opinion, in an effort to further politicize matters in the community we have all sworn to preserve, protect and defend.

<b><u>FY2013 Budget - Timeline</u></b>	
Preparation by Department:	July 2 - July 20
Budgets Due:	July 20
Prepare for Budget Hearing:	July 23 - August 3
Budget Hearing:	August 4
Consultation with Department Directors:	August 6 - August 31
Prepare Final Draft FY2013 Budget:	September 3 - September 12
Submittal to Tribal Council - Draft #1	September 13
Worksession - Budget Review, 9a-12p	September 24
Worksession - Budget Review, 8a-12p, 1p-4p	September 28
Budget Memo from Tribal Council	<b>October 4</b>
<b>*this memo was dated September 28, 2012</b>	
Response Memo to Tribal Council	November 8
Worksession - Budget Review, 10a-12p	November 20
Continuing Resolution: #12-1219-336	December 19
Adoption of Amendments: #13-0104-001	January 4
Budget Modification: <u>MB-2013-01</u>	January 9
Worksession - Budget Review	January 10
Veto Override: #13-0116-008	January 16
Final Budget - Posted Shared Drive	January 21

## Mark your Calendars!

The dates of the Tribal Membership meetings for 2013 are

## April 13th & October 12th.



"The LRBOI Tribal Public Safety Department handles many different types of complaints and problems. From regular 'beat' officers to detectives, narcotics investigators, Maritime officers, search and rescue units and Natural Resources officers, you never know just what issues will come up from day to day. Here is a sampling of calls handled by our Tribal Police this last month." The following is a synopsis for January Tribal and non Tribal arrests.

01/07/2013 a 26 year old Garden City man was arrested for driving while license suspended second offense.

01/12/2013 two underage local persons were arrested for minor in possession of alcohol.

01/13/2013 two underage females were arrested for minor in possession of alcohol

K-9 "Brit" retired after 8 years of service

## Government Closes for the following Holidays

- \*New Years Day
- \*Treaty Recognition Day
- \*Memorial Day
- \*Independence Day
- \*Labor Day
- \*Reaffirmation Day (September 21<sup>st</sup>)
- \*Veteran's Day
- \*Thanksgiving Day
- \*Friday after Thanksgiving Day
- \*Christmas Eve Day (Half Day)
- \*Christmas Day

Some areas of the government will be continue to be available on these holidays, such as Public Safety. Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of the Government facilities. It's always a good idea to call first if you are not sure. Just use the toll-free number of 888.723.8288.

## Members Assistance Department Important Tax Information

### Free Tax Preparation Sites in Michigan

Don't pay to get your taxes done! Use a free VITA site near you and keep ALL of your earned income credit refund!

Michigan has a variety of free tax preparation services available to assist you with your taxes. In January, we will post a list of free tax preparation sites in your county - please check back to find the one closest to you. You can also call 2-1-1 (1-800-552-1183 if 2-1-1 is unavailable in your area) for help locating the free tax site nearest you. Information provided by Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit website, [www.michiganEIC.org](http://www.michiganEIC.org)

### Earned Income Credit

EITC Eligibility Information for Tax Year 2012  
The income eligibility guidelines and maximum credit amounts for Tax Year 2012 are listed below:

\*Families with one qualifying child who earn less than \$36,920 in 2012 (or less than \$42,130 for married workers filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$3,169.

\*Families with two qualifying children who earn less than \$41,952 in 2012 (or less than \$47,162 for married workers filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$5,236.

\*Families with three or more qualifying children who earn less than \$45,060 in 2012 (or less than \$50,270 for married workers filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$5,891.

\*Workers without a qualifying child who earn less than \$13,980 in 2012 (or less than \$19,190 for married workers filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$475.

For everyone, investment income must be \$3,200 or less for the year.

How can I claim the two earned income credits?  
The federal credit is available by completing Schedule EIC in the Federal 1040 or 1040A. The state credit is computed by entering your federal credit amount into your MI-1040 tax form and then multiplying by 6%, so do your federal taxes first!

### Home Heating Credit

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) doesn't want you to miss your chance to receive the Home Heating Credit (HHC) from the state of Michigan! The HHC can help pay your winter heating bills and is funded by federal Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Eligible low-income consumers either do not know about the credit or fail to take advantage of it. If you use a large portion of your monthly income to pay heating costs, you may be eligible for the HHC for the 2012 tax year. The size of the credit may change from year to year depending on the amount of LIHEAP funding.

Who can apply?

Eligible customers must meet the following guidelines:

Your homestead is in Michigan,  
You own or rent the home (including a rented apartment or mobile home on a lot in a mobile home park) where you live, and

Your income is within the limits listed in the chart below or you qualify based on alternate guidelines including household income, exemptions, and heating costs. Check the HHC form (MI-1040CR-7 for more information).

Income Guidelines	
Exemptions	Income Ceiling
1	\$12,299
2	\$16,671
3	\$21,014
4	\$25,357
5	\$29,728
6	\$34,071
For each Additional Exemption, add:	\$4,343

\*Customers who qualify for the HHC are also eligible for the Winter Protection Plan. Contact your local utility for more information

Information provided by [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)

## Traditional Healer

### J.D. Gibson

Every month

Appointments available for Indian Health Service (IHS) eligible Native Americans  
Regarding scheduling of appointments Please call

Julie Wolfe (231) 398-6740

Sponsored by  
Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health of the Little River Band Of Ottawa Indians

### Commissions and Committees

If you are interested in serving on any of the following committees or commissions, please submit a letter of interest to the Ogema's office indicating which committee/commission you are interested in.

- Commerce Commission
- Gaming Commission
- Housing Commission
- Binojeeuk Commission
- Enrollment Commission
- Health Commission
- Natural Resource Commission

The Warriors Society is Gathering photographs of members

Please send photos of our Warriors either in Uniform or in Civilian dress to the address below:  
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Warriors Society  
375 River Street,  
Manistee, Mi. 49660  
The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Warriors Society is organizing fishing teams for next year's event.

All candidates running for Office of Tribal Council Nine County District- Candace M. Chapman, Bernadine Crampton, Dave J. Corey, Gary Paul DiPiazza, Jamie L. Friedel, Rita Annette Gale, Jeanie Gibson, Martha M. Howell, Steve Kequom, Don Koon, Kareen Lewis, Brian Loney, Karen Love, Frankie L. Medacco, Pamela S. Medahko, Edward L. Tyler, Janine M. Sam, Peggy J. Vriesman, Martin (Marty) Wabindato, Robert (Bob) Whiteloon, (Deacon) Jeremy Wilson

### Candace Chapman

Aanii.

My name is Candace Chapman and I humbly seek to continue my service as Nine-County Representative on Tribal Council. Thank you for giving me the chance to serve in this capacity for the last 4 years. We have made great progress however there is still much to be done. Having been part of the highest revenue generating year of our Resort in 2010, the impacts of the economic downturn continue to present challenges for our government. While the future of gaming in Michigan remains uncertain, efforts to closely examine operational structures for both the government and the casino must continue. Our government has discussed many approaches to moving forward though it is the will of our people that our foundation should be built upon.

Realizing there is much room for improvement when it comes to communication; I take responsibility for the shortcomings. I do however remain hopeful that with the help of the people, a viable means of transparency can be achieved. Although communication is crucial, upholding Tribal law is essential to protecting our political status as a sovereign. I remain dedicated to making the necessary improvements and believe that together, by using the traditions of our ancestors, we can vision a future well beyond our own and make it a reality. Community meetings, use of our resources such as Tribal Facebook page are great starters. These changes are already underway and I would like to continue in their progress. I am committed to continue working as part of a team with our Members, fellow councilors and the Ogema's Office to overcome the challenges our government faces and understand the importance of working together. I will continue to working toward the balance that is in the best interest of our Tribe and its people.

Thank you for your consideration.

### Bernadene Crampton



Qualifications: I believe that my greatest asset to this position is my education and experience. I hold four degrees thus far in general study, Business Administration, Psychology and Public Administration of non-profit organizations.

Within the realm of Public Administration there were several relevant educational courses including, maintaining Constitutional rights

in all levels of an organization; budgeting; Contract administration; Policy Preparation and Analysis; Ethics; Management of Human Resources; and Administration of non-profit Organizations.

Within the social advocacy process, I have advocated for laws which protect women and children in domestic violence situations, educational rights of children requiring special assistance in public schools, advocated for laws against child bullying; and worked in Indian Child Welfare for ten years.

Why I would like to be elected: My whole life has been devoted to sharing my education and experiences with as many people as I can. My ancestors had been involved with protecting Native rights all of their lives and my goal is carrying on this tradition. Some of my relation went door to door to involve people in knowing the issues and discussing them. The end result was that there was knowledge of the facts and true consensus of the people.

Kchi Miigwech!

(Bernadene Crampton) Phone number is (231) 777-5898

e-mail: [mernaman@myfrontiermail.com](mailto:mernaman@myfrontiermail.com)

## Candidate Advertisements

### Dave Corey

My name is Dave Corey. I am running for tribal council representative for the 9 counties. My qualifications are achieving my High School diploma from Benzie Central High School, College Education at Michigan State University with my Associates/Certificate in Agri-Business: Construction Business Owner for 8 years, Business Manager of Muschigon Construction, 5 years. I was an adopted member of the Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians for 19 years, and now am a Little River Band Member. I am 1/4 blood Ottawa. I have been married to my wife for 18 years and have three children ages 7, 10 and 13. I was born and raised here in Northern Michigan (life long resident) and have a clean background. I have been a Gaming Commissioner for Little River Band for the past several years. My hobbies include: hunting (bow and rifle), master wood working, gardening, ice fishing, hydroponic gardening, farming, real estate prospecting and spending time with my family.

I am running for council because I would like to see:

- Accountability to the people
- Wiser business decisions
- Council work together with the office of the Ogema to solve problems and issues
- See ethics and accountability enforced
- Resolve Housing Concerns
- Reduce Government wasted spending
- Represent all age groups
- Create Tribal council five year business plan/strategic plan
- CHANGE FOR THE BETTER ~ For ALL members.

Find me on Facebook: Dave J Corey (<https://www.facebook.com/davejcorey/>), Corey for Council (<https://www.facebook.com/CoreyForCouncil/>) contact me on e-mail at [dave.corey@att.net](mailto:dave.corey@att.net)

### Gary DiPiazza



Gary Paul DiPiazza ( Sees-Bak-Tunse )  
MIIGWECTH FOR YOUR VOTE FOR THE  
9-COUNTY LRBOI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
SEAT FOR WE WILL SUCEED

We are back in a Workshop for the Ethics  
Ordinance for all Elected Official's working  
on. Attendance, Back Ground Checks, Higher

Morals and Accountability.

We will be taking the lead in Renewable Energy Manufacturing, Putting Members to work and giving Members a higher Profit Sharing Return on this Investment. We will be Accomplishing this with the Fire Fly Power Generator giving us the needed strength to Restore our Treaty Rights that are well over do to us all.

There is a well thought plan to achive these Goals.

We will be Building Housing in Muskegon to Show WE Mean Business to get our New CASINO up and Running.

We need Peace, Harmony and Unity OR we will Fail and Failer is NOT Acceptable to me.

NOW I NEED YOUR VOTE TO WORK FROM THE INSIDE FOR I HAVE DONE JUST ABOUT ALL I CAN FROM THE OUTSIDE.

MiigWetch for letting me speak with you and

Blessings to you all

1-616-450-3928

[teedy3@comcat.net](mailto:teedy3@comcat.net)

[www.sightowl.com/garydipiazza/](http://www.sightowl.com/garydipiazza/)

( facebook @ Gary DiPiazza )

### Jamie Friedel

Aanii,

I would like to start by introducing myself and a little about me. My name is Jamie Friedel. I currently reside in Manistee, MI. I work for the Tribe at the Little River Trading Post. I have been the manager since we opened in 2008. Before relocating to Manistee I worked in the food business for 18 years. I was a kitchen manager and then the manager for a local restaurant. After that I became shift leader, trainer and then into management for McDonalds. I also was a kitchen manager and corporate trainer for Apple Bees Inc. Then I started into the gas business at a Mobil station for 3 years then moved to Manistee to open the Trading Post.

