



Holiday Parties at Little River

December has been a month of Holiday Parties for the tribe and this year the parties were especially nice. The Elders had theirs in the Three Fires Conference Center and used up all the space. They had entertainment by young folks of the tribe and a great meal.

Then the next day, the Children's Christmas Party was held in the Makwa Endaat and it was so big that, when lunch was served, the resort staff had to also serve some families over in the Three Fires Conference Center. Over 840 people signed up for the Children's Party. 'Frozen' was shown for the party, Santa was there, Elves helped everyone and



gifts were given to all the youngsters. Both were enjoyable family events and we took a lot of pictures. Look for the articles on both events inside this issue of the Currents.



LRCR's Israel Stone nationally recognized



Read all about it on page 27.

Former Tribal Council member and current LRCR Tribal Development Director Israel Stone has been recognized for the program he has developed at the resort called 'Sevens' which is based upon the Seven Grandfathers teachings.

2014 Annual Children's Powwow



See Page 28

Lifetime Achievement Award



LRBOI tribal member Shirley Brauker has been awarded the Minnie Jackson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ziibiwing Center in Mt. Pleasant. Read all about it in this issue.

For submission policies regarding editorial or communications processes for the Currents or the Rapid River News, please go to www.lrboi.com under the tabs for both publications. You will see the full policies written there. These include the editorial and communication protocols for the Office of Public Affairs in effect at this time. To comment upon these policies, please use currentscomments@lrboi.com and send in your thoughts for consideration by the staff.

Emergency Management protocols will be available upon request and per authorization by the Office of the Ogema as they constitute secure information designed to protect the lives and investments of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, their members, employees and property. These notices are required under Resolution #13-0411-069



Aanii,
Much is going on with your tribe. We have basically completed the 2015 LRBOI Government Budget; it has been a difficult process but we are through it before the end of the year.

We have been working extra hard on the new Manistee Sewer project which is expected to be completed the Spring of 2015. We continue to devote much of our time on the Muskegon Casino Project and are making good progress.

The LRRCR Resort Board of Directors recently took action to eliminate the Resort giving benefits to LRBOI tribal members such as “free-play” and special tribal member discounts on food, hotel rooms and gift shop purchases. This will take effect on January 1st, 2015 Due to this action, the next Tribal Membership meeting in April will most likely be a potluck luncheon instead of a served lunch from the Resort. When making your hotel reservations please note that you will still receive a discount the rate will be increased. (See article in this paper from the casino Board of Directors) We will keep you posted on additional information.

As I write this, I am getting ready to attend the President’s Summit with Tribal Leader’s later this week. There are many important issues facing Indian Country and the Summit is a good place to have our voices heard.

Over the years, one of the issues that seems to constantly keep the Legislative and Executive Branches of Government in Tribal Courts is conflicting interpretation of our Tribal Constitution. It has been very costly and time-consuming. I believe the Constitution was written very well and while I do believe there are some key changes now needed, I do believe much of the conflicts are due to interpretation of the document.

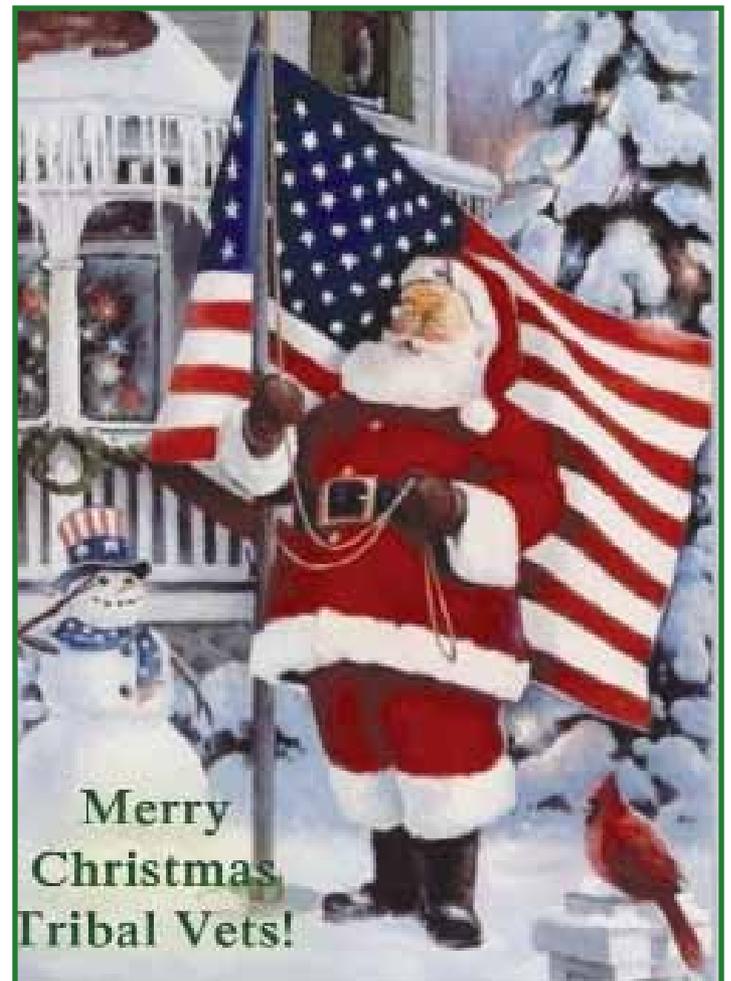
I know that many of those members who worked on the Constitution are still with us and I would think it could be very beneficial to bring them together to help clarify the intent or spirit of this very important guiding document. I would be willing to set up a meeting or meetings to bring those people together if any would be willing. I believe it could save many future court trips between the two branches. If you are one of the members who worked on the original Constitution and would be willing to help clarify its intent, please let me know.

The 2015 Elections have begun and I wish everyone the best of luck and thank each for stepping up to serve this Tribe.

I want to wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season spent with family and friends. Let’s hope the weather is a little nicer to us this winter.

Until next month...

Pray for peace for everyone and remember to thank those women and men veterans who have served or are serving and protecting our Country.



The question has come up a lot lately, "WHO OVERSEES THE CASINO BOARD OF DIRECTORS?"

There have been many answers to that question. Reading the Constitution, Article IV-Tribal Council, Section 7(f) says the Tribal Council has the ability or power:

"To create by ordinance regulatory commissions or subordinate organizations and to delegate to such organizations and to delegate to such organizations the power to manage the affairs and enterprises of the Little River Band, provided that no such commission or subordinate organization shall exercise powers of the Tribal Council unless they are expressly delegated by the Tribal Council."

Article V-Tribal Ogema, Section 5(8) says, the Ogema has the ability or power:

"To manage the economic affairs, enterprises, property (both real and personal) and other interests of the Tribe, consistent with ordinances and resolutions enacted by the tribal Council." The key may be where it says, "...consistent with ordinances and resolutions enacted by the Tribal Council."

So, again, the question is who oversees the Little River Casino Resort? They both refer to "...to manage the affairs and enterprises..." The clearest understanding I have is a legal opinion that the Casino Board of Directors has oversight of the LRCR and management which is defined in the Gaming Enterprise(s) Board of Directors Act of 2010, (which can be found on the tribal website under Tribal Codes). The Act does provide the Ogema the opportunity to sit as Chairperson of the BOD but does not give independent authority over the BOD. While the Casino Board of Directors works somewhat independently, the Tribal Council does ultimately have oversight because the Council created the BOD by ordinance but should be careful in doing so.

