

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE  
STORY  
AS IT'S  
TOLD

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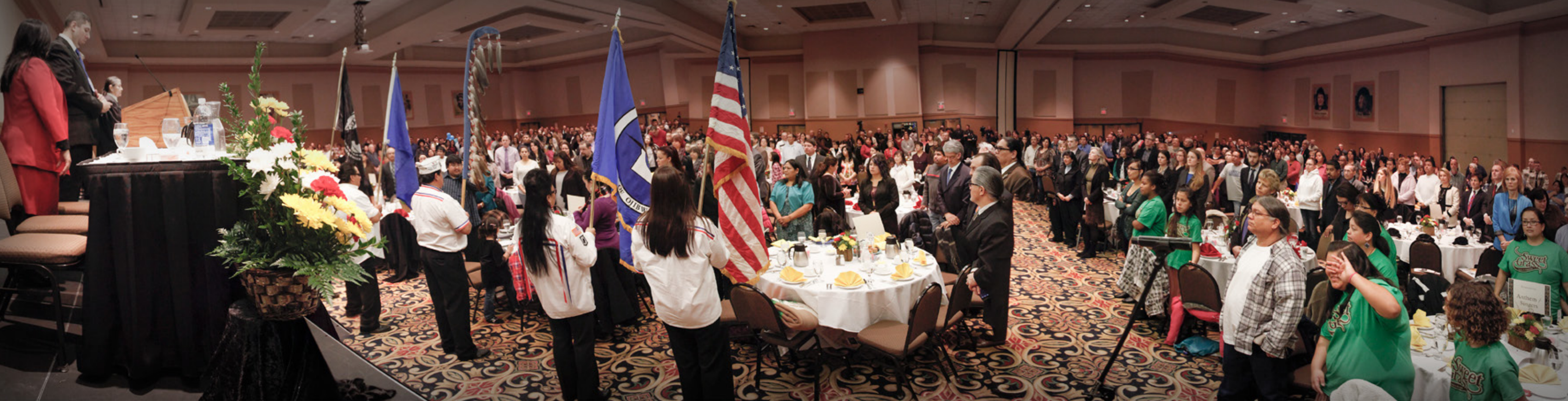
EXPANDING  
ENTERPRISES

BAND TO PURCHASE  
HOTELS IN ST. PAUL

MILLE LACS BAND

# STATE OF THE BAND

SEE PAGE 2



# MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE STATE OF THE BAND

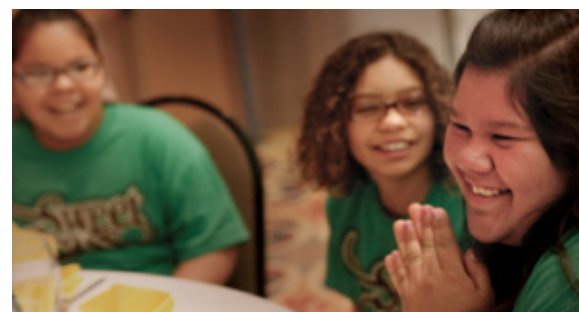
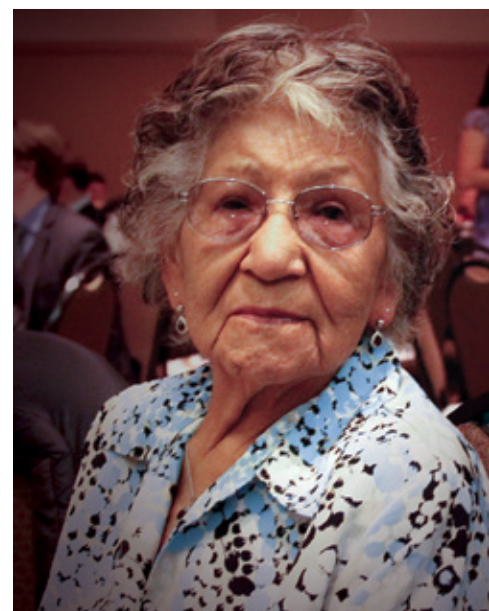
**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

**H**undreds of Mille Lacs Band Members, community members, stakeholders and supporters gathered earlier this month for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's annual State of the Band Address.

The air was filled with anticipation as the crowd of 1,200 made its way into the ballroom at the Grand Casino Hotel in Mille Lacs to hear from Band leaders and others.

As it always does, the event began with the Ceremonial Drum along with the Grand Entry of the AmVets from Post 53. Spiritual leader Lee Staples delivered the invocation. Peter Nayquonabe, the Commissioner of Administration, served at the master of ceremonies.

The Sweetgrass Girls Group from Nay Ah Shing performed the national anthem before the business of the 29th annual State of the Band was convened by Secretary Treasurer Curt Kalk.



## Band Buys Two St. Paul Hotels

**Deborah Locke** Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Band is expanding its ventures into the hospitality industry with the purchase of two downtown St. Paul hotels. Officially the hotels will be identified when the purchase deal is completed, said Joe Nayquonabe, the Band's Commissioner of Corporate Affairs. The release of the names should occur by mid-February 2013.

The announcement of the purchase was made by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin at the January 8, 2013 State of the Band Address. Many members of the 1200-person audience reacted positively to the news. When the deal is closed, the Band will own and manage 700 hotel rooms, or about half the hotel rooms in the entire city.

In her remarks, Melanie said the purchase was one of the boldest moves the Band has ever made. She also told the audience that the Band seeks new revenue from non-gaming businesses toward "economic self-sufficiency." Since the Band has successfully operated its own casino hotels in past years, it makes sense to expand into a new market, even one relatively close by. Currently Mille Lacs Band operates five hotels: Grand Casino Hinckley, Grand Hinckley Inn and Grand Northern Inn, and Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Eddy's Lake Mille Lacs Resort, Onamia. The hotels will be managed by Minneapolis-based Graves Hospitality Corp.

In an interview, Joe Nayquonabe, said that just as the Band pioneered the movement into Indian gaming, it was now pioneering a new path to self sufficiency with its economic development strategy to own hospitality assets in every major market in the US.

"The St. Paul assets represent an initial step in the master plan," he said.

The news received high praise by St. Paul officials and members of the city's Chamber of Commerce. Such a purchase shows faith in the city's future. A spokesman for St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman said that the city was "thrilled" with the Band's purchase.

In his brief remarks, Curt said he was thankful for the hard work of the staff that help oversee the Band's budgets and finances. "Funding requires a lot of responsibility and a lot of thought," he explained.

Curt also told the audience that the per capita projection looks stable for the coming year and that those funds would continue in their current amount. He noted that any adjustments, if they were to happen, would be at the end of the calendar year.

He reminded Band members that the second part of the Nelson Act payments would be received in mid-January and that the Band government decided to allocate that payment to its members rather than withhold it for the Band coffers, as other tribes had decided to do.

Finally, the Secretary Treasurer encouraged Band members to sign up to see if they're eligible for the Cobell Settlement. The March 1 deadline is fast-approaching. The settlement money is being distributed through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, not by the Band. (See page 13 for a brief note on how to apply for the funds from the BIA.)



Sweetgrass Girls Group

### State of the Judiciary

During her address, Chief Justice Rayna Mattinas shared the goals of the courts and updated the audience on its progress.

"During the course of 2012, our goal was to present the updated rules to Band Assembly, which happened in March and took effect in June," Rayna said, adding that those rules have been uploaded to the Band's website.