I would like to have this chance to represent you as your 9 county council seat. I will not promises you changes because I would only be 1 vote. But, what I will promise is that I will make that one vote count and be heard.

Thank you for your time.

### Rita Gale



Boozhoo to all tribal members! My name is Rita Annette Gale and I am a married Native American member of the LRBOI born and raised in Muskegon and now residing in Manistee.

I have 25 years of experience in trucking, excavating and snow removal services and I worked as a caregiver for several elders in their homes.

I provided catering services in the past for the Elders Committee dinners at the old community center; and am currently on the Elders Committee Board.

I worked for Wolf Lake School for teachers and helped children that needed special help with reading and writing.

I have worked with the Peace Keeping Teen Camp and also with the children's summer Day Camp program through our Tribal Health Clinic Services.

I believe I can make a difference and create changes that are desperately needed for our people. I promise to bring your issues to the table to be discussed before council. I believe in background checks, drug testing, higher standards of attendance and availability for elected officials, respect, communication and a rule of one person equals one job and a 40 hour work week.

You may contact me anytime: Home phone (231) 723-5988. Cell phone (231) 750-5581.

Please: Vote Rita Annette Gale for Tribal Council – 9 County.  
“The best choice...let me be your voice!”

## Candidate Advertisements

### Martha Howell



Bozhoo,  
Martha Howell Nindizhinikaaz  
Manistee Nindoonjiba  
Mishiike Dodem

I descend from the Hinman family. I grew up in Mid-Michigan in small town Owosso. I am a 1990 graduate of Owosso High School. After high school graduation, I managed/owned a mom & pop grocery store for 12 years. I am a 2010 graduate from Central Michigan University. I graduated with honors and earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Journalism and a minor in Native American studies.

First and foremost I am not a politician. I am Anishinabekwe. I have a big heart and I am running for Tribal Council to be of assistance to my people. I believe in open and honest communication. It is vital for the future of our Tribe to seek out Tribal Member input, work together, and listen to one another while utilizing and maximizing those thoughts and ideas, and formulate them into resolutions and amendments for the betterment of our community.

It is essential that we learn from past mistakes, pick up the pieces and move forward in a good way and with an open heart to heal our wounds and ensure our Tribe's culture and success for the next seven generations.

### Steven W. Kequom

Steven W. Kequom,

I am declaring my candidacy for the 9- county seat. I have and will always be for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI).

In the past, I have had the honor to carry the flags at many different jingtamoks. I have attended the medicine lodges, ceremonies and have done some trading. I am a trader (owner of Kequom Kraft's). I will become an elder this coming January.

I cannot and will not promise anything, since I cannot see the actual yearly budget. If there is a problem that arises lets have some mejim and then talk. Basically I am for the membership.

### Karen Love

Karen Love

Nine County Representative. I have a Bachelors Degree in Business Management. My 28 year career in a management capacity has given me the experience and skills in problem solving, good communication skills, and the ability to work with people. I am able to establish priorities and adhere to deadlines.

My priorities:

Constitution. EVR Equality for all Tribal Members

Tribal Hiring (Preference). Our citizens deserve employment and advancement within our tribe. Apprentice programs that help our members promote into managerial positions.

Economic Diversification. Creating small business within our tribal citizens. Making sound investments to build our wealth within our community.

Financial Responsibility of Tribal Assets. Cutting out underutilized programs and consolidating departments.

Communication. Listening to the opinions and ideas of members.

I will make it a priority to manage tribal funds in a responsible manner and make smart decisions to remain competitive and adapt to our changing economy.

I will work with other councilors to move in a positive direction, so we will be able to realize the rewards of a financially sound enterprise and continue our legacy for our children.

And lastly, lets cut out the politicking and work together as a collective unit to bring fresh ideas to the table and workable solutions to the problems. I will work for the people who elected me and provide them with positive resolutions on issues that impact the health and welfare of all tribal members.

Please feel free to contact me at [kalowolf@frontier.com](mailto:kalowolf@frontier.com).

### Frankie Medacco



Wisdom. Love. Respect. Bravery. Honesty. Humility. Truth. These are the seven Grandfather teachings – teachings that, sadly, we have seen very little of lately.

I am Frankie Medacco, Tribal Member #1487, and I am running for Tribal Council, 9-County Representative. I promise to always serve my Tribe in accordance with the seven Grandfather teachings and to always put the general welfare of our Tribe first.

It's time to utilize our Muskegon property and build businesses to provide jobs for our Tribal members in the Muskegon area. I would like to see new businesses in the Manistee area. I would like to expand small business opportunities for our Tribal members everywhere!

I want to improve communications between the Tribal Council and the Ogema's office by having regular meetings and resolving issues peacefully and in a timely manner. I want to open the lines of communication between the Tribal leadership and the Tribal members. I want to help restore our Tribe to what it once was – a community whose main goal was to improve the lives of ALL.

I hope I can count on your vote this April. For more information, please visit [www.facebook.com/Frankieforcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/Frankieforcouncil).

## Candidate Advertisements

### Pamela Medahko



Boozhoo Tribal Citizens,  
I greet you in a good way!!

I am a former Tribal Council member (2001-2005), and Tribal Liaison for LRCR (1999 - 2001).

A wise man once said: Politics is more difficult than physics. The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

I begin from the recognition & understanding it would become pragmatically unwise to pursue a leadership position if I did not have sincere intentions of being of service to others.

I will not make a myriad of promises, as broken promises contribute to unresolved trepidation & issues. I do, however, commit to standing in the center of the fire, and will not shrink back when difficulty arises.

Cherishing our nation, it is a time for us to embrace values of tolerance, compassion, understanding differences, while maintaining respect for democracy for our nation's future.

Let us prove that the cynics are wrong. That citizens can have a solid representation in their nation's government, rather than in the opposition.

Embrace this opportunity to make LRBOI a leader of nations, and a nation of leaders.

Respectfully,  
Pamela Medahko  
Bear Clan

Web Site: <http://sunryz.webs.com/>

### Edward Tyler

Aanii

I am seeking a position on the Tribal Council as your 9 County Representative. I am an Elder and my Ancestral line is through my Grandmother, Nancy Shagonaby who lived in Free Soil. Also, 1961 graduate of Ludington High School and attended Chicago Technical College.

**Qualifications:** currently hold a position on the Gaming Commission which requires a very thorough background check, retired from Steelcase after 30 years working in the engineering field, always worked a 40 plus hour work week, hold 3 U.S. Patents, United States Air Force Veteran, served in Viet Nam as a Crew Chief on a C-130 Aircraft, member of the Warriors Society, American Legion Post #381 Honor Guard Squad, and served as a Deacon on two Church Boards.

I am committed to work as part of a team that will: protect our status as a Sovereign nation, require accountability in all Government Administrative areas, ensure that a budget will be submitted on time, implement Equal Voting Rights for all Tribal Citizens, require drug testing and background checks for elected officials, initiate a system that will enable live streaming of Tribal Council Meetings, establish a 5 year plan for all Tribal Projects, develop the Muskegon property with the ultimate goal of providing more jobs for our Tribal Members.

For more information or questions, please visit my Web Page at [www.edtyler.net](http://www.edtyler.net), e-mail me at [sjtyler2@gmail.com](mailto:sjtyler2@gmail.com). If you would like to become a member of the "LRBOI Closed Group", Face Book page. Just make a request to join us! Our page is dedicated to constructive discussion of current issues relevant to LRBOI Members.

If elected I will only promise to serve with the utmost; **Honesty, Integrity and Dependability.**

I sincerely appreciate your vote and want you to know that it counts.

### Peggy J. Vriesman

Aanii

My name is Peggy J. Vriesman; I am seeking a seat for Tribal Council to represent the Nine County district. I hold an Associate's Degree from West Shore Community College in Marketing/Management and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Ferris State University. Previously I worked at Little River Casino for over 5 years in the Accounting and Marketing departments. Since 2008 I have worked in the tribal government within the Natural Resources Department. I was elected to the Election Board in 2005/2006 term and currently hold a position on the Commerce Commission. All of these experiences have provided me with an excellent understanding of the good and bad of tribal government, and provided me the motivation to enter my hat into the mix.

My platform is multi-dimensional, but my main priorities will be in:

- 1) Creating a better government through communication and open decision making
- 2) Equality and Respect given to all
- 3) Developing leaders in our government by setting a good example
- 4) Expanding revenue with the Muskegon property and encourage other tribal enterprises
- 5) Developing programs at the Casino that ensures tribal preference is followed and is fair
- 6) Developing revenue generating opportunities

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, I am available by email [vote4peggy@yahoo.com](mailto:vote4peggy@yahoo.com).

If I am elected as your tribal council representative the interest of the tribe will be first. I look forward to working with all tribal citizens in making the future for Little River Band of Ottawa Indians great.

Thank you for your consideration.

Miigwech

### Marty Wabindato



Aanii

I'm Marty Wabindato and I'm a full blood Ottawa, Champion dancer & craftsman traditionalist and tribal elder. I was born in Muskegon Feb 25, 1952 into the Grand River Band. After graduating H.S. I left Michigan to experience life. I worked in the chemical industry for almost 20 years. I was an industrial firefighter for 5 years and went to Texas A&M fireschool for my diploma. Worked in retailing for 12 yrs. I have done roofing, hot tar

roofing, welding and plumbing, over the years. I came to Manistee in 1998 to live I worked a few months painting, etc. our medical clinic. Then I went to Nabco for 8 yrs. Until they closed the doors. I was on the first election board! I've worked 4 summers out to Aki, cutting grass, painting etc. as an elder I've sat in on court cases, job interviews & selections and worked with troubled teens at summer camp. The last 8 yrs. I've been Headman 5 times for our July 4<sup>th</sup> Pow wow. I've been a health commissioner for 5 yrs.

As a traditionalist I need your vote! We need a more rounded council with past and present! I'm also alcohol and drugs free!

231-510-1106

Pomma,  
Marty Wabindato

## Candidate Advertisements

All candidates running for Office of Tribal Council At Large- Ryan Champagne, Virgil Johnson, Marcella Leusby, Larry Olson, Joseph Riley, Trish Snyder, Lee Sprague

### Robert (Bob) Whiteloon



Hi my name is Robert (Bob) Whiteloon I moved to Manistee, year 2000, to be involved in some aspect as a Little River Tribal member. I retired from Harbor Industries at Charlevoix, Michigan with 27 years of employment. While living in Charlevoix I became involved in activities that surrounded Indian people such as Charlevoix Youth Group title IV in the Charlevoix school system. I was on C.A.R.I. board that started a Half Way House for alcoholism in Petoskey, MI. And Michigan

Indian Outreach Program for all Native Americans that provided family counseling. I am currently employed at the Little River Casino Resort as a Swing Shift Manager in Slots Operation Department. Was a Council member 4 years ago 9 county area.

I'm Bob Whiteloon; Tribal Elder would very much like to represent all tribal members again. I learned a lot when I was on tribal council. As a council member I will communicate with the utmost professionalism. I believe the future of the tribe is a strong government and exercising our sovereignty. I will support all programs that are in the best interest for our members and the future of the tribe. I want to see accountability from all departments and Casino. I thank you again and I ask for your support so I can with enthusiasm and professional effectiveness support you on tribal council.

Contact at this time is:

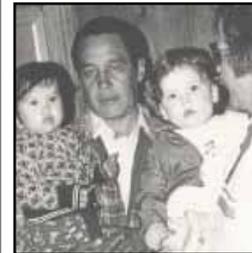
Robert (Bob) Whiteloon

Home: 231-907-3960

Cell: 231-463-6168

E-mail: [whiteloonr@yahoo.com](mailto:whiteloonr@yahoo.com)

### Nitumigaabow "Ryan" Champagne



Boozhoo Nindinawemaaganidok,

We are at a time in our history to make choices that will affect our people for the next seven generations. Our families and children continue to struggle while our current elected leadership continues to squabble. While our communities suffer, your leadership has spent millions in attorney fees promoting their agendas. We are at a time for the People's Voice to be heard; the

voice of logic, reason, and direction. I ask each and every one of us to look upon our current direction and determine if this path, a path of greed and jealousy, is the path that our ancestors would want for us?