WHO CREATES THE ANNUAL TRIBAL BUDGET? The answer is both the Executive branch and the Legislative branches work through the budget.

The Constitution, under Ogema Article V, Section 5, (5)" Timely prepare and present the annual Tribal Budget to the Tribal Council for approval or other action and to keep the Tribal Council fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the Tribe, preparing monthly reports for the Council, and making quarterly reports available to the membership."

The Constitution under Tribal Council, Article IV, Section (7) Powers of the Tribal Council, (1.) Subject to the veto of the Tribal Ogema, to adopt, approve or amend the annual budget presented by the Tribal Ogema and to authorize the expenditures of funds in accordance with such budgets;"

Then the Constitution defines the Ogema's ability to veto in Article V, Section (5), (5.) (c), " Every action taken by the Tribal Council, whether by ordinance, resolution or appropriation, which modifies the Tribal Budget submitted for approval by the Tribal Ogema, shall be presented to the Tribal Ogema for his/her approval and signature before it becomes effective."

Continuing," The Tribal Ogema shall approve or disapprove of the action taken by the Tribal Council within seven(7) days after the item is submitted to the Tribal Ogema by the Tribal Council. If he/she disapproves of the action taken by the Tribal Council, he shall return it to the Tribal Council within seven(7) days provided, specifying his/her objections.

Here defines the Ogema's ability to veto, "If after re-consideration, it again passes the Tribal Council by an affirmative vote of six(6) of the nine (9) Tribal Council members, it shall become law and he/she shall sign it notwithstanding his/her objections."

A Bit for the Kids

Our government has three branches.
Imagine a triangle.

At the top is the
Executive Branch
Ogema



Judicial
Branch
Judges
Courts

The other
corners are

Legislative
Branch
Tribal
Council

The three branches of our Tribal
Government work together
To run our Membership.

The Constitution provides for this system
so that no one branch has more power
than the others.

**Elections are coming up
so Why Vote?**

When we vote during elections
we get to choose the leaders who
will govern our tribe

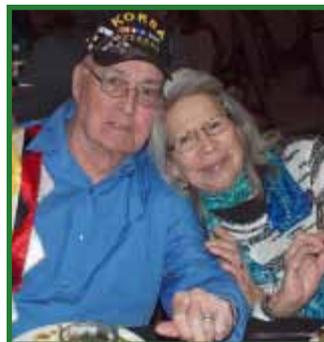
**It's a good way
to be a part of our
Government.**

Elders Christmas Party

It's yet another year that the Elder Committee put on a fabulous Christmas party for the elders. Nearly 350 in attendance the event was filled with Christmas cheer. The event began with Chair Ron Pete welcoming all in attendance and introduction of the Elder Committee members. Also acknowledged were Ogema Romanelli, Tribal Council members and LRCR Board of Director members in attendance. The elders had a very nice buffet lunch provided by the resort. The entertainment this year was a tribal youth Holiday presentation sponsored by the BeDaBin Department. Dottie Batchelder and Julie Wolfe organized a wonderful event that the elders enjoyed. There were many gifts raffled off that included items

that were left over from the annual elder conference. This year the LRCR employees had collected gently used coats for the event. They were placed outside the conference center for the elders to take what they could use. It was a wonderful gesture by the resort employees in caring for our elders. The Elder Committee greatly appreciates the employee efforts. The meeting ended with the elders sharing in a gift exchange. They each brought a gift valued at \$15.00 or less. The gift of giving went very well.

Tis a time for sharing and caring and spreading joy! May your holidays be blessed and the New Year brings good health and wellbeing.
Elder Committee



Virgil Johnson, Speaker
(231) 398-6820
vjohnson@lrboi-nsn.gov

Shannon Crampton, Councilor
(231) 398-6835
scrampton@lrboi-nsn.gov

Delano Peters, Councilor
(231) 398-6849
dpeters@lrboi-nsn.gov

Sandy Mezeske, Recorder
(231) 398-6854
smezeske@lrboi-nsn.gov

Gary DiPiazza, Councilor
(231) 398-6825
gdipiazza@lrboi-nsn.gov

Patricia Ruitter, Councilor
(231) 398-6869
pruiter@lrboi-nsn.gov

Mike Ceplina, Councilor
(231) 398-6828
mceplina@lrboi-nsn.gov

Frankie Medacco, Councilor
(231) 398-6830
fmedacco@lrboi-nsn.gov

Marty Wabindato, Councilor
(231) 398-6833
mwabindato@lrboi-nsn.gov

Agenda Request Form: This form is required by the Tribal Council for all requests to be placed on the regular Tribal Council meeting agenda. <https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/images/docs/council/docs/Agenda%20Request%20Form.pdf>

Public Comment: Notice of Proposed Ordinances - This link will take you to a list of ordinances that are being presented for Public Comment. <https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/index.php/government/tribal-council/36-government/tribal-council/103-public-comment-notice-of-proposed-ordinances>

Work Session Attendance		*-Business Related						V-Vacation			
Date	Work Session Title	Delano Peters	Michael Ceplina	Shannon Crampton	Gary DiPiazza	Virgil Johnson	Frankie Medacco	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruitter	Marty Wabindato	Total
11/03/14	Government Financials	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
11/03/14	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
11/03/14	Meeting with the court	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	7
11/04/14	Meeting Procedures Ordinance	x	x	x		V	x	x	x	x	7
11/04/14	Round Table w/ Ogema	x	x	x		V	x	x	x	x	7
11/10/14	Elder Supp Health Care	x	V	x	x	x	V	x	x		6
11/10/14	Surveillance System	x	V	x	x	x	V	x	x		6
11/10/14	Agenda Review	x	V	x	x	x	V	x	x		6
11/10/14	Natural Resources	x	V	x	x	x	V	x	x		6
11/13/14	Duties of Legislative Liaisons	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	7
11/13/14	Commerce Director Position	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		8
11/13/14	Legal Counsel Reform Act	x	x	x	x	*	x	x	x		7
11/13/14	Revenue Sharing Board	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		8
11/14/14	Commodities Building	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		7
11/14/14	Tribal Court Ordinance	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		7
11/17/14	Employee Relations Act	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		7
11/17/14	Agenda Review	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		7
11/17/14	Commissions Ordinance	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		7
11/18/14	LLC Ordinance	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	7
11/18/14	Indian Preference Ordinance	x	x		x	*	x	x		x	6
11/18/14	Burial Assistance	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	7
11/18/14	Round Table w/ Ogema	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	7
11/21/14	Board of Directors		x		x	x		x			4
11/25/14	Indian Preference Ordinance		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		7
11/25/14	Scofes & Associates	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		8
Total number of Work Sessions - 25		23	18	18	22	20	19	24	20	10	

Commission, Committee and Board Stipend Payments Collected for the Fiscal Year in Accordance with Resolution #03-0813-248

1. Commissions are created to regulate and manage within a subject matter or activity.
 - a. *Membership.* A commission has at least three commissioners who shall be appointed by the Ogema and approved by the Tribal Council.
 - b. *Authority.* A commission shall be granted sufficient legislative authority to allow the commission to create regulations to govern in the subject matter jurisdiction.

Commissions are created by adoption of an Ordinance which sets forth the legislative requirements, direction, limitations, restrictions or other directions regarding a subject matter. Upon adoption of an Ordinance, the commissioners shall be identified and directed to develop and present by-laws.

