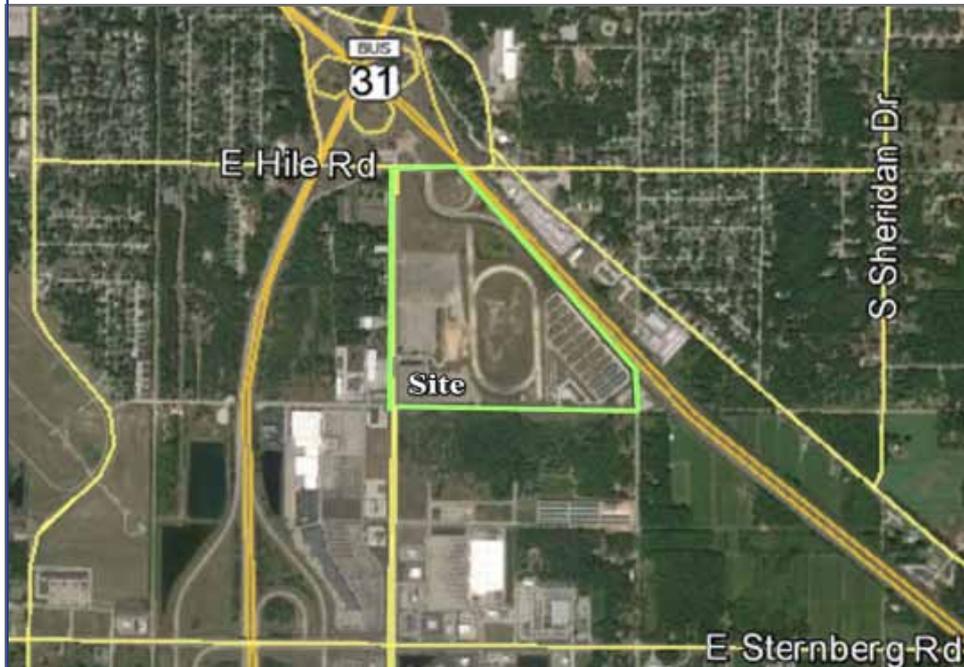




## Movement in Muskegon



Progress has begun at the tribal property in Muskegon at the old Great Lakes Downs! Following several months of negotiations, agreement has been reached with the organizers of the Muskegon Bike Time Board to move the mid-summer event from downtown Muskegon to the race track property. The event organizers will utilize 90 acres for the festival that takes place July 16-19 in 2015. The entire festival will have a budget of over half a million dollars and in 2014 drew over 120,000 people and 75,000 motorcycles. Plans include motocross races, X-Games stunt shows, expanded vendor options and concerts featuring national acts under an extravagant tented area. Ogema Romanelli thanked the entire Tribal Council for their support for this development and Speaker Johnson said to the Ogema, "Miigwech for championing this opportunity on behalf of the tribe. Both Council and the Shoreline Task Force is behind this 100%." See the full news release on page 2.

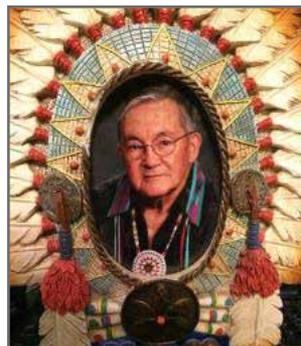
## 2015 Primary Election



The Primary Election is February 13th and candidate articles are shown beginning on page 4. Vote tallying will be in the breakroom of the Government Center in Manistee and will be conducted by the Election Board members.

**Watch Facebook for  
the latest results.**

## Chairman Bennett walks on



Former GTB Tribal Chairman George Bennett walked on and Levi Rickert from Native News Online had an excellent article on the life of this 'Quiet Giant'. Please see the article on page 7.



## Goonignebig February 21st!

One of the greatest events of the winter, The Snowsnake Tournament has been scheduled at LRBOI for February 21st. It will be held by the Aki Maadiziwin Community Center at 2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung in Manistee, MI. See the full announcement here in the Currents.



For submission policies regarding editorial or communications processes for the Currents or the Rapid River News, please go to [www.lrboi.com](http://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](mailto: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

## Muskegon Bike Time Expanding In 2015

“Expectations of guests and need for more space necessitate move to larger location”



MUSKEGON, Mich., December 22, 2014 – After eight successful years, Muskegon Bike Time will be expanding to a new location at 4800 S. Harvey Street, Muskegon, MI. As the fastest growing motorcycle festival in the country, the event has attracted over 120,000 people and over 75,000 motorcycles to downtown Muskegon. The expansion will help address several needs including more space for vendors, more attractions and more entertainment.

“The expansion is in response to our visitors requests and the long term sustainability of Bike Time”, said Bike Time Board Chairman, Clyde Whitehouse. “This new and exciting venue will allow Bike Time to grow beyond its current physical restraints, yet retain the downtown experience”.

A recent survey of Bike Time visitors indicated overwhelmingly that visitors wanted more motorcycle parts and accessories vendors, more merchandise and shopping options, more attractions, more food options and more entertainment.

The new location is on the site formerly known as Great Lakes Downs on Harvey Street. This new site will have plenty of space for growth and will allow for the expansion of vendors and will feature new attractions like motocross races, motorcycle stunt shows, and other features for the whole family. In addition, adult beverages will be available over the entire site. Future growth plans include the sorely need availability of camping.

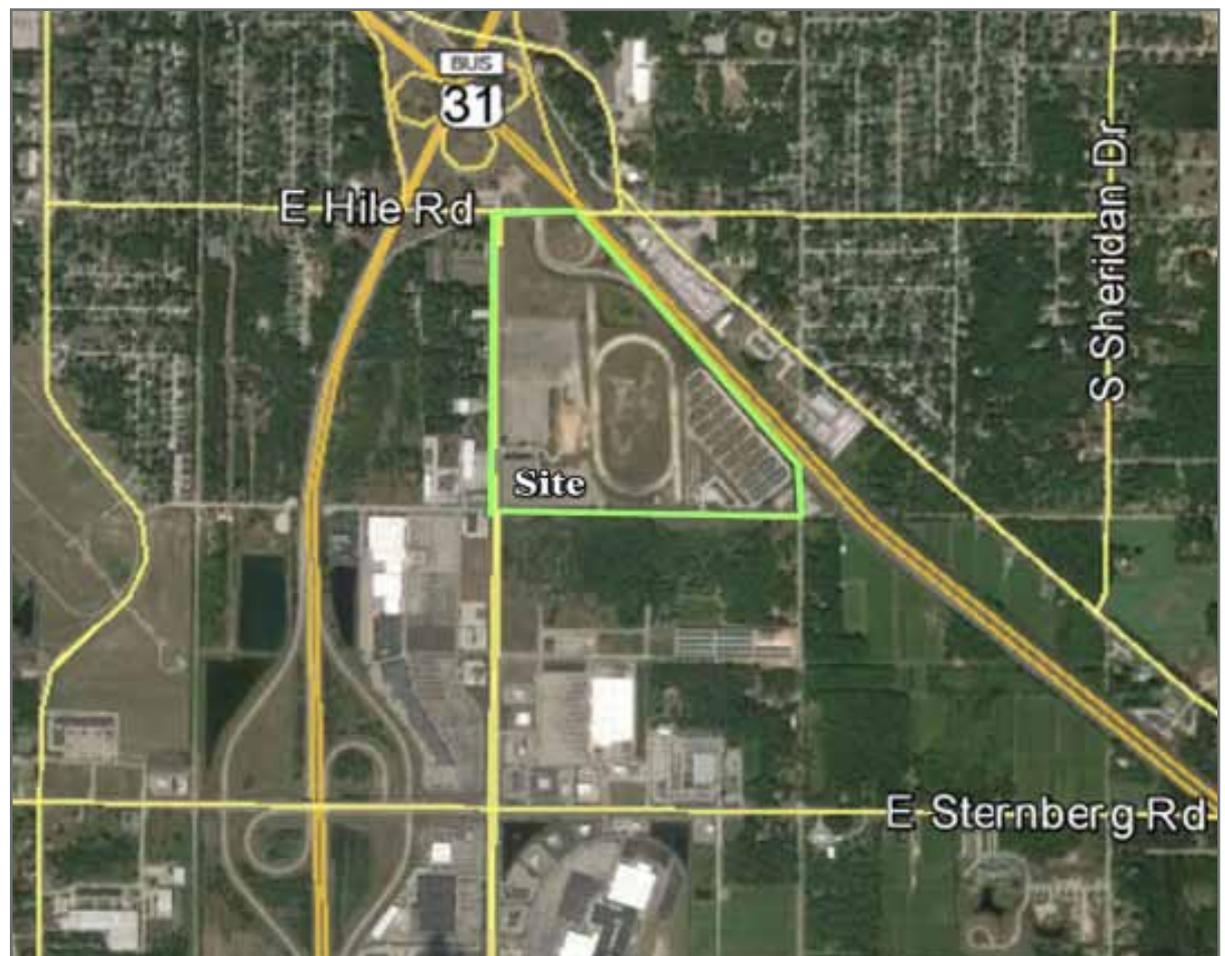
The property at Harvey Street is owned by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the group that also owns Little River Casino in Manistee, Mi. Little River Casino is a major sponsor of Muskegon Bike Time. The property will be cleaned up and maintained and will allow for the growth needed by Muskegon Bike Time. “The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has always wanted to be an integral part of the economic growth of the greater Muskegon area and this partnership with Little River Casino helps accomplish their goal”, said Whitehouse.