I propose a different path, a path of:

**Nibwaakaawin** - Wisdom

**Gwayakwaadiziwin** - Honesty

**Zaagi'idiwin** - Love

**Dabaadendiziwin** - Humility

**Minaadendamowin** - Respect

**Debwewin** - Truth

**Aakode'ewin** - Bravery

We deserve to have our leaders to lead as the Ogemuk of the past. We deserve to have leadership that promotes equality, helping families, and healing our communities. We deserve to have leadership grounded in Anishinaabek values, traditions, and culture.

We deserve the right to have Mino-Bimaadiziwin

A Way to a Good Life!

Miigwech,

Nitumigaabow Ryan Champagne - (414) 429-6906

"Helping Families, Healing Communities"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/helpingfamilieshealingcommunities/>

### Virgil Johnson

Aanii Tribal Citizens of LRBOI

My name is Zoongede Mshekenh (Courageous Turtle) Virgil Johnson and I'm the grandson of the late James & Beatrice Koon and a member of the Turtle Clan.

First of all I want to thank all of you for your support over the last 4 years as the At Large Councilor. Most of you know who I am and have witnessed my integrity and work ethics as your Councilor At large. I would like to remind you of my platform as your candidate:

- Healthcare Coverage
- Education of our people
- Housing
- Cultural Sensitivity

Prior Commissions served on are as follows:

- Binojeeuk (the only man to serve on this commission to date)
- Natural Resource Commission (fought for the Inland Consent Decree 2007 and won)
- Commerce Commission

I'm currently serving on the Government Building Task Force, Housing Task Force and Board of Directors for LRRCR. My attendance for 70 meetings was 92%. You can plainly see I'm a Working Councilor that gets things done. I have an Associate's Degree and a Bachelor Degree from

### Marcella Leusby

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. They do not set out to be a leader, but they become one by the quality of their actions and the integrity of their intent."  
- Mike Jones

How true this statement is. In my growing years my mother let us make our own decisions in life. But, in her own quiet way she reared us to go to the right way. In our quest for life, we could've turned out bad or we could've turned out good. It was up to us, but because of the great respect I had for my mother I chose the right road. Like she told me, "I taught you right from wrong, now it's your choice which direction you want to go." I believe we all have that choice in life.

If I am voted in as your Tribal Council - At Large Representative, I can assure everyone that I will do my very best for our people. I will stand up for our people and I will not make decisions that I don't feel are in the best interest of this Tribe. I want good, positive things to come out of my time in office. I am tired of the negativity and lack of productivity that has been going on here. We all want to see our tribe progress into the future. In order to do this, we have to come together, be united as one and get the job done. I am hoping that our people will make the right decision to get a new standard of people in who will make the difference.

Miigwetch,  
Marcella Leusby

## Candidate Advertisements

### Larry Olson

My name is Larry "MahiingunMakwa" Olson. This is the third time that I have run for council and I will continue to run for council until I'm elected. If elected, I will then prove to my fellow tribal citizens my leadership and determination to take care of all of my tribal citizens, especially the weak, young and old. Once i have proven my leadership, I will then run for Ogema. If elected i will focus on the following issues:- Reunite The Sacred Circle, bring our language, culture and spiritual walk back.- Require all tribal government workers to learn and speak Anishinaabemowin.- Start a tribal school, to teach our children our language and traditional ways.- Stop wasteful spending like:- Fruitport property cost us \$13 million plus \$200,000 taxes every year, casino deal dead.- \$11,000 a month to a lobbyist, that does not benefit the tribe.- Bad investments, House of Flavors , Diversity, Kern Valley and many more we don't know about.

- Eliminate all unnecessary jobs.- Offer free training and education to all tribal citizens who want an upper management jobs within our government and casino, that are currently held by non tribal citizens.- Make the tribal government and casino transparent.- Telecast all council meeting live on the internet, so all tribal citizens can participate.- Supply all low income tribal citizens with a computer and access to the internet, so they can participate in tribal government.- Free rooms at casino for those who travel to tribal meetings.- Pay for low income tribal citizens travel expenses, so they can attend spring and fall meetings.- Open all tribal land to all tribal citizens who wish to relocate and build on our land.- Come and join my group on Facebook, the group is called Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Freedom Fighters.  
Miigwetch, Larry MahiingunMakwa Olson

### Joseph Riley

Greetings fellow tribal citizens,

My name is Joseph Riley and I am running for the At-Large Office of Tribal Council. I am originally from Muskegon but have lived in Manistee since 2005 all of which have been spent working for the Tribe and its Enterprises. I currently work in tribal enrollment and also serve the Tribe as a Gaming Commissioner. These positions have provided me with a wealth of experience and knowledge with many aspects of Tribal Laws and functions of our government. I am running for this office because I see great potential in our tribe and its citizens. I also believe however there are many issues that are keeping us from living up to that potential.

The issues I would like to approach and see addressed are; more accountability to the citizens ; greater focus on business/strategic planning; exploring methods to give citizens a better way to measure the effectiveness of their elected officials; create a more amicable and respectful relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government; greater enforcement of ethical standards. If elected I will put in whatever hours necessary to see our goals come to fruition, I'll lead by example and will be the change I wish to see. Thank you for your consideration and support.

### Trish Snyder

My name is Trish Snyder. I am running for Tribal Council (At Large). I'm married to Mike Snyder. I have worked at our tribal health Clinic as a CHR Community Health Rep. for thirteen years. In this time I have heard and seen the needs of our people. Before that I was one of the first to work in wardrobe for our casino.

I was a volunteer on our first POW wows and many of our numerous communities. Back then we did it for free because it was for our people.

I think as a Council member we should be able to sit and work things out as a body, and to work with our Ogema. Also, I believe members should not always be the last to know. I also know no other work ethic than to be there 40 hours a week.

I thank you all for your support in running for Tribal Council At Large.

Miigwetch  
Tribal Elder  
(Trish) Tricia Snyder

# Positive Indian Parenting

## Honoring Our Children By Honoring our Traditions

For more information or to register class please Call Kathy Lagerquist 398-6705



LRBOI Family Services Department will again be offering Positive Indian Parenting class once a week for 8 weeks in Manistee Michigan beginning March 12, 2013 From 5:00 to 7:30 pm, and ending April 30, 2013



**Included in the eight sessions are:**  
Traditional Parenting – history, cultural strengths

**F**

Lessons of the Storyteller – communication, values, observation

**A**

Lessons of the Cradleboard – bonding nurturing, development

**M**

Harmony in Childrearing – balance, family structure, self-control, prevention

**I**

Traditional Behavioral Management – guidelines, limits, discipline

**L**

Lessons of Mother Nature – living skills, social skills

**Y**

Praise in Traditional Parenting – positive reinforcement skills



Choices in Parenting – setting goals, what kind of parent you want to be.

## Candidate Advertisements

All candidates running for Office of Tribal Council Outlying- Shannon P. Crampton, Bill Willis

### Shannon P. Crampton

Aanii, I Shannon Paul Crampton am seeking the office of the outlying rep. on council to give a voice to those of you who do not reside in the 9 county area.

My stance on fairness and truth is well known at the time of this letter. Our tribe is in crisis and my warnings to you from 2005-2009 now seem all too prophetic. A change in current policy must occur to insure the security of our tribe, your voice for the past four years has gone unheard due in large to the fact that all the seats appointed you have been filled by 9 county residents who do not share our experiences as outlying members, my lone opponent in the upcoming election is yet another 9 county resident with strong relative ties to the current administration.

Qualifications: I served on council from 2005-2009 and helped implement most of the programs you now enjoy such as Per-Cap.

I have an extensive knowledge of state and tribal law and have managed businesses that have never seen financial loss and currently consult others on how to do the same.

If elected I vow to implement equal voting rights, live streamed council meetings, time clocks for council, and drug testing for elected officials

Email-[earlymornwalker@aol.com](mailto:earlymornwalker@aol.com)

Website-<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lollytopps/>

I welcome all inquires and look forward to providing you with much needed responsible leadership

Respectfully submitted

### Bill Willis



My name is Bill Willis and I am a candidate for Tribal Council – Outlying District. I am married and have three wonderful daughters; veteran of the U.S. Marines; Pastor of Christian Faith Church in Manistee, as well as a previous business owner. I have worked for the Tribal Government for approx. 14 years in a number of different capacities, including my current position as Budget Coordinator. I have worked with every Tribal Ogema, with the

exception of one.

I pledge to bring vision, leadership, hard work, and a greater level of honor and respect to the office. One of my goals is to build a stronger bridge between the Council and the Ogema; something that is long overdue. Another goal will be to revisit the Revenue Allocation Plan in an effort to amend (increase) the current percentage in the general welfare component area. This area is where the majority of the direct services funding gets budgeted. Reallocating just 3% of the gaming distribution toward this component area would have a huge impact on the number of services that could be provided. The percentages in the Revenue Allocation Plan have not been revisited since the original adoption of Per Capita; why?

All candidates running for Office of Associate Judge- Damian S. Fisher, Spring Medacco, Angela Kay Sherigan

### Damian Fisher

Aanii!

My name is Damian Fisher. I am a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. I have had the good fortune of living and working in the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians community since 2005. Back then I was an Associate Legislative Attorney, then for two years I served as the Enrollment Commission's contract attorney. In 2010, I was hired as the Chief Legislative Counsel and served faithfully until early last year. Over these times, I worked closely with the Tribal Council and the Ogemaw of course, but I also got to work with nearly all of the Tribe's programs. I got to know many of the program directors and commissions and I especially enjoyed meeting and working with program staff and Tribal Members whenever I could. There are many wonderful people working hard to provide much needed services to the tribal community. I feel lucky to have made many friends along the way and since leaving last year I have missed these people and those relationships the most.

I want to be your Associate Tribal Judge because I believe we need a full-time, dedicated judge who is fully invested in the LRBOI tribal community. I believe that if one chooses to share a journey with a community that one must share the same path--with all the twists and turns and burdens and joys, and in the easy times and hard times alike.

I have a history with LRBOI, and have come to love and respect its people and leaders. As your next Associate Judge I want to bring all my experience and training as a lawyer to work with Chief Judge Bailey to make the LRBOI Tribal Court a strong and respected institution that serves the Tribal Community with compassion and fairness.

### Spring Medacco



I am Spring Medacco, Tribal Member #0136, Biidaabinakwe (First Light Woman). I am the granddaughter of Alice (Pete) Moore and I am part of the Turtle clan.

I have been the Paralegal and Victim Advocate in our Tribal Prosecutor's office for over 8 years and I have 11 ½ years of experience in the legal field. It has been a wonderful learning experience for me, but it has given me a desire to help my Tribe even more.

As your Associate Judge, I will make court decisions that are fair and just to all parties. I will see to it that our child neglect/abuse cases are resolved in a way that meet the best interests of the children as well as the Tribe. I will make decisions that are based on law but do not neglect the traditions of our People.

As Associate Judge, I will make our Tribal Court a priority by making it my main job. My main goal is to make our Tribal Court the very best it can be!

I look forward to serving our Tribe as your new Associate Judge. For more information, please visit my website at [www.facebook.com/Springforjudge](http://www.facebook.com/Springforjudge) or e-mail me at [smedacco@hotmail.com](mailto:smedacco@hotmail.com).

## Candidate Advertisements

### Angela Kay Sherigan

It has been my privilege to serve you for the last six years as your associate judge. Since taking the bench, in addition to my regular court duties, I have rewritten the court rules, three of which have been approved and published, and the fourth chapter has been written, and is awaiting final approval for publication in February. This was a daunting task, and took considerable time. The court is also now accepting transfers of Indian Child Welfare Act cases from state courts. I have extensive knowledge and experience in ICWA cases, and have served as a trainer for the Michigan State Court Administrator's Office, training Michigan DHS workers and state court judges and referees on ICWA.

It would be an honor to continue to serve as your judge and to continue to improve the court.