The Tribal Council shall establish Tribal Committees, as needed, in areas of governance and development. The Committees shall be composed of Tribal members and other interested persons who shall meet and discuss specific issues in order to provide information to the Tribal Council so that the Council can make better informed decisions that affect the Tribal community. In furtherance of this purpose, this Policy will provide rules for the organization, functions, responsibilities, and requirements of Tribal Committees.

2. Commission/Committee Schedules:

Commissions:

Binojeeuk Commission:	1p.m., 2 nd and 4 th Thursdays – Aki Maadiziwin Community Center
Commerce Commission:	5p.m., 1 st and 2 nd Thursday of each month -Grand River Room at LRCR
Enrollment Commission:	5:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday of each month – Enrollment Department
Gaming Commission:	5:30 p.m., Tuesdays –Gaming Commission Office
Health Commission:	5:30 p.m., 1 st Monday – Health Clinic
Housing Commission:	9a.m., 1 st and 3 rd Thursdays –Aki Maadiziwin Community Center
Natural Resource Commission:	5p.m., 2 nd Monday – Law Library of Government Center



Special or Emergency Meetings do not appear but may be scheduled.

Committees:

Elders – 12 noon, 1st Saturday of each month – Aki Maadiziwin Community Center

3. The Binojeeuk Commissioners and Gaming Commissioners receive \$125.00 per meeting and the rest of the Commissions and/or Committees receive \$100.00 per meeting.

Commission/Committee Stipends Paid April 1, 2014 to October 31, 2014

Elders Committee

Ron Pete – Chair	\$1,300
Darleen Martin	\$1,300
Connie Waitner	\$1,300
Ron Wittenberg	\$1,300
Rita Gale	\$1,300

Liaisons

P. Ruiter –	9 out of 14 attended
S. Mezeske –	7 out of 14 attended
V. Johnson –	7 out of 14 attended

Commerce Commission

Connie Waitner	\$400
Keith Sensabaugh	\$700
Ron Pete	\$500
Peggy Vriesman	\$700
Kareen Lewis	\$700

Liaisons

G. DiPiazza –	2 out of 7 attended
S. Mezeske –	0 out of 7 attended

Gaming Commission

Lee Ivinson	\$3,625
Dave Corey	\$3,625
Deb Davis	\$3,500
Joe Riley	\$3,500

Liaisons

M. Ceplina –	9 out of 31 attended
F. Medacco –	2 out of 31 attended

Housing Commission

Karen Love	\$1,200
Judy Hardenburgh	\$1,200
Julia Chapman	\$1,200
Marcella Leusby	\$ 0
Jamie Friedel	\$ 500

Liaisons

D. Peters –	5 out of 12 attended
S. Mezeske –	3 out of 12 attended

Binojeeuk Commission

Margery Lutz	\$1,500
Sandy Deverney	\$1,400
Carol Gibner	\$1,625
Leslie Studey	\$1,125

Liaisons

M. Wabindato –	6 out of 14 attended
F. Medacco –	3 out of 14 attended

Enrollment Commission

Katie Glocheski	\$700
Diana O’Neal	\$700
Charmaine Stone	\$700

Liaisons

S. Mezeske -	0 out of 7 attended
V. Johnson –	0 out of 7 attended

Health Commission

Diane Lonn	\$200
Pamela Johnson	\$700
Al Patricio	\$700

Liaisons

M. Wabindato –	1 out of 7 attended
D. Peters –	0 out of 7 attended

Natural Resource Commission

Mike Burmeister	\$1,100
John Koon	\$1,100
Robert Whiteloon	\$ 100
Tom Guenthardt	\$1,100

Liaisons

M. Ceplina –	3 out of 11 attended
G. DiPiazza –	7 out of 11 attended

2015 Election Candidate Information

In the January edition of the Currents leading up to the Primary Election, all candidates have the opportunity to run their campaign message along with a picture if they wish to do so. The pieces will appear alphabetically by office being sought. The candidates for the Office of the Ogema will have 400 words available along with a picture. Other candidates for Tribal Council, Board of Election and Judiciary elections will each have 200 words available along with a photograph.

In the March Currents (following the Primary election but before the General Election) winners of the Primary will have an opportunity to run another message and picture with the same number of words, if they choose to do so. Candidates have the option of re-running their article from January if they wish to do so. The articles and photographs will appear using the same formula as with the January edition, by office and appearing alphabetically

LRBOI Office of Public Affairs - Standard Operating Procedure

Political Announcement policy for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and its enterprises.

Political announcements will be only accepted during a declared election period! Candidate announcements for each office will be of equal size and will offer the opportunity to include the candidates' picture along with copy and contact information. When listed in the newspaper, candidates will appear grouped by office and in alphabetical order by their last name. Endorsement ads will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the candidate to submit their information.

Size and Design -the size and design of the candidate announcements will be processed in the following fashion to ensure fair competition. The size of the available space for each candidate will be determined by the Office of Public Affairs ahead of time. Space will be made available for a candidate photograph and a predetermined amount of written copy (a set number of words as measured by Microsoft Office Word Count).

Ad formats.- Not all graphic programs work for our computers and we will not spend time trying to work with non-standard programs that are unsupported by the tribe. Candidates will be requested to submit their photographs (digital) and to submit their copy (wording) via e-mail. Just include the wording in the body of your email to: gzaring@lrboi-nsn.gov and aeagle@lrboi-nsn.gov.

Submission and Deadlines- All candidate information must be submitted in accordance with publication deadlines.

The deadlines are as follows:

- * Little River Currents – the first business January 5th, by 5 p.m.
- March 5th by 5pm.

Procedures for Establishing Candidacy

For Candidates for the Office of Tribal Council - Nine County District and At-Large District.

To run for the Office of Tribal Council in the Nine County District or the At Large District, a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar.

For Candidates for the Office of Tribal Ogema -To run for the Office of Tribal Ogema. a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

For Candidates for the Office of Election Board --To run for the Election Board, a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar.

The image shows a screenshot of a web form titled "Currents Political Announcement Submission Form". At the top left, it says "Megwa Ezhweback". The form includes a header with the "Currents" logo and a globe icon. Below the header, it states "LRBOI Office of Public Affairs - Standard Operating Procedure". The main body of the form contains several sections of text: "Political Announcement policy for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and its enterprises", "Size and Design" instructions, "Ad formats" instructions, and "Submission and Deadlines". At the bottom, there are input fields for "Name", "Tribal Member I.D. Number", and "Date". Below these fields, it says "Political Office: [Office of Appellate II]". A large red diagonal banner across the bottom of the form reads "December 19th Last day to withdraw candidacy!". At the very bottom right, there are two buttons: "Submit by Email" and "Print Form".

“Electronic ‘Candidate article submission forms’ have been created by Public Affairs this year to make it easy for candidates to submit their information. You can find the forms on the tribal website at www.lrboi.com.”



Gaá Čhing Zifbi Daáwaá Aniřhinaábek

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
ELECTION BOARD
2608 Government Center Drive
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-8288**

Date of Election: April 24, 2015
Offices to be Elected:

Office of Tribal Council - Nine County District (three seats)
Office of Tribal Council - At Large District (one seat)
Office of Tribal Ogema - (one seat)
Office of Election Board - (two seats)
Office of Chief Judge - (one seat)
Office of Appellate Judge - (two seat - 1 Elder & 1 Attorney)

Procedures for Establishing Candidacy

For Candidates for the Office of Tribal Council - Nine County District and At-Large District.