Over the years, Muskegon Bike Time has been an economic boon to hotels, restaurants, bars, gas stations, local retailers and other local tourist attractions. Bike Time provides an economic impact of over \$30 million yearly to the local economy.

The recent survey also indicated that 54% of Bike Time visitors came from outside the Muskegon area. This enhances awareness of the greater Muskegon area and showcases our natural beauty and other valuable assets including 26 miles of sugar sand beaches and dunes, Lake Michigan, some of the best sunsets in the world, amusement parks and a variety of culture and arts for every taste and budget.

Bike Time also supports the community by assisting 22 charities with financial support. In addition, the coming together of people in a common interest binds communities, strengthens friendships and exposes people to new ideas and directions. Bike Time helps our community grow and is a vital piece of weaving the fabric that is our community. Muskegon Bike Time also provides sponsorship options that can help supporters reach new customers, promote their brand, entertain clients, customers and employees, enhance the community image and assist local charitable causes. For more information on sponsorship opportunities call 231-722-0000. For more information on Muskegon Bike Time 2015, please visit our website at [www.muskegonbiketime.com](http://www.muskegonbiketime.com).

The mission of Muskegon Bike Time is to produce entertainment opportunities in Muskegon aimed at attracting a broad spectrum of motorcycle enthusiasts for a vacation experience on Michigan’s West Coast. It is a 4 day annual celebration of motorcycles and the community held the third weekend in July. The festival attracts motorcyclists and the general public for its spectacle, attractions, entertainment and food.



Contact:  
Clyde Whitehouse  
231-722-000  
[c.w@hotrodhd.com](mailto:c.w@hotrodhd.com)

LRBOI Tribal Council - December 2014											
Work Session Attendance											
Date	Work Session Title	Delano Peters	Michael Ceplina	Shannon Crampton	Gary DiPiazza	Virgil Johnson	Frankie Medacco	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruitter	Marty Wabindato	Total
12/01/14	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x	V	x	x	x		7
12/01/14	LRCR Financials	x	x	x	x	V	x	x	x		7
12/02/14	Jim McClurken	x	x	x	x	V	x	x	x	x	8
12/05/14	Physician Job Description	x			x	V	x	x			4
12/08/14	Rehabilitation for Licensure	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	8
12/08/14	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x	*	x	x	*	x	7
12/09/14	Contracting Ordinance	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
12/09/14	Varnum - Blue Cross	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
12/09/14	Quarterly Strategic Plan	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	8
12/09/14	Legal Reform Act	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	8
12/11/14	Meeting w/ Commerce Comm	x	x	x	x	x		V	x		6
12/12/14	Daycare	x		x	x	x		x	x		6
12/15/14	Government Employee Relations	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	8
12/15/14	Tribe/State Tax Agreement	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	8
12/15/14	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	8
12/16/14	Round Table w/ Ogema	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	7
12/18/14	Meet with Housing Commission	x	x		x	x		x	x		6
12/22/14	Board of Directors	V	V		x	x		x	x		4
	Total number of Work Sessions - 18	17	15	15	18	10	10	17	15	11	

\* - Business Related

V - Vacation

## Office of the Ogema

### Steve Parsons



Boozhoo,

When, two years ago, I decided not to run for Tribal Council again, I honestly thought my career in Tribal politics was over. At the time, it felt like it was time for me to move on, and I was okay with that. However, since that time, I have been troubled by the lack of direction and purpose I have seen in our Tribal government, and others I have spoken with have expressed a similar opinion. For this reason, I have decided to become a candidate for the office of Ogema. In declaring my candidacy, I mean no disrespect to our current Ogema or anyone else in a leadership position. I understand the awesome responsibility each of them has accepted in assuming that role, and I have the utmost respect for their efforts.

Having said that, I do think it is time for a change to a more responsible and responsive Tribal government. I believe that I possess the personal qualities to make that happen. In previous positions I have held, both within and outside the Tribe, I have worked to move important issues forward toward resolution by bring together individuals of varying opinions and viewpoints, in order to build consensus and compromise. Conversely, I have had to make difficult decisions, when necessary, always striving to be fair and objective. Most importantly, I will always keep the well-being of our membership a priority in all that I do.

I understand that the task before me will sometimes not be easy, but I promise to do the very best that I can to represent our Tribe in the best way possible. In the spirit of respect, harmony, and progress, I humbly ask for your support. Kchi Miigwetch.

## Office of the Ogema

### Larry "Little Thunder" Romanelli



Aanii:

First, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Ogema for two terms. It has been a humbling experience. Miigwetch.

I am proud to say that I have maintained an average of 50-60 hour workweeks during both terms of office. I believe it is important for elected officials to at least maintain 40 hours a week and be accountable. Within two years of being elected and with the help of our IT Department, I implemented and utilized a time clock system for elected officials. Additionally, over the years I have consistently given back earned vacation time valued between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars.

Since 2007 I've had my driver's license, FICO score on file, and have submitted to drug testing and believe I've had every background test available.

I take pride in the fact that I began the Ogema Meet and Greet's in 2007, held the day before every Membership Meeting which continues to be successful in providing informal, face-to-face dialog with the membership. I have continually supported and attended Elder's Meetings over the years and proud of the work they have done.

Additionally, with the help of our IT and Historic Preservation Departments, we created the ability to live-stream or record meetings of the Tribe for better access to those members who cannot attend meetings but have access to a computer. These meetings include, Membership Meetings, Council Meetings, Informational Meetings and Tribal elections.

Through the years we have overcome a major financial downturn in the US economy with minimal negative financial impact on the Tribe. We worked through a broken tribal fishing program that was started prior to my taking office. The House of Flavors has turned from a losing money venture to making money.

We completed a new Community Center; Government Center; Trading Post C-Store gas station; housing rose from approximately 15 housing units to almost 70.

The tribe is now self-governed which is a very important distinction and gives us more ability to govern ourselves.

Our biggest and most important investment is our Muskegon Casino Project which continues to move forward. Also, the Lagoon Project and Manistee Sewer Project expected to start in the Spring of 2015.

Additionally, I served two terms as President of United Tribes of Michigan, and was appointed to the State Community Service Commission by Michigan's Governor. Miigwetch for your consideration.

## Office of the Ogema

### Jimmy Mitchell



Boozhoo!

The Spirit name given to me by my Uncle Jack Chambers back in 1993, is Nii-Gaan Gaab-Wid N'daw. (First Standing - back to the ways of my People) It was then that Uncle also began sharing the teachings with me to carry the Paawaagun (Sacred Pipe) in the healing ways of the Odawa. I am Maiingun N'dodem (Wolf-clan) and of the Bailey, Battice & Shaganaabe families. I currently reside within our original 1836 Reservation, which my family and I have called home for the past twelve years.

With great pride and dedication, I have served as the Director of Natural Resources for our Tribe since 2006 along with many other "duties as assigned" which are too numerous to list, given the space limitations allowed to each candidate within our Tribal Paper.

Of my various qualifications, I am honored to share that I have been mentored by a variety of Spiritual & Tribal Leaders, Indian Rights Attorneys and Bureau of Indian Affairs Staff over the course of the past 20 years. The result of their assistance has proven to elevate me as one of the most outspoken and effective Tribal advocates on both Treaty and Tribal Citizen Rights currently representing the needs of Indian People in Washington DC.

While I am extremely proud of the many successes the Natural Resources Department has accomplished over the past nine years while under my Direction, I find it deeply disturbing, this war that our Tribal Council and their attorneys have waged against the Ogema and his Staff. What I find disturbing is not only the great embarrassment this fighting places upon our reputation as a Native Sovereign Nation, but more so, the senseless and potentially illegal squandering of precious Tribal funds, which in turn, takes more and more money away from each of the programs that were created to assist our Citizen's Physical, Emotional and Spiritual needs.

I believe in each and every one of you. I believe every one of you deserves more respect than is currently being provided, just as I believe that every single person who currently works for our Tribe can do a better job, period!

The term, self-determination is a very important word for each of us to learn and if you agree that a time for change is needed, I'm willing to offer the same pathway to success, as your Ogema, respectfully.

Visit my webpage at <http://democracy.com/ogema>  
231-510-1054

## Office of the Ogema

### Michael J. Ceplina



Aanii

My name is Michael J. Ceplina and I will be running for the office of the Ogema. I was born in Wakefield, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula. I'm descended from Joseph and Josphine Pete. I am a family man with six children and one grandchild. I'm the proud parent of a Marine and 2 Navy personnel currently serving. I was a Natural Resource Commissioner for years working on our 2007 Consent Decree and establishing laws to govern the tribe and protect our treaty rights. I'm also a Firekeeper and Elder. Whenever I voted I looked at how my vote affected all tribal members and not just certain families.