The courts also created a judicial advisory committee, which meets four times a year, and is responsible for providing advice and support to improve the courts system.

### State of the Band Address

In her address, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin shared her vision for the future of the Band and its members.

"Today, survival means competing in the American economy," Melanie said. "Our goal must be economic self-sufficiency. I believe the key to economic self-sufficiency is to diversify our tribal economy."

Melanie said that the Band would make strategic investments in non-gaming entities to diversify its economy and create new opportunities for Band members. The full text of the speech starts on page 5.

She said that the Band was negotiating to purchase two more hotels, located in St. Paul, as part of the effort to diversify its business ventures.

Upon hearing the news, the crowd erupted in cheers and applause.

The Band is also starting a commercial printing business on the reservation that will handle all of the printing needs of the Band, its casinos and other commercial enterprises. (See story on page 10.)

Additionally, the Band will open a center for small business and light industry in the Mission Creek area of Hinckley, which will present new opportunities for Band members.

"These new business expansions have been carefully considered and with expert advice," she said.

As she continued with her address, Melanie outlined her executive orders and the role she required each commissioner to play in order to accomplish those orders.

She encouraged Band members to remember the stories of the Anishinabe, and to remember that the Ojibwe language is important to their culture and to maintain traditional ways.

In her closing remarks, she said, "It is my hope that our Band will obtain the status of being self-reliant, self-sufficient and economically independent," she said. "I hope our children will tell stories to their children about how their ancestors came back from economic adversity to become leaders in the regional economy."



# "Stories our children will tell"

STATE OF THE BAND ADDRESS – JANUARY 8, 2013

**Melanie Benjamin** Chief Executive

Aaniin. Boozhoo, Good Morning! Mr. Speaker, Members of the Band Assembly, Members of the Judicial Branch...

And most important — Fellow Members of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe — I am honored to be here to speak to you on the State of the Band.

A special chi-mii-gwech to our brave warrior veterans...our Ogitchidaag. To all of our veterans, Miigwech for your service to the Nation.

I also want to recognize and express appreciation to our distinguished elders. Miigwech for the wisdom you bring to our people, and your dedication to sharing your wisdom with our youth.

Finally, I especially welcome our young people. On this day, we want to help you plan for your future. More than anything today is about you. To the young people I say: Something will happen to you today — or this winter — or next summer — or in five years — and you will remember it. It might be funny, it might be sad, it might be a lesson learned. But it will be a story you will pass on, and maybe someday your grandchildren will be sitting around on a winter night and your son or daughter will tell that story.

Eventually you will grow older and your life will be your story. How will your life story be told by others? It depends on how you live and what you do. A lot of that depends on the opportunities you will have. That is where the Band can come in. It is possible the Band can play a role in your life story. Your life story is important to the Band.

### Our Story

Let me tell you another story that you are also a part of — it is a story and it is history. A long time ago, our people lived on the eastern part of this continent. They were told by their spiritual leaders that they should move West — otherwise they would lose their traditional ways.

They followed the waterways West — first the St. Lawrence River and then the Great Lakes. On the advice of their spiritual leaders, they were to look for a land where food grew on water. Our people came here, to what is now East-Central Minnesota. The food that grew on water was Manoomin — wild rice. We made this our home.

For thousands of years, the Mille Lacs Band thrived in these woods and this climate.

In the spring, we offered Asema and took the fish we needed from the lake, and we tapped the maple trees. In the summer we offered Asema, picked berries, and in the late summer we took the Mannomin we needed for our



families and our people.

In the winter, we offered Asema and we followed the deer, snared waboose and we stayed warm in our homes. Three hundred years ago — we could build our homes ourselves — with the help of our extended family and other Band members.

Back then, each family, each clan and the Band were self-sufficient.

We were independent. Naturally we would help the elders, help the children and help the ones who could not help themselves.

We traded with other tribes for some goods, but before the Europeans came, the Band was completely self-reliant. We needed each other, but we didn't need much more. We were strong. Anishinabe strong.

There's an old saying: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." For thousands of years we taught our kids to fish, to harvest, to hunt, to build homes. We knew, better than anyone, how to survive. Survival is accomplished by being self-reliant.

But things changed. Over time, because of broken treaties, the greed of timber barons, and the greed of government leaders for our land and resources, we lost our right to be self-reliant. Nationwide, it was a genocide of Indian people. Those who survived were forced

to become dependent on other people outside the Band; dependent on other governments; and dependent on all the good and bad things that the world had to offer. Two centuries of advances in mechanics, electronics, and communication have changed the world forever. For us, we have also faced two centuries of battling chemical dependency and all the sadness and violence that can bring.

In some ways, we forgot the lessons that a thousand winters taught us. We forgot how to survive. In the 21st Century survival is no longer just surviving the climate and feeding ourselves.

Today, survival means competing in the American economy.

Our goal must be economic self-sufficiency. I believe the key to economic self-sufficiency is to diversify our tribal economy. Six months ago, I had the honor of being elected as your Chief Executive once again. Now I want to develop a plan for us to become economically self-sufficient. We went to other tribes and experts and asked for their advice.

## Our Plan

We talked to business experts. Experts in economics and other tribes who had successfully diversified their economies. We came to a number of conclusions:

First, for over two decades gaming has served us well as an economic development tool. However, we cannot rely on it forever and we must leverage what we have learned from gaming and apply that knowledge to other areas.

Second, the Band has underestimated its potential in diversifying our economy. For over twenty years we have been one of the largest employers in East-Central Minnesota. In 2011, the Business Journal noted that the Mille Lacs Band ranked number 40 in the State of Minnesota in terms of number of employees. We were ranked above companies like: Honeywell; Blue Cross-Blue Shield; and TCF Financial.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley have become important economic engines for East-Central Minnesota. We have come a long way in a short time. But I think we still have a long way to go.

Our economic future is not only on this reservation. It is in the region, in the state and on the national stage. If we do the right things now, our children will be economic players at all of these levels — because of the seeds we will plant.

Our children want many things for the future. They should be able to pursue their dream career. For twenty years, a generation of our Band members worked in the gaming business. We want to see more options for our children in the future. We want them to be able to choose their own futures.

We don't want to be tied to one industry as we were once tied to the Federal government. We seek to be self-sufficient, self-reliant and able to choose our path to our future.

So today I wish to announce some important news. This will be of interest to Band members and others in the state. It is one of the boldest business moves we



“Our economic future is not only on this reservation. It is in the region, in the state and on the national stage. If we do the right things now, our children will be economic players at all of these levels — because of the seeds we will plant.”

have ever made:

Pending some final approvals, the Mille Lacs Band will soon own two major hotels in downtown St. Paul!

When these transactions are finalized, the Mille Lacs Band will own 48% — almost half — of the hotel rooms in Minnesota's capitol city!

We have spent twenty years running hotels and learning this trade. We intend to train our Band members in the hospitality industry ranging from management to advertising to every other aspect of running these businesses.

We have been a member of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce for years as well as nearly 50 other Chambers of Commerce throughout the state.

Our intentions are to be good neighbors, good citizens of the community, and to run our hotel businesses in an honorable and profitable way.

This is a tremendous opportunity for Band members and others!

The purchase of these hotels will spur many other new businesses and opportunities for Band members.

On a similar note, we are growing a new printing business. For the last twenty years, Grand Casino has sent its printing out to be done by others. Now we're opening our own commercial print shop. It will become an 8 (a) Company under the Small Business Administration.

