

**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**



**Aki Community Center  
Manistee, Michigan 49660**

**Elders Monthly Meeting**

**January 7, 2023**

**Roll Call**

**Quorum: Chairperson Jessica Steinberg called meeting together at 12:00 pm. Gary DiPizza gave prayer. All committee members were present except for Tammy Burmeister**

<b><u>Jessica Steinberg-yes</u></b>	<b><u>Chuck Fisher-yes</u></b>	<b><u>Sandy Mezeske-yes</u></b>
<b><u>Tammy Burmeister-absent</u></b>	<b><u>Marcella Leusby-yes</u></b>	

**Quorum:4-1-0-0**

**Approval of Agenda: Chuck Fisher approved the agenda, Sandy Mezeske seconded, all approved.**

<b><u>Jessica Steinberg-yes</u></b>	<b><u>Chuck Fisher-yes</u></b>	<b><u>Sandy Mezeske-yes</u></b>
<b><u>Tammy Burmeister-absent</u></b>	<b><u>Marcella Leusby-yes</u></b>	

**Quorum: 4-1-0-0**

**Approval of Minutes: Sandy Mezeske approved November and December minutes, Chuck Fisher seconds, all approve.**

<u>Jessica Steinberg-yes</u>	<u>Chuck Fisher-yes</u>	<u>Sandy Mezeske-yes</u>
<u>Tammy Burmeister-absent</u>	<u>Marcella Leusby-yes</u>	

**Quorum: 4-1-0-0**

- 1. New Business:** Andrew Gentile gave the elders an update on the casino. Casino was doing good then covid hit. Profits went down, then in 2022 things started looking a little better, but because of the economy being down people just weren't gambling as much as before.

The Casino is getting older, renovations are starting to show up. The air conditioning just needed an overhaul, which had to come out the Capital improvement fund. The roof will soon need to be redone. Factor in the loss of employees, the rise of minimum wage, the reduction of people gambling, the rising rate of food, revenues are down. Sports betting and online gaming isn't making that much of a profit. Casino has been marketing more to get people in but the population base just isn't as good as it once was.

Good news is that our hotel was voted 3<sup>rd</sup> best in the state and customer service is number 1, best in the area. Hopefully the economy will start picking up and the customers will come back.

John Pabami gave the elders information on Elders jackets. He asked for ideas on what the elders want on the coats and what kind they would like. He will get with Dingers, a Michigan Native American company and bring that information back to the elders.

We have been having a time with the Elders luncheon. It was not budgeted into this year's funding. With Noelle leaving and slow getting a new person in there wasn't anyone to do the paperwork, the elder's luncheons have come out of the elder's meals program. Luckily Members Assistance and our new meals coordinator they have been working diligently to get the meals settled for the Elders meetings.

- 2. Old News: None**

**3. Old Business: At February meeting we will be voting in new Representatives for the MIEA. We now have 2 elders representing us, Chuck Fisher and Allan Hardenburgh. but three are needed. The tribes take turns funding the quarterly meetings at their casinos. LRBOI elders was going to fund the July meeting this year, but with the Elders budget being cut 43% from last year's budget that might not happen.**

**Allan Hardenburgh commented that it would be nice if we could host the MIEA meeting.**

**Because of the budget cutting we will also have to look at other events we had planned for this year. Julie did state we could do a supplemental appropriation for more money for elder's activities.**

**4. Public Comment: Elders gave comments on the good times had at the Elders Conference and Christmas party. Said they were the best ones yet and are looking forward to next year! All the feedbacks we received were good, they commented that it was very informative, they learned quite a bit from the speakers, they had a relaxing and fun time.**

**Julie Wolf said they are working out the details for the Elders Muskegon meals. Their planning on having an external company coming in with the meals for the elders. Their meals will be at the elders building in Muskegon.**

**Vicki Wells gave us an update. She has been working on a meal program that consists of native food. She is working on setting up menus and some enjoyment games for the elders. She is also asking for input from the elders on what they would like to see at the meals.**

**Allan Hardenburgh and some of the other elders stated that it would be nice to take a trip to one of the boarding schools .It was stated that the elders need to start thinking of getting more involved in the tribe.**

**5. Next Meeting: February 4, 2023**

**6. Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm. Motion made by Marcella Leusby, seconded by Chuck Fisher. All agreed.**