I started working with the tribe in 2002 my jobs were:

Security Officer, Treatment Plant Operator, Surveillance Operator and Tribal Councilor. As a council member I have been liaison for Gaming & Natural Resource Commissions, worked on the Government Center Task Force and the Housing Task Force, helped draft a law that protects our families & children. Education: Milwaukee Area Technical College, State of Michigan Water and Wastewater license.

If elected I will work with Tribal Council to:

Move forward the Casino in Muskegon.

Streamline the government to better serve our membership.

Hold the chairperson position on the Board of Directors of the Casino.

Establish our reservation boundaries to enforce our jurisdiction and establish our sovereignty.

Look at getting royalties from the resources that are being taken off the tribes' reservation.

Hold government and casino responsible to our membership.

Will show my birth certificate upon request

Miigwech

Michael J. Ceplina

Home phone 231-887-4245

## Office of the Ogema



**Shannon Paul Crampton  
for OGEMA**

Aanii fellow tribal citizens, my name is Shannon Paul Crampton I am asking your consideration for the honor to serve you as your next tribal Ogema. I am forty seven years old, husband to a beautiful wife, father to two wonderful LRBOI tribal members and the proud grandfather to an amazing grandson who is a member of the Grand Traverse Band.

I have been involved in business management in one capacity or another since my early twenties. I am an obsessive compulsive person by nature who must learn the inner workings, cause and solution to any problem I encounter which has led to being successful in virtually every task I have undertaken. In 1993 my outlook on life was changed with the birth of my daughter as it is for all who accept responsibility for the wellbeing of a life that is dependent on you in so many ways.

After being forced to accept that I could not change the entire world to make her life better I turned my attention to the tribe we are part of in order to make it a tribe she could be proud of and in turn a better place for all. I started reading every document, resolution and ordinance that I could acquire so I would have a comprehensive understanding of past mistakes and successes. I began speaking at schools educating non-natives of the rich culture that existed within tribal communities and speaking out to my fellow tribal members on the corrective measures needed to move our tribe in a positive and progressive direction and continue to do so to this very day.

I have been urged in the past to run for Ogema and declined as I take that responsibility very serious and although the idea was attractive I felt as though I was not ready to fairly perform up to the expectations of the membership but now I feel everything is aligned within my mind, body and soul to be that person.

I have a firm knowledge of the problems that are case specific to LRBOI, a plan to deliver the solutions needed and the integrity to see those solutions fairly implemented. I would consider it one of the greatest honors of my life to be granted the opportunity to serve you as your next Ogema.

Thank you for your time.  
Shannon Paul Crampton #1747.

## Office of the Ogema

### Gary Paul DiPiazza (sees-bak-tunse)



Aanii

I'm Sees-Bak-Tunse (Real Sweet Sugar) Gary Paul DiPiazza, descendant of (Naw Kay O Say). I've been married 33 years, with 2 lovely daughters and 4 grandchildren. My Credentials: GRCC - Business Management, Michigan State Police Training Program, USDA, LRCR BOD Opened the first in the Nation

GM GoodWrench repair facility in Grand Rapids, Manager - Trainer General Motors Bronze Award: Outstanding National Service. Patent Pending: Night Vision equipment used by US Military.

In my two years as Tribal Councilor I have proven that I possess the business qualifications, teamwork, and leadership abilities required to serve as your Ogema. I was Raised in a traditional manner, I'll lead in a culturally beneficial way applying the Seven Grandfather teachings within all decision making. I'm proud of our people and not afraid to wear my colors everywhere. I promise to serve with honor and integrity.

I possess the ingenuity and drive to get things done. I helped draft and pushed to enact your new stronger Ethics Ordinance previous to these elections. I clock-in every morning on Facebook around 6:30AM working daily until after 6:00PM. I visited Washington DC speaking on our behalf to amass funding for Contract Health, utilizing diplomacy in a positive way so they heard and understood our needs and know our frustration with inadequate funding. I serve on the Natural Resources, Commerce and Health commissions and as liaison for the Self-Governance Committee. I'm involved with the Sewer Project, and Fair Market Home Rentals.

My goals for our Nations Future: Renewable Energy created from our Sewer Plant to supply methane fuel converted into electricity for the Casino. Fair Market Home Rentals: in all areas. I will move the Muskegon Casino Project forward towards completion and will have Interactive Live Meetings. As your Ogema I will sit as the head chair of your BOD, I Possess a gaming license. As a Nation within a Nation, I take our Sovereignty seriously; we have the resources and I will provide the drive to create manufacturing and other industries needed to diversify and create jobs for our people. I will be there to answer your questions, to the best of my ability, at all times. I'll stand for the issues that are in the best interests of the citizens. I'll stand accountable and responsible for all my actions and words. I encourage an Open Door Policy. Miigwetch for letting me speak with you.

Facebook @ Vote Gary Paul DiPiazza For Your Next Ogema  
1- 616-450-3928 or 1-231-299-1298

## Office of the Ogema

### Dave Corey



My name is Dave Corey. I am running for Ogema.

My qualifications are achieving my High School diploma from Benzie Central High School, College Education at Michigan State University with my Associates/Certificate in Agri-Business: Construction Business Owner for 14 years, Business Manager of Muschigon Construction, 6 years. Where I and the Muschigon men built trading post, demo the great lakes downs, new community center, new housing shop, 39 homes in aki along with private work. I am 1/4 blood Ottawa.

I was born and raised here in Northern Michigan (life long resident) and have a clean background. I have been a Gaming Commissioner for Little River Band for the past several years.

My hobbies include:

hunting (bow and rifle), master wood working, gardening, ice fishing, hydroponic gardening, farming, real estate prospecting and spending time with my family.

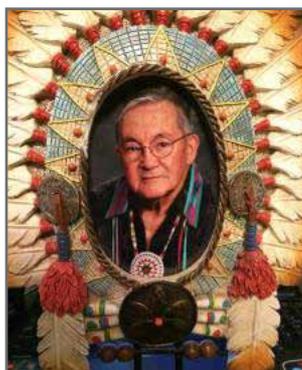
I am running for Ogema because I would like to see:

- Accountability to the people
- Wiser business decisions
- Council work together with the office of the Ogema to solve problems
- Resolve Housing issues
- Reduce Government wasted spending
- Represent the entire tribal membership
- Time clocks installed and used by all
- Better business practices work together as a team/tribe

May the Great Spirit always give you blessings

"The views and opinions expressed in these articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the tribe or currents employees"

## George Edward Bennett (Ottawa) 1928 - 2014



GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA — Michigan Indian leaders and others are mourning the loss of former Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians George Edward Bennett, who began his journey to the spirit world on his 86th birthday – December 9, 2014 in Granite Falls, Minnesota. Bennett was a stalwart leader among leaders.

A man of high integrity, Chairman Bennett walked his talk.

"A single branch is easy to break, but when we bundle many together, we are strong," was one of Chairman Bennett's most memorable quotes. As chairman of the Grand Traverse Band, he kept a bundle of stick six to eight inches long and bound together with a piece of leather on his desk, his wife, Lucy remembered after he passed.

He served as chairman when the Grand Traverse Band (GTB) received its reaffirmation from the federal government in 1980; then again from 1996 – 2000. Beyond serving his own tribal nation, he served as co-chair International Advisory Council - Native Nations Institute - Udall Center for Public Policy University of Arizona.

"Our tribal nation offers our sincerest condolences to Chairman George Bennett's wife, Lucy, and his entire family. He proudly served GTB as both as a tribal councilor for several terms and a tribal chairman," commented former GTB Tribal Chairman Derek Bailey, who is currently a tribal councilor."

Chairman Bennett will be fondly remembered for his positive interactions with people, strong working relationship at all levels of government; continuous advocacy for tribal sovereignty and his pride in Indian Country. He took tremendous pride in his numerous roles with his family and community. I take great pride in having called him Uncle," Bailey continued.

His many accomplishments include: 1947 graduate of Howell Public High School; 1949 graduate of U.S. Fleet Sonar School; GM Tech Graduate Labor Relations 1964; Antioch University Graduate 1982 B A Public Policy Economic Development; Vice Chairman – Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Grand Traverse Band Tribal Council; President and CEO - Native Nations Builder, LLC; Tribal Chairman - Grand Traverse Band; Vice President - Indian Country Development; Executive Director - American Indian Business Development; Director, Development & Technical Services Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Indian Programs; Director of Community Planning Coalition of Eastern Native American Washington DC; Executive Director - Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs; Executive Director - Michigan Indian Benefit Association; Production Supervisor General Motors Corporation Oldsmobile Division; Sonarman 2nd Class Petty Officer US Navy Norfolk VA; Tree Surgeon Michigan Shade Tree Company; Post Commander - American Legion Eagletown Post #120; Lifetime Member of VFW Post 7731 Lake.