To run for the Office of Tribal Council in the Nine County District or the At Large District, a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

For Candidates for the Office of Tribal Ogema -To run for the Office of Tribal Ogema. a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

For Candidates for the Office of Election Board --To run for the Election Board, a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

For Candidates for the Office of Chief Judge or Appellate Judge -To run for the Office of Chief Judge or Appellate Judge, a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

Election Calendar

Declaration of Candidacy Packets available	November 3rd
Declaration of Candidacy Packets due	December 1st
Slate of Candidates certified	December 12th
Last day to withdraw candidacy	December 19th
Ballots mailed out for Primary Election	January 9th
Ballots due and Primary Election Day	February 13th
Deadline for Primary Election recounts, disputes, challenges	February 20th
Ballots mailed out for General Election	March 27th
Ballots due and General Election Day	April 24th
Deadline for General Election recounts, disputes, challenges	May 1st



November 5, 2014

Fellow-Citizens" The Board of Directors of the Little River Casino Resort takes very seriously its responsibility to deliver exemplary financial results to the Tribe so that all its members may share prosperity, independence and pride. We undertake the role that has been entrusted to us with a glad and serving heart.

In fact, it could be characterized that We Want the Tribe to Win at business! We Want to Win at our roles in the business, too!

In order to Win at Business, we would like to respectfully share some information with you:

Dollars that are not received by the Resort because of providing discounts that use up the profit on meals, events or other functions and which serve a small number of users cannot be distributed to the Tribe, and then cannot show up in per capita sharing. Therefore, it ultimately benefits everyone to stop those discounts and capture those dollars for distribution which can positively affect all of our people. To be respectful and plainly honest, to achieve these good and right business goals, all Resort-offered tribal discounts shall be ending effective January 1, 2015.

This does not mean that the Tribe and its citizens will not be treated with great care as guests, nor be able to enjoy the Resort it so proudly owns!

When those dollars are distributed to the Government for the proper division of operating funds and per capita, the Resort would be more than happy to host events or provide services, certificates, and products that the Government pays the Resort for through its (post per cap) operating budget. In fact, it is rightly and properly a privilege and responsibility of Government leadership to determine what benefits should be available and provided to its citizens; not the Resort.

We thank you for the trust you have placed in us, and thank you for the many good words that you have shared with us recently that encourage us to be strong leaders in producing great business results.

Respectfully,
Elaine Porter, Chairperson

TRIBAL DISCOUNTS FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Why is the Resort doing this?

The Board of Directors of the Resort feels that the purpose of the Resort is to provide profits to the Tribe to fund Per Cap payment and help fund Tribal Government Operations. While the Board still supports giving individual Tribal Members discounts these-discounts are not for a legitimate business purpose so the decision to give the benefits should lie with the Tribal Government and their elected officials, not the Board of Directors of the Resort. Providing discounts and Resort services to the Tribe materially affects the distribution from the Resort to the Tribe.

How does this affect me?

Although Tribal Members will no longer be receiving discounts at the Resort unless funded by the Tribal Government,

the extra distribution will lead to an increase of Per Cap payments. The true profits of the Resort will now be subject to Per Cap instead of the profits after Tribal incentives.

Can the Tribal Government continue to fund the discounts?

Yes, the Tribal Government can continue to fund the discounts if they feel that it is the best use of the limited funds to fund the Tribe. The Tribal Government is constantly analyzing budgets to ensure that the Tribe as a whole receives the greatest benefits from the funds available.

Will this end the Free Play that is given out at the meetings?

Yes, it will end the Free Play unless the Tribal Government feels that it is important enough to continue to fund Free Play out of its budget for Tribal benefits. Free Play alone was reducing Resort distributions by over \$100,000 per year. This money will now be going through Distributions and to the Per Cap.

Will there still be \$50 rooms for the Tribal Meetings?

No, there will not still be \$50 rooms for the Tribal Meetings, but the Resort will provide a group block at a reasonable rate. (Less than \$100 per night.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2700 Orchard Hwy
Manistee, MI 49660
p: 231.723.1535
f: 231.723.4440
lrrc.com

Tax-Exempt Quotas – until annual quota is gone

Tax-exempt motor fuel monthly limit is 175 gallons per Tribal member.
Tax-exempt cigarette monthly limit is 25 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.

You will also be required to provide Proof of Residency before a Certificate of Exemption can be issued for a tax-exempt purchase under the terms of § III(A)(2 &3) of the Tribe/State Tax Agreement.

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.

NEW: Resident Tribal Members will be required to provide Proof of Residency when requesting a Tribal Certificate of Exemption.

The annual Children's Christmas party was again a success! The event opened with Ogema Romanelli welcoming all the families in attendance. He gave a special thank-you to Mary Thomas for organizing the children's party for many years as well as advising the group of volunteers who took on the task this year. He explained that it takes much planning for the event each year. He also extended his appreciation to the staff at LRCR for providing a nice Christmas setting and food for the event. The Little River Casino resort staff in Food & Beverage, Marketing, I.T. and Security played an instrumental role in the success of the event!



The children enjoyed the movie Frozen playing on the big screens in the event center and Three Fires conference center. Special guest Marlee Alexander, great granddaughter of Tribal elder Alyce Giltz dressed as Princess Elsa made her way to the stage and sang along to "Let it go". The



audience gave her a nice applause! Throughout the morning Santa elves made their way to tables with their box of activities to do with the kids. They made Christmas cards and Santa reindeer out of candy canes. The resort provided coloring books and crayons as well to keep kids entertained

and busy. Lunch was buffet style with a menu fit for a child's appetite of chicken fingers, macaroni and cheese and BBQ

pulled pork sandwiches. Let us not forget the yummy desserts! Many families brought tasty desserts of cookies and cupcakes to share while the resort provided Christmas cookies. To accommodate all the attendees and provide comfortable seating for lunch the resort opened up an additional buffet in the Three Fires conference center. Alyce Giltz led us in prayer.



After lunch Angel Shaw the Little River Princess wished the attendees a very Merry Christmas which led way to the entire event center singing Christmas carols! What a joyous moment to hear hundreds sing "Let it Snow" (song picked by Zoe) and "Here comes Santa Claus"! As they sang, Santa (Mike Medawis) entered the event center. He made his way to his Santa chair where children lined up so he could greet them one at a time as parents and Glenn Zaring took pictures. During this time the bags of Santa's presents were given out to the families. It was a fun filled day for family and friends.



The committee organizing the party this year comprised of Lee Iverson of the Members Assistance Department, Gina Guenthardt and Kathy Gibson from the Contract Health Services. A team of volunteers stepped up to the task of registering kids for gifts, shopping for gifts, wrapping gifts, planning kid's activities, carrying out the activities,

registering families at event and keeping the event running as smooth as possible. This team comprised of (Santa's elf helpers) Lee Iverson, Gina Guenthardt, Kathy Gibson, Noelle Cross, Michelle Steele, Michelle Bernatche, Tonya Ridge, Elizabeth Ridge and Tina Hatley. Additional shoppers and gift wrappers were Amber Moore, Rhonda Koon, Linda Wissner, Juli Duncil, Julie Wolfe, Juanita Antoine, Krystal Davis and Mary Thomas. We must give special thanks to our Santa elf helpers and to Mike Medawis for being Santa for the day.