I have been licensed to practice law in Michigan, state and federal court for 11 years, and continue my private practice as an attorney. I graduated law school a semester early and with a concentration in constitutional law and civil rights. I currently hold the following positions:

State Bar of Michigan: American Indian Law Section President; Standing Committee on American Indian Law Chair; Justice Initiatives – Criminal Issues; Diversity and inclusion Advisory Committee Advisor; Character and fitness Committee; and as Women Lawyers Association of Michigan President; LTBB visiting judge; Michigan Indian Judicial Association Secretary/Treasurer; State Court Administrators Office – Tribal Court Improvement committee; Macomb County Bar Association Pro-bono Chair. I have volunteered my legal services to the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance for 12 years, and take pro-bono cases all across Michigan. In 2012 I was given an award by the Legal Services Corporation, a national organization, for my pro-bono work on behalf of Native people.

Thank you for your consideration.

### Election Board Calendar

- Ballots mailed..... March 25th
- Ballots due and Election Day.....April 26th
- Deadline for petitions for recount..... May 3rd
- Deadline for election challenges.....May 3rd
- Voter Registration Deadline for Regular Election.....March 1st, 2013

**Be sure to get your exercise!**

Visit the Tribal Health Center for some great equipment to help

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STRENGTH**

**THE FEELING AFTER A WORKOUT  
THE FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT**

**HEALTH  
MY LOVED ONES  
HAPPINESS  
STRESS RELIEF**

# ME

**11ASFT.COM**

**THE BEST FREE WORKOUTS**

All candidates running for Office of Election Board- Alesia Condon, Terri L. Burmeister, Carol Gibner, Diane A. Lonn, Valerie Mc Donnell



My name is Terri L. Burmeister TM# 0979 and I hope to represent LRBOI on the Election Board. I fully understand the necessity of good leadership. We all know our tribal leaders are a result of an election. What better way to serve our tribal community than to ensure that these very elections are honestly and promptly performed. At this stage of my life and career I do not desire a seat on council. I do wish to help guide those who do. Every tribal member has a vested interest in a successful

Government. Instead of waiting to hear what's going on within our tribe, I hope to be a part of what's going on.

I am currently employed as an F & B Supervisor at LRCR. This makes me a part of a leadership team that is responsible for over 200 employees. I am Honest, Dependable, Organized, and Fair. I understand there needs to be a balance between business and personal responsibilities. I am a firm believer in quality of life and I try to supervise that way every day. This has prepared me to handle any adversity that comes my way. I am capable of problem solving and conflict resolution.

To hold a position on the Election Board would be an Honor and a Privilege. I would strive daily to represent our people and the election process in a good way.

### Carol Gibner



I enjoy helping and working with our tribal members. I have met many members in the past few years and feel they would be comfortable with me for asking questions regarding the elections. I have been on the election board for over a

year now, it has been a real honor and a great learning experience. I am honest and dedicated to the tribe and its members. I am retired so I would be available when needed.

It would be an honor serving on the election board, My phone number is 616.334.2368.

my email [monag1010@yahoo.com](mailto:monag1010@yahoo.com).

Please call or email me if you have any questions.

Carol

## Candidate Advertisements

### Diane Lonn

Aanii: My name is Diane A. Lonn; I am running for a seat on the LRBOI Election Board.

My Grandfather was James Koon and my Great Grandfathers were Joe Koon and Pete Espiew. I am married and have three children, as well as five grandchildren (all girls).

I have worked as the Enrollment Officer for the tribe since 1993 when we only had three employees, in 1999, I moved to the casino and worked for the General Manager there, then in 2004, I returned to the tribe and the position of Enrollment Officer.

I have two Associate Degrees and 2 years ago received my Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Since 1993, I have been on various committees including Constitution, Election Board, Land Acquisition and our Health Board. I have worked as a volunteer on the Pow Wows as well as the Children's Christmas Parties, Community Dinners and other events that the tribe has sponsored.

I have integrity, experience and work ethics and would be an asset to the Election Board.

Please vote for Diane A. Lonn,

Candidate for the Tribal Election Board

### Valerie McDonnell



Valerie McDonnell would like you to vote for her in the upcoming LRBOI elections.

I would like to announce my candidacy for the election board.

I graduated from Hesperia High School in 1981. I live in Twin Lake, which is in Muskegon County. I have been working at a lawyer's office in Muskegon for the last

three years, before that I worked at Meijer as a cashier for 14 years. I have two children a 23 old daughter, and a 17old son.

If you have any question that you would like answered you can contact on facebook and I will do my best to answer as quick as I can. I believe that working at the lawyers' office has given the tools to be qualified as a candidate.

I want to be elected because I feel that I can make a difference.

For some time, tribal leaders have been hoping to change the way that NA/AI tribes can go about declaring disasters on their reservations. Up until the end of January, even though sovereign, tribal nations have had to go through their states' governor to declare a disaster and be eligible for FEMA and other federal assistance. This was dictated by the Stafford Act and was a less-than satisfactory situation for many tribes.

January 30<sup>th</sup>, that all changed as President Obama signed the 'Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013' which contained language changing the tribal nations' process. Following is the actual FEMA announcement. Tribal leaders are now waiting for specifics which are under development at FEMA.

*WASHINGTON - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate released the below statement following the President's signing of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013, which includes a provision to amend the Stafford Act allowing Tribes direct access to federal disaster relief.*

*"FEMA has strong, long-standing relationships with Tribal governments, and they are essential members of the emergency management team. We commend the efforts of Members of Congress, Tribal leadership and their organizations, the Department of Homeland Security, and the President who have made this change a reality. This legislative change to the Stafford Act will provide federally recognized Tribal governments the option to choose whether to make a request directly to the President for an emergency or major disaster declaration, or to receive assistance, as they do presently, through a declaration for a State. This amendment to the Stafford Act follows on the President's commitments to Indian Country, strengthens the government to government relationship between FEMA and federally recognized Tribes, and will enhance the way FEMA supports Tribal communities before, during, and after disasters."*

*Fully implementing this historic provision will require consultation with Tribes and other stakeholders, particularly as FEMA develops the administrative and programmatic requirements and procedures necessary to execute the law. FEMA will provide interim guidance in the coming weeks explaining how and when Tribal governments may seek declarations, while more comprehensive consultations and administrative procedures are undertaken.*

## Police Training – an ongoing proposition

Graduating from the academy is only a first step when it comes to being a Law Enforcement Officer. There is continual training to keep the officers skills up-to-speed and up to the latest challenges which face them on every shift.

Tribal Public Safety is no different! Our LRBOI officers from the top on down, including regular 'street' cops and Conservation Enforcement Officers undergo regular rigorous training.

Near the end of January, a number of Tribal Officers met for a day of training at their departmental training center in Manistee to practice techniques which will keep the officers safe and doing their job of keeping the public safe.

This particular training was hand-to-hand and dealt with, among other things, weapon retention techniques in cases where someone tries to take the officers' weapon. Tribal Training Officer Alan Snow demonstrated the right techniques and had each officer participate in this critical exercise.



To learn more about the profession, contact Lt. David DeForest or ask any tribal officer you meet. Being a 'Tribal LEO' isn't easy, but it is a very rewarding profession and is critical to the sovereignty of all tribal nations.

**Contact**  
**Lt. David DeForest**  
**231-398-2231**

## Commodities

Food Distribution Program ( FDPIR ) was created by congress in 1977 Food Stamp Act as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for Indian Reservations. The program offers commodity to low income Native American households. No household may participate in both the Commodity Food Program and Snap Program, but eligible households can switch from one program to the other at the end of each month. Eligibility and participation for FDPIR are based on application and certification requiring tribal status, income and resources qualification, in determining who is eligible for the program. We are federally funded by the USDA and they set the regulations and guidelines for the Commodity Program.

USDA Income  
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations  
Monthly Income Standards  
October 1, 2012 & October 1, 2013

Household Size	Income Limits
1.	\$ 1,080.00
2.	\$ 1,410.00
3.	\$ 1,740.00
4.	\$ 2,081.00
5.	\$ 2,438.00
6.	\$ 2,795.00
7.	\$ 3,125.00
8.	\$ 3,455.00

For each additional member add \$ 330.00

Office hours are 8:00 A.M – 5:00 P.M  
Lunch hour is 12:00 - 1:00  
Yvonne Theodore, Laurie Jackson 1-888-723-8288 ask for Commodity Program  
Office # are 231-398-6716 or 231-398-6715

## Another Reason to LOVE the Commodities Department

### FDPIR client survey question:

How does the commodity food help your household?

The Commodities I get from the tribe helps me immensely, with health problems and long Trips to the doctors. And the Rising cost of gasoline and food these extras make it possible For me to eat through the month. I am very grateful they are available.

## 2013 Gatherings for Four Season's Kateri circle



March 16 2013 Easter Gathering  
Four Season Kateri Circle Potluck  
St. Thomas Hall 3252 Apple ave 11 am to 3 PM Egg Hunts for the kids---door prizes and raffles and silent auctions

March 23 , Reeths Puffer Middle School SPRING POW -WOW-  
Reeths Puffer - Whitehall - Holton - Montague Indian Education  
noon to 5 ----1 PM Grand Entry 3;30 Give away and 4 pm The Feast ----Dish to pass for the feast.....Raffles and door prizes craft tables for the pow-wow....call if you want to be a trader...noon to 5 ----1 Grand Entry 3;30 Give away PM Feast POTLUCKSee More.

all events sponsored by Native American Ministry If you have any questions call or email.  
Patti Wlodkowski 231-670-1455  
Email: [pski839@gmail.com](mailto:pski839@gmail.com)

## Communication: The Key to Great Safety

Something is amiss, but you can't figure it out. Maybe it's due to poor communication. We all can speak a language – some of us can speak many languages – but are we really communicating? Are you being heard? Most importantly, are you being understood? Communication and safety go hand in hand and without good communication skills, you may actually find yourself talking “at” people, not really communicating. The following covers tips and techniques can be used by anyone who really wants to make a difference in how they interact with and influence others.

Start with the thought that people come to work to do what is right. No one comes to the job purposely thinking, “Hey, what can I mess up today?” Start with the assumption that they don't know something you know or don't see something you see.

Create the environment to be heard. Sure, there's a time honored tradition of giving your apprentice corrective feedback in public and thick skin comes with the job, but some people need privacy for difficult conversations. Knowing your audience is very important if you want to really be heard.

Set the stage for the conversation. If you see something you want to coach around while working, call a timeout and make the job safe. Put your crew at ease; reinforce their good work before starting a critical conversation. If the feedback can wait until a natural break in the work, use the break as the time to share what you observed.

Be tactful. Discuss what you observed, something like, “Hey, guys, just wanted to take a minute to let you know what I observed right now before we do it again and hurt someone.” Quickly getting the issue out in the open helps get an immediate resolution, and demonstrating care helps put the crew at ease. One thing you want to avoid are long conversations that sound like sermons or testimonials. Involve the crew in the discussion and ask them for solutions. Observation conversations are teaching moments, and people learn best when they have a chance to participate in the discussion.

Avoid abrupt, offensive and accusatory statements. Address the inappropriate behaviour and not the individual. Be respectful and understanding – your intent is to create a two-lane highway of communication, one lane for giving information and one lane for receiving information. As the team lead, it's your job to really understand why the observed behaviour occurred. Asking and listening are the only ways to get to the “why.”

Maintain a nonthreatening approach. Some studies say as much as 70 percent of communication is nonverbal. Body posture, tone of voice, facial expressions and emotional tone convey the meaning behind the words you speak.

Validate cooperation. Be sure you reinforce your crew's cooperation during the coaching session, complimenting them on the things that are going well. Make it a point to let them know they are doing a good job and that the coaching talk is a demonstration of care, as no job is so urgent or important that it cannot be done safely.

Ensure you listen. Patiently listen to the individual; don't interrupt. Make every attempt to ensure you understand their perspective. Learn why the individual is doing what they are doing.

Apologize if needed. Sometimes our emotions get the better of us – if for some reason you lose your cool, acknowledge it. Apologize immediately, get it out in the open and explain why you're emotional. Many times the emotion comes because we care, so tell your crew that. Talking about it clears the air and allows your crews to see you as person who is genuine.

Agree where you can. Look for opportunities during the discussion to agree with the individual or crew you are coaching, giving credit where you can. Verbalize your understanding of the person's situation as this helps you build rapport and allows the individual to meet you in the middle.

