

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

July 2008

"The story as it's told."

Volume 10 • Number 7

Chief Executive and District I Representative Sworn in to Office



On July 8, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin (center) was sworn in to office for her third four-year term by Chief Justice Alvina Aubele (left). Melanie's grandchildren Aubrey and Clayton Jr. joined Melanie in the ceremony.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and District I Representative Sandra Blake were sworn in to office on Tuesday, July 8.

Melanie said she is looking forward to serving another term and is pleased to be in a position to continue to move the Band forward.

"I've always believed this was our time in history," said Melanie. "We are going to make a strong impact on the future of the Mille Lacs Band, especially by making sure the needs of Band members are met."

"We are going to make sure we're as strong as we can be," she said. "We are going to make sure that all have the opportunity for education and

that the Elders have what they need."

Melanie also thanked Band members for their vote of confidence in her leadership. "Today I'm here to say 'mii gwetch' to the Mille Lacs Anishinabeg," she said. "Mii gwetch for your support and all you do...mii gwetch for all the good things you do to make your family strong. Mii gwetch for your continued support."

Sandra, who most recently served as the Band's Executive Director of Education, thanked the more than 300 families that gathered outside the government center for the ceremony.

"I'm so humbled by the support I was given," she said.

"I'm grateful I was chosen by my people to work for our Band. I'll be here working for you."

Three Nay Ah Shing School Board members were also sworn in during the ceremony, including District I board member Dale Ballinger, District II board member Cheryl Miller, and school board Chairperson Ruth Sam.

The elected officials were sworn in by Chief Justice Alvina Aubele and will serve four-year terms. Assistant Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe acted as the master of ceremonies. Lunch was served immediately after the ceremony.



District I Representative Sandra Blake (right) was sworn into office by the Chief Justice Alvina Aubele (left). Assistant Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe (center) served as the master of ceremonies.

DII Leadership Academy Celebrates First Graduation



Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy graduate Harvey Dale Goodsky Jr.

The Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy marked a special milestone on June 26 when the charter school held its first graduation ceremony. Mille Lacs Band member Harvey Dale Goodsky Jr. received the school's first high school diploma.

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy opened in the fall of 2007 and focuses on the Ojibwe language and culture while meeting state curriculum standards. The school operates year-round, with three-week breaks between the Ojibwe seasonal cycles.

About 60 students are enrolled in the 2008-2009 school year, which began on July 14. Enrollment is still open. Call 218/768-3477 to speak with a receptionist or stop by the school located at 36663 State Highway 65 (five miles south of McGregor).



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Ask Melanie

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

You've talked about increasing home-rule for each district. How do you plan on accomplishing that?

I believe we can increase home-rule by extending the principles of the Self-Governance Program to each of the three districts and the urban area.

First, a little background about the Self-Governance Program would be helpful. Since 1989, the Band has participated in the Self-Governance Program at the federal level. Prior to the Self-Governance Program, the federal government would tell us what our priorities should be, and we would be forced to spend our federal money on that issue. For instance, if energy assistance happened to be the priority of the federal government that year, we would be required to spend most of our money on energy assistance, even if we had a greater need for education. We would winterize houses that didn't even need winterizing, because the federal government dictated how the money had to be spent.

Congress saw that this wasn't working. A group of ten tribes approached key members of Congress; Mille Lacs was one of those tribes. We asked to participate in an experiment allowing us to determine how we could solve our own problems, rather than having the federal government tell us what to do.

Self-governance has been a huge success. Today, hundreds of tribes participate in the Self-Governance Program, which is now a permanent program. The key principle behind the Self-Governance Program is that tribes know best how to solve their own problems and should be allowed to prioritize their needs rather than being told how to allocate resources.

This is the concept I want to see extended to each of the districts. Because the needs of each district vary greatly, there is no cookie-cutter approach that can work for all districts. I believe that Band members in each of the districts know best how to solve the issues and problems facing their districts. Within each of our programs, we need to implement strategies that address the specific and unique needs of each district. We need to closely examine the resources in each district and look at opportunities that might work. To accomplish this task, we need to increase the ability of each district to prioritize its needs through increased decision-making and self-governance at the district level.

I am announcing the creation of executive advisory committees for each of the three districts and the urban area. These committees will be charged with meeting regularly to discuss their priorities for their home districts. The Band government will provide staff to assist as requested by the committees, but the overall goal will be to increase home-rule and make our programs as responsive to local needs as possible.

I invite Band members who are interested in serving on these advisory committees to send me a brief cover letter along with a resumé or biography to:

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

It is my goal that these committees begin meeting as soon as possible.

Do you have a question?

If you have a question that you would like me to answer, please fax it to 320/532-4209 or mail it to:

Chief Executive's Office
Attn: Ask Melanie
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

Shinobe Jam to Be Held in August

The Shinobe Jam will be held on Thursday, August 14, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Grand Casino Hinckley Amphitheater. Food will be served, and the first band will take the stage at 1 p.m. The headlining bands are Liza

Diamond and Cole Premo's band, Six Shot Love (previously Dubiously Grand).

If you are a Band member and are interested in performing at Shinobe Jam, please call Elizabeth Towle at 320/532-7486.

District III Head Start Graduates



District III Head Start held its graduation on Friday, June 20. From left to right is Alliana Benjamin, Parker Leppanen, Richard Bridges II, Mesai Nelson, Kase Pike, Anevay Martin, and Jayden Wilson.

Commissioner of Natural Resources Discusses Tribal Enrollments at Community Meeting



Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources

On June 30, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Natural Resources Curt Kalk presented information about Mille Lacs Band enrollments at the District I community meeting. Curt's discussion followed up on a previous community meeting in which Band members were surveyed about their opinions on DNA testing being used to determine parentage for enrolled Band members. Curt plans to discuss this issue at other district community meetings.