Survivors include his wife Lucille 'Bing' Bennett, his sister Jean Stevens, his children: Glen (Candice) Bennett, Chris (Marisa) Bennett, Brad Lerschen, Delina (Darryl) Jenkins, and Sharon Pazi; grandchildren: McKenzie Bennett, Carling (David) Tanno, Jamie (Kelly) Johnston, Keri (Michael) DeRose, Drew Brockman, Shakeena Pazi, LaShanda Robinson, Gregory Robinson, Steven Brockman, Nalen Brockman, Darryl Jenkins, Jr; N'Dia Jenkins; great grandchildren: Xzavier Mikel, Gisele Schommer, Ever Schommer, Saniyah Hampton, Sofia Johnston, Zoey Johnston, Bennett DeRose, Callum Tanno, Braeden Bennett and Calliope Bennett.

He was preceded by his parents, Frank and Jennie Bennett, his sisters Florence Ulrich, Frances 'Fran' Thompson, and Doris 'Dewey' Running; his brothers Royal 'Buster' Bennett, James 'Jim' Bennett, Robert 'Bob' Bennett, and Ernest 'Ernie' Bennett.

A funeral service was held for Chairman Bennett last Friday in Granite Falls, Minnesota, where he spent his last days of retirement.

A Michigan memorial service is planned in his honor on January 10, 2015 in Peshawbe-town, Michigan, home of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Editor's Note: Special megwetch to Sharon Pazi, Chairman Bennett's daughter who contributed to this article. Levi Rickert | December 15, 2014 at 8:14 am | Categories: Currents | URL: <http://wp.me/p442Tb-39J>

Office of At Large Representative

## Joseph Riley II



Aanii,  
My name is Joseph Riley II. I was born in Muskegon the grandson of Phyllis Riley (Micko) and great grandson of John and Elizabeth Micko. I have 3 beautiful children; Bailey Riley, age 15; Mckenzie Riley, age 11 and Zoey Riley, age 4. I attended Muskegon High School and went on to college at Muskegon Community College and also Westshore Community College. I moved to Manistee 10 years ago when offered a job working for beautiful LRCR where I worked up from the hotel front desk to the position of concierge. I continue working for the Tribe in Enrollment while serving on the Gaming Commission as Secretary. I am passionate about learning anything and everything. I don't shy from hard work and have the ability to commit nearly everything I read to memory with little effort. My experience on the Gaming Commission has made me familiar with drafting legislation and regulations, budgets and handling highly sensitive information. I know I can be an asset and contribute to the success of our tribe with my positive attitude, strong work ethic, integrity and commitment to servant leadership.  
Miigwetch,  
Joseph Riley II  
E-mail: [jriley2523@gmail.com](mailto:jriley2523@gmail.com)  
Phone: (231)750-2487

Office of At Large Representative

## Peggy Vriesman.



Aanii,  
My name is Peggy Vriesman. You may not recognize my name but you do know me; I currently work at LRBOI Natural Resources Department. I am running for Tribal Council – At Large. I am asking for your support in advancing our tribe to a secure financial future. I am pro diversification and will work diligently to increase our revenue through all emerging avenues. It is up to you, the voters, to decide if we what to continue on the same path we have been on for the last several years or do you want change? I graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Ferris State University and in 2013

I graduated from West Shore Community College with an Associate's degree in Accounting.

A vote for me is a vote for the future of Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

You may contact me at [VoteforPeggyVriesman@yahoo.com](mailto:VoteforPeggyVriesman@yahoo.com).

I will be happy to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to serving you.

Peggy J. Vriesman

## Jacob P. Wabindato

May 20, 1923 - December 22, 2014



Jacob Peter Wabindato, age 91 of Fruitport, passed away on Monday, December 22, 2014 at North Ottawa Community Hospital. Jacob was born on May 20, 1923 in Custer, Michigan to Peter and Sophia Wabindato. He proudly served his country in the United States Army during WWII and retired after working for 31 years as a Tree Trimmer for Consumers Power Company. Jacob was a member of the Warriors Society, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and was also a member of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Muskegon. He will be lovingly remembered as an avid fisherman, a hunter, and a hard worker. He also enjoyed bowling and spending quality time with family. Jacob is survived by his wife, Betty (LaPlante) Wabindato; his children, Jacob L (Barb) Wabindato, Steven (Kimberly) Wabindato, Jeffery P. (Sally) Wabindato, and Sharleen Wabindato; his 16 grandchildren; many great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, and step children. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Sharon Boomer.

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Alvin Patricio



My name is Alvin Patricio and I'm running for Council 9 County. I've worked for Little River 10 years now. In that time I have noticed changes on issues to our tribe and also to our Council on how these issues are handled.

The burial assistance will be another issue. I know there are problems with our funds including the possibility of cuts on programs and workers being let go. I will do my best to listen to our members and be the voice that is needed.

As for what is happening at our casino that seems to be a soft issue to talk about and I'd like to find out why? I hope you will elect me for Council 9 County. Maybe I can get to these issues with your help.

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Ron Wittenberg



Boozhoo! My name is Ron Wittenberg, or Bah-Maamii-Nini, which means "Man Who Looks Around." When I look around today, I can see that the people need direction. There is much fighting and chaos. We need help to get through these hard times. I look to the teachings of my ancestors for guidance. I look into the sacred fire with my tobacco and ask for guidance. I go into a silent place and seek wisdom, studying carefully the choices of roads before us. We can use the seven grandfathers to help us walk in a good way. We are a family. Our traditions teach us how important each one of us is, whether we agree on an issue or not. If we use respect and love, we can find our way through the fog of confusion. We can make decisions with everyone in mind. There is no one in the circle who is greater or lesser than any other. Each voice has value. Each person has the right to be heard. We all have a duty to help the tribe. This is what I will do. When I look around, I can see that we can make it through our problems, together.

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Jessica L. Burger



Boozhoo! I am seeking a 9-County seat on Tribal Council. Here's some info about me for your consideration. I am married to Fred (20+ years), the Mom of two Tribal member LRBOI Princesses, Chelsea Bromley and Isabel Burger. My family participates in cultural events; I'm a language student. I grew up in Manistee, coming 'home' in 2000 to serve as LRBOI Health Director. I have an Associate's Degree in Nursing. I resigned from LRBOI in good standing (2009) to work in Washington, DC with the National Indian Health Board serving as Director of Legislative Affairs, promoted to Deputy Director in 2010. At NIHB I worked on Capitol Hill and across Indian Country advocating for Indian legislation, policy and increased funding to Tribes. I returned 'home' in 2011 to serve as LRBOI's Tribal Manager. I would like to take the next step and represent our people as a member of Tribal Council. LRBOI has challenges; jurisdiction and sovereignty/rights protections, economic diversity/job creation, sustainable services with reduced funding and creating collaborative governance between the Ogema and Tribal Council-understanding separation of power and respecting roles for the benefit of Tribal members. I humbly ask your support to work on these issues.

Miigwech. Please remember to vote!  
Office of Tribal Council - Nine County  
District  
01/05/15

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Jamie Friedel



Boohzoo, I am Jamie Friedel (Ishkaabewisnini – Helping Spirit Man). Many of you may know me as General Manager of Little River Trading Post, GM since the Opening in May of 2008. Under my leadership we have achieved considerable profit margins and BP Helios scores of 100% for 6 years running. Hiring preference candidates has always been my first priority. I have 23 years of combined business management experience starting in the Food Industry, building business from the ground up and expanding into franchising.

I am an upstanding citizen of our community, attending most community functions and gatherings. I enjoy cooking for events and communicating with other citizens about important issues involving our nation. I have a clean background record and previously held a gaming license, and passed all drug screen testing. I'm currently seated on the Housing Commission helping to draft Ordinances that will positively impact residents.

I'm interested in expanding commerce and diversifying Tribal Enterprises by asking questions and imploring the other leaders think outside the box for the long-term benefits to the Tribe.

My proven record of accountability, reliability, and responsibility will remain as I work for the issues that are significant to all citizens.

Miigwetch,  
Jamie Friedel

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Sandy Mezeske



My name is Sandy Mezeske, Tribal Council Recorder since 2010. I asked an elder what he would say as the 9-county representative. "What are you most proud of doing the past five years?"

We have accomplished much with ordinance and laws, the sole duty of Tribal Council, but thinking about the question...here's my answer:

"One person on Council cannot do anything by themselves. I learned to build consensus with other Council Members and do so with concern for what is good for the tribe, not just what will get votes or help family. As a Counselor, we are responsible for our tribal future, a heavy responsibility. To sum this up, one council person cannot change anything, it takes all the elected officials."

My last campaign I made no promises. This election, I will promise one thing, I will not disrespect others or sling mud.

I have been devoted to being here every day, voted with my heart and mind for what is best for the tribe and I will do that for all. I would appreciate your support and your vote in 2015.