Encourage the crew to hold to standards. Some crew members may not know the standard, and as we are aware, we often learn from others so our understanding of the standard may not be correct. Reinforce that standards are proven to protect people and equipment. Make sure you allow for discussion and don't just drive for blind compliance. Adults need to understand the reasons behind a standard. Make sure you provide education on why the standard exists.

Advocate for the individual's or crew's success. Demonstrate you care by helping resolve their issue and concerns when raised, and keep them informed of progress.

With a little practice of these basic concepts, you can achieve great communication that will allow crew members to learn from each other, generate a team environment and establish a strong team dynamic that will enable your crew to work out issues as they see them. After all, isn't the goal of safety to cover each other's backs when we need it?

## Frugal Franny!

### A bit of planning can save you a ton of money

Want to get the best deal on everything that you buy? It all starts with knowing when to shop.

### June

#### Best time to buy

#### Food:

Ice cream  
Popsicles  
Soda  
Bottled water  
Iced tea mix and bags

#### Non-food:

Dishes  
Tools (around Father's Day)

### July

#### Best time to buy

#### Food:

Hot dogs  
Ground beef  
Hamburger and hot dog buns  
Condiments (ketchup, mustard, barbeque sauce, relish)  
Salad dressing  
Chips  
Ice cream  
Popsicles  
Soda  
Bottled water  
Iced tea mix and bags

#### Non-food:

Grill supplies (charcoal, lighter fluid)  
Party supplies (disposable plates, cups, napkins and utensils)  
Furniture

### August

#### Best time to buy

#### Food:

Cereal  
Breakfast bars  
Peanut butter  
Jelly  
Lunch meat  
American cheese  
Yogurt  
Chips  
Snack cakes  
Cookies  
Ice cream  
Soda  
Bottled water  
Iced tea mix and bags  
Drink boxes

#### Non-food:

Pool supplies  
Outdoor toys  
Outdoor furniture  
Bathing suits  
Summer clothes  
Summer shoes  
Linens  
Pillows  
School supplies  
Office supplies  
Underwear  
Socks  
Undershirts

## Try and try again

Did you know that the current Tribal seal that we use is actually a third version?

1



The river on it is because we made our living most by hunting, fishing, and trapping along the river's. The Manistee, Pere Marquette, Pentwater, White, Muskegon, Grand, Thornapple, and Kalamazoo Rivers. It is shown in all three Tribal Seals.

The nine feathers mean the nine Bands that make our tribe.

The circle stands for all things that are round like the sun and the moon. Mother Earth turns in a circle, we dance in a circle, the birds make their nests in circles, and the circle of life.

The two flying eagles beside the tree symbolize honor and respect

The tree is a cedar tree for prosperity and peace.

2



The four-sacred colors of our Tribe are - red, black, white, and

**Yellow means new beginnings.**

**Red is for how we grow.**

**Black means is time to rest let our bodies relax and change**

**White is for our elders and the wisdom they bring us.**

Did you know there was so much in one little seal that we see so often?

3



## Boared?

### Make balloon rockets!

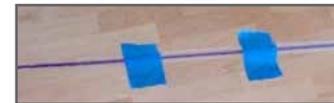
What you need:

- Piece of yarn (or string)
- cut to about 6 feet
- Balloon
- 2 Chairs
- Drinking straw
- Tape
- Scissors
- Adult supervision

Start by tying one piece of the string to the back of a chair.



Thread a drinking straw onto the other end of the string, and then tie it to the second chair.



Attach 2 pieces of tape (about 2 inches in length) to the center of the straw...



Holding onto the opening of the balloon (so the air doesn't escape), attach it to the straw using the tape...

Pull the balloon to one end of the string (so that the opening of the balloon is touching one of the chairs), and let go.

Observe what happens. The balloon should start to move as soon as you let go of it.

Action and reaction is a fairly simple concept - To make an object move one way, a force has to work in the opposite direction.

In this case, the balloon is full of air. When you let go of the balloon, causing the air to rush out of the opening, it creates a pushing force in the opposite direction. This makes the balloon move.



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### Fred Ongcapin, J.D., LL.M Tribal Court Advocate

(Licensed to Practice Law Before Tribal Court and Federal Agency Appeals)

Represent Tribal Members before Tribal Court  
Represent Tribal Members before Federal Agency Appeals U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Indian Appeals

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## Assistance Programs



### Mission Statement

“To strengthen and secure maximum independence for individuals and family members of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians by providing assistance services that meet the needs of the community.”

### Vision

“Meeting the needs of our community and empowering our members through accessible and responsive services to promote self-sufficiency, quality of life, health status and wellbeing.”

### Goals

Meet the needs of the individual and/or family by providing programs for health and safety, continued utility service and other services requested by tribal members that are identified as a need or crisis. Maintain a quality relationship with the members of the Tribal Community. Utilize a centralized intake process for the Tribal Community to contact for program information and to receive prompt services and/or referrals

### Objectives

- Promote health, safety, self sufficiency and personal growth in individuals and family members by providing confidential, consistent, effective and timely services to ensure the health and safety of eligible individuals/ families in need of assistance.
- Respond to all family support advocate's and referral requests to ensure the most assistance is provided to the eligible member and/or family in crisis or in need of assistance
- Advocate and/or provide funding for Indian specific programs to fill the needs of the local and at-large communities based on membership requests
- Inform membership of existing local and Tribal resources and coordinate service assistance.
- Network with tribal service departments and/or agencies to maximize utilization of services and information available to the members of the Tribal Community.
- Create and implement a centralized intake process accessible to service departments. This process will be utilized to compile information for case management, family needs assessment, referral and follow up, service tracking of funding provided to each individual.

### **FY2013 Members Assistance Department Programs**

#### Program Update:

The maximum amount of assistance is limited to budget amount proposed by the Ogema and approved by Tribal Council for the given program year. An Assistance Matrix shall be utilized in determining level of assistance amount per applicant based on level of resources.

Updates are identified in the Members Assistance Program Regulations available online at [www.lrboi-nsn.com](http://www.lrboi-nsn.com) or upon request the department will mail a copy.

Programs are available in ALL STATES with the exception of the grant funded programs as noted in program listing. Programs are subject to available funding

#### \*Food Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a dietary/food crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. If household is receiving food assistance from another agency, it is the responsibility of the applicant to verify with agency to ensure accessing this program will not affect current benefits. Submission of proof of purchase (receipts) is a requirement of this program. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household.
- Meet program eligibility
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Amount of assistance: Level of assistance is based on household income and the Assistance Matrix.

#### \*Low Income Energy Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing an energy crisis. Assistance may be accessed once per year. Assistance is available in

all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Received a shut off notice from utility vendor
- Received a denial from an outside agency for utility assistance
- Amount of assistance: Level of assistance is based on household income and the Assistance Matrix.

#### \*Elder Chore Assistance Program

The Elder Chore Assistance assists elders age 55 and older. This program is intended to provide limited, short-term financial assistance to eligible Elder members who are disabled and are limited in their ability to perform routine household chores essential to their health and safety and have no other recourse for assistance.

There is no income requirement for this program. Elder must be a permanent member of the household and must provide proof of a permanent or temporary physical disability. Temporary disability shall be for no less than 30 days and shall be verified by documented evidence of temporary disability from a qualified mental health professional or medical professional. Permanent disability shall be verified by documented evidence from a qualified mental health professional or medical professional.

The assistance for elder chore services are identified in the categories below;

- Snow Removal from drive way and sidewalks
- Weather stripping around doors and windows
- Grass cutting, leaf raking and removal, general clearing of debris around home
- Gutter cleaning
- General cleaning of the household including but not limited to dusting and cob web removal, vacuuming, trash removal, bathroom cleaning of toilets and water closets, dishwashing, laundry, scrubbing floors and walls, cleaning of appliances, washing windows, stripping and making of beds

- Circumstances that are outside the scope of items listed may be applicable to the program scope only if left un-serviced poses a threat to the health and safety of the elder.

Amount of Assistance – Level of assistance is based on Elder resources and the Assistance Matrix.

If scope of assistance is beyond what the tribe can assist with there are referrals resources such as Area Agency on Aging, Community Action Agency and other agencies. If you are in need of assistance in accessing these services please contact the Members Assistance Department.

#### \*Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and experiencing a housing crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Program may be access once every two years. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Received demand for payment, eviction or foreclosure notice
- Relocation to affordable housing
- Relocation due to loss of housing due to natural disaster
- Relocation due to substandard housing as documented by an inspector
- If program has been accessed in the past, received a denial from an outside agency for assistance.
- Amount of assistance: Level of assistance is based on household income and the Assistance Matrix. Equivalent to one month's rent or mortgage payment not to exceed program maximum program amount available to prevent or resolve housing crisis.

## \*Emergency Transportation Assistance

The Emergency Transportation Assistance Program assists members experiencing a transportation crisis.

Program scope for assistance is repair or replacement of mechanical and/or electrical items required for proper vehicle operation and maintenance of safety items.

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Vehicle ownership is in the name of the Tribal member or a residence verified permanent member of the household
- Vehicle areas in need of repair meet the scope of the program.

Amount of assistance – Level of assistance is based on household income and the Assistance Matrix.

## Home Repair Program

Assistance is subject to available funding. The Home Repair Program assists home owners who meet the eligibility requirements. The program assists with the repair of existing substandard roof, electrical, heating, plumbing and weatherization. Assistance is available in all states. Note: Home Repair Eligibility is based on Annual Gross Income, please contact department for income criteria.

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household and reside in home year around
- Home is located in the continental United States.
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; program income guideline is based on annual gross income.

## **~THE FOLLOWING ARE GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS ~**

### Elder Meal Program - Title VI

The Elder Meal Program available at the Aki Community Center.

Meals will be served for lunch at noon Monday thru Thursday at the Aki Community Center located at 2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung Manistee, MI 49660

One very important component of keeping elders healthy in their homes and communities is providing nutrition services. Adequate nutrition is critical to health, functioning, and quality of life. The purposes of nutrition services, activities and disease prevention education are:

- To reduce hunger and food insecurity;
- To promote socialization of older individuals; and
- To promote health and well-being by assisting older individuals to gain access to nutrition and other disease prevention and health promotion services to delay the onset of adverse health conditions.

### Eligibility:

Enrolled Tribal Elders age 55 and over. Also included in this eligibility are spouse of the eligible participant, handicapped or disabled individuals in the same household are eligible to participate when accompanying the Tribal Elder to the meal site. The meals are provided at NO CHARGE.

Guest Meals are available for individuals who would like to attend a meal with an eligible participant/Tribal Elder but do not meet eligibility guidelines. There will be a charge for the guest

meal that is calculated according to the meal being served. Average cost is about \$5.00. This provision does not exclude Caregivers, In-Home Caregivers or Home Aides from paying for guest meals if they do not meet eligibility requirements.

Donations are acceptable and will be used for program activities and to purchase food. At no time are contributions required however the offer to contribute must be provided per program requirements.

### Home Delivered Meals

(limited services and based on availability of volunteers) Elders should only be on the home delivered meal program if they are unable to leave their homes without great difficulty. Their inability to leave home may be because of illness, disability, or general frailty. Frailty means having a physical or mental disability that restricts the ability of an individual to perform normal daily tasks. This shall be determined by a mental health professional or medical professional.

### Monthly Menu

the menu will be published in the Rapid River News, the Currents, posted in tribal buildings and posted on our website. Menu is subject to change at any time.

Beneficial Activities will begin activities in September and will include fun games, educational presentations on Elder health and wellbeing and other activities of interest to our Elders. The activities portion of the program is a collaborated effort with tribal service departments and outside service agencies; we are hoping to have a well blended number of events on the September Menu Calendar. This calendar will be mailed to all Elders whom have completed their Intake Form.

Registration is required to participate in the Elder Meal Program with initial intake processes taking place at this time. If you would like to participate in this program please contact Lee Iverson or Noelle Cross about this program. To complete the short intake process contact the Members Assistance Department or complete the form at the first meal you attend.

The many benefits of this program will be evident with more participation by our Elders. To ensure this program continues there will be assessments conducted on participating elders. The data gathered from this process will assist us in gauging how the program is working and areas where improvements can be made.