Chief Executive's Public Safety/Law Enforcement Initiative Moves Forward

By Carrie Day Aspinwall

As a continued priority, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin hosted three Elder listening sessions in each of our districts. A survey was distributed to participants to provide a basis for discussions on crime prevention, public safety, and response time after calling 911. More importantly, we heard that police/community relations was also an issue for those present.

The response from our Elders was very clear about a variety of public safety/law enforcement issues: 1) increasing positive interaction with our tribal law enforcement and the surrounding jurisdictions, 2) creating opportunities for community education about the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement, and 3) opening communication between our tribal law enforcement officers and the community to strengthen our relationship with them.

The Elders also suggested sharing cultural teachings with officers as a way to get to know one another and educating new non-Indian officers about the Band. A police/community relations council was suggested, and discussion will continue about this model.

A community-wide public safety/law enforcement summit will be held in early August. This summit will bring Band members together with tribal police to continue discussions about public safety matters, set priorities, and discuss how to proceed. The Chief Executive will contact Band members via a letter announcing the meeting dates.

Thank you to all the Elders who participated in these discussions; your input is very important to how we proceed. If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact the Chief Executive's Office at 320/532-7486.

Nonpartisan Election Judge/Voter Protection Training To Be Held at Grand Casino Mille Lacs

TakeAction Minnesota and the Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota (NVAM) are sponsoring a nonpartisan election judge/voter protection training on Wednesday, July 23, from 1-3 p.m. at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center.

The training is free and open to anyone 16 years of age or older who is an election judge or interested in becoming an election judge, and for anyone who is involved in voter protection. People interested in voter protection help recognize and respond to situations that threaten people's rights to vote, such as voter intimidation and election irregularities. Participants will learn strategies for working with language barriers, informing voters of their rights, helping register voters, and addressing any challenges at the polls. In order to be an election judge, participants will need to be certified by the

township or county where they reside.

"This training is a great opportunity to help current and potential election judges and people involved in voter protection understand Minnesota voting laws and voters' rights," said Judy Hanks, NVAM Board of Directors Chair. "The training gives participants the tools to help ensure that all eligible voters are able to exercise their rights to vote."

NVAM is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and mobilizing American Indian voters in the state. TakeAction Minnesota is an organization dedicated to uniting the power of progressive organizations and individuals behind a vision of racial, social and economic justice.

To register for the free training session, please contact Elizabeth Towle at goveat@grcasinos.com or 320/384-4661.

District II Economic Development and Summit Planning Committee Holds First Meeting



Photo courtesy of Beth Hanlon

The District II East Lake Economic Development and Summit Planning Committee held its kick-off and organizational meeting on June 25. There were more than 20 attendees, including Commissioner Sarah Oquist (standing) and other Corporate Commission staff.

This District II East Lake Economic Development and Summit volunteer committee – comprised of those who responded to our request in an earlier edition of the *Inaajimowin* and those who were suggested by an elected official or Commissioner – will focus on economic development in District II. This group will also plan the District

II economic summit targeted to be held in October or November of 2008. The committee members will meet weekly as they develop a strategy for economic development in District II. For more information, please contact Corporate Senior Business Planner Jody Rooney at 320/384-4628.

Health and Human Services Commissioner Samuel Moose Draws on Culture and Traditions to Serve Band



Duane's Photography

By Toya Stewart

Samuel Moose's path seemed to be predestined. As the child of Ernest and Brenda Moose, Samuel was always aware of the importance of being a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

"I grew up traditional," said Samuel, whose family lived in East Lake. "My dad was a drum keeper and my mom was close to the traditional healers."

"Even though [as a child] I didn't know what everything was, I was very fortunate to be exposed to it."

So ingrained was the culture and the concept of healing that when it was time to enroll in college Samuel decided to pursue a degree in community health. He earned his Bachelor of Applied Science in 2000 from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Now in his role as the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Samuel, 37, is focused on building a bridge between traditional health and contemporary health practices.

"I'm interested in community changes and system changes," Samuel said.

Since he assumed his post eight years ago, Samuel has continued to make infrastructural changes that include streamlining the business functions, hiring doctors rather than

contracting their services, and moving toward a system of tribal self-governance.

"We made decisions about what was in the best interest of the tribe," he said.

Though it's difficult for Samuel to highlight the best part of his job, he is thrilled to bring his experience as a tribal member to the state and federal arenas.

Also at the top of his list is being able to act as an advocate for the tribe and its members.

"I have a direct connection to the people we're trying to serve," he said. "It's a very big honor to push the tribe into the future with strategic planning. Still, as with anything, there are challenges."

"The community's expectation of the tribal government is one challenge," he said. "They struggle with the role and purpose. There's a dependency on the tribal government that's similar to how people depend on the federal government."

The role of the tribal government, he said, is to work for the people to assist them, not enable them.

"This is something I talk about often," he said. "We want to teach the community to be self-sufficient."

It's a responsibility that Samuel takes seriously. So too is his role of drum keeper.

As a member of the few who are charged with the sacred task of drum keeper, Samuel will only say that it's an honor.

Samuel is an avid athlete who ran his first half marathon in June 2008. He's also played baseball, football, and basketball, though running seems to be his passion for now. He is married to his wife, Laura, a public health nurse. The couple has two children, Tyler, 8, and Mireye, 5, and they are expecting their third child in December.

Summer 2008 Bonus Checks

Distribution dates and locations

Checks will be distributed to all eligible Mille Lacs Band members on **August 7, 2008**, in each Band member's home district. This distribution will include all Band members receiving monthly, bi-monthly, and three times per year per capita distributions.

For minors, all funds will be placed into a trust account at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. **Individuals who have turned 20 years of age since the last bonus payment in April are eligible for payment. You must be 20 years of age by July 7, 2008 without having to submit a General Education Degree (GED) or high school diploma.** For Band members who are 18 and 19 years old and who have not received a high school diploma or GED, funds will be placed into a trust account at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. If you have not previously submitted diploma/degree information for past distributions, you must send in original documents showing proof of completion to the Tribal Enrollments Office at the Mille Lacs Band Government Center, attention Darcie Big Bear. If you have previously presented either of those documents, your August bonus will be included in your trust payment.

