Moving Time

This month the tribal government is beginning the move of people and services to the new Government Center located on trust lands out by the Gathering Grounds. The new building is an amazing place and provides an excellent opportunity to bring our government services together.  See the latest photos on page 9

Largest Golf Outing Ever!

The largest field of golfers ever took over Manistee National for the annual LRCR Charity Golf outing last month. Five charitable organizations split the proceeds of $50,000! See more photos on page 23

Annual Language Camp
another success

The 20th Annual Anishinaabe Language & Cultural Camp was held at the end of the month and had almost 400 participants. See the article and pictures on pages 12 & 13.

New Appellate Judge Sworn In

Cindy Champagne took the oath of office as the newest Appellate Judge for LRBOI following her election last month. See more on page 4
The Ogema/Tribal Council meetings continued into July with expanded discussions on the Elders Insurance program; Internet Gaming and tribal organization.

In the July 2nd meeting, more information was presented on the Elders Insurance program with Director Lee Ivinson (Members Assistance) sharing the fact that the tribe has, at this time, 190 Elders eligible to participate and that there are some who choose to not participate in the tribal insurance program. Elders have to enroll in Medicare Part “B” in order to get part “F” if they choose to use the federal program.

It was generally agreed that we need to have better communication with and from the insurance broker (Manistee Insurance) and that we should not eliminate the program but meld it more effectively into the Tribal Clinic system. Council member Mike Ceplina commented that he felt that the, “Broker is useless.” This topic will continue to be discussed.

On the subject of the insurance broker, Health Clinic Director Robin Carufel said that the downside of the broker (relationship) is that the broker is “not always with you!” Robin commented that it might end up being cheaper to go to Medicare part “B” and paying that cost.

Carufel reported that there is “some good and some bad for Native Americans” in ‘Obamacare’ as the Affordable Health Care act is often called. He said that there will be a tax penalty for people who do not sign up for one of the ‘exchanges’ being set up to handle insurance options for everyone. One challenge Carufel identified was the possible tax liability and the fact that he feels this is actually a threat to tribal sovereignty. He said that the Elders Insurance program of the tribe is an ‘admirable’ thing to do but that it will possibly present a tax liability for our Elders.

Tribal Manager Jessica Burger said that we need to offer something that will meet the needs of our Elders. She said that the government will have to figure out some way to means test and tax people and that this was a prime reason we need to finish our assessment by the end of the year.

Continuing with the health topic, Speaker Virg Johnson said that he was not comfortable as bills (medical) are not being paid and that we need to assess the actual “needs” of our people. He and Councilor Ceplina reiterated that we will continue to inform our members as the health issues develop. At a later meeting on budget issues, Jessica Burger reported that she expects the ‘sequestration’ in Washington, DC to continue and that it will be a factor for the next 5 years. Burger said that they are pushing for Indian Health Service (IHS) regulations to help with the exchange issue for Native Americans. There will be a campaign in Indian Country for registrations. Virg suggested that we could possibly have information available at the Membership Meeting (October 12th) and provide an opportunity for members to sign up while they are there.

Natural Resources Director Jimmie Mitchell, who along with Jessica Burger has been advocating heavily on tribal issues and pushed the elected leadership to be more active in advocacy for tribal issues. He added that we would be even more effective is we could have a ‘common voice’ to move forward. He reported that Kevin Washburn (DC Attorney) agreed and has said that, “If everyone would say the same thing it would all work better.” Councilor Shannon Crampton added to the conversation saying that, “He would like the whole tribe to start contacting their congressmen to advocate” for tribal issues.

Council member Kimberly Alexander (recently elected secretary of M.A.S.T.) reported that she has been setting up some liaison meetings with Congressional representatives and that we definitely need more to be done in this area.

Mitchell summed up the discussion by saying, “We’re salespeople for tribes!”

On a broad discussion about the state of Michigan and relations to our tribe, Councilman Frankie Medacco said that he feels the state is violating our compact agreement and that perhaps we should consider withholding our 6% revenue payments. This discussion also brought in the Wolf Hunting issue, ICWA and MICWA…items that as Virg said, “If Bill Memberto were alive, he would have been all over them!” Ogema Romanelli said, “….the compact does speak to it” and that we need to get legal opinion to see if we could stop the payments to the state.

Virg also raised the Muskegon sponsorship issue and Council woman Pat Ruiter said that, “…we should hole the money if they don’t do the right thing.”

Ogema Romanelli stated that, in his opinion, “The state is failing to consult with tribes.”

Councilor Crampton said that, “We need to enforce the compact.” He also commented that we need to support the anti-Internet Gaming bill. (Later in the month, LRC General Manager Wendell Long gave a well-constructed presentation on the state of Internet Gaming to the elected leadership and some of the resort management personnel.)

At another meeting the Ogema reported that we had been approached to appoint an elected tribal official to the Task Force on Climate Change in Washington, DC. Mike Ceplina nominated Council member Kim Alexander. The Ogema also reported that the National Indian Health Board was going to be meeting at GTB next month and that we had been approached to help sponsor the event. The three day event draws approximately 600 attendees and offers an excellent chance to talk policy and tribal issues. It was pointed out that the NIHBB does a lot of advocacy on behalf of the tribes. Michigan Indian Elders are looking into sponsoring a bus to help elders attend the conference.

On another subject, Councilor Gary DiPiazza reported that he had been approached by a member who would like to have a table at the Ogema’s Fall Membership Meeting providing information on the Michigan Wolf Hunt issue. There was general agreement that this would be a good thing.

Virg Johnson reported that Accounting had prepared a proposal to move the tribal government back to a bi-weekly pay system which would cut costs. This was suggested by the auditors. They also suggested going to mandatory direct deposit. All of this would be implemented, if adopted, in approximately six months to give everyone time to adjust and minimize any negative impact.

Kwewok Circle was discussed by the group and a question was raised about their tax-exempt status. No one present had the information on the structure of the group at the time. Accounting is going to look into the structure of the group and report back.

Virg Johnson brought up the need to address Wild Rice and how we could set up a lottery for our young people to have the chance to go learn how to do the ricing.

The Ogema and Council this month also discussed budgetary issues with Comptroller Dan Velikan reporting that the Tribal Council had reduced their budget 5.5 percent for 2014. Legal services continue to be an increasing expense but other areas are holding their budget line or coming in lower than in recent years. Councilor Ceplina questioned why the tribal government was paying for some legal costs that were incurred at the resort. It was explained that the issue in question was actually a tribal government sovereignty issue that was the responsibility of the tribe and not the resort. Executive branch departments are working towards an 18% reduction. Initial budget presentation to the membership was scheduled on August 3rd at the Aki Maadiziwin Community Center.

Part of the budget discussion centered on the various tribal enterprises and their performance. Crampton questioned why we were continuing to support some of them and CFO Steve Wheeler outlined their continuing value and schedule of work yet to be accomplished. A general feeling was expressed that the tribe can help the enterprises get started but that we don’t need to continue to support them but should help them to become self-supporting businesses.

The subject of tribal vehicles was brought up by Councilor Crampton. He said that several are not being maintained properly and that we need to have an updated policy to correct this. The Ogema added that we need to look into the disposition of vehicles being taken out of the tribal inventory.

At the last meeting of the month, the Ogema had several items including passing on compliments from the membership on the joint articles each month; his satisfaction with the joint meetings (echoed by Council); an update on the Osiyo information being brought back to Council for consideration; discussion on the petition drive against the Michigan Wolf Hunting (petitions distributed) and discussion on ways to get more signatures. The Ogema would like to support the
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Currents
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petition drive as are the other Michigan tribes. Our Council is already on record in support. Councilman DiPiazza confirmed that a member will have an informational table at the Fall Membership Meeting with petitions and details for tribal members.