### \*LIHEAP Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Heat Source – Natural Gas, Propane, Electric, Coal, Fuel Oil and Wood)

This is a grant funded program to provide assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a heating crisis and live in the 9 county service areas in Michigan. (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

- Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.
- Priority is given to Elders, Disabled and Single parents of young children.
- Eligible if someone in the household is receiving SSI benefits or are receiving Food Stamps

Individuals who reside outside the 9 county areas and states- LIHEAP is available at the state level. If you are in need assistance, contact your local Department of Health and Human Services for assistance.

### ATTENTION TRIBAL ELDERS -LIHEAP-Cooling Assistance LIHEAP Component Tribal Elders

This is a grant funded component of LIHEAP to provide assistance to Tribal Elders who meet the eligibility requirements, have a medical condition that require air conditioning during hot summer months, are experiencing an energy crisis due to additional energy burden to operate the cooling system and live in the 9 county service areas in Michigan. (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

- Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.
- Medical condition and need for air conditioning must be certified and documented by medical professional.
- Assistance is available May 1, 2013 thru September 30, 2013.

***NOTE\*\* LIHEAP funds are available in all counties of Michigan, for the counties outside of the Tribal 9 county service areas the local Department of Health and Human Services in your county administers this program under their guideline rules. LIHEAP is also available in all states through their local Health and Human Services and Housing Authorities. Funding Cycle is Oct 1st thru Sept 30th – If you are in need of assistance it is important to contact the office as the need arises.***

### Well and Septic Program

The Well and Septic is an Indian Health Services (IHS) funded program. This program promotes health and safety for our tribal members by providing new or renovated sanitation facilities (Well and Septic). This program is available in the nine county service areas. Applicant must be:

- Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- Reside in the nine county service areas (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)
- Home must be the primary residence of applicant – (Reside in year around)
- Ownership of home/site must be in the tribal member's name.
- Project Site meets the I.H.S Eligibility Requirements.

A complete application and the supporting documents must be submitted in order to process any assistance request in a timely manner. Supporting documents are listed on the cover page of the application and are required at time of submission.

Please contact the Members Assistance Department for program information and/or to request an application. Applications and Program Regulations are available online at [www.lrboi-nsn.com](http://www.lrboi-nsn.com) Members Assistance link

The 2012 Nmé (sturgeon) program had another successful year. The 2012 season started in March with the return of Corey Jerome (a previous seasonal employee from 2007) hired to implement the sturgeon rearing facility program. With the arrival of an early spring the field work started in late March/early April. As with every year, one of the first steps taken is to drive the sturgeon rearing facility (SRF) from its winter storage in Big Blue (at the Natural Resource Department) to Rainbow Bend rearing site where it takes a couple days to set it up and begin running water through it. The next step was to set egg mats at Old Bridge Pool (in the Big Manistee River) in hopes of collecting fertilized eggs to be brought back to the SRF for rearing. The Big Manistee River hit a critical temperature in early April (11 degrees Celsius) which is a cue for the sturgeon to begin spawning. After some long days on the river and at the SRF the collection of eggs was completed and for the third time in the sturgeon program history eggs had been collected to be reared at the SRF. Attempts to collect eggs have been done in previous years to document spawning locations but infrequently reared.



After we collected eggs the countdown began for starting larval drift. Larval drift is when the young sturgeon (larvae) leaves the safety of the gravel river bottom under the cover of night and move downstream. During this time we place nets in the river for the collection of larval sturgeon to be raised within the SRF during the summer. The fish are removed to reduce the risk of them becoming prey and can continue to imprint on chemical and natural cues in the Manistee River. This imprinting will aid in the future return of the sturgeon to the Manistee River when they are ready to spawn. Larval drift collection was conducted in May and June by seasonal and fulltime staff. Once the collection of sturgeon is completed, they are reared in the SRF until the release ceremony in September.



During this time, they are checked on twice a day where we feed them and clean their rearing tanks. Tours of the facility and viewings of the fish occurs on an occasional basis as people come and go from the Rainbow Bend recreation area, school group's setup special functions, or the department receives a request for a tour. This past year we toured over 100 students from the Manistee High School through the SRF a couple days before the fish were released.

This past fall the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Nmé release ceremony was held on September 22. At the center of attention were the 28 young-of-year sturgeon that were some of the largest sturgeon at time of release in the history of the SRF. They averaged just over 9 inches with the longest at 10 inches. The sturgeon were released back into the Manistee River with the assistance of 150 people gathering on the banks of the river. The sturgeon were released back to the Big Manistee River in a good way with ceremonial drum, stories and song of the sturgeon and their return back to the river in the future.



One last check of the river is done in the fall under the night sky searching for young-of-year (this year's hatchlings) and age-1 sturgeon (the previous years). Using spot lights and slowly moving upstream sections of habitat in the Big Manistee River are checked for the presence of sturgeon. Once located they are hand netted to collect vital information, including length, weight, genetic sample, and checked for tags for identification. This survey allows us to be able to check for recruitment, which is the number of sturgeon making it from egg to young-of-year and eventually onto a spawning adult. It also allows us to compare wild sturgeon to those that have been raised in the SRF. We want to see that there aren't any differences in habitat use, size, and genetics.

If you would like to visit the SRF and see the different life-stages of sturgeon contact Corey Jerome at (231) 398-2195 or [cjerome@lrboi.com](mailto:cjerome@lrboi.com).

Written by Corey Jerome



As the season moves to conclusion we look back on the successes of 2012. We continued to partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the sturgeon program including assistance conducting drift and visual surveys. To date we have released over 350 fish, and some of the fish have been recaptured down by Holland, Grand Haven, and Ludington. We are seeing more recaptures than any other facility and added to the number again in 2012 with a few more. We move forward into the 2013 season and build on the past experiences to have a bright future with the excitement building for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Nmé Release Ceremony on September 14, 2013. If you would like more information on the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Release Ceremony please contact the Natural Resource Department at 866-723-1594.



It is the time of year where walleye fishing opportunities are in full swing (if you enjoy ice fishing) or just around the corner for open water fishing so the Inland Fisheries Program presents some of these opportunities for you to consider!

Many opportunities exist for the harvest of walleye in lakes and rivers. Under the 2007 Inland Consent Decree lakes within the 1836 Ceded Territory were identified as either walleye lake systems or non-walleye lake systems. Regulations may differ between these lake systems depending on the time of year when walleye are being harvested. Walleye lake systems are identified in the 2007 Inland Consent Decree and a list can be obtained at the LRBOI Natural Resource Department. Tribal members are encouraged to contact the Natural Resource Department when determining whether an inland lake and its tributaries is a walleye lake system or non-walleye lake system. Additionally, specific regulations were developed for walleye harvest in streams tributary to the bays de Noc. The sections below outline the regulations and harvest opportunities for walleye within the 1836 Ceded Territory.

### Walleye Lake System Regulations

- Open all year
- Allowable gear types in inland lakes include: hook and line, spear, bow, hand net, long seine and impoundment net (see LRBOI 2008 Inland Fishing Regulations section 3 for definitions of gear types)
- Allowable gear types in tributaries (rivers and streams) include: hook and line, spear, bow and hand net
- A harvest permit needs to be obtained from the LRBOI Natural Resource Department seven hours prior to walleye harvest when using hook and line, spear, bow and hand net between April 1st – May 14<sup>th</sup> in the Upper Peninsula and between March 15<sup>th</sup> through the Friday before the last Saturday in April in the Lower Peninsula
- A harvest permit needs to be obtained from the LRBOI Natural Resource Department 24 hours prior to harvest when using impoundment nets and long seines in walleye lake systems during any time of the year
- Bag limit of 10 fish per day (unless otherwise specified by permit) with a possession limit of 20 fish
- Minimum size limit is 14” (walleye harvested under 14” that are unable to be released alive should be kept and included in the daily bag limit)
- Harvest reports must be submitted to the Natural Resource Department within seven days of harvest

### Non Walleye Lake System Regulations

- Open all year
- Allowable gear types in inland lakes include: hook and line, spear, bow, hand net, long seine and impoundment net (see LRBOI 2008 Inland Fishing Regulations section 3 for definitions of gear types)
- Allowable gear types in tributaries (rivers and streams) include: hook and line, spear, bow and hand net
- A harvest permit needs to be obtained 24 hours prior to harvest when using long seines and impoundment nets
- Bag limit of 10 fish per day

(unless otherwise specified by permit) with a possession limit of 20 fish

- Minimum size limit is 14” (walleye harvested under 14” that are unable to be released alive should be kept and included in the daily bag limit)
- Harvest reports must be submitted to the Natural Resource Department within seven days of harvest

### Walleye Harvest in bays de Noc Tributaries

Sturgeon River, Days River, Escanaba River, and Rapid River (Delta County)

- Open season March 15<sup>th</sup> – End of February. There is a closure from March 1<sup>st</sup> – March 14<sup>th</sup>
- Allowable gear types include hook and line and spear
- A harvest permit needs to be obtained from the LRBOI Natural Resource Department seven hours prior to harvest when using hook and line between March 15<sup>th</sup> – May 14<sup>th</sup> and the use of spears during any time of the year
- Bag limit of 10 fish per day with a possession limit of 20 fish
- Minimum size limit is 14” (walleye harvested under 14” that are unable to be released alive should be kept and included in the daily bag limit)
- Harvest reports must be submitted to the Natural Resource Department within seven days of harvest

### All other tributaries

- Open season May 15<sup>th</sup> – End of February. There is a closure from March 1<sup>st</sup> – May 14<sup>th</sup>
- Allowable gear types include hook and line, spear, bow and hand net
- Bag limit of 10 fish per day with a possession limit of 20 fish
- Minimum size limit is 14” (walleye harvested under 14” that are unable to be released alive should be kept and included in the daily bag limit)
- Harvest reports must be submitted to the Natural Resource Department within seven days of harvest

A list of walleye lake systems may be picked up at the LRBOI Natural Resource Department.

Please contact:

Marty Holtgren at 231-398-2193

with questions regarding this article.



## Name that Native Fish



While these fish do not make themselves very well known, they have existed here for generations and are as old as the Great Lakes. The burbot goes by many names including eelpout, ling, and my favorite “the lawyer”. Interestingly, burbot are one of the few species that are found on every continent that borders the Arctic Circle.

Their biology is quite unique in the world of fishes. For one, they are most active during the winter. They love very cold water and do not tolerate warmer temperatures. Burbot have an enlarged heart and liver making blood-flow and nutrient delivery very efficient, even in the coldest temperatures. With this big heart they are well suited for Northern Michigan.

For most of their life, burbot inhabit some of the deepest waters in Lake Michigan, only coming into shallower waters in the coldest part of winter to spawn. They are occasional captured by commercial fisheries and assessment crews, but their elusive behaviors have limited extensive sampling and have left many questions unanswered.

The LRBOI Natural Resources Department has identified juvenile burbot in several of our streams during summer electro-fishing surveys. One of which is Sickle Creek, a tributary stream to the Manistee River. Sickle Creek is a small, spring-fed stream characterized by undercut banks and a sandy bottom.

*Written by Dan Mays*

### Sickle Creek in January. Manistee, MI



Beginning in 2012, the Natural Resources Department has begun to look at when and how burbot are using Sickle Creek. This project is intended to evaluate timing of spawning, spawner abundance, and dispersal of burbot within Sickle Creek. Additional research questions that may be answered by this project include spawning behavior and habitat use.

As part of the Native Species Stewardship Plan, it is important to identify native species and ensure their existence for future generations. Burbot are one of two native predatory fish species in the Great Lakes, and are an important part of our ecosystem. Although they are not easily studied, improved knowledge of burbot will assist in protecting this unique native species.

Currently, the Natural Resources Department is operating a video monitoring station on Sickle Creek to record migrating burbot. Although burbot have been camera shy as of recent, their moment in the spotlight awaits.

The community is starting to notice the new big, beautiful building out by the Trading Post! The Government Center is really coming together and folks are starting to get excited by the prospect of a centralized facility where government operations and services can all be together.