Pick-up locations

Elders, handicapped and homebound persons living in District I, II, IIa, III and the Twin Cities urban area can pick up their bonus checks on **August 7, 2008**. The distribution sites include the District I Assisted Living Unit, the East Lake Community Center, the Isle Chiminising Community Center, the Lake Lena Community Center, and the Urban Office. **Hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

If you are an Elder or handicapped person, live in Districts I, II, IIa, III, or the Twin Cities, and are unable to travel to your distribution site, please call the contact person below to make arrangements for your check to be delivered to you on **August 7, 2008**.

- District I: Darcie Big Bear, 320/532-7440 or Ginny Davis, 320/532-7512
- District II: Mary Sue Bohanon, 218/768-3311 or 877/768-3311
- District IIa: Carmen Green, 320/676-1102 or 877/676-1299
- District III: Bobby Anderson, 320/384-6240 or 877/884-6240
- Urban Office: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424

Your check pick-up site will be at the following centers, depending on where you live:

Mille Lacs Government Center:

For Band members living in Aitkin, Brainerd, Garrison, Hillman, Milaca, Onamia, Pierz and Wahkon.

East Lake Community Center:

For Band members living in McGregor.

Isle Chiminising Community Center:

For Band members living in Isle.

Lake Lena Community Center:

For Band members living in Askov, Braham, Brook Park, Danbury, Finlayson, Grasston, Hertel, Hinckley, Markville, Moose Lake, Mora, Pine City, Rush City, Rutledge, Sandstone, Siren, Sturgeon Lake, Webb Lake, Webster, and Willow River.

Urban Office:

For Band members living in Apple Valley, Andover, Anoka, Arlington, Blaine, Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville, Champlin, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Crystal, Eagan, Eden Prairie, Edina, Fridley, Golden Valley, Ham Lake, Hilltop, Hopkins, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maple Grove, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Mounds View, Newport, New Brighton, New Hope, Oakdale, Plymouth, Ramsey, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Roseville, Spring Lake Park, St. Anthony, South St. Paul, St. Louis Park, St. Paul, Wayzata, and Woodbury.

For all Band members who do not live in the towns/cities listed above, checks will be held at the Mille Lacs Government Center unless you make arrangements for pick-up at one of the other districts. To make arrangements, call the contact people listed earlier under "Pick-up locations."

Deadline for changing your pick-up site is at noon on July 25, 2008. Any changes after this time will not be valid. Call Darcie Big Bear at 320/532-7440 or Ginny Davis at 320/532-7512 to verify your change. There will be no exceptions.

Checks by certified mail

Those who can't pick up their checks on the dates listed will have their checks sent out by certified mail by **August 12, 2008** to the address listed with the Tribal Enrollments Office. Your local post office should notify you of the certified mail within 30 days. If you do not receive your

check by **September 12, 2008**, contact Darcie Big Bear at 800/709-6445, ext. 7440.

Address and name changes

If your address or name has changed since the last bonus, it is very important that you send in your information to the Enrollments Office. The deadline for address and name changes is noon on **July 25, 2008**. There will be no exceptions.

All returned checks will be held at the government center and will not be sent out again until the Enrollments Office has received your updated address or name information.

Other important information

- You must show a **picture identification** to receive your bonus check.
 - Bonus checks will only be given to the **enrolled Band member** to whom the check is made out. There will be no exceptions.
 - Bonus checks will be used to **pay delinquent Band loans, discretionary loans, or Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction fines** if they have not been paid. For loan status, call Pam Boyd at 320/532-7467. For court fines status, call Gilda Burr at 320/532-7400.
 - **Bonus checks are taxable;** therefore, all Band members who receive a bonus check should report it as income in the year received. You will receive a 1099-MISC form to remind you of how much income you should report on your tax return. Bonus checks should be reported as other income on a Form 1040 filing-line 21.
 - If you are receiving **public assistance** from the county, please contact your caseworker because the bonus may affect the amount you receive. If, based on discussions with your caseworker, you wish to decline receipt of the bonus, please contact Kathy Heyer in the OMB Office at 320/532-7472 or Darcie Big Bear at 320/532-7440 to get a bonus declination form.
- Bonus checks can also be direct deposited into a checking or savings account. You must be signed up by **July 24, 2008**. For more information, contact Kathy Heyer at 320/532-7472.
- If you have any questions about the August distribution, contact Darcie Big Bear at 320/532-7440 or Ginny Davis at 320/532-7512.

Mille Lacs Band to Host Women Empowering Women of Indian Nations Conference

*By Elizabeth Towle,
Governmental Affairs
Administrative Assistant*

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe will host the 4th Annual Women Empowering Women of Indian Nations (WEWIN) conference on July 29-31, when Indian women from across the nation will meet at Grand Casino Hinckley.

WEWIN is a national organization committed to helping Native women of all ages advance their educational, business and personal goals through networking and training. WEWIN also focuses on assisting young women and girls with their own leadership skills and personal growth. WEWIN was founded by a small group of Indian women from across the country, including Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who serves as the organization's treasurer.

The WEWIN conference will offer workshops on diverse subject matters such as financial and tax training, how to run for elected office, public relations, ethics in leadership, preventing violence against women, and intergovernmental relations. All workshops are facilitated by professional Indian women who are renowned for their work and leadership in the Indian community.

WEWIN seeks to mobilize other women for leadership roles within Indian tribes, business corporations, or state and federal government positions. If you would like to register for the WEWIN conference, please call me at 320/630-2487 or stop in the Chief Executive's Office to obtain an agenda and registration forms. Conference information is also available on WEWIN's Web site at www.wewin04.org.