Councilwoman Alexander brought up a work session that she had called regarding FEMA and the tribe. This work session will also look into the Emergency Management structure here at the tribe with an eye to maximizing the opportunities for grant funding and security/safety of our members and facilities. Ogema Romanelli emphasized his support for the discussion and said that it was, “…very necessary.”

Grant writer Chuck Fisher attended the session and introduce Paul Mackety, a grants consultant recently contracted to work with LRBOI. Fisher said that this was a preliminary visit to gather information that would be of assistance to Mackety. He was scheduled to meet with Commerce, Development and other departments. Paul, an Air Force veteran, spent 25 years with IBM and 4 years setting up the Nottawaseppi Tribe organization in Southern Michigan before working as an independent consultant. One area of focus for him is creation of impact reports to Congress on the effects of grants. This is a very important part of successful grant writing and application.

Fisher also brought everyone up to speed on the Grants Strategy process being developed to help take advantage of any available grants. As the economy has tightened, competition for the grant dollars has become quite vigorous. Speaker Johnson made sure to invite Paul to attend planning sessions which are usually held on Thursday mornings. One area of focus for Paul identified as offering possibilities for us is in regard to culturally sensitive or informative programs.

Councilor Crampton applauded the contract with Paul and pointed out some notes that he had from before his recent election. They hit the same needs as Chuck Fisher set out for the consultant.

The ongoing conversation about a tribal Eagle Staff concerned getting input from tribal members as well as some of the options for travel cases, what wood should be used and the proper packing of the staff for carrying it to other locations. Council members Marty Wabindato, Virg Johnson and Shannon Crampton stressed their desire to get member input and requested that anyone who would like to be part of the discussion to please contact Council Recorder Sandy Mezeske at her office.

Ogema Romanelli reported on a BIA/Interior meeting held at Petoskey in late July. The meeting was to discuss the recognition process for tribes and possible ways to streamline it. Romanelli was the only federally-recognize tribal leader to attend.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding support for cultural activities and events. Several council members had been recently approached about supporting dancers and other appearances by tribal members at conferences and other events. It was generally agreed upon that such requests should go through the Tribal Historical Preservation office. Such requests will now be channeled there.

There was also agreement that running such requests through Historical Preservation would de-politicize requests and make it fair for everyone.

LRBOI Warrior Society
Looking for LRBOI Warrior Society Volunteers who would like to serve on a Rifle Team for 21 Gun Salute.

LRBOI has announced that they will be having election of New Officers in the November Warriors meeting.

2013 Tribal Directories are available!
The Enrollment Department has announced that the new tribal directory will be available beginning on Friday, August 8th in their office at the Interim Casino. Please stop by and get your new directory!

If you cannot get to the office, you may contact Enrollment at 231.398.6713 and order one. There is a $5 shipping/handling fee. The directories will also be available at the October Fall Membership Meeting!

Fran’s Calendar of Tribal Events!

Sept. 2 - Labor Day (offices closed)

September 7 - Elders meeting at Aki at noon
September 14 - Nmé Release

September 21 - Tribal Reaffirmation Day (offices closed)

October 5 - Elders meeting at Aki at noon
October 11, 2013 - Government Center Grand opening 10:30am-1pm
October 12 - Membership Meeting

November 2 & 3 - Annual Fall Elders Conference at the Casino

This calendar of events was created at the suggestion of Elder Fran Pitts.

Virgil Johnson
Resigns as Board member

Virgil Johnson was honored by the Little River Casino Resort Board on his last day as a Board Member. He resigned to assume duties as the Tribal Council Speaker.

Ogema and Tribal Council discussions
The tribal Election Board presented their report to Tribal Council on July 24th confirming that Cindy Pete-Champagne “Wababenisicwe” has been elected to the Office of Appellate Judge in the recent election. Judge Champagne was sworn in at the following Council meeting on July 31st.
On June 26, 2013, President Barak Obama signed an Executive Order establishing a White House Council on Native American Affairs. The Council is comprised of Cabinet level personnel, and is charged with assisting with the sharing of inter-agency information on Native American programs in an effort to enhance communication and develop policy recommendations to the President. The Council will also assist with the facilitation of Tribal Consultation and coordinate an annual meeting with federally recognized Tribes at the White House Tribal Nations Conference. This Council is important to Little River Band as we continue to seek greater access to federal funding sources, enhanced collaboration with Federal agencies, and provide direct dialogue and consultation on the matters that impact program administration at the local Tribal level.

Through the creation of the Council, President Obama has by Executive Order permanently established the annual White House Tribal Nations Conference; this is the first conference of its kind, and Tribal elected leadership is invited to engage in Leader to Leader dialogue with the President. Ogema Larry Romanelli has attended the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, DC.

June 26, 2013 EXECUTIVE ORDER
By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to promote and sustain prosperous and resilient Native American tribal governments, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The United States recognizes a government-to-government relationship, as well as a unique legal and political relationship, with federally recognized tribes. This relationship is set forth in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, administrative rules and regulations, and judicial decisions. Honoring these relationships and respecting the sovereignty of tribal nations is critical to advancing tribal self-determination and prosperity.

As we work together to forge a brighter future for all Americans, we cannot ignore a history of mistreatment and destructive policies that have hurt tribal communities. The United States seeks to continue restoring and healing relations with Native Americans and to strengthen its partnership with tribal governments, for our more recent history demonstrates that tribal self-determination -- the ability of tribal governments to determine how to build and sustain their own communities -- is necessary for successful and prospering communities. We further recognize that restoring tribal lands through appropriate means helps foster tribal self-determination.

This order establishes a national policy to ensure that the Federal Government engages in a true and lasting government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes in a more coordinated and effective manner, including by better carrying out its trust responsibilities. This policy is established as a means of promoting and sustaining prosperous and resilient tribal communities. Greater engagement and meaningful consultation with tribes is of paramount importance in developing any policies affecting tribal nations.

To honor treaties and recognize tribes’ inherent sovereignty and right to self-government under U.S. law, it is the policy of the United States to promote the development of prosperous and resilient tribal communities, including by:

(a) promoting sustainable economic development, particularly energy, transportation, housing, other infrastructure, entrepreneurial, and workforce development to drive future economic growth and security;
(b) supporting greater access to, and control over, nutrition and healthcare, including special efforts to confront historic health disparities and chronic diseases;
(c) supporting efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of tribal justice systems and protect tribal communities;
(d) expanding and improving lifelong educational opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives, while respecting demands for greater tribal control over tribal education, consistent with Executive Order 13592 of December 2, 2011 (Improving American Indian and Alaska Native Educational Opportunities and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities); and
(e) protecting tribal lands, environments, and natural resources, and promoting respect for tribal cultures.

Sec. 2. Establishment. There is established the White House Council on Native American Affairs (Council). The Council shall improve coordination of Federal programs and the use of resources available to tribal communities.

Sec. 3. Membership.
(a) The Secretary of the Interior shall serve as the Chair of the Council, which shall also include the heads of the following executive departments, agencies, and offices:
   (i) the Department of State;
   (ii) the Department of the Treasury;
   (iii) the Department of Defense;
   (iv) the Department of Justice;
   (v) the Department of Agriculture;
   (vi) the Department of Commerce;
   (vii) the Department of Labor;
   (viii) the Department of Health and Human Services;
   (ix) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;
   (x) the Department of Transportation;
   (xi) the Department of Energy;
   (xii) the Department of Education;
   (xiii) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
   (xiv) the Department of Homeland Security;
   (xv) the Social Security Administration;
   (xvi) the Office of Personnel Management;
   (xvii) the Office of the United States Trade Representative;
   (xviii) the Office of Management and Budget;
   (xix) the Environmental Protection Agency;
   (xx) the Small Business Administration;
   (xxi) the Council of Economic Advisers;
   (xxii) the Office of National Drug Control Policy;
   (xxiii) the Domestic Policy Council;
   (xxiv) the National Economic Council;
   (xxv) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
   (xxvi) the Council on Environmental Quality;
   (xxvii) the White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs;
   (xxviii) the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation;
   (xxix) the Denali Commission;
   (xxx) the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs; and
   (xxxii) such other executive departments, agencies, and offices as the Chair may, from time to time, designate.
(b) A member of the Council may designate a senior-level official, who is a full-time officer or employee of the Federal Government, to perform his or her functions.