In addition, at the Mission Creek area of Hinckley, we intend to open a center for small business and light industry. Band Members with industrial expertise and business ideas will have new opportunities. There will be more on this as the months go by.

These new business expansions have been carefully considered and with expert advice. We worked closely with Jim Graves of Graves Hospitality Corporation on the hotel transactions.

With a bold new economic development plan, we also decided it was time to bring in new partners with a fresh outlook to help us move ahead. So we have added the Tunheim group, a national public relations firm, to our team of advisers. Tunheim is connected throughout the United States and the world. CEO Kathy Tunheim advises Governor Dayton on economic development. They will help the Band obtain the regional, state, national and

international contracts we will need as we embark on this new economic journey.

I wish to thank the Band's Corporate team led by Joseph Nayquonabe, JR. Joe, can you have your economic development team stand? You have accomplished a lot in a few months. Miigwech! As with all of my Commissioners in the Executive Branch, Joe is a Mille Band member.

Peter Nayquonabe is my Commissioner of Administration. This year Pete will take the lead in working on a "Zero Based Budget." This was one of the goals of the Strategic Plan that was put together a few years ago.

We will run a fine-toothed comb through our governmental budget to identify unnecessary spending or waste. The result of Pete's work will be more efficient use of our dollars, and streamlined government.

Pete also oversees all the Band government employees — including Band member Jamie Edwards and our governmental affairs and communications team. Our newspaper is now written by Band member Chad Germann's company, Red Circle Agency, and Chad is changing the look and content of our paper. It will now be more responsive to what Band Members want to read and hear about.

Michele Palomaki is our Assistant Commissioner of Administration. This year Michele will revamp our personnel policies. Again, we took a look at the Strategic Plan and Michele will update the policies to better meet the needs of our Band members and our employees.

Bradley Kalk is our Commissioner of Natural Resources. Brad will continue his good work ensuring that the Band's fish, wildlife, land and environment are cared for. This year Brad will look at creating a better recycling plan for the Band — and perhaps we can work with the other governments in the region. Brad will also work closely with our economic development team to ensure that our new businesses — wherever they are located — are as "green" as possible and environmentally friendly.

Samuel Moose is our Commissioner of Health and Human Services. With a new federal health care law signed by President Obama, Sam will ensure that the Band works with the State and Federal government so that Band members get the medical care they need.

Suzanne Wise is our Commissioner of Education. This year she will work on improving the ways that we best make an impact on our kids. What will grab our kids' attention and inspire them to embrace education? We know how to teach our kids traditional skills in traditional ways...but how do we make that translate to preparing them for today...and the best possible tomorrow? This is one of the most important questions we can ask ourselves.

From my perspective, every young person has a talent. How do we best bring that out and develop it? One of my main goals is to develop the talent of our young people.

Along those lines, earlier today, I signed four Executive Orders. These orders are to bring Band members and especially our young people into playing a role in the governance of the Band:

First, I signed an Executive Order that each Commissioner must develop a Mentoring program within their Department. They must post the positions and Band members will apply for internships. This will give our young people the chance to work in an area they have an interest in.

Second, I signed an Executive Order requiring each

Commissioner to develop an Advisory Council of Band members. On these Councils will be tribal elders, young people and Band members interested in the Department's activities.

Third, I signed an Executive Order requesting a report on the Band's readiness for carrying out the duties provided for in the Federal Tribal Law and Order Act. Part of this Order appoints a Committee which will study the current structure of the Band's law enforcement agency and our ability to conduct criminal prosecutions. I will direct this Committee to complete their recommendations by the end of March.

Fourth, I signed an Executive Order appointing a Task Force to establish the most effective means to carry out all the goals of the Strategic Plan. Too many times we have written these plans and not implemented them. I am appointing my Commissioner of Administration, Pete Nayquonabe to Chair this Task Force so that we can follow through with these goals.

Through all the work we do, all the elected officials and all the Commissioners, we always have the future of our young people in mind. What will their lives be like?

What opportunities can we give them? What stories will they tell?

## Stories Our Children Will Tell

When I think about our future, and when I think about our children, and I know they will have great stories to tell. But I worry, will we recognize them? Will they be Anishinabe Stories? Like so many of you, I believe that creating opportunities is critical. But so is protecting, and even expanding, our cultural heritage. Now, as we enter this exciting period of growth, is when we must remain true to ourselves.

(VIDEO PLAYS, FEATURING INTERVIEW OF LEE STAPLES AND YOUNG CHILDREN LEARNING)

The last scene, with the kids speaking our language, makes me feel good. We do worry, because we are losing our first speakers. Right now in Minnesota, there are fewer than 4000 people whose first language was Ojibwe. This saddens us greatly. But when we see those kids speak, it gives us hope.

The language is important and the key to our culture. We know the elders who grew up speaking the language, and their way of communicating is circular. Hearing them speak is like listening to a work of art. Whether it's Joe, Dorothy, Carol, Elfreda, Susan, Maggie, Linda, Niib, Brenda, Andy, Ralph, Vince or so many others; their way of communicating is like listening to a story. They give you a little more information than you may have asked for, and a little of themselves when they answer a deep question. We don't want to lose that.

If you remember, several centuries ago our spiritual leaders sent us West for one reason: we were charged with keeping our traditions. We have a sacred duty to keep our language, our traditions and our spiritual ways.

I am optimistic about this as well.

When we look to the country of Israel: they have revived Hebrew as a language. When we look to New Zealand: the Maori have completely revived their language. In the United States, the Native Hawaiians have revived their language. Tribes all across American are now developing programs to revive and retain their language.

The University of Minnesota has developed an online dictionary: Members of our Community such as Lee Staples and Larry "Amik" Small-

“We will now only consider direct investments where we have a controlling stake. Our focus is on the hospitality industry where we have expertise and advantages, and we will invest in major markets that have predictable returns. This all translates to sustained growth well into the Band's future.”



wood are two of the people who demonstrate how to speak the language online — now generations can learn from these experts.

Many of our language teachers tell us stories they learned long ago.

We must keep those stories. Some are funny, and some teach us lessons, but all of them remind us who we are as a People.

On cold winter nights, when the sun was down, our people would gather and listen to our story tellers. This is an important tradition we have to keep. These are the stories of our tradition — and our culture. These are the stories of our grandparents and their grandparents and these stories belong to the People.

There are other stories we tell. Stories inside of our families and stories we tell our friends. Last summer, my family had a nice memory we won't forget:

Every year Bugs Haskins coordinates a Triathlon. This year 19 of our kids participated. They competed in swimming, running and biking. Two of my granddaughters, Aubrey and Roxann also competed. But in the middle of the bicycle race, Aubrey noticed that her back tire was about to fall off. She didn't quit. At one point she fell and skinned her knee, but she didn't quit.

She started pedaling very slowly up a hill, and finally walked her bike, but she still kept going. With her knee cut open, she stopped at the aid station at an old brick house. She still wanted to finish and so she dropped her bike off. The rest of the kids cheered her on to the finish line. She came in last place, but she didn't quit. The other kids patted her on the back. It's funny how kids can inspire us. That little story created a memory for our family, and we will talk about that little Triathlon for years.

Stories are important. It's how we remember things.