If you have a concern contact me at [smeszeske@lrboi.com](mailto:smeszeske@lrboi.com) or call 231-398-6854 and I will answer you.

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Al Metzger



I am seeking your vote in the upcoming election for the 9-County seat.

It was important to my mother that I always be close to tribal land and after she walked-on, I moved to Manistee where I have resided at Aki Maadiziwin for the past 7 years.

My mother instilled the teachings of our Seven Grandfathers into me and I am running for Tribal Council with these teachings always in my heart. I bring with me experience in a variety of areas, from Gaming to our Cultural Traditions. I am not afraid to ask questions and see follow-up answers.

I have read our Tribal Constitution, Gaming Compact, Ordinances & Regulations. I am developing a 'Certificate of Rehabilitation' to help Tribal Members obtain a Gaming License. I do this in my own time for the Health, Welfare and Betterment of all our Tribal People.

As we walk together toward the future, we stand side-by-side. No one ahead, no one behind. Allow me to represent you in the circle, in a good way.

Please feel free to ask my opinion on issues.

ChiMiigwich,  
Al Metzger, 0890, Skaabaawis  
2694 W. MeTayWis  
Manistee, MI 49660

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Delano D. Peters



Delano D. Peters for Tribal Council  
I moved to Manistee 14 years ago from Portland, Oregon and I am a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. I was born in Portland and attended Sacred Heart School and Central Catholic High School.  
I spent four years in the United States Air Force and belong to the LRBOI Veteran's Warriors Society. Earlier this year, I was honored to represent the tribe and carry our Eagle Staff at the Aamjiwnaang tribe of Sarnia gathering.  
I have helped raise funds for the Elder's Meal Program (\$357 at the end of the year) and have delivered meals to shut-ins at Aki Maadiziwin.  
I am an Elder and will do my best for our tribe. Currently I am completing a term for a vacated seat and I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election.

Thank you sincerely,  
Delano D. Peters  
Tribal Member

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Steven E. Kequom



Hello my name is Steven E. Kequom and I am running for a seat on the nine-county for the tribal council. I am a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and served 6 years in the United States Marine Corps and have received an Honorable Discharge. Plus I am also a member of the Little River Warriors Society. For my education aspect I have received three degrees; one from Muskegon Community College with an Associate's in Art's and Science. Then I also attended Baker College of Muskegon and received an Associate's Degree in Business and Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and my major was in Accounting. I have been active in my community I have helped with Toys for Tots and been an unpaid volunteer Assistant Coach at all levels from little kids to high school athletes for the Whitehall and Montague School Districts. The biggest thing I want to work for in office is to help change the welfare of our tribe and take care of the elder's and children the future existences of our tribe. And to work hard to eliminate unnecessary spending and to fix the problems we have so that we have a futures. I am willing to answer any questions that you want to ask me.  
Can get ahold of me under Facebook under Steven E. Kequom, email me [coachk215@yahoo.com](mailto:coachk215@yahoo.com), or call my cell phone (231)638-7713 and thank you.

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Sandra "Peanut" Lewis Indizhnakahz.



Anii, Sandra "Peanut" Lewis Indizhnakahz. As an employee of LRBOI since 1999, I've been blessed by having direct contact with members on a daily basis where I've thought of every tribal member as my family and exceeded my duty to assist them. As Representative, I'll strive to make life better for our people:

**Burial Fund:** Assure funds for all citizens  
**Green Energy:** Ecological Improvement  
**Health:** More user-friendly  
**Higher Education:** Encourage higher education to fullest extent possible  
**Housing:** Stabilize rent ceiling on trust lands, establish housing in Muskegon and Wisconsin  
**Language and Culture:** Maintain federal recognition  
**Muskegon Casino:** Get it up and running  
**Programs :** Accessible from anywhere  
**Revisit Ordinances:** Ensure cultural appropriateness  
**Renegotiate Gaming Compact:** Create Tribal Revenue Sharing Board  
**Tribal Discounts :** 24/7  
**Tribal Preference:** Indian Preference in standing with Federal Law

**Wisconsin:** Establish Sister City Work with Ogema to save useless spending  
Being a front-line employee for 15 years has provided me with insight of daily concerns of our members. I will take that knowledge with me to my position on Tribal Council. My decisions will be made with the people's input and best interest in mind. I look forward to speaking to you. [231-887-4118](tel:231-887-4118) or [603-234-3550](tel:603-234-3550).

Office of Tribal Council 9 County

## Pat Ruitter



Hi! My name is Pat Ruitter. I've been on Council for a few years. I've always put the tribe and tribal members first, when I cast my vote. A Council member only has 1 vote. I do not promise anything other than I will work hard and give the tribe and tribal members 110%. I vote with my heart and will not let people tell me how I need to vote. I have lived in Michigan all my life. I grew up in Muskegon and Brethern. My spouse and I have lived in Baldwin for many years. We love it here. Out pastime is hunting and fishing and just being together. My father and mother were Jim and Rosalie Hardenburgh. My grandparents were Herman and Rose (Medacco) Hardenburgh. I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. My spouse and I have been married for many years.

Office of Tribal Council 9 County

## Jeff Battice



Boozhoo! My name is Jeff Battice and I am running for Tribal Council, 9-County. Change is coming and many people are noticing. Many cuts are coming but our poor and working poor, stay just that! In the beginning things looked good, then they vanished for a majority. When our people have a shutoff notice they have to jump through fire hoops. Enough, they should wake up and it be paid if they earn under \$30,000 a year. Poverty is under \$40,000 a year in America! Give our children back some Per Cap. Help the poor! Help our Vets, Give to AA programs! Stop spending frivolously! That is all I have to say...  
Jeff Battice

Office of Tribal Council 9 County

## Pam Medahko



Ahnee LRBOI Citizens,  
I am a nine county candidate. Below is a brief biography to better know who I am. Background: I was born unto a heritage rich in customs, traditions, moral values, rules of etiquette and unto a clan that instinctively understands the sanctity of life, as well as the need to guard, protect, and heal. This is what clearly defines me. Accomplishments: I have never been one to keep count on accolades. I hold great gratitude for those who appreciate that I am experience made, emotively enabled, and universally synergized. I am humbled by those who have honored me with kind words, gratitude and thankful recognition. My goal: To diligently work with dignity in a legislative environment helping to develop mutual respect and creativity, to help overcome and prevent tribal divisions, and rise above the adaptive challenges that face our nation. Highlights of my related skills: A former Tribal Council member, LRCR Tribal Liaison, LRBOI HR, and Muchigon. In the spirit of mending the Sacred Hoop ~ K'chi Miigwetch for consideration of your vote. The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing. -Albert Einstein

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### John (Niimke) Pabami



Dear Tribal Citizens:

Anii, my name is John (Niimke) Pabami and I am running for a Council seat on the 9-County and I am seeking your vote. However, I vow to you to be there first and foremost for the people.

Family, GF: John Jerome Pabami, GM Dorothy Hazel Pego Mashawboose (Pabami), Mother Doris Joan Stone (Pabami).  
College: Muskegon Community College, degree not finished.

Job: LRCR Guest Service Supervisor BOH  
Interest: Family, Friends, Singing, Quads, Community events.

**Position #1:** Returning to the people their voice in our daily affairs **Position #2:** Fall into compliance with Article 4 of our Constitution and giving council members stipends instead of a salary and benefits. **Position #3:** Sovereignty! **Position #4:** Preference. Developing our citizens for jobs in all areas of our community. **Position #5:** We need to close the enrollments. **Position #6:** Constitutional convention to amend our constitution. **Position #7:** Effective Economic Development **Position #8:** And finally, the Muskegon casino project must and will remain the top priority in my agenda. This will open for doors for our brothers and sisters in the Muskegon and surrounding areas in the line of jobs.

These are my positions, and my positions will not change. I want each and every one of you to remember, that isn't only y council seat...it's ours!

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Corey Wells



Hello, my name is Corey Wells, and I am asking for your vote for a Nine-County Council seat.

I was raised in Michigan on a farm, where I was taught the meaning of hard work; at 17 after graduating high school I joined the Army as a 11B, or infantryman. After I got out of the service I moved to Manistee with my wife and one year old daughter.

I started working for the Tribal Government as a surveillance operator then moved to the NRD where I am currently working as a fish technician. I am currently working on my bachelor's degree. I have served on the Natural Resource Commission as the secretary.

I firmly believe that there is a lot of good that the tribe does for all of its members and the community around us, however there is more that can and must be accomplished. I believe that our children are the future and soul of our community and must be treated as such. We need to branch out as a tribe and expand out enterprises, not just in gaming but in other areas as well. I think that we need to go back to our traditional values!

## Office of Tribal Council 9 County

### Rita Gale



(Rita Gale candidate piece)  
Boozhoo tribal members!

My name is Rita Annette Gale and I am a married Native American member of the LRBOI, born and raised in Muskegon.

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

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

My heart has always been with my elders and for this reason they will be priority on my list of reasons to have the job on the Council seat.