(c) The Department of the Interior shall provide funding and administrative support for the Council to the extent permitted by law and within existing appropriations.

(d) The Council shall coordinate its policy development through the Domestic Policy Council.

(e) The Council shall coordinate its outreach to federally recognized tribes through the White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs.

(f) The Council shall meet three times a year, with any additional meetings convened as deemed necessary by the Chair. The Chair may invite other interested agencies and offices to attend meetings as appropriate.

Sec. 4. Mission and Function of the Council. The Council shall work across executive departments, agencies, and offices to coordinate development of policy recommendations to support tribal self-governance and improve the quality of life for Native Americans, and shall coordinate the United States Government’s engagement with tribal governments and their communities. The Council shall:

(a) make recommendations to the President, through the Director of the Domestic Policy Council, concerning policy priorities, including improving the effectiveness of Federal investments in Native American communities, where appropriate, to increase the impact of Federal resources and create greater opportunities to help improve the quality of life for Native Americans;

(b) coordinate, through the Director of the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs, Federal engagement with tribal governments and Native American stakeholders regarding issues important to Native Americans, including with tribal consortia, small businesses, education and training institutions including tribal colleges and universities, health-care providers, trade associations, research and grant institutions, law enforcement, State and local governments, and community and non-profit organizations;

(c) coordinate a more effective and efficient process for executive departments, agencies, and offices to honor the United States commitment to tribal consultation as set forth in Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000 (Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments), and my memorandum of November 5, 2009 (Tribal Consultation); and

(d) assist the White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs in organizing the White House Tribal Nations Conference each year by bringing together leaders invited from all federally recognized Indian tribes and senior officials from the Federal Government to provide for direct government-to-government discussion of the Federal Government’s Indian country policy priorities.

Sec. 5. General Provisions.

(a) The heads of executive departments, agencies, and offices shall assist and provide information to the Council, consistent with applicable law, as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Council.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(d) For purposes of this order, “federally recognized tribe” means an Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. 479a.

(e) For purposes of this order, “American Indian and Alaska Native” means a member of an Indian tribe, as membership is defined by the tribe.

(f) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

BARACK OBAMA
THE WHITE HOUSE,
June 26, 2013.
TO: Tribal Citizens  
FROM: Election Board  
DATE: Monday, August 5, 2013  
Attached you will find Revisions to Chapter 8 - Membership Meetings of the Election Board Regulations.  
This chapter will be posted for 30 days to allow Tribal Citizens time to review and comment. If you should have any comments, please direct those comments in writing to the Election Board. Thanks you.

CHAPTER 8. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS  
Section 1. Verification of Registered Voters.  

a. Date of Verification. All verification of registered voters shall take place on the date of the scheduled General Membership Meeting.

b. Verification Process. The Tribal Enrollment Department shall provide to the Election Board a prepared final list of all Tribal registered voters prior to the date of the scheduled General Membership Meeting.

c. Ability to Vote. To be able to vote on any potential Tribal business conducted at the General Membership Meeting, a Tribal member must previously be registered and certified as a Registered Voter by the Election Board pursuant to the procedures established by Chapter 2 of these Regulations.

d. Tribal Identification Card Required. A Tribal member must have a current Tribal Identification Card which contains electronically verifiable information, including voter registration status.

e. Tribal Identification Card available from Enrollment Department. In the event a Tribal Member does not have a current Tribal Identification Card, a Tribal Member must obtain a Tribal Identification Card from the Tribal Enrollment Department, and may be required to pay a replacement card fee.

Section 2. Process for Verification of Registered Voters in Attendance.  

a. Count to Confirm Registered Voters Present.  
   In order to assure that an accurate count of the number of Registered voters are present within the meeting room where the General Membership Meeting is to take place, the Election Board shall identify each Registered voter and keep an accurate tally by requiring the electronic swiping of the Tribal Identification Cards upon entering and exiting the meeting room, or if necessary for verification purposes if the Tribal Ogema determines that a quorum count is required.

b. Ingress and egress to the meeting room shall be limited to assure that an accurate tally of the Registered voters can be maintained.

c. At the time established by the Tribal Ogema at the General Membership Meeting for members to propose and act upon Ordinances or Motions pursuant to Article VII,  

Section 1 (a)(3) of the Constitution, and at such times thereafter when the Tribal Ogema requests that a quorum determination be provided, the Election Board shall (2)

d. provide a certification of the total number of Registered voters together with the number of Registered voters then in attendance and whether the constitutionally required thirty percent (30%) of Registered voters is then in attendance at the General Membership Meeting.

Section 3. Certification of Registered Voters in Attendance.  

a. Determination of Registered Voters Present.  
   The Election Board shall review the number of Registered voters confirmed as present at the Membership Meeting at the time of the request through use of the electronically generated report of Registered voters present.

i. When the Election Board members agree upon the accuracy of the report, a quorum of the Election Board shall take a motion to confirm the total count.

ii. The Chairperson of the Election board, or an Election Board member designated by the Chairperson, shall complete a written certification, with 3 originals, of the count.

iii. The certification shall include:  
   (1) The total number of Tribal Registered voters.
   (2) The total number of Registered voters constitutionally-required (30%) to be in attendance to act upon a Motion and/or Ordinance question put before the membership at the meeting.
   (3) The total number of verified Registered voters in attendance at the time of the request.
   (4) The Election Board vote on the motion confirming the count of Registered voters in attendance at the time of the request.
   (5) Each Election Board member present for the vote on the motion shall signature three (3) original certifications.

vi. The certifications shall be distributed as follows:  
   (1) One original of the certification shall be provided to the Tribal Ogema for Membership Meeting purposes.
   (2) One original shall be provided to the Tribal Enrollment Officer for the Tribal Records.
   (3) One original shall be kept and filed by the Election Board.

vii. If the certification shows a total count of less than 30% of the Tribes Registered voters in attendance at the General Membership Meeting at the time of the request, the Election Board’s business shall be concluded, and the Election Board may leave the meeting.

viii. If there is a verified count of at least 30% of the Tribe’s Registered voters in attendance at the time of the request, then a quorum of the Election Board shall remain until the close of Tribal business to conduct any voting procedures on matters brought forward for action by the membership.

Section 4. Secret Ballot Voting  

a. Voting Procedures. A quorum of the Election Board shall conduct secret ballot voting procedures and shall establish polls if a Motion and/or Ordinance question is developed in the course of Tribal business during the General Membership Meeting.

i. At least one Tribal Police Officer shall be present throughout the voting, counting, and tally processes. An Officer(s) shall remain until the count and tally of the ballots is completed, certified, and announced.

ii. The Election board shall issue ballots only if the Election board certifies that at least 30% of Tribal member Registered voters are in attendance at the Membership Meeting, and a Motion and/or Ordinance question is brought to a vote at the meeting.

iii. The Election Board shall arrange to have two portable voting booths in the meeting room and shall establish them as polls.

iv. The Election Board shall have a ballot box brought into the meeting room and placed in as close proximity to the two polls as possible.

(1) With the assistance of a Tribal Police Officer, an Election board member shall open the ballot box and confirm, before the membership present, that the ballot box is empty before the start of voting.

(2) The ballot box thereafter shall be locked.

v. The Election Board shall have available for viewing the final language of the Motion and/or Ordinance question near the established polls/voting booths.

vi. Only one Motion or Ordinance question shall be brought to a vote at a time.