Today, the Band is giving you all the gift of a wonderful story called "Child of the Evening Star" by Leonard and Mary Moose. The story is written in both English and Ojibwe. It's a story about love, honor and honesty. I think if you read through it once, you will want to read it to a child. We are born with the need to pass on good stories.

Sometimes we wonder: What are the stories our children will tell? What will they say about this moment in history? Will they remember anything of today's events or anything that happened this year? What will they say

about their parents, their grandparents or their Band? Will they be proud? Will they say we had courage?

It is my promise to you today — that Band members WILL have new opportunities to reach for economic freedom — so their children can dream big dreams.

It is my hope that our Band will obtain the status of being self-reliant, self-sufficient and economically independent. I hope our children will tell stories to their children about how their ancestors came back from economic adversity to become leaders in the regional economy.

The best our generation can do is to plant the seeds of opportunity so our young people can live honorable lives.

For the young people, we want your life story to be great.

We want your story to be told for generations to come. You are part of this great journey. We want you to have a chance to do historic and heroic things.

The task of our generation is to plant the seeds of economic development. Our job is to create economic opportunity. It is up to the younger generation to dream big dreams.

And it is our hope that your grandchildren will tell the stories of your great deeds.

## Conclusion

The story of the Mille Lacs Band is the story of a journey.

It is the story of a people like no other.

People with strong hearts, strong minds and strong bodies. Anishinabe strong.

People who survived a thousand winters.

People who were self-reliant.

People who were self-sufficient.

People who were independent.

Their journey took them across Canada to this place.

But now we embark on a new journey.

On this new journey, we must rely on our wits and on our minds.

As always, we must rely on each other as Band members. On this new journey, we seek a new kind of self-reliance.

We seek economic independence.

We do not seek this status for purposes of greed or love of money.

We seek this status because we have a purpose as a Band. That purpose is to preserve our language; To protect our traditions; and To protect our way of life.

That has always been the purpose of our journey. We can only hope that when the stories of this time are told by our great-grandchildren: That it is said that we tried with all of our courage to preserve the traditions of the Band.

And so: Let us begin this New Chapter in Our History — with Strength; Unity and Hope!

Miigwech!

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



MELANIE  
BENJAMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! I hope everyone had a nice holiday season surrounded by friends and family. Many Band Elders celebrated the season at the annual Christmas Elder party and it was good to see many of you there. Miigwech to the Elder Services Staff for a wonderful party.

Two unfortunate events dampened Christmas spirits a little this year. It was with sadness that I learned of the death of former U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, a Democrat from Hawaii who passed away at the age of 88. We met with him a many times over the year and worked with Senator Inouye on legislation and policy that affect the Mille Lacs Band and Indian Country. The senator believed in self governance for American Indians and advocated for our sovereignty. His death is a loss in Indian Country.

Another loss took place in Connecticut with the shooting deaths of 26 children and adults. We held a ceremony here. One of our elders said a prayer for the parents and family members. This tragedy led to a review of emergency policies in each building. We have updated staff with those procedures. How sad it is to see innocent lives taken in that way.

Here's some good news: Band Member Joe Nayquonabe was ratified by the Band Assembly and sworn in as our Commissioner of Corporate Affairs. Joe has the vision and training to do a great job. Let's give Joe a warm welcome.

I should also mention the Cobell distribution. The lawsuit began in 1996 when Indian plaintiffs charged the federal government with a miscalculation of income from Indian trust assets. In December 2012, a settlement was announced with \$1.4 billion going to individuals and up to \$2 billion for land re-purchase.

To see if you are eligible for payment, you can file electronically on this website: [Indiantrust.com](http://Indiantrust.com). The deadline for filing a claim is March 1, 2013. The form asks for your name, address, social security number, Band enrollment number and date of birth. If you have questions about a claim you have already filed, call 1-800-961-6109.

The New Year always brings new challenges. The Band will continue to work with Governor Mark Dayton, the state Legislature and with our congressional leaders in Washington D.C. on matters that impact life here at the

Mille Lacs Band. Sometimes it's hard to see the connection between actions that occur in Washington D.C. or St. Paul and life here at Mille Lacs. But Washington has an impact that touches every corner of Indian Country. It's our job as elected officials to promote and protect the Band.

I hope that you, too, have good memories from the holiday season.

Our thoughts are with those Band Members and employees who lost loved ones in 2012.

Let's all hope and work for a happy and productive New Year!

## Chief Executive Facebook Page Launched

Although we must continue to value and honor the traditions of our Elders, which means so much to us still today, the world we live in provides us with many new and helpful tools for keeping our culture alive and our community connected. One of those tools is Facebook. I believe there is power and there is good in what Facebook can do — if used for the right purpose. If used for good, I believe we can improve our communications with each other.

I invite you to join me in that cause. So you can better know me, know my office and know the work I do for the Band, I invite you to follow my new Chief Executive Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/ChiefExecutiveMelanieBenjamin](http://www.facebook.com/ChiefExecutiveMelanieBenjamin) Chief Executive (government official)



## Update From Corporate Commission

Joe Nayquonabe Commissioner of Corporate Affairs

At the Corporate Commission's current scale, growing meaningful new businesses takes some discipline, a bit of patience and a nurturing culture. We have been busy over the past few months creating an economic development plan and solid investment criteria that is unlike any other that you've seen. Our philosophy and approach have changed and we're excited to announce the first project of our plan — a print shop, scheduled to open in February.

The print shop is a full-scale commercial print shop that will initially service the casinos, Corporate Commission and the Mille Lacs Band. We have a large internal demand and by opening this print shop, we are able to keep money and jobs within our own community.

The casinos currently send out 7.6 million mail pieces and by transferring a majority of the jobs to the print shop, we are able to create "churn" and recycle the dollars back into the local community more than once.

The work from our entities alone will create a viable business, but it is the long-term strategy to turn more busi-

ness from greater Minnesota — targeting other minority business and utilizing tribal advantages like the ability to gain 8(a) status to compete for government contracts.

The print shop will be located at one of the Band's real estate assets in Onamia and will house one manager and a set of operators based on the business volume.

There is a remarkable amount of opportunity that lies ahead for the Mille Lacs Band. As we enter into this new era, there is several distinct investment projects the Corporate Commission is focused on driving forward — all of which center around the sector we are most experienced in — hospitality.

So how did our philosophy and approach change? In the past, the strategy was geared toward smaller deals in undeveloped markets and in sectors that we aren't familiar with. It was risky and we didn't have a controlling stake in



what happened with our investments.

All of that has changed. We will now only consider direct investments where we have a controlling stake, our focus is on the hospitality industry where we have expertise and advantages, and we will invest in major markets that have predictable returns. This all translates into sustained growth well into the Band's future.

When you do see us enter into new businesses, it's because we have done the due diligence necessary to ensure it is a sound investment for the Band, which will help sustain good fiscal health into the future.

Although we still have a lot of hard work ahead, the projects we are working on are generating excitement. And when I pause to reflect on how far we've come in just the past few months and how much further we'll go in the months and years to come, I couldn't be more excited and optimistic.

## A MILLION TODAY, A BILLION TOMORROW

# Corporate Commissioner Says To Earn Big Profits, Invest In A Big Industry

Deborah Locke Staff Writer

The Commissioner of Corporate Affairs has a few of what you'd call lofty goals. But, if you ask around, no one would expect anything less from Joe Nayquonabe.

He would like to see the Mille Lacs Band's annual business revenue at, say, \$1 billion.