Registration for the event began in October with a postcard mailing to the membership and several postings in the Rapid River News and Currents. This year additional information was requested during registration. It included number of adults attending with children and a suggested gift for the children. Lee, Kathy and Gina registered 462 kids and 387 adults for a total of 849 attending. Volunteers shopped after work and weekend until the shopping was complete. In Santa style, the list was checked twice! Each of the 165 bags of gifts verified and checked off as they were moved from the Government center and secured at the resort.



With each event there are unintentional things that happen such as a gift bag that didn't make it to the correct family, wrong size or overlooked gift. For that we apologize. There were no mishaps that couldn't be corrected with some patience and understanding. To the parents, grandparents and great grandparents, volunteers and resort staff who made this day special for the children, Thank-you. The day was for the children and many children left the party with smiles on their faces from a fun filled day and gift in hand that was shopped, wrapped and presented with love.

May your holidays be blessed and memories of special moments be plenty.

Santa's Elf Helpers



With the winter months upon us in the Natural Resources Department we begin to look at all the information we collected throughout the field season. We spend much of our winter analyzing data, writing reports and planning for the next field season. One type of data that we look at every winter is how old the fish we caught during the field season are.

Why do we need to know the age of the fish in our local lakes and streams?

Understanding the age structure and growth of the fishes in streams and lakes helps us monitor the fish populations, and support management decisions.

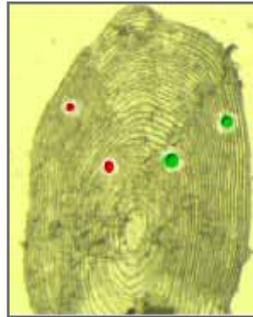
What type of fish do you age?

Some the more common fish we collect scales from to age include brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, coho salmon, chinook salmon, lake trout, and whitefish.

How do you estimate the age a fish?

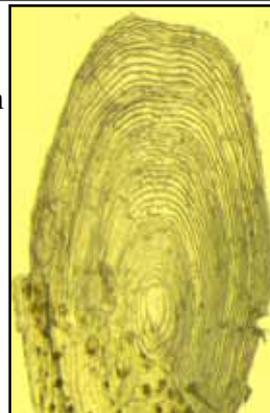
We most often use scales to help us age the fish. Fish scales have rings like trees that allow us to estimate the age of the fish. During the summer when it is warmer and there is a lot of food available, the fish grow more and the rings are farther apart. During the winter the water is colder, and not as much food is available so the fish put down rings closer together. Each scale sample from a fish is sorted through, and photos of clear scales are taken with the aid of a microscope with a camera attached to it. These images are used to count the annuli on the scales. One annulus is laid for every year the fish is alive. So when we age the fish we count the annuli in order to determine the age. The annuli are the rings where you see a change in growth from winter to summer growth. In the example below the colored dots are on the annuli of this scale. The fish is a brown trout that was 2 years old at the time of capture.

An example:



I am a rainbow trout captured from sickle creek. How old am I?

I am a brown trout from Peterson Creek. How old am I?



I am a lake trout from Lake Michigan. How old am I?

The rainbow trout is 1 year old, the brown trout is 2 years old, and the lake trout is 11 years old.

Manistee River Burbot

LRBOI's Natural Resources Department is bracing itself for wintertime assessments on the Manistee River. Burbot, a deep-water native predatory fish, inhabit some of the deepest waters in Lake Michigan, only coming into shallower waters in the coldest part of winter to spawn.



Our winter burbot surveys target adult spawners migrating into the Manistee River. Last year, we successfully captured burbot near Rainbow Bend and Highbridge access sites. We are hoping this year to improve our catch rates and our overall understanding of their population status.



One of the main challenges of this survey is Mother Nature. Our equipment and techniques have evolved from previous samplings, mainly to cope with river ice. In addition to traps, we will use baited set lines led off of bank set spruce poles. These poles avoid the need to cut large rectangles in the river ice (see photo), and will also help us get the bait out deeper and into the main channel.

Samplings will begin when we return from the holiday break and will go until the end of January. We hope to bring good news in another article soon.



Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority 200 pounds Daily Possession Limit for Lake Trout in MM-123 (Northern Lake Michigan) Emergency Order

December 4, 2014

By a telephone poll of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) Board,
the following emergency order was approved:

Effective immediately: Retention or possession of lake trout in excess of 200 pounds per vessel per day in management unit MM-123 (northern Lake Michigan) is prohibited.

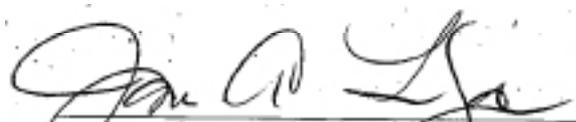
Retention or possession of lake trout caught in trap nets in management unit MM-123 is prohibited.

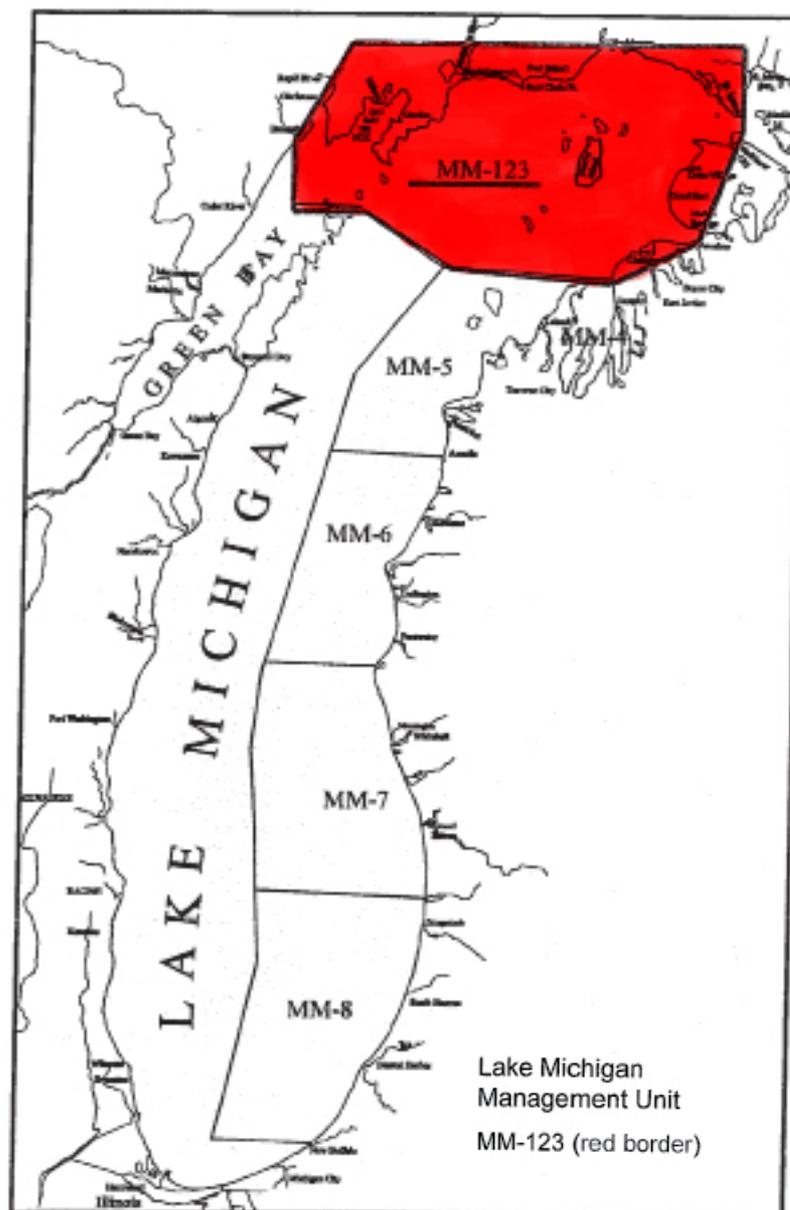
All lake trout in excess of these possession limits shall be returned to the water alive.