Since our last article, the building is enclosed, some floors are down and a few walls are going up. As you walk across the bridge and enter the front you can finally get the sense of what the building is going to be for the tribe and our people. For the Spring Membership Meeting, it is possible that some tours are going to be available in case you would like to see the facility. Watch your newspaper, the website and Face Book page for details as we get closer to the meeting.

**Will house the majority of government departments and consolidate member services**



Approximately 54,000 square foot facility

**There is much thought into the design so that 100 years from now, the facility can still be used, that's why modular walls and raised floors were among the considerations included.**



**Bettering services for tribal people and a commitment to the region through investment that will provide jobs.**

## Tribal Veteran Representative Training



**DATE/TIME:** April 9 – 11, 2013  
**LOCATION:** American Legion Post Farwell/Clare  
400 E. Ludington Dr.  
Farwell, MI

The training will be 2 ½ days so on the 11th, it will end at noon. The training will be done by William 'Buck' Richardson who is Native American and has done these outreach trainings all over the country. He is passionate about

getting Veterans the benefits knowledge and assistance they need. He is a strong proponent of the TVR positions and works tirelessly to train tribal staff to assume this role.

The intent of the program is for the tribes to designate staff to be trained and become the liaison between the VA and tribal Veterans to assist with helping them to know what is available and how to help them with questions, etc. Of course it would be up to tribal leadership to support this role and designate who they want trained to assume this duty. Possibly staff who deal with benefits, etc., would be interested or members who have served in the military or have family in the military.

This topic was discussed at the VA/IHS Collaborative meeting in October and, at that time, no training had been scheduled for this area. With Buck's help, we were able to coordinate this training in a central location for VISNs 11 and 12 so having it in the Clare/Farwell area will hopefully allow tribes to let designated staff attend without a lot of cost to the tribes.

If you have questions, please let me know. Your tribal chair should be getting a more formal invite to participate but I hope you will discuss this with leadership to see if there is support for this TVR role within your members. I'm sure if the tribes would support your travel, we could train multiple tribal members at this event.

## Idle no more demonstration in Lansing

LRBOI Ogema Larry Romanelli, Council member Lee Sprague, Council candidate Gary DiPiazza and a few other tribal members from Little River joined the demonstration in Lansing on January 28th in support of the Idle No More movement.



**Idle No More**





Start Date: 01/21/2013

Time: 5:30

## Need Help Making Regalia

We can help!

Do you need help making your regalia. Let the Kwewok Circle help you. Just bring your fabric and any thing you need help with and we can help you. We can help make shawls, dresses, and some bead works. If you need help with dancing, and pow-wow etiquette we can help with that also.

Contact: Debra Davis  
Kwewok Circle  
We will meet at the Education office in the old casino. We have sewing machines.

Phone: 231-398-6724  
If this time is not good for you call me.

Bring a snack to share.



## Little River Band Elder Jackets

available in Men's sizes  
XS-5XL and tall XL-3XL

and Women's sizes  
XS - 4XL

### Men's Colors (Body/Trim) available:

Black/Charcoal, Charcoal/Black, Slate Blue/Charcoal,  
Chocolate/Black, Maroon/Charcoal, Red/Charcoal,  
Navy/Charcoal, Tundra/Black, Burnt Orange/Charcoal

### Talls available in:

Black, Charcoal, Navy, Tundra, Slate Blue, Chocolate

### Women's Colors (Body/Trim) available:

Black/Charcoal, Light Blue/Charcoal, Cream/Charcoal,  
Fushia/Charcoal, Red/Charcoal, Chocolate/Black,  
Eggplant/Charcoal, Navy/Charcoal, Leaf/Charcoal

### PRICING (includes right chest embroidery)

For Full Back Embroidery, add \$15.00 to listed price.

XS-XL	\$38.00	4XL	\$50.00	2XLT	\$47.00
2XL	\$41.00	5XL	\$56.00	3XLT	\$50.00
3XL	\$44.00	XLT	\$44.00		

Contact Jamie Friedel (231) 398-2274  
or Bay Supply & Marketing (231) 943-3249  
to place your order!

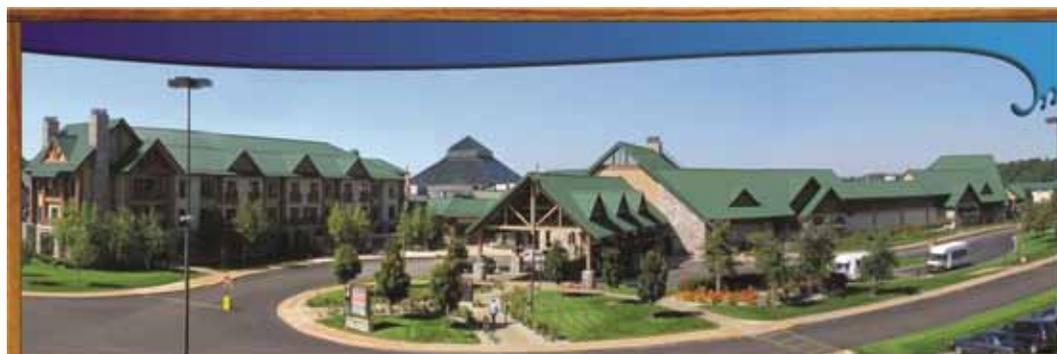
## Purchasing Vendors Indian Preference

The Tribe's Purchasing Office maintains a vendor resource database that enables the Tribe to identify vendors who can supply products and services for the Tribe's needs. The database includes vendors who have previously bid on items/services or have requested to be in the database. Vendors are organized by product and service categories in the database. It is important that vendors describe their products and services. The Tribe provides preference to Native American owned and operated businesses. Indian preference will be given only to bidders who provide proof of preference status to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indian's Purchasing Office. For complete information on how you can receive certification for your business and have your business listed in the Tribe's vendor resource database, please contact the LRBOI Purchasing Office. 231-398-6814 or 231-398-6804

### US Forest Service 100 Years of Caring for the Land and Serving People



"The Forest Service is recruiting NA/AI members for jobs and careers in the Forest Service. Explore the possibilities at <http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/> or contact LRBOI Tribal Member Dan Bailey at [dbailey@fs.fed.us](mailto:dbailey@fs.fed.us) for more information here in Manistee. Be sure to let them know that you are a tribal member!"



## Employment Opportunities

Interested in joining a progressive, fun and future forward work force?  
Why not check out our amazing employment opportunities?  
??? How do I apply ???

Log onto our Website at [www.LRCR.com](http://www.LRCR.com) and click on Careers  
Call our Human Resources Department at (231) 723-4530  
Stop by our Human Resources Department located at  
2700 Orchard Hwy Manistee, MI  
Monday – Friday 7am-5pm

Send your Application, Resume and Cover letter to:  
Little River Casino Resort - Attn: Recruiting  
P.O. Box 417 Manistee, MI 49660  
Phone: (231) 723-4530  
Fax: (231) 723-1589  
Email: [recruiting@lrcr.com](mailto:recruiting@lrcr.com)

Available job openings can also be found at all LRBOI Tribal Government buildings,  
in LRBOI Tribal Newsletters and at Michigan Works! branch offices  
Tribal Preference will be followed in accordance with the  
LRBOI- Indian Preference in Employment (Ordinance #11-600-02)



Attn: Recruiting • PO Box 417 • Manistee, MI 49660  
Phone: 1-231-723-4530 • Fax: 1-231-723-1589  
[lrcr.com](http://lrcr.com)



Gerald King  
Dakota Renner  
Andy King  
Todd Nelson  
Christopher Curtis



Hannah and  
Mathew Sandel  
I love you like Penguins  
love giving nuggies!

Love, Mommy Eagle  
*You are all I could  
ever want*

## Spring Shopping

Mark your calendar for March  
26th, 2013 from 3 p.m. till 7 p.m.  
at Aki Community Center .  
Come see

*thirty-one*

Scentsy  
THE HOTTEST  
NEW THING IN CANDLES

PARTYLITE

STAMPIN' UP!

and much more.

Sponsored by Sandy Mezeske!  
Any questions please call 231-510-2747.



## Venture Plan Online March AM Program

Wednesday, March 06, 2013 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, 8 sessions ending Wednesday, April 24

Venture Plan Online is an eight-week training program for starting or growing your business.

From the initial steps of clarifying your goals and business concept to setting up your operations,

marketing and financial planning, this online workshop-based course guides you through the business planning process. If you are considering starting a business or already running one, Venture Plan can help you shape your company for growth. Online access to small business experts, business planning software, and a pipeline of resources are key to this unique online learning opportunity. The fees include books, Palo Alto LivePlan software, access to MI-SBTDC personal business consultant, online resources through Palo Alto and webinar access.

For questions please email [growth@gvsu.edu](mailto:growth@gvsu.edu) <https://www.misbtcd.net/reg.aspx?mode=event&event=1320035>

If you have issues with Google Wallet, please contact Elaine at 616-331-7378.

NOTE: NO REFUNDS WILL BE PROCESSED 7 DAYS PRIOR TO CLASS START.

## Obituary for Barbara June Stalzer



Barbara June (Shalifoe) Stalzer, age 68, went to the spirit world to be with her only true love of 44 years Roger Stalzer on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. She was born December 8, 1944 in Muskegon to Solomon and Rose (Bailey) Shalifoe. She loved her kids and family. She enjoyed going to pow wows, cooking fry bread and visiting with friends and family. She was damn proud to be Indian and a dedicated activist fighting on behalf of her people all her life. She was generous to a fault. Her giving and generous nature were matched only by her sense of humor, quick wit and sharp tongue. She was preceded in death by her husband Roger Stalzer, parents Rose and Solomon Shalifoe, brother Roger Shalifoe Sr., sister Bernice (Shalifoe) Marshall and grandson Kody Stalzer. Visitation, services and luncheon were held at LRBOI Aki Maadiziwin Community Center located at 2953 Shaw Be Qu-Ung, Manistee, MI 49660 on Saturday, January 26, 2013. JD Gibson officiating. Native American Church of the Morning

Star services continued throughout the night. Barbara is survived by her children Becky (Phil Sr.) Wahr, Hootie Stalzer, and Rabbit (Julie) Stalzer, sisters and brothers Carlos (Susan) Eagle, Jean (Rick) Hewitt, Stella (Jim) Gibson, Beta (Joseph) Genia, Tom Marshall, Marie Shalifoe, White Rabbit Gordon and Odell Shalifoe, grandchildren James (Shozhgoo) Shalifoe, Philicia Wahr, Phillip Wahr, Keezik Stalzer, Eric Stalzer, Shawnageeshgooqua Stalzer, Joselyn Cabarrubia, Jalissa Cabarrubia, Jacob Cabarrubia, Jasmine Cabarrubia, Jacqueline Cabarrubia, Jessie Cabarrubia, Ricky Sheffer, Justin Sheffer, Kayleigh Sheffer, Mouse Mills, Tyler Mills, Mary Hutchinson, great grandchildren Dominic Shalifoe, Nakoda Shalifoe, Nodin Shalifoe, Sophia Shalifoe, Aden Krenshaw, Kodiak Stalzer, Serenity Stalzer, Cheyenne Stalzer and many nephews, nieces, and many, many more loved ones.



## Obituary for, Mr. Howard

### “Howie” W. Koone III



Mr. Howard "Howie" W. Koone III, age 54, passed away Sunday, December 23, 2012. He was born in Muskegon, MI on March 20, 1958 to Howard & Irma (Briggs) Koone. Mr. Koone served his country in the US Marines and had been employed as a Supervisor

at Little River Casino. He was a proud member of Little River Ottawa Tribal Warriors Society.

Howie is survived by his sisters, Linda (Robert) Perkins of Twin Lake, Cindy (Kelly) DeFrench of Norton Shores, Teresa (John) Wabis of Walkerville; brothers, Leland (Kelly) Koone of Muskegon, Todd (Mark) Koone of Rockford; sons, Tyler Priest of FL, Bryan Ford of Kalamazoo, Logan Priest of Holland. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A service has been held. MEMORIAL: Neuro Rehabilitation Services, 1401 Cedar Street NE. Grand Rapids MI 49503.