As sad as it is; life expectancy of our people is shorter than other races.

My #1 goal will be to help our elders – starting with more per cap for elders.

I believe in the rule of one person equals one job and a 40 hour work week.

I believe in the 7 Grandfathers teachings.

I also promise not to change.

You may contact me anytime: Home phone (231) 788-4566, personal cell (231) 750-5581.

Please vote – Rita Annette Gale – Tribal Council – 9 County

Megwetch!

Office of Chief Judge

## Daniel Bailey.



Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Daniel Bailey. I am a full-blood Little River Band Tribal Member and Elder. I have been the Chief Judge for the Tribe for over 15 years; first by appointment and then by election. During the time I've been seated on the bench I have heard hundreds of different kinds of cases and dealt with four to five times as many foreign judgments from other courts.

I have never judged anyone in a personal sense. I have judged certain actions according to law and feel like I have been objective and fair in the matters before the Court.

I appreciate your confidence in all the experience I have from my many years in the courtroom. Together we can make 2015 and beyond the best for our members and their families.

Respectfully  
Daniel Bailey, Chief Judge

Office of Chief Judge

## Austen Brauker



I humbly ask: "How would our ancestors conduct a Court today?" Maybe, something like this:

Participants will have an intake to determine if their case is best fit for Peacemaking, or for the Court. If they choose to continue to Court, cases will be accompanied with tobacco from all involved parties. Everyone will cleanse with sage smoke. A Sacred Pipe will be connected for the duration of each Court session. The tobacco offering will be smoked upon conclusion. An Eagle Feather will be used as a talking piece. The primary rules of the Court will be the Seven Grandfather Teachings, and the traditional values of our tribe. The secondary rules will be that of a "formal" courtroom. To practice law in our Tribal Court, a "lawyer" must read and sign our Seven Grandfathers court guidelines.

Three community member circles will be formed for guidance in offering sentencing recommendations, advising and servicing participants, and consultation for the Chief Judge. These three circles will be: Elder's Circle, Women's Circle, and Men's Circle. The focus of the Court will be: healing people and strengthening families, building relationships, and solving problems.

Our tools will be traditional stories, sacred medicines, and the wisdom of elders.

Office of Appellate Court Judge Elder

## Joseph J. LaPorte



Joe LaPorte – Candidate for Appellate Court Judge. As a tribal elder, I have a strong connection to our community, as well as a deep sense of personal responsibility and obligation to our tribe. Cultural connections aside, the strength in my candidacy lies in my educational and professional experiences. I earned a B.S. in Behavioral Psychology (with a minor in Justice Studies) from Northern Michigan University, and also have graduate level coursework from Michigan State University. In addition to my educational background, I have a deep understanding of the law. With over 30 years of law enforcement experience, I have seen the manner in which the law is applied to various individuals in many situations, particularly to Native Americans. Because of this, I am sensitive to how the law affects us in our day to day lives. I comprehend fully the necessity of a fair trial and vow as a candidate to apply the laws of our people without prejudice or personal bias. I have extensive experience with Indian Country, at a federal, state, and tribal level. I look forward to bringing impartiality, intelligence, and integrity to the bench.

Miigwech,

Joe LaPorte

## Office of Election Board

### Tammy Bowen



My name is Tammy Bowen. I am the daughter of John Koon and the late Theresa (Rybicki) Koon and the granddaughter of the late James & Beatrice Koon. I am a graduate of Manistee Catholic Central and West Shore Community College. I have two daughters Angela and Autumn Carter. Angela will be graduating from WMU in May with a Bachelor Degree in Behavioral Science and Autumn is a Sophomore at Manistee High School.

I have worked for the Little River Band Tribal Government since 1995 and have held various positions within the Tribe. Currently, I am working in the Accounting Department as the Grants Management Administrator. Working for the Tribe has not only helped me make a better life for my family but has been the most fulfilling experience and I couldn't image working anywhere else then for my people.

I am currently serving a four year term on the Election Board which has been a great learning experience that has taught me many things and I really enjoy being part of this Board.

I have many hobbies that I enjoy such as: cross country skiing, reading, walking, camping, spending time with family and friends, crafting and just being outside.

## Office of Election Board

### Brandi Blamer



My name is Brandi Blamer and I am running for the Office of Election Board. I was born in Muskegon Michigan where I resided until my family relocated to Manistee to become actively involved in the Tribe.

I am currently employed at the Little River Casino Resort as a lead food and beverage supervisor.

I have had a desire for many years to do more to serve our tribe in a greater capacity. I feel the election board is a great place to start. It is my belief that this is an integral part of our government. I feel that our elections need to be run in a fair and impartial manner. Our citizens should decide who is elected into office not cumbersome procedures and processes that discourage participation in our election process.

I'm asking for your support in this election. If I am successful in securing the seat, I will work diligently with the other seated members to create regulations that streamline the election process and encourage participation of our citizens in the electoral process.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me with any questions at [brandi06blamer@hotmail.com](mailto:brandi06blamer@hotmail.com).

Respectfully,  
Brandi Blamer

## Office of Election Board

### Karen Love



My name is Karen Love. I am seeking a seat on the Election Board.

I have a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. I have worked full -time, went to college full-time, and raised two exceptional daughters all at the same time. I can honestly say that my dilligence to time management will make me a viable asset on the Election Board.

I am retired from state service with 28 plus years as a unit manager. My career has given me the skills to be a problem solver and the ability to meet deadlines. I currently serve on the Housing Commission and attend Council meetings whenever I am able. Almost every successful person begins with two beliefs that the future can be better than the present and the vision to make it happen. It would be an honor to serve on the Election Board and help to make a better plan for the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Office of Appellate Court Judge  
Attorney

## Damian Fisher



Please vote me in for Court of Appeals Justice. I'm the only candidate with a ten-year history at Little River as lawyer for the Tribal Ogema and The Tribal Council. On the Court I can settle the questions that have kept the Council and Ogema fighting forever. Because I've stood shoulder to shoulder with LRBOI citizens I know that the Court must provide practical solutions to problems and not abstract discussions about fine points of law. I firmly believe that separation of powers is the segregation of duties between the branches of government to share governance in a good way. Each branch has distinct responsibilities and must be held accountable, but the Court's indecision hasn't stopped the constant fighting that slows down government and hurts Tribal Citizens. Ultimately, the Constitution is a document that limits the powers of government, so if it's not in there, then that power is reserved for the people. Finally, many citizens know me and whether they say they are friend or not and whether I have helped or hurt them, all would say that I listen, I understand, and that I am fair whether I can help you at that moment or not. Vote for Damian Fisher!

Office of Tribal Council At Large

'Withdrawn from Election'

**Marcella Leusby**

*Information from these candidates was not submitted to the Currents by the deadline.*

**Sally Bell**

**Norbert Kelsey**

**Michael J. Charlow**

**Edward Tyler**

Office of Tribal Council 9 County

*Information from these candidates was not submitted to the Currents by the deadline.*

**Amy Gillies**

**Brian Loney**

**Candice M. Capman**

**Jim Medacco**

**Justin L. Kelsey**

**Lorretta Beccaria- Lindeman**

Office of Chief Judge

*Information from these candidates was not submitted to the Currents by the deadline.*

**Jonnie J. Sam II**

**Joshua C. Stone**

**Sharron Cogswell Detz**

Office of Appellate Court Judge Elder

*Information from these candidates was not submitted to the Currents by the deadline.*

**Cynthia Pete Champagne**

Office of Election Board

*Information from these candidates was not submitted to the Currents by the deadline.*

**Peggy Derouin**

**Valerie Robinson McDonnell**

Office of Appellate Court Judge Attorney

*Information from this candidate was not submitted to the Currents by the deadline.*

**Melissa Pope**

## INSPIRE Initiative



The INSPIRE Initiative logoThe INSPIRE Initiative is spearhead by the The Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP) at The George Washington University (GW) and funded by a generous contribution from AT&T. The INSPIRE Initiative is a multimedia initiative aimed at motivating indigenous high school students to finish their education and become more politically involved. With the leadership of our alumni, indigenous professionals, and advocates, we strive to promote careers and education opportunities in public service and political sectors. The INSPIRE's ambitious plans comprise of a social media based high school outreach campaign, a pre-college program in applied politics at GW, and a civics training program for high school teachers.

Over the last seven years in Washington, D.C., NAPLP has trained over one hundred American Indian, Alaska Native and Hawaiian Native college students in applied politics through its semester long political management classes, a political practicums and internship placements. Many of our alumni have gone to pursue careers in politics and advocacy with a personal passion for positively influencing their respective communities.

It is with this same passion that NAPLP and our alumni join ongoing efforts to increase the high school graduation rate among indigenous students and provide career guidance into the public sector. Through the tradition of storytelling and the creation of a resourceful website, we hope Native youth find the aspirations and tools to seize opportunities for civic engagement at all levels.