Mille Lacs Band Hosts Minnesota Premier of Sundance Films



Steve Premo

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin (center) welcomed American Indian filmmakers Andrew Okpeaha MacLean (left) and Sterlin Harjo (right) during the Minnesota premier of their award-winning films at Grand Makwa Cinema. The film screenings were part of a partnership between the Mille Lacs Band and the Sundance Institute, which hosts the Sundance Film Festival.

The Grand Makwa Cinema was sold out on July 9 for the Minnesota premier of two award-winning Native American films. Free tickets were given away on a first-come, first-served basis for the 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. showings. By 7 p.m., the theater was full with more than 150 Band members in attendance.

The films are part of the Sundance Institute's Native American and Indigenous Initiative, which supports American Indian and Indigenous filmmakers in the exhibition of their work and recruits them to participate in its various programs.

Both films are Sundance Film Festival award winners. *Four Sheets to the Wind*, a full-length film directed by Sterlin Harjo (Seminole and Creek nations), received the 2007 Special Jury Prize for Acting. *Sikumi (On the Ice)*, a short-film directed by Inupiat filmmaker Andrew Okpeaha MacLean, received the 2008 Sundance Film Festival Jury Prize for Short Filmmaking.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin began the evening by welcoming Bird Runningwater (Mescalero Apache), who heads the Sundance Institute's Native American and Indigenous Initiative and has been a friend of Melanie's for many years.

"Throughout the history of filmmaking, others have been telling our stories for us. It's time that we tell our stories ourselves, the way we want them told," said Bird, as the theater erupted in applause.

Melanie presented gifts to the filmmakers on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band. Each director received a signed print of a sketch by Band member Steve Premo entitled "United We Stand," and Bird was presented with a Pendleton blanket which Steve designed.

Audience reaction to the films was overwhelmingly positive. Band member Rick Anderson, who has submitted his own films to Sundance, said "these were really great films. The stories were really interesting and everyone loved the Native humor. People were so proud to see Indian films on the big screen, and standing outside afterward I only heard positive comments."

The subject matter was at times tough. "These are independent films, so there is no rating system – as in 'R' or 'PG-13' – and we didn't know what to expect. These films weren't made for small kids, but the issues addressed in them are those we deal with every day in our communities," said Emily Johnson, Communications Director in the Office of the Chief Executive.

As one of only a few tribes in the nation with movie theaters, the Band hopes to make the Sundance partnership a permanent one. Rick added, "I was so proud of the fact that Sundance would take a chance to come here to our reservation and use our movie theater to premier these two award-winning films. It was an exciting night."

Circle of Health Updates

By Circle of Health Staff

Updated insurance coverage and address/contact changes

We cannot stress enough how important it is to update information with our office. For example, with the October 1, 2007, change of COBRA premiums being paid by Circle of Health from 18 months to 6 months, our office attempts to contact Band members at least six weeks prior to the termination date. If those letters are returned due to a wrong address, we are likely also unable to contact you by phone. This could result in no coverage for you and your family, and acquiring a private plan could take anywhere from 3-6 weeks. Circle of Health does not pay for uncovered charges, leaving the financial responsibility to you. These type of issues can be avoided, please keep your information as up to date as possible.

In regards to insurance coverage, it is equally important to keep this information updated with our office. For example, if you were on a COBRA plan and have recently acquired employer's insurance please let us know. Circle of Health only pays for one premium per household, so if our office is not informed of the coverage change, we will continue to pay the COBRA plan. If later you submit a request for reimbursement of payroll deductions; it will be denied due to the pre-payment made to your COBRA policy. It is not the responsibility of your COBRA administrator (former employer), to inform our office if you completed a form to discontinue the coverage.

Provider statements

When you receive a statement from a health care or other provider, it is always a good idea to contact them at the number provided and verify that they have your Circle of Health information for billing. If you receive a second statement, and you know that the provider has the Circle of Health information, call our office to get the status of the claim. It takes 60-90 days

before our office is billed and may take longer if your primary insurance has the payment on hold or is waiting for information regarding that particular service. Our office cannot make payments off of a statement. We need a form from the provider's billing office and a copy of your explanation of benefits.

If you are handing in statements to our office with no notes or follow-up, it takes the claims processors even longer to request information from you or the provider. Unfortunately, some bills could end up in collections due to lack of information provided. No matter how long you have been a patient at a clinic or dentist, always show your Circle of Health card at every visit.

Explanation of benefits

This is a helpful tip: when reviewing your copy of the Explanation of Benefits, if there is no payment made by your primary insurance, it is an uncovered service. Circle of Health does not pay for uncovered services, we only pay co-pays and deductibles on covered services. If you are unsure if a service is covered or not; ask the provider to check on your coverage before any services are performed. This is extremely important with dental services. There are very strict guidelines and conditions for x-rays, extractions, oral surgery, crowns, and other major restorative procedures.

Reimbursements

On a final note, please allow claims for reimbursement a 2- to 6-week grace period from the date of submission. If you still haven't received anything (reimbursement or denial) after six weeks, contact your claims processor, David Boyd A-L, Roberta Lemieux M-Z, or Michele Palomaki, Director at 320/532-5358 or 800-491-6106.

Keeping Up With Current Health Care Issues

By **Toya Stewart**

Health care is an important topic that is getting much attention both locally and nationally. As advocates for our own health, it is important to understand what is happening in health care. In the next few months, we'll look at health care trends and the health care initiatives of the two major presidential candidates to give you more information about what's happening now and what may happen in the future.

Taking a team approach to good health

Everyone wants good health. And if there's a need to visit a doctor, then people want the best care possible. Most of the time, they get what they want – a diagnosis, a prescription, or a treatment plan designed to improve their health.

What they may not realize is that the physicians, medical facilities, or health care groups are being judged on the level of care that's being delivered, said Dr. Mark Nielsen, an internist at Fairview Oxboro Clinic in Bloomington. It's called "pay for performance," and it means that providers are rewarded for the quality of health care services offered. It's an emerging practice in the health insurance industry that has become more common in the past few years.