All other CORA and tribal regulation's apply.

This order expires at 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2015.

This order is being issued by authority of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority's "Management Plain for the 1&36 Treaty Great Lakes Waters" Section III. Paragraph E. part 2.


Jane A. TenEyck, Executive Director
Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority



Shirley Brauker



Shirley Brauker, a Michigan tribal member and accomplished artist has been given the Award which is called the Minnie Jackson Lifetime Achievement Award. It was developed to honor Minnie Jackson, a talented artist and Elder from the Saginaw/Chippewa Tribe in Mt. Pleasant, MI. This Award focuses on Native Artists who have dedicated their lives to promoting their heritage and artistic achievements through their art. This is the highest honor given out by the Ziibwing Cultural Center. Shirley said, "I received the document framed in a birchbark picture frame, a monetary award that will be used for more art materials and a Pendleton Blanket with personalized embroidery that says: "Minnie Jackson Lifetime Achievement Award for Shirley M. Brauker ~ 2014"

Along with receiving this award, I spent most of the month of November in Indianapolis, IN at the Eiteljorg Indian and Western Art Museum as the "Artist in Residence." While I was there, I taught numerous school groups about working with clay, as well as lectures for the Eiteljorg Docents concerning Woodland art, showed a documentary film that I am featured in: "Woodland Traditions, the Art of 3 Native Americans", lectured at Purdue University for the Native American Society on campus, showed a power point presentation of a story I wrote and illustrated for children called "The Jingle Dress:, did several "hands-on" workshops making clay turtles for children and adults, and got a chance to meet and have lunch with Billy Mills, the 1964 Olympic Champion.

Christmas Sale to Benefit Elders Meals Program



Council member Del Peters and his wife Jeannie set up a special holiday display at Aki Maadiziwin Community Center as a fund-raiser for the Elders Meals Program.

*All proceeds are going to be
donated to the
Elder Meal Program
curiosity of
Joan and Delana Peters*

**Kindness in words
Create Confidence**

**Kindness in thinking
creates profoundness**

**Kindness in giving
creates Love**



Jiingtamok T-shirts Christmas Discounts!

Historic Preservation Dept. has a variety of Jiingtamok T-shirts left, which could make great Christmas gifts. Many Colors available

Sold at Jiingtamok for \$10, now going for \$5 (below our cost). Multiple sizes, ranging from Small thru 3X.

Call: 231-398-398-6891



Commission Openings!

Even though most committee positions have been filled, the tribe continues to seek applications from qualified members interested in serving upon the Commerce, Gaming, Housing, Binojueuk, Enrollment, Health and Natural Resources Commissions.

Ogema Romanelli is building a pool of tribal members who are interested in sitting on a Commission. Members are invited to submit letters of interest along with why they would like to be on the Commissions and what skills or knowledge they bring to the group. Applicants will need to submit a commission application along with your letter of interest. You will need to contact our office to get an application and will need to submit both in order to be considered.

Please send the letter and application to the attention of Executive Assistant, Mary Thomas, Office of the Ogema, 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI 49660.

Casino Employment

Check out the new Employment Opportunities tab on the tribal website at

<https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/index.php/resources/employment>

Our new preference ordinance is there along with links to website and job opportunities. All in one place for your convenience! Check out the exciting opportunities that await you at the Little River Casino Resort There are many ways to apply. Log onto our Website at 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

Available job openings can also be found at all LRBOI Tribal Government buildings, in LRBOI Tribal Newsletters and at Michigan Works!

Tribal Preference will be followed in accordance with the LRBOI- Indian Preference in Employment (Ordinance #11-600-02)

LRBOI Warriors Society

The Committee consist of the following:



Commander- John Shano

Vice Commander- Vacant

Secretary - Virgil Johnson

Treasure - Vacant

Sargent of Arms -Chuck Nelson

Chaplin- Raymond Zeeryp

The Warrior Society is ever looking
For Tribal Member Warriors to honor and support
If you or someone you know would like to attend any
meetings, events, or join, please contact
allWarriorSociety@lrboi.com

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.

The Shop-with-a-Cop program has been a fixture in Manistee County for a number of years and an outstanding group of ladies (and one guy) from the tribe gathered this year at the Aki Maa-diziwin Community Center to decorate plates of cookies for all the youngsters who attend (and bags of cookies for the Officers). Peggy Durium, Darleen Martin, Jamie Friedel, Sandy Mezeske, Connie Waiter, Morgan Waitner, Bonnie Kenny, Lee Ivinson and Noelle Cross got together Friday before the event and made up plate after plate of beautiful and tasty treats for the children.



This fun decorating event has been growing each year and the tasty proceeds have helped everyone to get into the Christmas Spirit! Thanks to the LRBOI Cookie Club that made 20 dozen cookies and thanks to the Little River Casino Resort that donated 13 dozen.”

DECEMBER Elder Meals Menu 2014

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

Coffee, milk and water are available at every meal.

Wednesdays' Wii Bowling! Friday the 1st Birthday of the month!

Menu subject to change with out notice. Meals meet 1/3 of the RDI based on a 1600 to 2000 calorie diet.

14	15 Baked Fish, Mac N Cheese, Peas & Carrots, Dessert Aki <i>Language Class 12:30</i>	16 Soup and Turkey Club Sandwich, Dessert Aki	17 Roast Beef, Red Potato's , Creamed Corn, Dessert Aki <i>Activity: Wii Bowling</i>	18 Chili, Corn Bread ,Dessert Aki <i>Activity: Bingo!</i>	19 Muskegon Meal RSVP Noelle 231-398-6886 Aki	20
21 Please contact Noelle Cross with any questions Phone: 231-398-6886 E-mail: ncross@	22 Roasted Turkey, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Dessert Aki	23 Goulash, Veggie Blend, Fruit Crumble Aki	24	25	26	27
28 lrboi.com Volunteers are needed to help with meals if interested please contact Noelle.	29 Chef's Choice Aki	30 Chicken salad on Wheat Bun, Broccoli Salad, Dessert Aki	31 TBD: BINGO CARD DAY	Meals served at 12 o'clock No Charge to Elders, their Spouse and Handicap/Disabled individuals who reside with Elder. Guests Meals are \$5.00 Donations are appreciated and will be used for program activities and food.		

Beauty on a Budget

Skin care packed with multiple benefits. Special offers you don't want to miss. Free samples so you can try before you buy. Free makeovers and expert tips. Shop at your convenience with my personal delivery. No crowds, no parking hassles. No drain on your gas tank. What better way to get all your skin care and makeup! Contact me today.

MARY KAY

Dori Carnes, Tribal Member
Independent Beauty Consultant
www.marykay.com/dcarnes1
231-638-3373

The Tribal Public Safety Department wanted to remind you that they take back the prescription drugs program year 'round out at the Tribal Police Department offices on M22. Tribal police have a secured location for these drugs and regularly arranges for their disposal.

Bring these drugs into the department. Leaving them in the medicine cabinet or somewhere in the home poses a danger to youngsters and other family members. Properly disposing of these drugs protects our young, our fami-

10% Off To Tribal Members

DiPiazza's Pizzeria
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459-2754

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TUES - WED - THURS 4:30 TILL 10:00 PM
FRI & SAT 4:30 TILL 12:00 AM
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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, increased health status and wellbeing.”