More immediately, Joe would like to see the Band start earning more revenue from non-gaming entities. Outside investments would act as a buffer against the sometimes unpredictable gambling industry, he said.

Step by step, the Band is positioning itself to depend less on gambling, and the hospitality industry could be the pathway to that billion dollar goal. By the end of January, the Mille Lacs Band should close on a deal that would add two major hotels in St. Paul to its investment portfolio — around the same time that a new print shop will start up.

The gaming industry isn't going away, Joe emphasized. But a variety of large business ventures throughout the country would position the Mille Lacs Band as a major player in a lucrative industry.

"A long-term vision of ours is to be in every hospitality market in the U.S.," he said.

Where did this guy come from? Right here. Joe, a Mille Lacs Band Member whose parents worked for the Band, took over as Commissioner in October, filling a vacant four-year term. He played on the Red Lake Warriors basketball team and still shoots hoops in his free time.

Before being sworn in as Commissioner, Joe was the Band's corporate vice president of marketing. His new job requires both the creativity of a marketing position and fi-

nancial understanding. After listening to him for a while, you start to imagine that Monopoly game board with the houses and hotels. Joe believes the move to major markets is a natural step for the Band. Like the game of Monopoly, Mille Lacs Band-owned hotels could pop up in Chicago and New York and in "every major market."

"We need to think big," he said. "We can't think of a million dollars here and a million dollars there. We need to be open to major investments." Other plans to increase profits are in the works that focus on the local Districts of the Mille Lacs Band. "We will utilize the advantages that tribes have for being minority owned businesses," said Joe. "And we look forward to announcing these deals in the coming months."

The way Joe got to where he is today is the same way he'd like the tribe to become more independent, one step at a time. His dad returned to college later in life and by his example, Joe and his siblings learned the importance of education. "Dad was in health and human services and Mom was a nurse her entire career," he said. "I was brought up to serve the community."

Joe graduated with a marketing degree from St. Cloud State University and then went on to earn an MBA from the Carlson School of Management. He's now finishing up a second master's degree in tribal administration and governance from the University of Minnesota — Duluth.

After college he thought about a career in politics and government, but then completed an internship in marketing and "fell in love" with the work. Joe always planned to return to the Band to work, he said, following the example



**Pictured, L-R:** Chief Justice Rayna Mattinas, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe, Secretary Treasurer Curt Kalk, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

of his parents. First he needed the education, and while in undergraduate and graduate school, learned what it is to be a novelty. While a graduate student at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management, Joe was the only American Indian around.

He said he never saw a single American Indian while enrolled at Carlson. But attending the school was "cool" because it gave Joe a chance to change ideas about gaming on Indian reservations.

"There are so many misconceptions about gaming," he said. "People do not understand Indian people at all." For example, non-Indians have no idea of the success stories from tribes in recent decades. As a student, Joe worked at changing minds about the abilities of American Indians to run multi-million dollar businesses well.

As a Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, he's continuing to change minds and help the Band set a course toward greater self-determination and self-sufficiency.



## EXPANDING ENTERPRISES Band to Open Print Shop

**Deborah Locke** Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Band is adding a print business to its list of businesses. Renovations to a former bakery located at 510 Main Street in Onamia will be completed by mid-February, said Jeff Costillo, director of MLB Investments and Economic Development.

The Onamia and Hinckley casinos generate a lot of print projects that until this year, were outsourced to other companies. Now the Band will do its own publication work while at the same time, creating a few new jobs. Two employees will be hired to operate the Xerox Igen 4 printer, Jeff said. If the printshop attracts additional off-reserva-

tion business, and that is the plan, an additional two more employees will be hired.

The casino orders will include the hundreds of mailers, advertisements, postcards and other promotional items generated by gaming, as well as other Band-related projects.

The business floor plan for the approximately 3200 square-foot space includes offices on the left side of the space and a large area for the printer and for the finishing process.

The shop is expected to be up and running by February 22, 2013, Jeff said.

## Polar Plunge Returns! Are you up for the challenge?

On Saturday, March 9, Grand Casino Mille Lacs will sponsor the second annual Mille Lacs Polar Bear Plunge at Eddy's Lake Mille Lacs Resort to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota.



So far, 44 individuals have registered to participate in the Mille Lacs Polar Bear Plunge, as of December 30. The goal for this year's plunge is to get double the number of plungers from last year – that's more than 300 plungers. Are you up for the challenge? Grab a friend, family member or co-worker and sign up today!

At the plunge, Grand Casino Mille Lacs will provide a 20-person hot tub and changing facilities for plungers as well as concessions and other entertainment for spectators.

Area law enforcement, fire departments, search and rescue teams, the Mille Lacs Band DNR, and Grand Casino Mille Lacs staff will oversee the event.

If you would like to participate or donate to a team or individual, visit [www.plungemn.org](http://www.plungemn.org) and choose the Mille Lacs plunge location. Donations will be accepted on the day of the plunge and anyone interested in participating can register on the day of the event at the Waterfront Restaurant at 11 a.m. on March 9. Lake Mille Lacs plunges will follow at 1 p.m.

Participants will need to raise a minimum of \$75 to take a dip in the frozen lake. It's fun and exciting event that you have to experience to understand!

In recent months I have had several interactions with community members who either didn't understand how to use their prescribed medications, or didn't know if they had medical coverage and if so, what was covered.

Upon reflecting on these topics, I thought it would be

If a person quits taking them before the course is complete, the remaining live 'bugs' in your body learn how to survive in their environment by changing its own DNA to defend itself from the antibiotic actions. This powerful shield they create makes it very difficult to treat allowing this organism to continue to invade healthy tissues causing a person to become sicker and possibly more infected.

After many times of allowing organisms to morph their DNA to protect it from antibiotic treatments, it turns into a 'super bug' that is very difficult to destroy creating an infection that is resistant to antibiotics which requires special treatment

## Back To The Basics Of Medications

**Guest Columnist Mary Mercado, RN,  
District II for Elders, Public Health Department**

beneficial to write about the proper use of prescribed medications, and insurance.

I will start with a reminder about insurance. Those Band members who have Medicare Part D, which covers prescription medications, should understand that this is a separate part of insurance that is provided by Medicare. It needs to be applied for separately to obtain the benefit of that coverage.

Those who receive Medicare health insurance should contact their insurance company to ensure that prescription medication coverage is part of the package. Circle of Health will not reimburse copayments on medication if it is not covered through insurance.

I have also noticed the improper use of antibiotics, and we need to stress how important it is to provide information to your primary physician to keep you and your community safe. Patients need to know why they are taking medications and how they work.

I have encountered some individuals who were prescribed antibiotics but stopped taking them before they were supposed to because they felt better. Today's medicine can free us of infections, but when a person stops taking them before they're supposed to, it can have detrimental effects. Antibiotics can be very devastating to your health if this behavior persists. People need to understand how antibiotics work. Antibiotics need to be taken throughout its full course as prescribed by the doctor in order to be effective, which may take up to 10 days or longer. The antibiotic medication attacks the microorganism cells by blocking its functions killing off the microorganism or 'bug'.

with a combination of medications along with a stronger antibiotic and may lead to hospitalization. It's important for people to understand the difference between what is a side effect of the drug and what could be an allergic reaction to the medication.

There are some side effects from antibiotics that are not so pleasant, such as diarrhea or yeast infections, but before a decision is made to stop taking the medication a physician should be notified.