"The goal is to provide high quality care at a lower cost," Dr. Nielsen said. "The result is patients get better care, physicians receive incentives, and managed care learns how to better manage patients and their employees."

It is a concept that can work well if patients and their providers adapt a team approach, said Dr. Fred Ness, Medical Director at Ne-la-Shing Clinic in District I. Dr. Ness said he frequently urges patients to become educated consumers and advocates for their own health.

"There's nothing wrong with trying to cut costs in health care as long as care isn't being cut," Dr. Ness said. "Sometimes expensive isn't best."

While the concept of pay for performance would appear to be a good one for all involved, it is not without its issues, Dr. Nielsen said.

"There are a lot of challenges, and while they may be unproven, to put all your marbles

in one basket is a tough sell," he said.

Some challenges are that for certain treatments, such as diabetes, it costs more money up front to provide quality care. Or if a patient is directed to stop smoking, change their diet, or get more exercise, they can choose whether or not to take the doctor's advice. That means there is no patient responsibility and the burden of making people healthy is on the provider, Dr. Nielsen said.

"Patient compliance is one of the biggest problems we run into," he said, adding that if patients don't follow their medical treatment plan then the provider is held responsible.

Another thing patients might not know is that under the pay for performance model, physicians must follow more stringent practices when it comes to prescribing medications. A patient can walk in and ask for a certain brand-name medicine, but the physician must offer a generic if it's available. Pharmacists, too, are obliged to offer the generic.

"If I use a brand-name drug, then the health care system gets penalized," Dr. Nielsen said. "Sixty-eight of 100 prescriptions written have to be generic, and if we don't meet that goal, then insurers withhold money from our clinic system."

In some situations only brand-name drugs are available, so the doctors must prescribe them. Such is the case with drugs for diabetes, stroke and heart disease, Dr. Nielsen said. The requirement for generic drugs could put the patient and their physician at odds and cause conflict, Dr. Nielsen said.

"You don't want a relationship when the patient feels like their doctor is forcing them to take a certain drug," Dr. Nielsen said. One way to minimize some of the challenges is for the system to be transparent. "Everyone needs to know what the goals are and what they will get out of the deal," he said.

He also believes in patient choice, but says if they don't follow the medical plan, they should pay more because "money is a motivator." It may sound a bit like a tough-love approach, but it's one that would assure the patient receives the best quality of care possible under the pay for performance model, Dr. Nielsen said.

Requirements for Corporate Commission Jobs

By **Loretta Hansen, Director of Band Member Development**

As mentioned in a previous edition of the *Inaajimowin*, the Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and its businesses provide many good jobs. There are often a lot of questions about the requirements for these jobs. In addition to meeting position-specific requirements (as noted in the job posting), below are general job requirements for working at the Corporate Commission or its businesses.

Requirements for working at the Corporate Commission or casinos:

- A candidate must fill out an application. This is a simple two-page form that asks for general information related to your address, work history, and education.
- Depending on the position, you may need to submit a resumé and cover letter. A resumé is a detailed summary of your education, work history, and special skills. The cover letter is written to the employer to summarize why you are the best candidate. If you are not sure how to write these documents, the Band Member Development Department can offer assistance.
- A candidate must pass an alcohol and drug test, which the Human Resources Department administers.
- A candidate must pass a background check and be authorized for a tribal gaming license by the Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA). The GRA has a standard application that asks where you have lived since you were 18 years old, your work history, and if you have any criminal history. You will also sign a form authorizing the GRA to conduct a thorough background check. One of the primary items that could prevent you from obtaining a gaming license is having a felony in the past three, five or seven years (depending on the type of position you are applying for). The tribal gaming license expires each year; Associates are required

to renew their license on their work anniversary date. Candidates must be sure to disclose all offenses, including any pending offenses. Sometimes, applicants are denied a gaming license because they did not disclose all offenses (even if their offense would not have denied them a gaming license).

The requirements for working at the Corporate Commission's small businesses (including Grand Market; Grand Makwa Cinema; Grand Auto and RV Care; Subway; and MLB, East Lake, and Crossroads convenience stores) are the same as above, except a gaming license is not required. However, applicants must pass a background check. You will need to sign a form authorizing the Corporate Commission to conduct a thorough background check. Items that could prevent you from employment include a felony or misdemeanor offenses related to theft, fraud, or crimes of violence.

All Associates will be required to:

- Maintain a consistent and regular attendance record.
 - Encourage mutual respect among Associates by setting positive examples.
 - Maintain a professional reputation in the workplace and community.
- For more information, contact a Human Resources Representative:
- Corporate Commission and small businesses: 800/746-9805
 - Grand Casino Mille Lacs: 800/626-5825, ext. 8231
 - Grand Casino Hinckley: 800/472-6321, ext. 4929
- Or contact Band Member Development:
- Corporate Commission and small businesses: 800/746-9805
 - Grand Casino Mille Lacs: 800/746-9805, ext. 8886
 - Grand Casino Hinckley: 800/472-6321, ext. 4872

Public Health Updates

Health & Human Services fair a success

The Health & Human Services Health Fair was held on June 19 at the District I Community Center. Staff from several programs shared information and gifts were given away to participants. Congratulations to Cyrilla Baurer, who was the winner of the \$50 gift card. Chi mii gwetch to everyone who donated prizes and to the programs that had an informational booth. The Public Health Department hopes this will be an annual event each spring.

Men's health challenge

The Men's Health Challenge was held on June 5 at the District I Community Center. Every male who attended won a prize – either a t-shirt or a gift card. Thanks to the American Cancer Society for its donation of food and gifts for men in the community. Chi mii gwetch to all the programs that participated and for all the prize donations.

If anyone has any suggestions for the Men's Health Challenge, please contact Marlene Poukka at 320/532-7812. The Public Health Department hopes this will be an annual event.