Members Assistance Department

Goals & Objectives

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.

FY2015 Members Assistance Department Programs

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

is no less than 50% of the amount available. 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 must be insured and registered.
- 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.

*Programs can be accessed by the Parent or Guardian of a member who has not reached the age of 18 or the legal guardian of a member who has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to require legal guardian over the person and/or affairs, provided that the guardian is not the State of Michigan or other state government. This information must be on file with the Enrollment Department.

~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.

Volunteers Needed!! If you have the time and would like to volunteer at the Elder Meal Site please contact Noelle Cross.

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 – Assist with Heating – (Natural Gas, Propane, Electric, Coal, Fuel Oil and Wood)

Cooling Assistance LIHEAP Component-Available to Tribal Elders

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.

Program has exhausted all funding for this grant cycle and will be reapplying for this grant in September.

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:

- a. Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- b. Reside in the nine county service areas (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

- a. Home must be the primary residence of applicant
Reside in year around)
- b. Ownership of home/site must be in the tribal member's name.
- c. 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 Members Assistance link

BIA Home Improvement Program

Applications being accepted at this time for the 9 County Services Areas. Please contact Lee Iverson for more information.

Other Services:

- Referral assistance in finding assistance organizations and/or agencies to assist with needs that are not readily available or provided through tribal programs.
- Interdepartmental Referral Services that provided interdepartmental coordination and collaboration with tribal service departments when assisting members.
- MMAP assistance to Elders in need of Medicaid/Medicare Assistance -
- Marketplace health insurance enrollment assistance -

PROGRAM FYI'S-

Applications that will not be processed.
Incomplete applications and application

missing required supporting documents will not be processed until complete. In the event an application is inactive for 30 days it is closed. Please read the coversheet of application for all the required documents that must be submitted in order to process an application.

Copies of original documents should be sent with application, please do not send originals. In order to keep costs down we will NOT return original documents.

Applications are processed in the order they are received. The process is in place to be impartial to all applications received into the department. Normal processing may take up to 5 days. If household has a pending shut off notice from a utility company. It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact the utility to discuss the situation. Most companies will give an extension and provide services to assist.

Food Assistance accessed in 2014

Receipts for food assistance accessed in 2014 must be submitted by December 31st, 2014. Failure to submit receipts will result in noncompliance of regulation – reimbursement of assistance provided and denial of further assistance.

Household Budget Skills – Promoting

Self Sufficiency- Currently this service is provided upon request. Future program access will prompt an initial budget review and an informative snapshot will be provided to applicant of current resources to expenses and tools to assist household in creating a realistic household budget. Continued tips and information will be provided in the Currents as well. In the event there is enough interest, this process may broaden into a more formalized program.

Department Personnel

Lee A. Iverson
Members Assistance Coordinator

Linda Wissner
Program Specialist

Juli Duncil
Program Specialist

Noelle Cros
Elder Meal Program Administrator

Susan Recob
Cafeteria Worker

Phone: 231-723-8288 or
Toll Free 888-723-8288

Office Hours Mon thru Friday 8 am to 5 pm
Closed for lunch hour 12pm – 1pm
(Unless appointment is made in advance)



**Tribal Health Department
Wishes you a
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!**



Tribal Government offices will be closing on Wednesday December 24, 2014 at 12:00 pm and will re-open on Monday January 5, 2015 at 8:00 am. So with the closure, there will need to be some call-in deadlines for non-emergent appointments and prescriptions so the CHS/EHAP staff has adequate time to get the proper notifications to vendors.

The deadlines for reporting your appointments and calling in for prescription authorizations for the Christmas Holiday closure are as follows:

*Please be sure to call in ALL SCHEDULED appointments that will occur on or before Wednesday January 7, 2015 no later than MONDAY DECEMBER 22, 2014.

*The last day to call for prescription authorizations to be sent to the pharmacy is MONDAY DECEMBER 22, 2014 BEFORE 5:00 pm.

Please note: you may want to check with your pharmacy before stopping to pick up your medications. Sometimes faxes do not go through and sometimes they may not get printed by the vendor right away. So please allow yourself 2 hours minimum before stopping by your pharmacy or calling to see if the medications are ready.

Thank you and as always, please do not hesitate to call with any questions. The toll free number at the Tribal Health Department is 1.888.382.8299.

**For those CHS/EHAP members that are changing or getting NEW insurance benefits for 2015, you will need to obtain new prescriptions from your providers. This includes all medications, and durable medical equipment such as oxygen, nebulizers, etc.

Request for proposal

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is seeking proposals for a Traditional Practitioner and Helper for its BeDaBin Behavioral Health Program.

PROPOSAL DUE DATE: December 19th, 2014

Requests for bid packets should be directed to mlucas@lrboi.com or packets can be picked up in person at the address below.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Attn: Michelle Lucas
2608 Government Center Drive
Manistee, MI. 49660

Law Enforcement Records Management Association



Lisa Somers, Office Supervisor for the Department of Public Safety, was recently nominated for Interim President for LERMA (Law Enforcement Records Management Association). LERMA is a Michigan wide non-profit organization for any criminal justice employee. Their objectives and purpose are to help individual agencies keep their records in accordance with city/township/county ordinances, resolutions, state and federal laws. LERMA informs their members of legal changes

pertaining to records functions; promote improvements in record keeping policies and procedures, and help improve the efficiency of their members in the performance of their jobs. They encourage close cooperation with all Michigan agencies to share new concepts and most current innovations known in record keeping systems, promote good fellowship and cultivate a spirit of mutual helpfulness among their members and the people they serve. Lisa served as a Trustee on the board for two years before being nominated for Interim President. Her responsibilities include the general supervision of the Association; preside over all meetings, as well as organizing all trainings offered by LERMA.



Attorney General Eric Holder just announced the launch of an ICWA initiative to address ICWA noncompliance and halt the unnecessary and illegal removal of Indian children from their families.

The initiative mirrors the recommendations NICWA has made in countless pieces of testimony submitted, policy briefings provided to officials, and hundreds of hours working behind the scenes, building on the relationships and reputation we have carefully nurtured in over 30 years of working on Capitol Hill.

We use our invitation to the policymaking table to advocate tirelessly, ensuring YOUR stories and concerns are shared with those at the highest level. Chief among these been reports of widespread noncompliance with ICWA. NICWA has listened to you, and called for accountability for those who have disrupted and damaged our families.

Here is an excerpt from today's announcement by Holder:

Today, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Justice is launching a new initiative to promote compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. Under this important effort, we are working to actively identify state-court cases where the United States can file briefs opposing the unnecessary and illegal removal of Indian children from their families and their tribal communities. We are partnering with the Departments of the Interior and Health and Human Services to make sure that all the tools available to the federal government are used to promote compliance with this important law. And we will join with those departments, and with tribes and Indian child-welfare organizations across the country, to explore training for state judges and agencies; to promote tribes' authority to make placement decisions affecting tribal children; to gather information about where the Indian Child Welfare Act is being systematically violated; and to take appropriate, targeted action to ensure that the next generation of great tribal leaders can grow up in homes that are not only safe and loving, but also suffused with the proud traditions of Indian cultures.

Katelyn Marie Burkhart



Katelyn Marie Burkhart, 9, of Wellston, became an angel on Thursday, November 13, 2014. She was born November 10, 2005, in Traverse City, the daughter of Geoffrey Burkhart and Joan (Chandler) Schmidt.