(1) Each Motion or Ordinance question shall require a separate vote.
(2) The purpose for limiting actions to a single question at one time is to avoid confusion among the membership as to what issue is before the membership for consideration.

vii. Prepared ballots with YES/NO and check boxes for voting shall be brought in to the meeting room.

viii. An Election Board member shall hand-number each ballot to be issued.

ix. According to our traditional ways, Tribal elders and Tribal handicapped voters shall be given priority to vote first.

x. An Election Board member shall issue ballots to verified registered voters upon swiping their Tribal Identification Card.

(1) The Board member issuing the ballots shall verify that the voter’s confirmed to be present on the voter attendance report for the Membership Meeting. The Election Board member then shall issue a ballot to the voter.

xi. Election Board members may help voters in entering or exiting he voting booths or in placing finished ballots in the ballot box.

b. Ballots and Voting.

i. The ballot shall read YES or NO with associated check boxes next to each answer. Example: YES? NO?

ii. To vote, the voter must fill in the box, or place on “x” or ’’’ mark in the box immediately to the right of the voter’s choice.

(5) The following examples of improper voting will cause a ballot to be rejected by the Election Board for noncompliance. The examples listed are not intended to be exclusive.

(a) A vote that circles a checkbox, rather than has one of the special marks placed in the checkbox;

(b) Any marks inside the checkbox other than an “x” or a “’”;

(c) Double voting - more than one check box marked.

iii. Each Registered voter present shall be entitled to case one vote for each Motion and/or Ordinance question put to a vote.

iv. A voter may request a replacement or new ballot by returning a spoiled ballot to an Election Board member.

(1) Spoiled ballots shall be placed in a separate envelope marked “Spoiled.”

(2) The Election Board shall mark a new ballot

as “Replacement”, number the ballot with the next available number from the ballot numbering series, and shall present the ballot to the voter.

v. After a voter has marked their ballot, the voter shall place the ballot in the ballot box.

vi. When the voting is completed, the Election board shall announce the close of the voting process and shall proceed to count and tally the votes.

c. Counting and tallying the votes. The Election board shall move the ballot box and provide an appropriate media in the meeting room to permit public viewing of the ballot and vote count.

i. The media for viewing shall be used to post each vote, with separate columns for noting YES and NO votes, and SPOILED and REJECTED ballots.

ii. An Election Board member shall unlock the ballot box, and remove and assemble the ballots.

(6) iii. Holding each ballot in view of the voters, an Election board member shall call out the vote on the ballot.

iv. Each spoiled ballot shall be announced to the membership and an entry made into the SPOILED BALLOT column on appropriate media device.

v. Any ballot that is removed from the ballot box, and that has more than (1) one checkbox marked, or any other defect, as confirmed by a majority vote of the Election Board members present, shall be deemed a rejected ballot.

(1) Any ballot deemed rejected shall be announced to membership as a rejected ballot, with an explanation as to the reasons for the rejection, and a notation entered under the REJECTED BALLOT column on an appropriate media device tally.

vii. The Election Board shall not maintain a tally of rejected ballots.

(3) Rejected ballots shall be placed in a separate envelope marked “Rejected.”

vi. An Election Board member shall enter the vote count onto the media device in the appropriate column.

vii. When the counting of the votes is completed two (2) Election board members independently shall tally the votes, as entered on the media device, in view of the membership in attendance.

(1) The tally of the two (2) Election Board members must agree.

(2) If the tally does not agree, the Election board members shall recount the votes until there is agreement on the tally.

viii. An Election Board member may collect and organize already-counted ballots.

Section 5. Certification of Results.

a. Completed tally. When the tally is completed, the Election Board shall take a vote to confirm the final tally of the vote.

i. The Election Board members who are present shall sign the media certifying the election count and tally.

b. Written Certification. Within (5) five calendar days of the General Membership Meeting, the Election Board shall provide to the Tribal Ogema and to the Tribal Council Speaker a written certification of the final vote tally on each Motion and/or Ordinance.

c. Contents of Certification. The Election Board’s certification shall contain the following:

i. The total number of Registered voters for the Tribe;

ii. The total number of Registered voters required for 30%;

iii. The total number of Registered voters attending the Membership Meeting;

iv. The total number of Registered voters casting ballots for the Motion and/or Ordinance question;

v. The wording of the Motion and/or Ordinance as voted on;

vi. The total number of YES votes;

vii. The total number of NO votes;

viii. The vote of the Election Board;

ix. The signatures of Election Board members in attendance.


a. Process Completion. Upon completion of the ballot tabulation and count process, the Election Board shall seal all ballots, verification receipts, papers, and tally sheets in a Ballot...
Box, and the Ballot Box shall be locked in a fireproof safe, or in the Tribal Police Evidence Locker.

i. The sealed Ballot Box shall be opened only in the presence of a quorum of the Election Board.

ii. The ballots and envelopes shall be destroyed after calendar days, or after the Election Board certifies the Final Report of election results, whichever is longer, and only upon Resolution by the Election Board. Schedule of Revisions

Chapter 8
Section 1: Verification of Registered Voters
Making a new (e) Tribal Registered Voters will be required to have wristbands applied before entering the Membership Meeting. Changing (e) to (f) now.

Section 3: Certification of Registered Voters in Attendance
Adding (b) Persons Removed from Meeting. If a Registered voter is removed from the meeting for any reason but permitted to remain on the property. The or she will still be counted towards a quorum if he or she choose to remain present on the property in an area designated for this purpose.

Section 4: Secret Ballot Voting
(b) (iii) adding after the first sentence “Any Registered Voter who was removed from the meeting but chose to remain on the property in the designated area will be given the opportunity to vote on each Motion and/or Ordinance question from that area, using procedures the Election Board determines suitable based on the circumstances at that time.”

Section 6: Security and Destruction of Membership Meeting Election Materials.
(a) (ii) adding between after and calendar “60” and then after days, adding providing no challenges exist for this Membership Meeting, Date of Change Was Adopted 07/31/2013

New Government Center

The wait is nearly over for the move to the new LRBOI Government Center. Prior to deadline, elected officials and employees took tours of the beautiful new facility and started planning their departmental moves. At the time of printing, it was hoped that government offices would be relocated to the new facility. Please be sure to check with departments and employees before coming up to Manistee as there will be some minor interruptions in service while we move. Watch Facebook and the tribal website at www.lrboi.com for announcements related to the move.

Health Services Operations will be moving into the New Government Center at a later date as new equipment for the facilities is installed over the next several weeks. Patients/clients seeking health related services will continue to use the clinic at 310 9th Street, Manistee and should seek updates from Health Operations as well as those in the LRBOI Currents and Rapid River News.

Tax-Exempt Quotas
Tax-exempt motor fuel monthly limit is 175 gallons per Tribal member.
Tax-exempt cigarette monthly limit is 20 packs per Tribal member.

Remember
Tribal members are responsible for tracking their own purchases. Do not rely on the Trading Post to track your purchases for you.

Reminder – check your Resident Tribal Member status
Proof of Residency is required for any address change to “Resident Tribal Member” status. This means that if you move, you will need to provide written proof of residency in order to have Resident Tribal Member status. This applies, even if you are moving to a different address in the Tax Agreement Area.

Don’t be surprised at tax time. Contact the Enrollment Office and/or Tax Office to provide your Proof of Residency information.

If you have any questions about Resident Tribal Member status or the new Proof of Residency form and requirements, please call the Tax Office at 231-398-6874 or 1-888-723-8288 ext. 6874. You can also access information on becoming a Resident Tribal Member, and the proof of residency form, on the Tax Office page of the Tribe’s website at www.lrboi-nsn.gov.