"The views and opinions expressed in these articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the tribe or currents employees"

## 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, Binojeeuk, 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](http://www.LRCR.com) and click on Careers Call our Human Resources Department at (231) 723-4530 Stop by our Human Resources Department located at 2700 Orchard Hwy Manistee, MI

Monday – Friday 7am-5pm

Send your Application, Resume and Cover letter to:  
Little River Casino Resort Attn: Recruiting P.O. Box 417  
Manistee, MI 49660

Phone: (231) 723-4530 · Fax: (231) 723-1589

Email: [recruiting@lrcr.com](mailto:recruiting@lrcr.com)

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

*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](mailto: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.

## Indian Village Camp Plans Program Expansions for 2015



The Indian Village Camp program has been offering traditional culture and wilderness immersion experiences for youth since we received a TYP grant from the Department of Justice in 2009. Since then, the grant has long run out, but last year we were able to keep the camp running with Community supported fundraisers, including funds donated from the LRRCR Charity Golf Outing, and half of our budget matched from Tribal Council. This year, the Tribal Court plans to shift the program a bit, and partner with the LRBOI Natural Resources Department. The camp will remain the same, but we will be adding partnerships and programs for the general community, including programs for adults. We hope to receive a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to continue our good work. We have also developed partnerships with Historic Preservation Dept. and the Education Dept.

We are hoping in 2015 to extend the programs we have offered to our youth in the past, and also add special programs to invite **ADULT PARTICIPATION!!**

The regular Indian Village Camp sessions for the youth (4 days and 3 nights in wigwams) are going to continue to take place, as they have in the past, exclusive for youth, tribal and descendants, ages 12-17, male and female.

**BUT...IN ADDITION:** We plan to add about 25 more "Day Long" programs, which will also be open to parents and guardians, and even for individual adults who might not

have participating children. "Day Long" program means anything from several hours, happening all in one day, to day sessions that occur over a series of days, depending on the particular activity. (EXAMPLE: Snowshoes or Hide Tanning takes several days in a row) Adult participants will be encouraged to attend with their families. Individual adults will still be allowed to attend these programs, but they will be encouraged to offer back some volunteer services, in return for their participation, on an honor system. In this way they can give back to the community for their participation, by helping to prepare the camp area, set up and take down camps, and help with various other camp needs. This will be a good faith agreement for them to return some volunteer work for their participation in the programs. This will not be required, but encouraged. Our funding is limited in offering these programs, but we would like to open up participation for the general community, wherever possible. Many adults have asked over the years "What about offering some of this cultural stuff for us grown-ups too?" and now, we may have found a way to do just that.



Here are the scheduled activities for the "Day Long" programs which will also be available for adults (pending BIA grant approval):



LEATHER PROJECTS, BOWDRILL FIRE-MAKING, NATURAL CORDAGE, GATHERING MUSHROOMS, COPPER BOWLS, LODGE BUILDING, HERBAL SALVE, WOODEN SPOONS, JEWELRY CRAFTS, GREAT LAKES FIELD TRIP, DREAM CATCHERS, WILD RICE FIELD TRIP, RIVER CANOE TRIP, SALMON SPEARING FIELD TRIP, STURGEON FIELD TRIP, CARVED WALKING STICKS, BRAIN TANNING DEER HIDES, ATLATL MAKING, ATLATL PRACTICE, ATLATL HUNT, SUGAR BUSH, MAKING TRADITIONAL RAWHIDE SNOWSHOES, VARIOUS BEADWORK, BIRCH PROJECTS and WINTER BARK...

These projects are meant to be **INCLUSIVE** and bring the community **TOGETHER**. Certain projects will have specific guidelines for participation but for the most part, they will be open for **ALL** to attend, wherever possible. **YAY!** For **INDIAN VILLAGE CAMP!**

Chi-Miigwetch!  
Austen Brauker  
Peacemaker/Probation Officer  
LRBOI Tribal Court

**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](http://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**  
135B LEONARD ST. NW  
**459-2754**

SUN - MON 4:30 TILL 9:00 PM  
TUES - WED - THURS 4:30 TILL 10:00 PM  
FRI & SAT 4:30 TILL 12:00 AM  
LUNCH THURS & FRI 11:00AM - 1:30PM

HOME OF THE LARGEST PIZZA IN GRAND RAPIDS & WEST MICHIGAN  
**Big Di's 30" XXXL**  
CHECK OUT OUR DEALS AT  
[WWW.DIPIAZZASPIZZERIA.COM](http://WWW.DIPIAZZASPIZZERIA.COM)  
Tribal Member Owned



**MOONBEAR POTTERY & INDIAN ARTS**



Shirley M. Brauker  
1048 Silver Road Coldwater,  
Michigan 49036  
260-243-9027  
email: [sbrauker@gmail.com](mailto:sbrauker@gmail.com)

**Eve Salisbury Independent Beauty Consultant**  
**(231)571-0627**  
[craftylady1940@comcast.net](mailto:craftylady1940@comcast.net)  
[www.marykay.com/ysalisbury](http://www.marykay.com/ysalisbury)

**MARY KAY**

**GREAT LAKES PET MEMORIAL & CREMATORY**

**Pet Cremation Service & Memorial Products**

• Great Lakes Pet Memorial & Crematory •

Pick-Up Service - 24 Hour Service  
Discounts for LRBOI Members

Custom Urns ♦ Books ♦ Glass Art ♦ Jewelry  
Personalized Stones ♦ Burial Markers ♦ Engraving

Tribal Member Owned!

Traverse City  
**(231) 421-1370**



Scan Me!



[www.GLPetMemorial.com](http://www.GLPetMemorial.com)

## Looking for a change in 2015?



Here is one New Year's resolution that is easy to keep: learn more about what you can do to help prepare you and your family for emergencies.

Don't know where to start? Visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) to learn what protective measures to take before, during, and after an emergency.

Interested in stepping up your preparedness game? The 2015 Seasonal Preparedness Messaging Calendar will guide you through the coming months and let you know what resources will be coming your way. Resolve to be Ready in 2015.

With the start of the new year, it doesn't hurt to get back to basics and review some of the essential items that you should have in your house and as a part of your preparedness plan. One of the most important pieces you should maintain is a basic emergency supply kit.

Your kit could include the following recommended items:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) for more information about how to build your basic emergency supply kit. Also, be sure to share what is in your supply kit and how it has helped you!

We're always on the look out for members and organizations to feature in our weekly newsletter. From highlighting your accomplishments in preparedness and emergency management, to members just looking for advice and input, we want to hear from you!

**Visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov)**

## January is Stalking Awareness Month



6.6 million people are stalked every year in the United States with American Indian women being stalked at a rate twice that of any other race.

The lapel pin for this cause is a reflective colorless surface that illustrates the invisibility of the crime (to everyone except the victim). But it also mirrors what stalking victims often report they experience- a constant need to check over their shoulder for the stalker.

**QUIT STALKING  
ME!!!!**



Family Services has put out fact sheets flyers in the cafeteria and provided some for the Muskegon office. This is very good information to spread among our community. We encourage all to look at them and share with the special people in your life.

## What Beneficiaries Need to Know Before Purchasing Durable Medical Equipment



Let's say you are eligible for Medicare and your physician just wrote a prescription for you to purchase a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) item. Medicare has a lot of rules about buying DME, so how do you proceed? First, let's describe what DME is. These are items covered by Medicare Part B and include examples such as wheel chairs and powered mobility devices, diabetic glucose meters and test strips, CPAP breathing machines, oxygen and associated equipment, commode chairs, crutches, hospital beds, chair lift mechanisms, and infusion pumps. After the annual Part B deductible of \$147 is met, Medicare will generally pay for 80% of their approved amount for the equipment. Unless the patient has supplemental coverage, they will be responsible for the remaining 20% of the cost, or more if they don't follow a few procedures.

Beneficiaries will need to be diligent to make sure the purchase cost of their DME item is covered properly. The first requirement is to have a prescription for the item from a physician who participates with Medicare. Next, the prescription needs to be filled by a provider that is a Medicare approved DME supplier. Most of these suppliers will also accept Medicare assignment. If they do not accept assignment, then they often will bill Medicare for the item, but you may be charged more than what you would otherwise pay to a provider who accepts assignment. Also, the provider who does not

accept assignment can require that the full purchase price be paid up front. The beneficiary must then wait to be reimbursed directly from Medicare.

To greatly simplify matters, always ask the provider "are you an approved Medicare supplier of DME items" and "do you accept Medicare assignment" before committing to the purchase. If the response is no, then you may want to find another provider who does both.

One of the more common issues that beneficiaries run into is in the purchase of lift mechanisms for chairs. Medicare only covers the lift portion of the unit and NOT the chair. Also diabetic testing supplies can be purchased by mail order, but the company must have a contract with Medicare. If diabetic supplies are purchased through a local pharmacy then you need to verify that the provider accepts Medicare assignment and they will bill Medicare for you.