Tips that will help keep family members and the community at large safe and germ-free include:

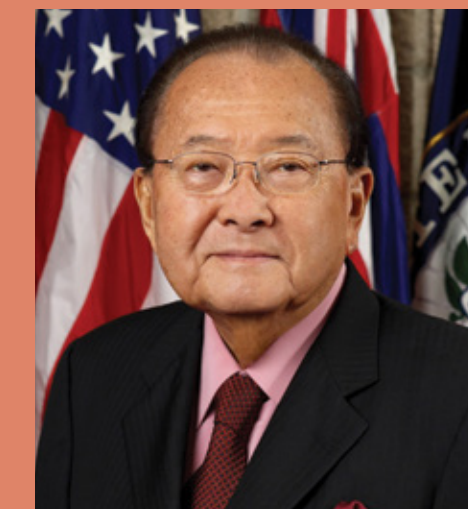
- Wash hands frequently.
- Use antiseptic solutions weekly to wipe down frequently-touched surfaces such as railings, door-knobs, light switches, phones, remote controls and toys.
- Stay home when ill and away from large crowds to prevent the spread of disease.

Maintain a healthy diet to help build up a strong immune system that can fight off organisms without the need for medications.

It is also very important for patients to communicate well with their physicians especially letting him know what medications they are taking and those that they are allergic to. Inform primary care physicians of all treatments done or prescribed by different doctors. Medications can conflict with each other causing the chemical makeup to change and unable to work properly. Always ask questions before taking medications. Patients need to know why certain medicines are prescribed and how they work. Pharmacists are the best to consult with about medication information.

**"Provide information to your primary physician to keep you and your community safe."**

## Sen. Inouye Passes Away



Indian Country lost a hero, a tireless champion who devoted much of his 50-year Senate career to bettering the lives of American Indians.

The United States lost an effective, brilliant legislator.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of former U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, a Democrat from Hawaii who passed away at the age of 88. The Senator, a decorated World War II veteran, died from respiratory problems at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on December 17, 2012.

Senator Inouye served in leadership roles on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs from 1987 to 1995. He served again on that committee from 2001 to 2004.

Thanks to Senator Inouye's leadership, important legislation that benefitted American Indians became law. Examples are the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1987, and the Repatriation Act of 1990. The Senator took an interest in Indian health, and worked for improved treatment of cervical and breast cancer among American Indians. He also worked on bills that helped individual tribes and communities throughout the country.

Senator Inouye had a keen understanding of sovereignty, according to Senator John McCain, a Republican from Arizona who worked with Senator Inouye. Senator Inouye knew that treaties must be honored even when honoring them meant a significant expenditure of tax dollars, McCain said.

News reports state that the Senator's last word was "Aloha."

To him we say the same.

"Aloha," to a good, brilliant and kind friend of all American Indians. May he rest in peace.

## WIN AN iPAD MINI!

To help keep all Band members better connected, we're gathering emails. By providing your information, you'll be able to stay current on all tribal matters — AND you'll be entered in a drawing for a new iPad mini!

The winner will be contacted via email.

Email Andy McPartland at:  
[andy@redcircleagency.com](mailto:andy@redcircleagency.com)

In your email, include your name and let us know which of the following you would like to receive:

- Email notifications of Band news and events
- Electronic version of the Inaajimowin newsletter
- Invitations to join Mille Lacs Band Facebook Groups

All information will be kept private, and not shared with other organizations.

## Flu Facts

This information on the influenza (flu) is being sent out due to a higher incidence of illness this flu season. Please note precautions to take and when to seek further treatment. The information below is from the MN Department of Health. Also, attached to this email is a poster that can be put up in all public areas. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department at 320-532-7776 for further information.

### What is influenza (flu)?

Influenza is a contagious respiratory disease that can be prevented by immunization. It is not the same as the "stomach flu." Flu is caused by a virus that attacks the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness and at times can lead to death.

### What are the symptoms of flu?

Influenza symptoms come on quickly in the form of fever, dry cough, sore throat, headache, extreme tiredness, stuffed-up nose, and body aches. These symptoms can be severe and put you in bed for several days.

### What can you do to protect yourself and others?

- Get vaccinated.
- Avoid being exposed to others who are sick with a flu-like illness.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- Clean your hands often – with soap and water, or a hand sanitizer.
- Take special care to protect infants. Try not to expose them to large crowds when flu is in your community, and avoid close contact between the baby and family members who may be sick.
- Do not share drinking cups and straws.
- Clean commonly touched surfaces often (door knobs, refrigerator handles, phones, water faucets).
- Do not smoke around children.



A few departments at District III quietly slid into the current century with the installation of high speed Internet access last summer. The change has improved the way health care is delivered, ensured email delivery at the administrative center, and helps adults and students with test-taking and GED achievement. Those are only a few of the benefits.

Perhaps no one was more devoted to bringing on the change than Stephanie Grady, the clinic physician assistant, said Keith Modglin, Information Systems Director for the Mille Lacs Band. Now that the new lines have been installed at District III, Keith said his next challenge is to find grant funding that will help increase the number of buildings and households that receive the high speed service.

Whereas that's a future goal, some staff members at Mille Lacs Band are delighted to leave the past with its slow and weather-related satellite service for today's more updated present.

Especially Stephanie Grady. She said she was dedicated to equal opportunity health care so that no matter where her patients live, they are assured of a good diagnosis, good care, effective pharmaceutical care, and eventually, good health. It was harder to achieve that before high speed internet, she said. Here is one example why:

A little boy came into the office with symptoms that Stephanie needed to research. The internet has a medical library that's available to medical professionals, and typically a doctor will turn to that online library with questions. However, sometimes the District III weather interfered with satellite service. That means the computer screens went blank.

In the case of the little boy, Stephanie drove to the East Lake clinic to use their computers. She got the information, diagnosed the problem and determined an effective treatment. The boy came back to the District III clinic and got the help he needed.

Here's another example of how medical care can improve with better internet service: a four-year-old child had lived in three foster homes before finally moving in with his grandmother. Stephanie needed to know what immunizations he had received. That information is collected by the state Department of Health with records available online. The lack of high speed internet meant a couple of extra days of time before a provider could tell what other immunizations the little boy might need. Now an answer is available immediately.

In addition, medical information changes quickly, Stephanie said. Improved treatments are not uncommon. She had a patient who had a rash, used the internet med-

## High Speed Internet Brings Better Health Care, Opportunities To District III

Deborah Locke, Staff Writer



ical directory to help with a diagnosis, and treated the patient. The internet also gives information on the way drugs interact with each other. It's not unusual to have a patient with high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

"You throw depression into that mix, and then need to come up the best meds to use that have the fewest side effects," she said.

There are more mundane advantages to high speed internet, as well. Shelly Peer, District III Program Administrator, said that there were days when she couldn't get email. The Band's licensing agent at that location had trouble with online applications and work with tribal identification cards. She said that these days more Band Members are coming into the building for GED preparation because they know they can work online without interruptions. In the past, all the preparation work was done on paper, said Deb Campbell, the Mille Lacs Band lead instructor in training and development. Today someone can go online at the administrative center and receive an assessment for skill level before taking the GED. After that, they can immediately sign up for tutoring in math or reading. The actual GED test isn't given in the District III offices, but the high speed internet features makes preparation easier. The electronic method is better, Deb said.