Resident Tribal Member Exemption Certificates
Certificate Required - Resident Tribal Members must apply to the Tax Office for a Tribal Certificate of Exemption before making a tax-exempt purchase. This includes a vehicle purchase or construction materials for affixation to the RTM’s personal residence. There are no provisions for receiving a refund after the sale is completed. If you sign a contract that includes Michigan sales or use tax, it will be a taxable purchase. Application forms are available on the Tax Office page of the LRBOI website under “Resident Tribal Member Information”. Application form must be completely filled out and signed before a certificate will be issued.

Joint Purchases – A Resident Tribal Member shall qualify for a 50 percent exemption on purchases that are made by a Resident Tribal Member, or their non-Resident Tribal Member spouse, and exclusively titled in both their names.
The LRBOI Natural Resources Department invites you to join the community celebration for its 10th year!

**September 14th 2013  Rainbow Bend Launch on the Big Manistee River**

2:00 – Sturgeon Viewing
Natural Resource Staff will be guiding tours through the rearing facility and showing off the fish.

3:00 – Release Ceremony
Welcome by Ogema, traditional drum, pipe ceremony, and brief presentation

3:30 – Fish Released
Community will release fish back in the river in a commemorative bucket they may keep

Activities will include:
“The Great Lake Sturgeon” Book Signing  Nancy Auer editor will be selling and signing the book. Jimmie Mitchell and Marty Holtgren, two chapter authors, will also be available for signing.

Children’s Activities
Art area where they can make their own commemorative banner with sturgeon stamps and a handkerchief / TEMPORARY sturgeon tattoos

Give-a-way items
Documentary DVD’s of the LRBOI Sturgeon Program, “Manistee Nme: A Success Story”, Reusable commemorative grocery bag, 10th Annual Sturgeon Release T-shirt

**Location:**
Rainbow Bend Launch on the Big Manistee River

Please contact Natural Resources Department for more details
(231) 723-1594

New Sturgeon Website for 10th Annual Sturgeon Release

This is a big year for the Lake Sturgeon program! The 2013 field season is underway (our 10th of sturgeon rearing), and we are on track for a great year! We currently are raising lake sturgeon from both larval and egg stages in our Streamside Rearing Facility at Rainbow Bend on the Big Manistee River. As we continue to move forward, we would like to keep everyone updated right up to the day of our 10th Annual Sturgeon Release Ceremony. With that being said, we would like to announce the new LRBOI Lake Sturgeon website which will be filled with up to date news, tours and contact information, and information regarding the 10th Annual Sturgeon Release Ceremony.

Please check out the new website at
Personal Reflections for Ten Years of Sturgeon Rearing

Jimmie Mitchell
Natural REsources Director

Over the span of the past decade, with what started out as an idea based on little more than a hunch, has since spawned into the N’me restoration project; a success story that is no less profound than the Tribe's own reaffirmation of place and purpose.

It is by no coincidence that the Tribe focuses so intently on the restoration of the native plants and animals existing, or having existed within the 13.8 million acres of Michigan known as the 1836 Ceded Territory. Since time immemorial, we as the Aanishinaabek have revered these natural occurring plants and animals as members of our extended family.

Today, the stewardship responsibilities we uphold in these vital restoration efforts continue to strengthen both the abundance and vitality of our plant and animal relations, as we to begin to flourish now and into our future as the intended result.

Marty Holtgren
Senior Fisheries Biologist

Ten years of sturgeon rearing. In the beginning there was Stephanie Ogren, Ken LaHaye, Mike Snyder, Mark Bowen and I sitting on the edge of the river at midnight waiting to see sturgeon. Ten years later we share this feeling with hundreds of people at the release ceremony – we are all waiting to see sturgeon. I remember early on the daunting weight of trying to find and follow the sturgeon and to help strengthen their population. 10 years of following sturgeon...10 years of trying to find sturgeon...10 years of learning from sturgeon...well, I am still trying to follow, find and learn from them but I have learned one important lesson...these fish also follow me. At any professional meeting I attend I am referred to as the person that works with sturgeon and Little River as the agency doing the longest streamside rearing work in the Great Lakes. WE are known for sturgeon. Everything in fisheries for Little River is intertwined with the sturgeon. At first I fought this moniker that defined my career and the Little River Fisheries Program because I knew there was so much more that defined me and the Tribe. However, as the years have passed I have learned and recognized that we need to be followed and defined by things that are good. When I watch my children at the sturgeon release (who have been there each year of their life) smile as each sturgeon swims away I know I and WE are being followed by something very, very good. I hope everyone else involved feels the same.

Stephanie Ogren
Senior Aquatic Biologist

Ten years of sturgeon rearing. Ten years ago I never thought I would be standing in the middle of the Big Manistee River at 2 am later collecting larvae for a sturgeon rearing program. Who would have imagined we would have the honor of celebrating with an extended community – family, the restoration of an amazing fish ten years later. We have learned so much about this fish and its perseverance throughout this journey. We have had the opportunity to interact with many members of the Tribe and the community and all come together for a common goal. It is a special fish that can help us put aside our differences and join together in celebration. This release ceremony has become the highlight of the year when all of our staff and colleges can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that we have all made it through another successful season and we are all together wishing the fish a safe journey.

Peggy Vriesman
Biological Services Administrator

Five years of sturgeon rearing. I am Sturgeon Clan. When I was first told I was sturgeon clan, I was irritated; I wanted to be Bear, Turtle, or Deer clan. But I was Sturgeon Clan. I was not working for Natural Resources at that time. I understand now. Sturgeon clan is not only what I am IS who I am. The Creator knew which clan I am, and now instead of being irritated, I am proud to Nme’ Dodem Kwe – Sturgeon Clan Woman. I am Sturgeon Clan.

Dan Mays
Aquatic/Fisheries Biologist

Four years of sturgeon rearing. During the field season, when we are collecting and raising fish, the Sturgeon release is always in the back of my mind. On one end, we want to raise as many fish as we can, but also that we have to let them go. Each year’s successes have been a little different, but one thing that I can rely on is a positive and enjoyable day at the Sturgeon release.

Corey Jerome
Aquatic/Fisheries Biologist

Three years of sturgeon rearing. My first experience working with the lake sturgeon program was as an undergraduate student not knowing the direction I would like to focus in within the natural resource field. Over the summer of first collecting larval sturgeon and assisting to raise the fish until release helped define and shape the direction of study and focus that I would take to complete my degree. As the fish were growing in the rearing facility, so was I in gaining experience and understanding of the importance of the sturgeon to the Great Lakes and the Manistee River. This program has helped shape me as a professional and personally through a better knowledge and respect for the sturgeon and the surrounding area.

Allison Smart
Aquatic/Fisheries Biologist

Two years of sturgeon rearing. Watching the lake sturgeon grow from eggs to larvae to juveniles is always an amazing process full of almost every emotion you can imagine. The release for me is a time where I can reflect over the past 6 months and all the effort put into collecting, protecting and raising that year’s juvenile lake sturgeon. It is an incredible joy each year when the people and sturgeon come together to release the latest class of young lake sturgeon back into the Big Manistee River to grow, develop, and eventually come back to the river in a couple of decades to say hi and continue the circle for many generations to come.

Patrick D. Wilson
Dear Friend, Artist, Father of Seasonal Staff and Emotional Support 9 years.

For me, when I first became involved in the sturgeon program it was in its second year of operating. I attended a Sturgeon meeting and saw the dedication that Marty Holgren and Stephanie Ogren had and still do for the Sturgeon Program. I quickly saw they were doing something that I felt was a wonderful program, and I wanted to join them and help make a difference for our Tribe, for the program and most importantly for the Sturgeon themselves. The vision for the Sturgeon’s future was right on target with the 7 Generation concept. I am humbled and honored to be part of this innovated and culturally appropriate project.

As an artist I thought maybe I could help out by using my talents, so I set out to create a logo for the Nmë project. The Sturgeon Committee approved the final concept of the logo. The logo has been from end of the country to the other, and has been seen at many conferences and trainings.