The requirements set up by Medicare for the supply and purchase of DME are quite extensive, but they have a credible purpose. The new process helps to keep the Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund solvent for the future, while reducing the cost of DME for beneficiaries. Also, the new DME rules are having a significant effect on lowering the costs of fraud and abuse, which of course, helps to keep the same trust fund viable for current and future beneficiaries.

You can find out much more about DME by going to Medicare.gov and typing "DME" in the search window. Medicare beneficiaries can also receive help by contacting the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) at 800-803-7174 or by calling 800-Medicare (800-633-4227).

By: Jim Verville, Region 10 Coordinator  
Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program  
Area Agency on Aging, Traverse City, Michigan

## Joseph "Joe" Richard Koon, 82

Joseph "Joe" Richard Koon, 82, of Bear Lake, died Wednesday, December 31, 2014, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. He was born December 5, 1932, in Kalkaska, the son of James and Beatrice Koon.

Joe was a proud veteran of the United States Army. He served his country honorably during the Korean War.

Joe worked at Martin Marietta for 45 years. He was an Elder of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and a member of the Warrior Society. In his spare time, Joe liked to hunt and fish. He also enjoyed welding and metal fabrication and, most of all, watching his children and grandchildren participate in sporting events. Joe was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, and he will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

On September 11, 1952, in South Bend, Joe married Betty Reed who survives him. He is also survived by: his children, Rick (Becky) Koon of Ripon, Wisconsin, Tom (Sally) Koon of Onekama, and Connie (Paul) Eno of Bear Lake; his grandchildren, Nicole (Tom) Moniz of Ripon, Wisconsin, Evan Koon of North Carolina, Thomas and Kelly Koon of Onekama, and Joseph, Jon, and James Eno Bear Lake; his great-grandchildren, Jack and Carter Moniz of Ripon, Wisconsin; his brother, John Koon of Manistee; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Joe was preceded in death by: his parents; and his siblings, Gertie, Grace, Annie, Ruth, Jim and Don.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Workforce Development Programs are operated through the tribe's Commerce Department. The Workforce Development Programs links job placement and skill development into a system of lifelong learning and opportunity. Through resources and services created for employers, employees, the unemployed and the underemployed, Tribal Citizens utilizing Workforce Development Program services can take control of their economic future and the security of their families. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Workforce Development Programs contributes to the economic security of LRBOI, its' businesses and communities through a comprehensive program of skill-building and educational components.

These components include:

- 1) Internship Program for the college student designed to provide the Tribal Citizen with the opportunity to gain supervised experience in a work setting for which academic credit is earned;
- 2) Internship Hosting to assist LRBOI Tribal Citizens who are in the Internship component by providing them with a low or no-cost lodging opportunity so they may fulfill their Internship requirements in a safe and friendly environment;
- 3) Development & Training providing various training and services as needed for LRBOI Tribal Citizens;
- 4) Career Assistance Voucher to be used for supplies, tools, clothes, transportation, or anything that reasonably assists the individual in advancing their career;
- 5) GED/Adult Education Voucher to help cover costs associated with the completion of a high school diploma or GED;
- 6) Adult (18+ years) and Youth (16-17) Work Experience Employment Programs are designed to provide the Tribal Citizen not in higher education supervised experience in an entry level work setting without having to achieve an academic requirement. Mandatory Job Readiness Training is required to complete the program;
- 7) Need based Vocational Assistance Award available to the Tribal Citizen attending a post-secondary state or accredited vocational/technical program who has applied for all other available financial aid and shows unmet need;
- 8) Summer College Book Stipend for Tribal Citizens attending a non-profit accredited college or university may receive assistance in purchasing college textbooks and supplies for Summer Semester only. For additional details, please follow this link:

<https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/index.php/membership-services/commerce>  
or contact the Workforce Development Program at LRBOI.

## January 2015 News Letter

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  
September 30, 2014 & October 1, 2015

Household Size	Income Limits
1.	\$ 1,128.00
2.	\$ 1,466.00
3.	\$ 1,805.00
4.	\$ 2,153.00
5.	\$ 2,519.00
6.	\$ 2,886.00
7.	\$ 3,224.00
8.	\$ 3,562.00

For each additional member add \$ 339.00

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 231-398-6716 or 231-398-6715



## Happy Birthday Tribal Elders

2/4 rosemary Johnson  
Bernedet Rivres  
Diana Ledesma 2/10  
Catherine J. Ledesma 2/25  
2/18 Eric Ledesma

Antoine	Charles		Jr.
Barwacz	Ronald	Frank	
Burmeister	Glen	Harvey	
Cantu	John		
Cogswell	Donna	Jean	
Compeau	Allan	Raymond	
Congleton	Donna	Jean	
Fraly	Darlene	Francis	
Guenthardt	Anna	Jean	
Hale	Garry	Lee	
Howell	Phyllis	Ann	
Jonaitis	Romaine	Delores	

Kerr	Carol	Ann
Koon	John	Lavern
Lempke	Anna	Mae
McCauley	Mary	E.
McClellan	Ann	Therese
Nickleson	Julia	
O'Connor	Juanita	Marie
Parker	Janet	Louise
Peshaba	Virginia	Marie
Schurino	Rita	Ann
Stuck	Augusta	Gertie
Treanor	Patsy	Darleen
Van Patten	Bettie	Ann

# Elder's February 2015 Meal's

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Depression is more common in the winter months. Socialization is proven to help With depression/ Make an effort to spend time with friends, attend the Elders Meal Lunch and visit with other Elders. Pick up the Phone and Chit Chat with someone you haven't talked to in a while.</p> <p>Meals served at 12 o'clock No charge to elders, their Spouse and Handicap/ Disabled individuals who reside with Elder.</p> <p>Guest meals are \$5.00 Donations are appreciated and will be used for program activites and food.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Hot Turkey Mashed Potato Winter Mix Veggie</p> <p>Language Class</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Beef Brisket Rice Green Beans</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pork Roast Whipped Sweet Potato Peas</p> <p>Wii Bowling</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Hamburger Sweet Tator Tots Corn</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>Elder Committee Meeting</b></p>
	<p>9</p> <p>Fish Filet Potato Wedge Cole Slaw</p> <p>Language Class</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Beef Stroganoff Green Beans Pears</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Savory Roasted Chicken Parsley Rice Mixed Veggie</p> <p>Wii Bowling</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pot Roast Red Potato Carrots</p> <p>Bingo</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>Coffee, milk, And water are available at every meal</p> <p>Menu subject to change with out Notice, Meals meet 1/3 of the RDI baswed on a 1600 to 2000 Calorie Diet</p> <p>Please contact Noelle Cross with any questions Phone: 231-398-6886 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ncross@lrboi.com">ncross@lrboi.com</a></p> <p>Volunteers are needed to help with meals If interested please contact Noelle.</p>
	<p>16</p> <p>Smothered Pork Chop Mashed Potato Peas and Carrots</p> <p>Language Class</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Oven fried Chicken Squash Apple</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Burgers Potato Salad Corn on the Cob</p> <p>Wii Bowling</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Salisbury Steak Roasted Potato Corn</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Muskegon Meal Please RSVP with Noelle 231-398-6886</p>	
	<p>23</p> <p>Chicken Tenders Mac n Cheese Creamed Corn</p> <p>Language Class</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Vegetable Soup Grilled Cheese Fruit</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Sirloin Steak Mashed Potato Spinach</p> <p>WWII Bowling</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Chef's Choice</p>	<p>27</p>	

**John Modjeski harvested a 4X4 elk  
September 12, 2014 in Antrim County.**



He sure is very proud.



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

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

Or Current Resident

**February  
21, 2015**

## Annual Goonignebig (Snowsnake) Tournament

Location: LRBOI Aki Maadiziwin Community Center  
located at 2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung, Manistee, MI

### Age Categories

1-4                      12-17  
5-11                     18-54  
55+

Girls/Boys and Women/Men will each be  
separate for each age category

- Competitors **MUST** be registered
- All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult at all times
- Competitors **MUST** be on site and ready when their name is called

**Everyone** is invited to attend and participate! Come enjoy the fun!



**Sponsored by the  
Little River Band  
of Ottawa Indians  
Historic  
Preservation  
Department**

➡ **Competition starts  
at 10:00 am** ⬅

Lunch will be provided

**NO** all metal snakes are allowed.  
Two throws per competitor; longest score counts.  
Throws that jump the track will be counted/scored.  
Sharing of snakes **is** allowed.  
Open to **everyone!**

Tournament is dependent upon the weather—  
prior to event, check for cancellation/delay

Registration the day of the  
event will be from 9-10 am **or**  
you may **pre-register** by calling:  
1-888-723-8288, ext. 6895 or  
email [vchandler@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:vchandler@lrboi-nsn.gov)

By participating you acknowledge that photographs and/or digital recording may be taken during the Tournament and convey all rights, title, and interest concerning the photographic images and/or digital recording to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. It is further understood that these photographic images and/or digital recordings may be published and/or posted on the internet or tribal website or any other way in which the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians deems necessary. All rights are voluntarily waived to these photographic images and/or digital recordings.