Cancer conference to be held in October

The Public Health Department is helping to plan the Minnesota and Wisconsin American Indian Cancer Conference to be held on October 22-24 at the Black Bear Conference Center in Carlton, Minn. The primary focus of the conference will be cancer education and prevention (screening) and tribal resources for cancer survivors and caregivers of cancer survivors.

October 22 will be designated "Combating Cancer in Your Community." This free training will feature current information on cancers common to American Indians and resources to help change the face of cancer in American Indian communities. Continuing education units will be available for nursing personnel. If you are interested in the one-day training but are not able to attend the full conference, contact DeAnna Finifrock at

218/878-2125 or
deannafinifrock@fdlrez.com.

"Circle of Life Plus" training

A "Circle of Life Plus" training will be held on July 31 at the District II assisted living unit from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The training will focus on cancer education and screenings for various types of cancer, including breast, cervical, prostate and colon cancer. There is no cost for the training. To register, call Marlene Poukka at 320/532-7812.

July WIC dates

Following are upcoming dates for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program clinics:

District I

The following WIC clinics will be held in the Health and Human Services Building, located at 17230 Noopiming Drive.

- Tuesday, July 15 – 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 22 – (voucher pick up only), 1-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 5 – 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 12 – 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 19 – 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 26 – (voucher pick up only), 1-4 p.m.

District II

- Thursday, August 7, Public Health Office, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m.

District III

The following WIC clinics will be held at the Aazhoomog Clinic.

- Wednesday, July 23 – 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 6 – 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 27 – 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m.

Offices closed

Please note that all Public Health offices will be closed on August 18 and will close at noon on Friday, August 29.

Nay Ah Shing Schools Practice Emergency Procedures

By Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator

The Mille Lacs Band's Department of Public Safety works to plan and prepare our community for any emergency situation. Part of these efforts involves holding exercises to test our safety procedures to ensure that we all know what to do when an emergency strikes.

Recently, the Nay Ah Shing Schools Safety Committee put together exercises to make sure teachers and staff are knowledgeable on the schools' safety policies. In March, the schools' staff went through a tabletop exercise to go over the schools' safety procedures and used a computer simulation to practice assessing an emergency situation regarding a potential school intruder.

Then on June 15, two exercises were held at Nay Ah Shing

Schools. The first scenario was held at the lower school and involved a mock situation in which a parental dispute caused problems. The second scenario was done at the high school and involved a possible intruder.

During both scenarios, the Band's Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) was activated, and the tribal police, public safety director, other public safety personnel, and school officials were in constant communication as they followed safety procedures.

All participants did a great job following the safety policies. They examined the scenarios and figured out the steps to take to deal with the situations. Next, I plan to bring an assessment report of this drill before the school board.

American Indian Studies Summer Institute held at Mille Lacs



Educators from across the state of Minnesota gathered at Nay Ah Shing School to participate in the American Indian Studies Summer Institute.

Educators from across the state gathered recently to participate in the American Indian Studies Summer Institute offered by St. Cloud State University and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The week-long professional development workshop, held at Nay Ah Shing School, was designed to promote awareness and sensitivity of Minnesota Indian history, language and culture.

During the workshop, which was held for the second year, participants received lessons about Ojibwe and Dakota language, culture, tribal sovereignty, and how to develop curriculum based on American Indian culture.

The workshop was an opportunity to learn about

Minnesota Indians from Minnesota Indians, according to Sharon Fineday, who is one of the organizers and the Student Services Coordinator at the American Indian Center at St. Cloud State University.

At the end of the program, participants had a unique opportunity to share what they learned with Elders and obtain additional insight.

"We worked with Mille Lacs to gain their support and to get to know another tribal community in our area so we can develop and maintain a relationship with them," Fineday said. "Mille Lacs felt like what we were doing was both important and needed."

Elders Invited to Join In Fun Trips

Mille Lacs Band Elders are invited to join in one of three trips hosted by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. This year, trips are planned for Branson, Missouri; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Las Vegas, Nevada.

"Elders who participate truly enjoy these trips, and I find the opportunity to spend time with Band Elders extremely valuable as well," said Melanie.

About the trips

Branson, Missouri, date to be determined

(Please note that this trip was originally planned for July, but has been rescheduled for a later time to be determined.)

Enjoy a fun bus trip to Branson to experience the city's famous entertainment, museums and attractions, such as Silver Dollar City. Elders will spend three nights in Branson.

Santa Fe, New Mexico, August 2008

Elders will fly to Santa Fe, where they will visit Santa Fe Indian Market and other sites. The annual Santa Fe Indian Market is the world's most prestigious Indian arts show and has more than 1,000 Indian artists, food demonstration booths, and entertainment.

Las Vegas, Nevada, September 2008

Elders will fly to Las Vegas and stay at a casino hotel. Site-seeing trips will also be scheduled.

Departure dates have not yet been finalized for the trips, but will be available soon.

To register

To register for a trip, Elders are required to make a \$50 deposit to reserve their spots. Elders are asked to send in their trip selection forms that were mailed to them in June or to contact the Chief Executive's Office at 320/532-7486 to let them know which trip they prefer to take. For more information, contact the Chief Executive's Office.

Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

	Approved Budget for FY 2008	Actual Expenditures through 5/31/08	May 2008 % of Budget Expended
Administration (1)*	13,114,256	7,049,794	53.8%
Workforce*	10,068,808	2,975,701	29.6%
Judicial	1,085,086	598,486	55.2%
Law Enforcement*	3,707,433	2,158,622	58.2%
Education*	14,774,048	9,774,342	66.2%
Health and Human Services*	23,326,715	14,247,925	61.1%
Natural Resources*	4,640,661	3,021,539	65.1%
Community Development*	38,987,232	11,818,533	30.3%
Gaming Authority	4,441,857	2,724,960	61.3%
Bonus Distribution	27,137,267	24,060,674	88.7%
Total Expenditures	\$141,283,363	\$78,430,577	55.5%

Financial Notes:

- (1) Administration includes Chief Executive, administration, finance, Solicitor General, 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 its financial statements audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center.
- (4) Economic development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997. As of October 1, 1997, the Band has separate accounting functions for the Corporate Commission from the tribal government.

* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2007 fiscal year.

Sisters Share Successes and Advice for Reaching Goals



By Megan Ballinger and Jennifer Perkins, Mille Lacs Band members

My name is Megan Ballinger and the lady to my left is my older sister, Jennifer Perkins. We are both enrolled Mille Lacs Band members and wanted to give some information on how we have accomplished some of our goals and how others can too.

Megan: After graduating from Nay Ah Shing High School, I took a year off to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. I asked my relatives for advice and

researched schools that offered degrees that I was interested in. I attended St. Cloud State University and obtained an associate's degree in business.

Jennifer:

I attended Regency Beauty Academy in St. Cloud right after I graduated from St. Cloud Tech High School. I always knew that I wanted to be a hairstylist because I love making people feel better about themselves. This field is always changing, so you can never get bored!

Megan and Jennifer: How did we end up in the positions that we are in now? Well, sometimes you just need to wait things out and they will come full-circle. You need to keep your eyes on your goal(s) and stay focused. Work hard

for what you want and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. If it is something you truly are passionate about, then nothing can stop you.

Our mentors in life are our parents, Floyd and Gwen, and many aunts and uncles. They all have given wonderful advice for any type of situation we found ourselves in. Your family is what keeps you standing tall; there is no one else that you can lean on like your family!

Our advice to both graduates and students still in school is to stay positive, establish obtainable goals for yourself (short-term and long-term), and then exceed those goals. Everyone is talented in their own way; you just need to find the right career and school to develop and utilize your talents to the fullest. As our parents always tell us: "If you put your mind to it, you can do anything you want to. You just have to believe in yourself." If you don't, who will?

Tribal Noteboard

Happy July birthday to:

Marissa, 17, on July 12 from mom, dad, Tasha, Josie, Delaney, and Stacy Renee • **Stacey**, 21, on July 22 from Mary, dad, kids, Tiff, Norm and Kali • **Twyla Sam**, 26, on July 20 from mom, sisters, Stacy Renee, Tiff, Norm, and Kali • **Nevaeh Staples**, on July 20 from mom, Grandma Joyce, and the rest of your family • **Boy**, on July 9 from mom, Junior and Joanna • **Cedric**, 5, on July 20 from Grandma Bearheart, dad, Uncle Junior, Auntie Jo, Bear, and Brandon • **Grandma Doreen**, on July 1 from Katie, Destiny, and Baby Wax • **Sean Racelo**, on July 2 from Doreen, Katie, Destiny, Baby Wax, and Justin • **Valerie Mitchell**, on July 4 from Doreen, Katie, Destiny, Baby Wax, and Justin • **Alan Mitchell**, on July 21 from Doreen, Katie, Destiny, Baby Wax, and Justin • **Paige Mitchell**, on July 23 from Doreen, Katie, Destiny, Baby Wax, and Justin • **Donna Gilmore**, on July 20 from Doreen and family • **Nicole**, on July 2 from Val, Pie, Kevin, and Baby Kevin • **Karen**, on July 13 from Val, Pie, Kevin, and Baby Kevin • **Rachel**, on July 21 from Val, Pie, Kevin, and Baby Kevin • **Amare Duane Boyd**, 2, on July 7 with love from mom, dad, Kamryn, Daityn and Junior • **Aimee Jourdain**, 18, on July 23 with love from Rosebud, Amare, Junior, Daityn, Kamryn and dad • **Alyssa**, 7, on July 20 from mom, dad and sisters • **Deanna Sam**, on July 8 with love from Stacy Renee and the rest of the clan • **Jenai**, from Gramma Max, mom, Jazz, Mick, Craig, Tony, T.J., C.J., Jordy, and Shante • **Breanna Enno**, 15, on July 20 with love from mom, Mike, Darla, Lyssa, Bailey, Taylor and Cody • **Bundy Bunker**, on July 21 from Chris, Rosa, Paige Alvina, Freddie, Sam Mitchell, Mulan Mitchell, and Tweety Sam • **Paige Alvina Mitchell**, 11, on July 23 with love from mom, dad, Rosa, Freddie, Sam Mitchell, Mulan Mitchell, and

Tweety • **Dawn Bengtson**, on July 7 from Bev • **Kevin Sutton**, on July 18 from Auntie B • **Grandma Delores**, 71, on July 2 with love from Stacy, Isabel, Luis, Braelyn, Vala, Cheryl, Adrianna, Shah-V, Attila, Mrs. Hun, Ash, Bobby J., and the rest of your family • **Isabel Sanchez**, 14, on July 4 with love from mom, Luis, Braelyn, Auntie Nicole, Brittany, Michelle, Thomas, Ana, Theresa, Grandma Delores, Vala, Adrianna, Cheryl, Auntie Shah-V, Auntie Ang, and the rest of your family • **Nicole Eagle**, 24, on July 9 with love from your sister, Isabel, Luis, Braelyn, Brittany, Michelle, Thomas, Ana, Theresa, and the rest of your family • **Whitney Harrington**, on July 14 with love from mom, dad, Char, Nadine, P.J., Max, Jenai, and Aries • **Doug Sam**, on July 29 with love from Mickey, Phil, Nadine, Char, P.J., Whitney, Max, Jenai, and Aries • **Ardana Beaulieu**, on July 2 from Raenelle and family • **June Nedeau**, on July 10 with love from Auntie Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin, and Lia • **Uncle Turk**, on July 13 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Wanette**, on July 17 with love from your sister Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Jordan Moose**, on July 19 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Kyrah Thompson**, on July 31 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Jordan Beaulieu**, on July 25 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Dallas Anderson Sr.**, on July 2 from Raenelle and family, mom, Tina, Jordan, Destanie, Shyla, Dallas Jr., grandma, and grandpa • **Tina Anderson**, on July 23 from Raenelle and family • **Loren Anderson**, on July 7 from Raenelle and family • **Nicole Anderson**, on July 4 from Raenelle and family • **Derek Diver**, on July 29 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, and Auntie Joanne • **Steve Sam**, from Joanne • **Mom**, on July 23 with love from Shy,