The Nmë Release is the greatest and rewarding part of the program. When you get a chance to release the young Sturgeon back in to the river were they came from is something you will never forget. To gently hold them in your hands and ever so carefully lower them in to the river and then watch them swim off; that is a once in a life time experience.

This is the tenth year anniversary of the Sturgeon Release, this is a great beginning for everyone who has worked so hard to get us this far. The male Sturgeon that were released the first year will start coming back in two more years to spawn. So, congratulations you have reached what I would call the half way point, so in another ten years we will see the numbers rise in the Nmë population, I believe and will continued to support the Nmë project, in the hope that one day I will be able to say to my grandchildren; see all those huge Nmë swimming up the river, I was there at the beginning and I got to release a couple of the them when they were only six to seven inches long...

Julie Wolfe
Dear Friend, Child Expert, Mother of Future Seasonal Staff and Emotional Support 9 years.

The Nmë is a cultural identity of the Anishnaabe people their life, history ,and distinctiveness are unique, and I am proud of the fact that our Tribe has taken on preserving this extraordinary fish for the Seventh Generations. My children and I have been apart of the yearly releases and will be here when the Nmë we released will be coming back to spawn in the natural area of their beginnings in Manistee River just as they have for generations.
2013 Anishinaabe Family Language & Culture Camp A Cool Success!

This year the Talent Show was cancelled due to the cold and wet weather but, the mini Jiingtamok took place, thanks to a much appreciated break in rain. We are hoping that next year the Camp will return with better and more summer-like weather and even better workshop presentations.

Also, speaking of our language, on a weekly basis, approximately 2,000 people visit the Tribe’s language website www.anishinaabemdaa.com. Due to the large amount of website visitors, the Historic Preservation department will be working to post video language lessons on it starting this fall in addition to the current “Phrase of the Week”. The plan is to also broadcast the video language lessons on the PBS television network. We are not sure yet when the broadcast lessons will occur, but we will post updates in Currents as the information becomes available. The PBS broadcast will be reaching people from the Mackinaw Bridge area to the Ludington area and will also be available on the PBS website.

Again, Kchi-miigwech to all of our dedicated supporters who helped make the 20th Annual Camp a success once again, including Ogema Romanelli, Tribal Council, the Little River Casino Resort Food and Beverage staff, Tribal Court, Public Safety, Maintenance and Janitorial, Tribal Historic Preservation, and all of the presenters and volunteers. Without each of you, our Camp and other events would not be possible. Miigwech!
Registered Participants: 396
Adults – 269, Children – 127
Participant Locations: Michigan –298, Canada -45, Wisconsin 20, Illinois –7, Ohio –7, Missouri - 6 Oregon – 4, Kentucky 3, Texas –2 Indiana – 1 New Mexico , Virginia – 1, Oklahoma –1
Evaluations Received: 83 (21%)

Questions below are based upon the evaluations received.
Are you a citizen of a Tribe?
Yes – 66, No – 14, Not answered – 3

If yes, which Tribe?

Which age group are you? (Some noted more than one answer to include other individuals in their household that were in attendance.)
0-17 years - 3, 18-29 years - 6, 30-45 years - 27, 46-59 years - 20, 60-74 years - 28, 75+ years - 2

How did you hear about this event? (Some evaluations noted more than one answer.) Website – 24 Newsletter – 20 Poster/flyer – 9 Word of mouth – 49 Not Answered – 3 Other – 15 Heard about it from family/friend/teacher – 11 Received an email – 1 Not Answered – 3

Your overall experience was:
Great – 58, Good – 21, Fair – 0, Poor – 0 Not Answered – 4

Would you recommend this event to someone else? Yes – 79, No – 0, Don’t know – 0, Not Answered – 4

Will you attend again?
Yes – 76, No – 0, Don’t know - 4, Not Answered – 3

Did the event meet your expectations?
Yes – 77, No – 1, Not Answered – 5

Photos by: Glenn Zaring- OPA, and
Lucy McClellan-Hunter- Red Bird Productions
President Bill Clinton was scheduled to sign a bill today that reaffirmed the federal status of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and two other Michigan tribes.

Dan Bailey, the chairman of the board of directors for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, which is based in Manistee, was invited to the White House as the representative of the tribe.

“We never anticipated that there would actually be a signing ceremony in the White House,” said Mark Dougher, executive director of the tribe. Dougher expressed disappointment that Bailey was the only member of the tribe invited to the ceremony. Others were deserving of the experience, he said, including Katherine Sams Glocheski, former of the tribe’s board of directors, and Margaret Chandler, a member of the board of directors.

“These are two people that have earned that right to go,” Dougher said. “It would’ve been nice to send a whole busload of people.

Dougher expressed excitement that Bailey was the only member of the tribe invited to the ceremony. Others were deserving of the experience, he said, including Katherine Sams Glocheski, former of the tribe’s board of directors, and Margaret Chandler, a member of the board of directors.

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A New Chapter

When The president does sign the bill into law, what will this mean for the Little River Band?
“Historically, it will mean vindication,” said Dougher. “It’s vindication of Ottawa treaty rights.”
Dougher said that when the bill is signed, a new chapter will begin for the tribe.
“It’s taken 120 years to get this matter resolved,” he said. “Now a whole new phase of work begins. And that concerns the governing of the tribe in the modern age.”

For non-Indians in the area, how will federal recognition affect them?
“As the tribe evolves there will be job opportunities,” said Dougher. “The non-Indian community will benefit from that just as the Indian community will.”
Once the bill becomes law, the tribe’s present board and its officers will serve as the interim tribal council. The voting membership will elect a new tribal council after the tribal membership and constitution are approved.
Dougher said that the tribe has received membership applications from about 500 eligible people. About 400 of the applicants reside in the tribe’s service level – Mason, Manistee, Lake, and Wexford counties.

Eligibility for the tribe is based on one’s ancestry. Dougher estimated that membership would peak at about 700 to 800 people.
Legislation provides that the tribe has up to 18 months to complete the tribal membership roll.
It also states that no later than 24 months after the bill is enacted, the eligible tribal membership will vote on the adoption of the tribe’s constitution. Within six months after the constitution is ratified by the membership, voters will elect a new tribal council.

Future Plans

In November, the tribe will begin the work of developing a 10-year strategic plan.
Dougher said that he thinks that children and the elderly should be given primary consideration when the tribe plans future programs.

He added that he feels the tribe’s economic development efforts should be in varied fields.
“I would hope that they wouldn’t build an economic base on one industry,” said Dougher.
The tribe will be seeking appropriations from Congress to purchase land which is appropriate for construction of offices, a community center, a health clinic, and homes.

Dougher said that there isn’t going to be a windfall on money to provide services for the tribe.
“It’s going to be incremental,” he said. “It’s going to be sufficient to provide for some needs of the tribal community.”
Dougher said that when President Clinton signs the bill into law, excitement won’t be the only emotion that members feel.
“There’s sadness too, because there’s a lot of elders that have died in the past few years,” he said. “I wish they could have lived long enough to see this happen.”

Tribal Reaffirmation Day
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

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For each additional member add $ 330.00

Commodity Department serves 13 counties: Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Wexford.

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

FDPIR clients survey question:
How does the commodity program help your household?