Education should be available to everyone, echoed Stephanie Grady. If someone wants to prepare for the ACT exam and go to college, he or she should have the same opportunities as anyone else. Education and health care are basic rights, she said. They should be available to all, no matter where they live.

For more information on the GED program at the District III administrative center, call the Mille Lacs Band Labor Department office at (320) 532-4741.



available to them, represent the Band at events, functions and meetings and help investigate Band member complaints. His ultimate goal, he said, will be to help resolve issues or to offer mediation.

Al, who served as the Commissioner of Community Development for seven years, said during that time he was a strong advocate for Urban Band members, especially when it came to housing issues.

"I've always been into housing because it's critical to the family unit," Al said.

Before working for the Band, Al worked in management roles for General Electric and Graybar Electric

companies. He began working for the Band in 2002 as a commissioner. He left the Band in 2008 to pursue other housing and non-profit work.

But, he said, he wanted to come back to work for the Band because he wanted to continue to serve his community.

"The Mille Lacs Band has done so many good things and we have so many positive role models who are Band members. It was important to me that I continue my work with the Band and offer my contributions to our members."

Though it's only been a short time since he started, Al said the biggest challenge is letting people know that he's there for them and what he will be doing. In December, he spoke at the urban community meeting to let folks know more about his role. Al said he welcomes any input or feedback from the community.

"I want people to come to me with any questions they have," he said. "Because I served as a commissioner, I have a deep understanding the Band government and how it works."

Al Olson works in the Urban Office located at 1404 East Franklin Ave, Minneapolis. His phone number is 612-746-4819. His email address is: [Al.Olson@millelacsband.com](mailto:Al.Olson@millelacsband.com).

## Band Members Living In The Urban Area Have New Advocate

Toya Stewart Downey, Staff Writer

Oftentimes when Band members living in the Urban Area needed assistance with a business matter, wanted help to resolve a problem or were seeking Tribal resources, their first step would be to contact the Band staff working in District I.

Now, Urban Band members have a new resource that is closer to home.

Since late November, Al Olson has been working in a new position as the Urban Special Projects and Relations Coordinator and his primary function is to serve Urban Band members.

"This role was created because Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin thought that the connection between the Urban Area and Reservation needed to be strengthened," said Al. "There needed to be a go-to guy in the Twin Cities and I was hired to be that guy."

In this new role, Al will act as a trusted intermediary between Urban Band members and the Band's departments and programs. He will help develop programs and services in the Twin Cities, will work as a liaison for Band members. He will also assist Barb Benjamin-Roberts with programs in the urban area.

He will seek and advise Band members of services

## Cobell Settlement – Information for Mille Lacs Band Members

The long-running lawsuit filed by Eloise Cobell, a member of the Montana Blackfeet, in 1996 over the federal government's handling of individual Indian money accounts was settled in 2012. To that end, there are likely beneficiaries across the country who are eligible to join and that could include Mille Lacs Band members. To find out more, please visit [IndianTrust.com](http://IndianTrust.com). You will be prompted to fill out an online form. For those who do not have internet access, you can request a paper copy by calling 1-800-961-6109. The deadline to file a claim is March 1, 2013.

## Urban District Christmas Party

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey



## Public Health Transportation

The Department of Public Health continues to offer free rides for Mille Lacs Band Members to their medical and dental appointments in all three districts.

Clients who use the service must have scheduled appointments. They must also have a referral from either Ne-la-Shing clinic or Mille Lacs Health System stating that they cannot receive the same or equitable service at either medical facility for scheduled appointments that are more than 50 miles away in one direction.

Band members who need transportation should make their request two days in advance, although transportation is not guaranteed based on the high demand of the service. Clients must wear seat belts at all times while being transported by public health. Children must be in the proper child safety or booster seats, and they must be installed and provided by the parent/guardian. No unscheduled stops that will be made. Please be respectful to the driver as they are providing a service to assist Band members.

The Public Health Department does not provide transportation for the following: inpatient/outpatient treatment, anger management, rule 25's, psychiatry appointments, urgent care or the emergency room.

There are two (2) medication deliveries for each district. Please call individual districts for information on what days the medication deliveries are for homebound elders and clients.

Public Health does not allow smoking in its vehicles.

**District I & IIA:** Mary J Sam (320) 532-7815

**District II:** Eileen Farah (218) 768-2389

**District III:** Donna Hormillosa (320) 384-0149

## Child Support Update

**Quarterly Drawings:** The Child Support Enforcement Program will hold quarterly drawings for non-custodial parents who have consistently paid and fulfilled their full monthly obligations during each month of the quarter. Three names will be drawn and each will receive a \$50 gift card. Winners will be notified by mail each quarter.

**Child Support Per Capita Garnishments:** MLB members are eligible to elect voluntarily garnishments from their per capita when the maximum garnishment amount doesn't cover all the monthly orders. To avoid going into arrears all monthly order amounts must be paid including additional owed for arrears on each case. Electing to have additional funds garnished helps the children by keeping the funds moving and it also helps the payer stay out of the arrears monthly when normally orders aren't paid completely. For more information, please contact the Child Support Program office at 320-532-7752 to have a voluntary form sent to you or to discuss your options for managing your arrears balance.

**Child Support Program Offers "Survival Kits" to its Clients.....extended until 1/30/2013:** The Mille Lacs Band Child Support Program is continuing to offer its clients free cold and flu "survival kits," to help speed the recovery of those pesky winter illnesses.

The kit includes tea, honey, Kleenex, bleach wipes, wet wipes, vapor chest rub, cough drops, chap stick, hand sanitizer and saline nose spray and it all comes in a reusable grocery bag, Ms. Doyle said.

A certificate for the kit was sent to all eligible households.

Any client who has an active case as of Oct. 31 are eligible, though those who have foreign jurisdictions cases are not. To receive the kit, clients must return the completed certificate.

The kit must be picked up in person at the Child Support Office in Mille Lacs Band Government Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Urban area residents can pick theirs up at the urban area on Mondays from noon to 4 p.m., but must call the Child Support Office in advance to ensure it is delivered to the Minneapolis location. It cannot be mailed, or delivered.

### Details

— Only the custodial parent may redeem the certificate for a kit

— One kit per household

— Photo ID is required when signing for the kit

For more information, or questions contact Amy Doyle 320-532-7752.

*"This is a way to get our clients in the door to make sure their case files are updated and complete," said Amy Doyle, director of the program. "We want to touch base with our clients at least annually to answer questions they may have on their cases or to give them information about our services they may not know we offer."*

## Circle of Health

Ameritas Dental Plan: Those who have not received new dental cards should contact the Circle of Health office. Ameritas has forwarded undeliverable mail to that office. Those without dental coverage should contact their claims processor for assistance in enrolling into the Ameritas Dental Plan.

MLTC (Mille Lacs Tribal Community):

The next open enrollment period in April 1, 2013. Circle of Health mails out notices to eligible Band members prior to each open enrollment period. If you do not have health insurance please contact your claims processor for assistance.

Medicare Reimbursements: The Medicare Part B and Part D reimbursement checks will be mailed on January 11th. Those who wish to pick up their checks at the Isle office prior to that date should contact Carol Hernandez.

All District Elder Meetings: Carol will discuss Medicare, Medical Assistance Spend-downs, and Durable Medical Equipment benefits at the following elder meetings:

Meetings start at 11:30 a.m.