Katelyn was a happy little girl with a spunky personality. She loved Frozen, Tinker Bell, and Curious

George, and she loved to cuddle her stuffed pony. She loved listening to all kinds of music and could dance to anything with a beat. Katelyn loved to watch movies and was a master of getting into things. She loved to give hugs and kisses and always had a smile on her face. Katelyn touched the lives of everyone who knew her, and she spread love and happiness wherever she went without ever expecting anything in return. She will be fondly remembered and deeply missed.

Katelyn is survived by: her parents, Geoffrey (Jacky) Burkhart of Bear Lake and Joan (Carl) Schmidt of Wellston; her brother, Nathaniel Burkhart; her stepbrothers, Ethan Skaggs of Bear Lake and Jake Morgan of Bear Lake; her maternal grandparents, Robert and Sandra Chandler of Brethren; her paternal grandmother, Diana Glinski of Mancelona; her maternal step-grandparents, Carl and Lisa Schmidt, of Kaleva, and Tim and Lynn Recker of Rolla, Missouri, her paternal step-grandparents, Stuart and Kathleen Swiger of Manistee; her aunts, Valerie (Matthew), Bracy, and Joann; her uncle, Scott; her special great-aunt and caregiver, Carol Kudalski of Brethren; and many cousins and friends.

Katelyn was preceded in death by: her paternal grandfather, Ed Glinski; and by her maternal great-grandmother, Cassie Barker.

Mass from the Order of Christian Funerals was celebrated at 11:00 AM, Wednesday, November 19, 2014, at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Shrine, in Manistee, with the Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Interment took place in Old Schoolhouse Cemetery, in Brown Township, in the spring. Visitation was held from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM, Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at the Terwilliger Funeral Home in Kaleva.



Happy Birthday Tribal Elders

Robert	Bailey	Mary	Miller
Ruth	Boda	Moreau	Judith
Caroline	Brandi	Evelyn	Otto
Linda	Deshier	Stanley	Petts
Velva	Emmer	Charles	Rambaldo
Katherine	Glocheski	Phillip	Robinson
Marie	Jetton	Patricia	Ruiter
Alma	Karl	Nancy	Sturdy
Joseph	Koon	Barbara	Sulainis
Raymond	Lamoradier	Elisie	Waite
David	Lilleberg	Mary	Warren
Paul	Mackety	George	Zinn
Elizabeth	McKenney		



Alex Giltz
harvested a
7 point buck on
September 8th in
Manistee County.
190 lbs.



*For all the kindness you have shown,
We thank you very much,
For sympathy in sorrowing days
For friendship's healing touch.
With gratitude our hearts are full,
Through words cannot convey
The tender thoughts and thankfulness
We hold for you today.
By the family of
Katelyn Marie Burkhardt*



George Zinn harvested two deer on
September 22 and November 29.
One buck was a 7 point the other a 6 point.
The deer was harvested in Muskegon County.

My Darling's Hannah and Mathew

Insecurity knocks from time
to time Invite it in for a cup
of coffee. Talk with it,
understand it
Then take that sugar spoon
AND POKE IT IN THE EYE!!!

Mom's Easy
Button



8 point buck,
Grand Tra-
verse County,
taken by
Alice Fink on
November 13,
2014

LRCR Tribal Development Director Receives national gaming recognition

from the Muskegon Chronicle



MANISTEE, MI – A distinctively tribal approach to management has earned national recognition for Little River Casino Resort Tribal Development Director Israel Stone.

Stone, a Muskegon native and member of the Ottawa Indians, was named one of the Top 40 Under 40 to watch in the Global Gaming Expo's emerging leaders program. The program recognizes the influence of leaders within the gaming industry.

The Little River Band has proposed building a second casino in Fruitport Township near Muskegon. Federal authorities are in the process of reviewing documents related to their proposal.

In his role as development director, Isreal designed and established the Sevens program to incorporate the traditional "Seven Grandfathers" wisdoms and teachings of the tribe into a professional development plan for tribal citizen employees to enhance and maintain the casino resort for years to come.

Stone said many tribes in North America hold the "Seven Grandfathers" teachings in common: Wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility and truth.

"They're simple teachings," he said. "There's a story and teaching that goes with each one."

His development plan, Sevens, incorporates those teachings. Read about it here: [502525_CoreSheet_v2 p1 \(3\).pdf](#).

As development director, he said he's seen the benefits of his Sevens program on casino staff -- everyone from those highlighted for management potential to those at risk for disciplinary action.

"If we make them better citizens all around, then they're going to be better team

members for the property," he said. "People are growing, maturing. They're becoming stronger leaders."

Since the seven grandfathers teaching is widely accepted among tribes, Stone hopes his management technique based on the teaching can be replicated in other casinos – and even non-tribal businesses.

"We believe the model works," he said. "Although the core values are tribal cultural values, we believe they are values that apply to all people and this will be a model used not only in Indian Country but corporate America."

He's hoping to hold seminars on professional development in the future. "We've been contacted by five other tribes already," he said.

Stone moved to Manistee from Muskegon about 15 years ago. He first began working with Little River when he was an elected member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council and worked on the casino enterprise business board. In 2011, he joined the LRCR team as Security Manager and in 2013 was named the first Tribal Development Director for the casino resort.

"This is a tremendous honor for both Israel and the property," said Casino General Manager Wendell Long. "The strategies incorporated in the Sevens program will help strengthen the enterprise for the tribe."

And it's not bad for a kid who grew up on east Broadway Avenue in Muskegon, either.

"It was a hard knocks kind of life," Stone said. "I had a good family, good community, (but) it's interesting and sad to see what's going on in the area I was raised in."

The proposed casino has its critics for a variety of reasons, but Stone said that a Fruitport casino could supply jobs that may be lacking in Muskegon County.

"I believe it will feed a lot of that need for employment," he said.

Stephen Kloosterman covers local government, employment and the outdoors for MLive Muskegon Chronicle. Email him at sklooste@mlive.com or follow him on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+.

December 2014 Docket

Monday, December 15, 2014

Judge Bailey
10a.m. Neglect/Abuse
11223NA Closed Hrg.

11:30 a.m. Somerville v. Dewey
14202DO Divorce

1:15 p.m. McKinnon v McKinnon
14231DO Divorce

Monday, December 22, 2014

Judge Bailey
10a.m. Sam v. LRCR
14211GC Pretrial Hrg.

11a.m. Doe v Lakso
14217GC Pretrial Hrg.

COURT OFFICES CLOSED
THE AFTERNOON OF
DEC. 24TH AND
WILL NOT RE-OPEN UNTIL
JANUARY 5, 2015 AT 8:00 A.M.

Subject to additions or deletions

EB	Election Board Appeal
EM	Emancipation of Minor
FJ	Foreign Judgment
FSJ	Foreign Support Judgment
GA	Gaming Appeal
GC	General Civil
GM	Guardianship of Minor
GR	Employment Matter
JC	Judicial Complaint
JV	Juvenile
LT	Landlord Tenant
NA	Neglect Abuse
NC	Name Change
PF	Probate
TPO	Personal Protection Order
TA	Trust Access
TM	Tribal Misdemeanor
WC	Workmen's Compensation

Megwa Ezhiweback
(What's happening now)

Currents



The 2014 Annual Children's Powwow at Kennedy Elementary School

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
2608 Government Center Drive
Manistee, Michigan 49660

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