It helps me a great deal I only have SS an I need the food every month.
Chairperson, Ron Pete
Vice Chair, Rita Gale
Secretary, Darleen Martin
Committee Member, Connie Waitner
Committee Member, Ron Wittenburg

Saturday November 2, 2013
8:00 am to 11:00 am Registration & Information Booths Enrollment Updates and Voter Registration is available at Registration Table

9:00 am to 10:00 am Ron Pete, Chairperson Elders Committee Welcoming Elders and Guests Opening Ceremonies & Warriors Posting of Nation Flags - Host Drum: Little Bird

10:00 am 11:00 am Keynote Speaker: Deb Gutowski – Being an Elder and The Path to Get Here Today

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Ron Pete- Chairperson Elders Committee Wendell Long – LRCR General Manager

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Lunch – Buffet in the Event Center

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm Presentation Speaker: Robin Carufel – LRBOI Clinic Director Topic: Future of LRBOI Health Care & Facilities

2:30 pm to 3:00 pm Presentation Speaker: LRBOI Princess – Izzy Burger Topic: Meet our Princess & Living with Diabetes

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm Presentation Speaker: Evelyn Szpilet – 211 Director Topic: 211 Information and Referral Services

3:30 pm to 4:00 pm Presentation Speaker: Lee Ivinson – Members Assistance Dept & Noelle Cross – Elder Meals Topic: Title VI Elder Meal Program & Elder Nutrition

4:00 pm to 5:15 pm Ron Pete, Elder Committee - Summary of Events, Q & A, Gift Giveaway and Raffles

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm Dinner – Served in the Event Center

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Entertainment: Karaoke & DJ by Starlight Entertainment

Sunday November 3, 2013
8:00 am to 9:00 am Breakfast – Buffet in the Event Center

8:45 am to 9:00 am Ron Pete, Elder Committee Chairperson - Welcome back!

9:00 am to 9:30 am Presentation Speaker: Austen Brauker / Pat Wilson

9:30 am to 11:00 am Presentation Speaker: Lucy Hunter – Boarding School Documentary

11:00 am to 11:30 am Speaker: Ogema & Tribal Council - Closing Comments

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Speaker: Ron Pete, Elder Committee Chairperson Elder Committee Business – Closing of Ceremonies & Retiring of Nation Flags Meeting Adjourned – Safe Travel Home~

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**Aki Community Center Elder Meals Menu 2013**

*Please contact Noelle Cross with any question. Phone: 231-398-6886
E-mail: ncross@lrboi.com
Volunteers are needed to help with meals if interested please contact Noelle.*

**Meals served at 12 a.m.**
- No Charge to Elders, their Spouse and Handicap/Disabled individuals also coincide with Elders.
- Guests Meals are $5.00
Donations are appreciated and will be used for program activities and food.

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*Wednesday: Wi Bowling! Thursday the 5th Birthday of the month!

TRD RINGO CARD DAY

Coffee, milk and water are available at every meal.

Mom subject to change without notice.

Meals meet 1/3 of the RDI based on a 1600 to 2000 calorie diet.
Government Closes for the following Holidays

* New Years Day
* Treaty Recognition Day
* Memorial Day
* Independence Day
* Labor Day
* Reaffirmation Day (Sept. 21st)
* Veteran’s Day
* Thanksgiving Day
* Friday after Thanksgiving Day
* Christmas Eve Day (Half Day)
* Christmas Day

Just use the toll-free number 888.723.8288.

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.

Indian Preference Business

Are you a business owner that owns 51 percent of your business?
Are you a member of a Federal Recognized Indian Tribe?
If so, your business may qualify for Indian Preference. To get registered with the Little River Band, please contact Michelle Lucas at 888.723.8288.

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, Binojeuk Commission, Enrollment Commission, Health Commission, Natural Resource Commission.

The Little River Housing Department is anticipating the construction completion of 7 new two bedroom fair market rental units at Aki maadiziwin in Manistee, MI this summer.

For Rent

For details and an application contact
Chad Gehrke
231-398-6878

Michelle Bernatche
231-398-6875

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Housing Department currently has programs to assist prospective Homeowners, and existing homeowners, with Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance. The programs are available to Tribal Members who are buying, building, or planning to buy or build, or who have purchased a home and would have met the requirements of eligibility for any of the programs established in the Ordinance between September 21, 2005 and the date the Ordinance went into effect. It is available to members within or outside the Reservation or Trust Lands boundaries. There are no income requirements, and you can receive a combined amount up to $5,000.00 and is based on 2.33% for Down Payment assistance and 1% for Closing Cost assistance which is calculated on the total purchase price. Please contact Chad Gehrke in the Housing Department for additional information and applications, 231-398-6878.

Halloween Gathering

Oct 20, 2012 11 am to 3 pm
POTLUCK St Thomas Hall 3252 Apple Ave, Muskegon

Halloween Gathering

POTLUCK St Thomas Hall 3252 Apple Ave, Muskegon

Halloween Gathering

Nov 10, 2012 11 am to 3 pm
POTLUCK St Thomas Hall 3252 Apple Ave, Muskegon

Halloween Gathering

For details and an application contact Chad Gehrke 231-398-6878

For Rent

For details and an application contact Michelle Bernatche 231-398-6875

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LRBOI Tribal member and Elder Delano Peters is still at it, inventing cool items which can help people! Over the fall and early winter, Del introduced a new portable ‘exercise’ piece of equipment that can help young people improve their balance and ability to do gymnastics including as he says, “Teach them how to get started walking on their hands!”

**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

“Dedicated to Protecting the Legal Rights of Every Little River Band of Ottawa Indian Tribal Member!”
Tel# 414-841-7972
Email: inquire@filway-america

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Cadillac, MI 49601
231-942-8675
Tribal Member
Owned and Operated

Available Services in the Cadillac Area:
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  - trash removal
  - bathroom cleaning of toilets and water
  - dishwashing
  - laundry
- scrubbing floors
- cleaning of appliances
- washing windows
- striping and making of beds
- errand running - doctor appointments, grocery shopping.
- Transportation within 10 miles
- flexible hours by appointment

Services charged by the hour plus mileage charge for transportation.

Contact Information
Colleen Johnson - cell: 231-942-8675

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**Eve Salisbury**
Independent Beauty Consultant
(231)571-0627
craftylady1940@comcast.net
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**Shirley M. Brauker**
1048 Silver Road Coldwater, Michigan 49036
260-243-9027 email: sbrauker@gmail.com

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260-243-9027 email: sbrauker@gmail.com
Use autumn leaves to make quirky family portraits

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our Autumn Anagram

cahrstv

behllsu

ikmnppu

negnor

aeelsv

ellowy

bceoort

amntuu

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Give Thanks

How nice to see the talent of basket making given to us, I see can clearly see these baskets full of LOVE, Honor, and Grace. Full to the Brim; and I GIVE THANKS!

Make a list of 7 things that you can give thanks for and send it into the Currents and we will print them.

Currents comments@lrboi.com
The Native American Water Association held their annual conference at the Little River Resort Casino last month. Preceded by a golf outing, people from all over gathered for the conference discussing Native Water issues and challenges. The LRBOI Utility Director Gary Lewis and assistant Sally Bell coordinated the conference and arranged for a number of equipment vendors to visit and talk about their trade with tribal representatives.

House Appropriations Fails to Address Sequestration cuts for Indian Health Service in FY 20014 funding bill
WASHINGTON, DC July 24, 2013-The U.S. House of Representatives Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee approved the fiscal year (FY) 2014 Interior and Environment funding bill today on a party line vote of 7-4. The budget funds the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOOI), which oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs and numerous programs for American Indian and Alaska Native s. Specifically, the bill funds the In Ian Health Service (IHS) at $4.1 billion, which is a $227 million reduction from FY 2013 enacted level but level funded at FY 2013 post-sequestration levels.

Tithe overall funding bill off $24.3 billion shows a cut of 19 percent from fiscal year 2013 enacted levels and a 14 percent cut from post-sequestration levels. Members of the subcommittee on both sides of the aisle expressed frustration at the low budget numbers that were allocated for the bill.

Tithe National Indian Health Board Chairperson Cathy Abramson released the following statement regarding the funding legislation:

"We appreciate the House Appropriations Committee leadership and memo errs for prioritizing funding for the Indian Health Service. It is a clear indication of the Committee’s commitment to fund health care for this country’s first peoples. Unfortunately, American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer disproportionate lee from a variety of health afflictions including diabetes, heart disease, tuberculosis and cancer. Adequate federal funding for Tribal health care through IHS is not only a legal obligation but it helps to save lives,” Abramson said.