It was a Saturday like most Saturdays around the Mitchell household. Earlier in the day, my Daughter Aanjiikwe and I had rescued a wounded Grebe from being ran over on US-31. The sub-zero temps over the past several days had quickly froze Manistee Lake over and this unfortunate Grebe had its foot completely encased with a large chunk of ice, which prevented him from being able to fly elsewhere to open water.

After bringing the bird home and thawing the ice from its foot, the Grebe was showing signs of being on the mend and so the decision was made to bring it down to Claybank Creek to release it into the open water which is where the Grebe spends most of its life, swimming and fishing.

On our way back home from doing so, the feelings we shared for the good deed done, quickly dissipated when I received word that one of the Commercial Fishing Vessels in Ludington was sinking.

I started making the calls around to be certain everyone was safe. Thankfully, everyone was, but the next check to make was regarding the environment and any potential release of fuel or oil into the water.

I arrived in Ludington around 7:30 and the black-gaping hole in the ice was evident of where the Sandy Bay had met her watery grave.



Levi Stone and Darren Mitchell were at the site, busy pulling materials from the water as I approached them. They explained that the Coast Guard had just left and another team from Grand Haven was in route. The Fishers, in getting to the site so quickly assured the Coast Guard that efforts were under way to deal with any oil spills as well as the effort to raise the Vessel from the icy cold depths of Pere Marquette Lake.

The following morning, I started making calls to check if any contamination was visible in the water. The Coast Guard unit dispatched from Grand Haven did notice oil in the water and had suggested to Levi and Darren to keep an eye on it and to make attempts to soak up what oil or fuel was present.

The Tribe, in being the proud recipient of an oil-spill response trailer that we received through a cooperative grant made possible through the Chippewa, Ottawa Resource Authority prompted me to contact the Ogema to explain the situation to him. He agreed that I should bring the absorbent mats from the Trailer to Ludington in order to keep the effects of the oil as minimal as possible to the environment.

From that point, I made my way back to Ludington by noon with the absorbent mats. Levi and Darren immediately placed them onto the oil that was beginning to pool up in the opening of the ice. The effectiveness of the mats can be seen in the photo. Many thanks to Mike Ripley and the CORA Board for writing the EPA grant that made it possible for the Tribe to be able to react to the problem so quickly and effectively.



On the following morning, the Crane to lift the Sandy Bay was already in place and a dive team from Grand Rapids was in route. By this time, a lot of interested people were showing up, including the Press, US Coast Guard and the Michigan DNR.

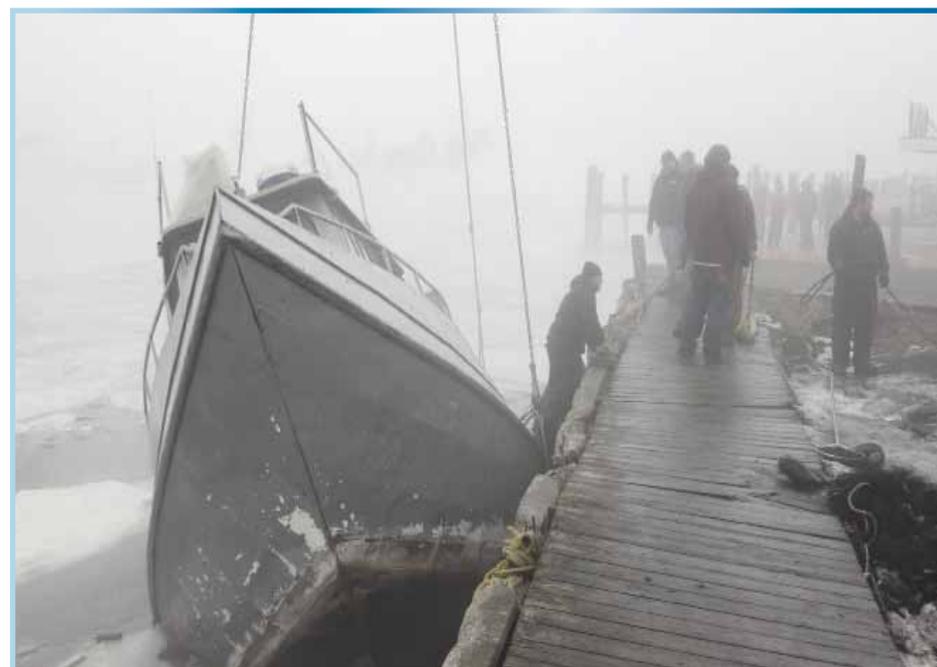
The dive team finally arrived, suited up and made their plunge into the icy water to fasten cables onto the Sandy Bay in efforts to lift her. The divers were able to latch onto the vessel but little did we realize at the time, one of the cables had been fastened onto a thin piece of deck railing. After the dive team had left, an attempt to raise the swamped trawler failed as the thin railing gave way and once again, the Sandy Bay plummeted to the bottom under the ice.



Many people at this point would have thrown in the towel, but Levi and Darren remained confident their efforts would be realized and the challenge of reconnecting the cable seemed to do nothing less than invigorate the two fishers with even more determination to succeed.

A second diver was called in to assist on the following day. A large nylon strap was cinched around the hull and the ends of the straps fitted with a clevis and re-fastened to the crane. The sunken vessel soon determined to be too heavy to lift that the front wheels of the crane were actually lifting off the ground and so another truck was brought in and the bumpers of the two Trucks chained together to anchor the crane from being pulled over by the immense weight of the Sandy Bay.

No less than 10 separate attempts to lift the vessel were made, but the last attempt brought the top of the ship's deck close enough to the surface of the lake, and a Trash Pump, loaned by fellow Tribal Citizen, Brian Gibson was used to remove the remaining water from the vessel until she was floating again.

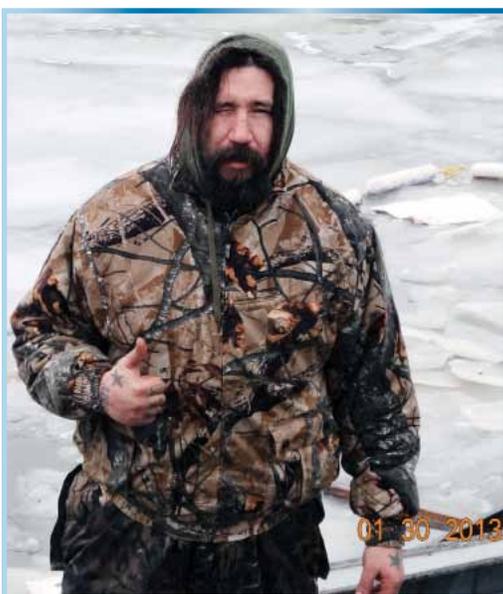


Upon inspection for damage, the cause of the mishap was due to a fatigued portion of the hull near a support rib that had become separated, which is a common occurrence for these boats due to their age and history of usage. At the time of writing this story, the repairs to the hull of the Sandy Bay were under way.

Commercial Fishing is already a demanding occupation, not to mention, one filled with perils from a harsh and unforgiving environment. Add to that, in order to be successful, while at the same time, trying to stay alive, that it takes a certain type of person in this day and age that is rare to find.

Watching Levi Stone and Darren Mitchell, struggle over the 4 days it took to raise the Sandy Bay, challenging every fiber of their being during freezing cold, wet and windy days, and was extremely humbling to say the least.

I'm proud beyond words for their efforts and dedication, for how hard they worked and also, to keep the image of the Tribe in the best light possible.



In the final photo of Levi giving us his thumbs up in a gesture of accomplishment, it was as if he was impervious to the fact that he was soaking wet with ice sickles literally hanging from his hair and beard.

I also want to thank Brian Gibson, Jeff "Boo" Battice, Ken LaHaye and Mike Snyder for helping out. Ken and Mike took great care to get all of the oil removed from the water and everyone of them and our fishers deserve a hero's thanks for their efforts.

At the end of the day, the Coast Guard cleared the site with no citations or environmental concerns and best of all, no loss of life!

Aho!  
Jimmie Mitchell- Director Natural Resources



You can find this and many other issues at [www.lrboi-nsn.gov](http://www.lrboi-nsn.gov)

Ziisabaakdoke-Giizis (Sugar Moon)  
March 2013 vol.10 Issue 3

## Thanks!

Members Assistance would like to thank the individuals who volunteer at the Elder Meals sites. Without these volunteers the program could not be as successful in serving our elders! If you have time to give, please give when and where you can.

**Elder Committee Meeting January volunteers:** Michelle Bernatche, Felicia Moore (Maga) and Noelle Cross. **February volunteers:** Michelle Bernatche, Randy Pepera, Felicia Moore (Maga) A special thanks to the volunteers who help with the monthly Elder Meal in Muskegon as well. Noelle would like to thank the elders at the Muskegon meal for their help in fixing a broken table. **January volunteers:** Michelle Bernatche and Felicia Moore (Maga) **Weekly meal volunteers:** Frankie Medacco, Michelle Bernatche, Ruben Ramon **Home delivery volunteers:** Leonard Rittenhouse, Josh Stone, Clatus Clyne Donations and activities supplies are always welcome. Any and all donations are used to purchase meal and activity supplies.

**Activities Donations:** Carol Gibner and Mr. and Mrs. Peters

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
375 River Street  
Manistee, Michigan 49660

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 195  
Manistee, MI

Or Current Resident

If you would like to volunteer to help out at either the Aki Maadiziwiin or the Muskegon meals, please contact Noelle Cross at Ext. 6733

### Elder Meal Menu

### AKI Maadiziwiin Community Center March 2013

#### General Information

Meals served at Noon  
There is a cost for Guest Meals  
Questions? Noelle Cross Phone: 231-398-6886  
E-mail: [ncross@lrboi.com](mailto:ncross@lrboi.com)  
Volunteers are needed to help with meals, if interested please contact Noelle.

Donations and Contributions are greatly appreciated and are used to fund program supplies, elder activities such as Birthday of the Month gifts and Bingo. Without these contributions your program can not provide those little extras.

#### Tip of the Month Practice Portion Control

- 1 hamburger (without bun) = deck of cards
- 1 cup fries = about 10 fries
- 4 oz nachos = about 7 chips
- 3 oz meatloaf = deck of cards
- 1 cup chili = baseball
- 1 sub sandwich = about 6 inches
- 1 burrito = about 6 inches

#### Activities:

Wednesdays - Wii Bowling Day  
Other activities:  
Elder Bingo  
Card game  
Elder Committee Meeting 2rd  
LET'S PROMOTE FELLOWSHIP  
Consider spending time after lunch to help with the community puzzle or just chatting with your fellow elders.  
Create a coffee club where you can play cards and enjoy each others company.

**Quote: There must be a goal in every stage of life!!**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Coffee, Tea, Milk & water available with each meal				1	<sup>2</sup> Elder's Committee Meeting Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans & Dessert
3	4 Pork Roast, Sweet Potato, Mixed Veggie & Dessert	5 Stir Fry, Rice, Veggie & Dessert	6 Hamburger, Baked Beans, Corn O' Brian & Dessert	7 Oven Fried Chicken, Potato Wedge, Lemon Broccoli & Dessert	8	9
10	11 Spaghetti w Meat Sauce, Zucchini / Peppers & Dessert	12 Cheesy Tuna Casserole, Steamed Carrots & Dessert	13 Meatloaf, Mashed Potato, Spinach Toscana & Dessert	14 Corned Beef & Cabbage, Carrots & Dessert	15 <b>Muskegon Meal Please RSVP with Noelle 231-398-6886</b>	16
17 	18 Beef Ravioli, Vegetable Blend & Dessert	19 Turkey Club Sandwich Homemade Sweet Potato Chips, Veggie & Dessert	20 Salisbury Steak, Mashed potatoes, Veggie & Dessert	21 Chicken Pot Pie, Broccoli & Dessert	22	23
24 	25 French Dip, Steak Fries, Veggie & Dessert	26 Fish, Macaroni n' Cheese, Green Beans & Dessert	27 Beef Stroganoff, Green Beans, Pears & Dessert	28 Chicken Parmesan, Italian Veggie & Dessert	29 Meals prepared are 1/3 of the RDA requirements (Recommended Daily Allowance)	30 We Promote Reduced Sodium intake and Increase of Fruits and Veggies
31						