January 17: District I – ALU

March 21: District 2 – ALU

May 16: District 3 – ALU

### Contact information:

*It is very important that Band members notify Circle of Health of contact information changes (address/phone). Circle of Health*

*makes every attempt to notify Band members of important changes especially when it requires action on their part.*

### Claims Processors:

Roberta Lemieux: A-L

Tammy Smith: M-Z

800-491-6106 or 320-676-8214

## Training Classes and Job Opportunities for Mille Lacs Band Members

There are several opportunities for Mille Lacs Band members to seek employment or training at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grand Casino Hinckley and the Corporate Commission's non-gaming operations.

### Training Opportunity!

If you are interested in the Information Technology field, Grand Casino Mille Lacs has a Service Desk Technician Trainee position open. This is an opportunity to develop a professional career in the technical field.

Once hired, a development plan will be identified and measured throughout the duration of employment (training will not exceed two years). This position is responsible for answering, evaluating, prioritizing, and assigning incoming telephone, voicemail, e-mail and in-person requests for assistance.

To apply for this position, please contact Andrea Allie at 800-626-5825, ext. 8233 or visit the Grand Casino Mille Lacs HR department to receive expedited service.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe			
Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2013	Expenditures through 12/31/2012	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	11,794,506	2,886,812	24.5%
Workforce	16,682,597	1,416,568	8.5%
Judicial	1,071,262	180,512	16.9%
Law Enforcement	5,471,296	986,497	18.0%
Education	17,287,957	3,718,048	21.5%
Health and Human Services	19,560,346	3,705,409	18.9%
Circle of Health Insurance	7,637,383	2,607,091	34.1%
Natural Resources	6,134,759	1,367,293	22.3%
Community Development	16,018,358	4,428,125	27.6%
Gaming Authority	5,049,873	1,110,326	22.0%
Bonus Distribution	18,506,568	16,038,060	86.7%
Nelson Act Distribution	3,765,221	1,309,500	34.8%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,025,000	2,999,000	99.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,005,126</b>	<b>42,753,241</b>	<b>32.4%</b>

(1) Administration includes chief executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.  
(2) The amounts above do not include casino operations, however, they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.  
(3) The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has their financial statements audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.  
(4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997. As of October 1, 1997, The Band has separated accounting functions for the Corporate Commission from the tribal government.

## Now Hiring – Print Shop!

As you read in this issue of the Inaajimowin, the Corporate Commission is opening a new print shop in Onamia and we are looking for interested Band members to apply for the Print Shop Operator position(s).



Applicants will be required to have a High School Diploma, GED or pass the Basic Skills Assessment. Extensive background experience with computers to operate software including Microsoft Suite, InDesign, Photoshop CS, Adobe Illustrator and QuarkExpress is preferred.

To apply for this position, please contact Nicole Hyatt at 800-626-5825, ext. 8844 or visit the Corporate Commission HR department to receive expedited service.

Remember, Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley offer same day walk-in service, which means if you are a Band member interested in seeking employment, you can walk-in, fill out an application, see the Gaming Regulatory Authority to obtain a gaming license, interview with an HR Rep, and potentially be offered a job – right on the spot. This is a unique service exclusive to Band members only!

## TRIBAL NOTE BOARD

### Happy January birthdays:

Happy Birthday **Gabriel Gahbow** on 1/2. Have a gooder one Mr. Daboo hugs. Love From Teabag, Kyel, Kyla, Kootie, Goats Gahbow. • ♥ Happy Birthday ♥ **Dan Sam** on 1/12. Have a GREAT one Danno much love to you. Love Nancy, T, COOTS, Kyel, Kyla Gahbow. • Happy Birthday to Armando Day, Il on 1/17! We love you -- mom, Deonna, Antonio and Bella. • Congrats to **Renne & Dan Sam** on the Birth of there beautiful little girl, **Danileigh Elizabeth Sam** on 12/20/12

### Happy January birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mary Anne Bellonger  
Art Benjamin  
Gladys Marie Benjamin  
Daniel Duane Sr. Boyd  
Edith Ruth Bush  
Patricia Jean Clark  
Ronald James Crown  
Eugene Leonard Davis  
Lorna Jean Day  
Bonnie Jean Dorr  
John Charles Dowell  
Dora Ann Duran  
Isabel Eubanks  
Janet Lee Gahbow  
Ella Reine Garbow  
Evelyn M. Granger  
Rose Marie Holmquist

Katherine Ann Jackson  
Charles Ted Johnson  
Grover Joseph Johnson  
Patty Jo Johnson  
Richard Duane Kegg  
David Henry Kost  
Lucille Kuntz  
Priscilla Joann Lowman  
Gloria Jean Lowrie  
David George Matrious  
Thomas Tecumseh  
McKenney  
Temperance Yvonne  
McLain  
Michael Samuel Jr. Merrill  
Mushkooub  
Barbara Jean Nelson

Cora Lucille Nelson  
Rosalie Ann Noonday  
Dorothy Marie Olson  
Donna Jean Pardun  
Shelley Ann Pindegayosh  
Patricia Marie Potter  
Dora Ann Sam  
Joycelyn Marie Shingobe  
Bonnie Shingobe-Neeland  
Larry Marion Smallwood  
Joseph Alex Staples  
Kathleen Marie Vanheel  
Walter James Sr. Weyaus  
Nancy Lee Wood

### Happy belated birthdays:

Happy Belated 1st Birthday to **Daymon MacLean** on November 23rd, with love: Auntie Heather, Daniel, Thomas and Tyler Virnig • Happy Belated 1st Birthday to **Tyler Virnig** on November 25th, with love: Mommy, Daddy, Robyn, Daniel, Thomas and Tyler Virnig • Happy Belated 5th Birthday to **Mylyz Ballinger** on November 26th, with love: Sister Heather, Lance, Daniel, Thomas and Tyler Virnig



# JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13	14	15	16 <b>District III Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center	17 <b>All District Elders Meeting</b> 11:30 a.m. District 1 Assisted Living Unit	18	19
20	21	22	23 <b>Chiminsing Bingo</b> 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Chiminsing Community Center	24 <b>District 2 Community Meeting</b> 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center	25 <b>Sobriety Feast</b> 5 p.m. D1 Community Center	26 <b>Ojibwe Mitten Workshop</b> 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. <b>Fee:</b> \$65, \$60 for MHS members, \$15 materials fee for all participants. <b>Reservations required</b> , call 320-532-3632
27 <b>Ojibwe Mitten Workshop</b> 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. <b>Fee:</b> \$65, \$60 for MHS members, \$15 materials fee for all participants. <b>Reservations required</b> , call 320-532-3632	28	29	30 <b>District 2-A Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Chiminsing Community Center	31 <b>Family Engineering Night at Nay</b> 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Nay Ah Shing Upper School Gym	1	2 <b>Kids Crafts: Story Book Time &amp; Cornhusk Dolls</b> Noon – 3 p.m. <b>Fee:</b> \$6 per kit (excludes museum admission)

## Family Engineering Night at Nay Ah Shing

**Thursday, January 31 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

The PAC is sponsoring and bringing to our community a Family Engineering Night to be held at the Nay Ah Shing Upper School gymnasium. Please come and enjoy this fun-filled family event. Kids and parents will engage in a variety of hands-on engineering projects. If you have questions or if you need further information, please email me at [ksam@nas.k12.mn.us](mailto:ksam@nas.k12.mn.us) or call 320-532-4690, extension 2160.



**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE**  
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