While NIHBB understands that there are many difficult budget decisions to be made during these complicated fiscal times, these funding levels will mean widening health disparities and even worse health outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native people. Tribes have prepaid d for their health care through cession of millions of acres of land and should not lose additional lives due to perpetual gridlock in Washington on budget I sues. We urge the Committee to restore funding for the Indian Health Service and hold the agency exempt from sequestration and future automatic cuts... Other health programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare and Veterans Health have been held harmless from sequestration, and you Indian Health Service should be included in this exemption. Funding for Tribal health care is not only a legal obligation, but a moral one ass well,” Abramson added.

Currently, thee Indian Health Service is funded at o only 56 percent of total need. American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer disproportionately from a variety of health afflictions including diabetes, heart disease, tuberculosis, and cancer. Additional reduced age-adjusted mortality rates include: homicide (55%), cerebrovascular (49%), alcohol-induced (44 %), and heart disease (32 %). Some areas see even greater disparities for AI/ANs compared to rates in the U.S.S. Population; for example: tuberculosis rates are 8.55 times higher; chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, 4.2 times; diabetes, 2.99 times; unintentional injuries, 2.5 times, and homicide, 2.0 times.

Boozhoo to all my relatives, I would like to take this time to say what an honor it is to be elected as your Appellate Justice. I promise that I will listen to everything with an open mind and base my decisions on the facts, the law, and from a elder perspective.

I feel that with my past working experience in Human Resources allowed me to know and keep abreast of the federal, state, and tribal laws. I will bring to the bench a wide knowledge base that is rooted in the customs and traditions of our people with a moral compass of right and wrong all while applying the legal standards. I believe in restorative justice and that the law should be less punitive. Our people have long been subject to punitive judgments in local, state, and federal courts. My wish is to bring a restorative justice approach to our Tribal Court.

Chi-miigwech
Cindy (Wababenisiwe) Pete-Champagne

Jean Hewitt walks on

HEWITT, MRS. JEAN M.
MUSKEGON, MI Mrs. Jean Marie Hewitt, age 79, Passed away July 12, 2013 following a respiratory complication. Jean was born July 3, 1934, in Muskegon to Rose and Solomon Shalifoe. After raising six children she began working at Muskegon Regional Medical Center for over thirty years until she retired. She was member of Fruitland Evangelical Covenant Church where she sang in the choir and played the piano. She also participated in the Sweet Adelines, was an avid golfer, and a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, Aerie # 3214. Active in the Native American Community, Jean was a lifetime member of Tecumseh Lodge, and a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Recognized as an outstanding craft worker, including Native beadwork and sewing, her finished projects were treasured by family and friends. Jean had often been selected as Head Female Dancer at many different Powwows and traveled widely to Powwows throughout the United States and also Canada. Mrs. Hewitt is married to Frederick (Rick) Hewitt. The father of her children is Kenneth Olsen. SURVIVORS include two daughters, Laurie (David) Bates, and Tracy Hagen; two sons, Kenneth “Ole” Olsen, and Christopher (Doreen) Olsen; two sisters, Joyce (Joseph) Genia, and Stella (James) Gibson; and one brother Carlos (Susan) Eagle. She was fortunate to have ten grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and her three dogs whom she loved dearly. The Joy of her Life was her 11-year old great grandson Dallas Shane Olsen whom she was raising. Jean was preceded in death by her parents, Rose and Solomon Shalifoe, both very active in the Native American community; two children, Rosie (David) Holmberg and Eric Olsen; sisters, Bernice (Thomas) Marshall, Barbara (Roger) Stalzer; brother, Roger (Marie), and ex-husband Morris Norton.

Meet my grandson
Little Leo Demitri Meadows.

Congratulations Ashley and Michael. Leo was born Aug. 19, 2013 at 8lbs 8 oz. Michael and Leo are descendants of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians also know as Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians. He is my first grandbaby.
Sandra McCaslin

This is Tim Taylor, Tom's brother and I am writing on behalf of the Taylor family. Tom is tribal and I am not as we were adopted.

We can not thank you enough for your generosity in helping with the funding of Tom's funeral arrangements.

Losing Tom at such a young age was so critical for his daughters Jamie Oswald, Amanda and Erika Taylor. We truly do not know what we would have done had you not come through for us. This is such a relief to our family knowing our cost will be livable compared to what we were originally looking at.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your kindness.
Sincerely, Tim Taylor, Jamie Oswald, Amanda and Erika Taylor
The Annual Charity Golf Outing held by the Little River Resort Casino was held at Manistee National Golf Course to a large field of players. This was the largest field ever and the weather was perfect as everyone showed their support for the five charities and groups in the area. Little Rivers own Kwewok Circle was one of the recipients. Each year this outing raises around $50,000 which is distributed equally among the charities chosen for that year.

Thanks to Chad and his crew at Little River for putting on an excellent outing and banquet.
Bushy Run marks battle’s 250th anniversary

"Bushy Run Battlefield's 250th anniversary celebration was bittersweet recently for LRBOI’s Jerry Ramsey, a direct descendant of Ottawa Chief Pontiac, whose rebellion against the British was responsible for the deadly encounter in 1763 at what is now the Penn Township site.

"I have a little bit of sadness for the ones who gave their lives here as Native Americans as well as the British who also courageously fought," Mr. Ramsey told a local newspaper during an anniversary celebration last month. "It wouldn't be right not to honor them both."

But at the same time, Pontiac's great-great-great-grandson said he believes Native Americans would have lived a lot better, especially without sickness and loss of life, if Bushy Run's outcome had been reversed.

"It turned out the way it turned out," said Mr. Ramsey who was among the dignitaries on hand for the anniversary celebration and unveiling of a new bronze monument honoring those who fought during the battle.

Officials and visitors to the three-day celebration reflected on the history of the battle, which historians say opened the west to settlement. With the outbreak of Pontiac's Rebellion in the spring of 1763, Native American warriors placed Fort Pitt under siege and began raiding British settlements to the east around Fort Bedford and Raystown, Pa."

NASW – Michigan Board of Directors Announcement

Jason Cross, a Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal member and Case Manager for the Family Services department was recently elected to the National Association of Social Workers – Michigan Chapter Board of Directors. Jason will be serving on the Board as the MSW student representative after a statewide election. According to the NASW – Michigan bylaws, the Board of Directors is responsible for developing programs and policies reflective of its membership and objectives including annual budgets and program implementation. In addition to representing all Michigan graduate social work students, Jason hopes to bring social work issues specific to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians to the attention of the Board during his term. Jason is currently finishing his first year in the weekend MSW program with a concentration in organization and community leadership at Michigan State University.

Pandora Pete, Little River Princess 2013

PANDORA PETE (written prior to Jiingtamok 2013)

This year is almost over our pow-wow is almost here. I want all the young lady tribal members to know, I encourage all of you to come out. Sign up to be the next Little River not one princess is the same! All of us have different qualities to offer our people. We have different thoughts, beliefs, different things we can teach each other. That is things we need to share and embrace! Come and dance, dance for our lost, for our new life, for all the creator has gifted us with. I know that not everyone who runs is going to get it, and that may fill you with fear and discouragement, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try! Maybe this time isn't yours it doesn't mean yours will never come. I believe if you were meant to hold the crown you will whether it's this time or later. The creator will know when it's your time and so will you. So come out ladies and represent not only me but all of our tribal members, all anishanobes! Hold your head high dance with a good heart! Represent us in a good way you must believe in yourself before anyone else can. Tell us all the things that you see so all we do not know. Feel the honor that I have been able to. Pursue this life changing opportunity and live it to the best of your ability.

Thank you!!
Miss Little River 2013, Pandora Pete