Destanie and Jordan • **Ryan and Julian**, 33, on July 15 from Tiff, Norm and Kali • **Miranda Rose**, 13, on July 9 from Tiffany, Norm and Kali • **Marissa Clare**, 17, on July 12 from T.J., Norm and Kali • **Erica**, on July 28 with love from Bear, Romey, Jason, Brookey, Tam, Tara, George, Shaun, Geo, Trooks, Isaiah, Nick, Destiny, Missy, Brandi, Britt, mom, Mike, Alexis, Isik, Diamond, Corey, Wally, Sharon, Rave, Chey, Chantelle, P.J., and all the other family.

Happy July birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Darline Barbour
Donna Boodoo
Lew Boyd
Agnes Chief
Randall Clark
Martha Davis
Dolores Eagle
Kenneth Garbow
Donna Gilmore
Patricia Helland
Laura Hill
Margaret Hill
Loretta Kalk
Debra Kamimura
Darlene LaFave
Lucille Merrill
Leticia Mitchell
Carol Nickaboine
Marlene Nickaboine
Sonja Peroeshci
Bradley Roache
Elfreda Sam
Alicia Skinaway
Donald Skinaway
Geraldine Skinaway
Loretta Smith
Andrew St. Clair
Harold St. Clair
Angeline Wadena

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Sam Moose and Darrell Shingobe** for completing the Grandma's Marathon. We are very proud of you. *With love from your family.*

Congratulations to **Sonny Vizenor and Cassandra Degrote** who were married on April 18, 2008. *Congratulations from your families.*

Congratulations to **Aylssa Enno** for graduating from high school and being accepted to the University of Minnesota Morris. We are very proud of you. *With love from mom and the rest of the family.*

Congratulations to **Rosa Sam** on graduating from Onamia High School. We are so proud of you. Keep up the good work in college. *With love from mom, Al, Paige, Alvina, Freddie, Sam Mitchell, Mulan Mitchell, and Tweety Sam.*

Congratulations to **Nadine Krystyne Harrington** on graduating from Onamia High School. We are very proud of you. *From mom, dad, Charlotte, P.J., Whitney, Max, Jenai, and Aries.*

Congratulations to **Jasmine Jeannine Ballinger** on graduating from Four Directions Charter School. We are very proud of you. *From dad, Lance, D.J., Chrissy, Nick, Leo, Maxine, Mickey, Nadine, Charlotte, Whitney, P.J., Phil, Arielle, Jenei, Craig, and all the family.*

Birth announcement

Congratulations to Jaylene White and Matt Mitchell on the birth of their new baby boy, **Waylon Lee Mitchell**, who was born on June 2. Waylon weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz. *Congratulations from Sherraine, Matt Jr., Valerie, and Jaynissa.*

Thank you

We would like to thank the Chief Executive Office, the Legislative Office, and everyone who helped our family during the time of our loss of our loved one. Mii gwetch to the community for your gratitude and kindness. *From the family of Becky Sam.*

Check Cashing Services Class Action Lawsuit

By East Central Legal Services

What is a class action lawsuit?

A class action can be used when a lot of people have been harmed in a similar way by the same person or company. A class action can be brought by one or more people asking to represent themselves and all the other people who have been harmed by that person or company. The people who bring the action ask the court to solve the problem for every member of the class. The solution can involve one or more forms or relief including: money damages for members of the class, other benefits, and a change in the company practices.

Recently, East Central Legal Services was notified by a Mille Lacs Band Elder that a class action against Certegy Check Services was settled and that the settlement might affect more than one Mille Lacs Band member.

The lawsuit in question is Lockwood et. Al. v Certegy Check Services Inc. The case involves loss of credit card and bank information that could lead to class members being the victims of identity theft. Most members of the class should have received a letter about the case a few months ago, and then more recently a postcard informing them about the settlement and what to do to file a claim.

What we are hearing from Mille Lacs Band members is that the postcard they might have received did not catch their attention and in some cases was thought to be a request to purchase something.

This is not the case. If you received a postcard, then you may be part of this class action lawsuit and you may want to follow through and ask for the benefits class members will receive.

If you don't know whether you received the postcard or want to find out if you are a member of the class you can. There are two ways to find out. If you have the Internet, you may go to www.datasettlement.com and follow the instructions there. If not, you can call 877/580-9770 and follow the instructions. When you call, you will be in an automated voicemail system.

What to do

If you are a member of the class, then you may want to file

a claim for benefits. Depending on what kind of information was lost, the benefits can include one year of free credit report monitoring, two years of bank monitoring plus money damages for anyone who can prove they were the victim of identity theft and who have unreimbursed losses resulting from that theft. Class members can also file a claim to recover the up to \$40 for the cost of ordering new checks if their bank account information was stolen and they opened a new account.

If you are a member of the class and you don't like the settlement, you have a right to opt out of the class or file an objection with the court. If you do nothing, you will be bound by the terms of the settlement whether you file a claim or not.

If you are unsure of what you want to do, or want to do nothing, please call our offices for an explanation of your options. Keep in mind that there are two deadlines to this lawsuit: July 31, 2008 to file a claim form and August 1, 2008 to exclude yourself.

There are other deadlines if you want to submit a claim for out of pocket expenses, or if you learn after July 31 that you have been the victim of identity theft, but all claims will be paid on a first-come, first-served basis so the earlier you file, the better.

More information

If you or someone you know would like more information regarding class action lawsuits, please call East Central Legal Services at 800/622-7772. We are also available for intakes at the following places and time:

- District I at the Tribal Government Center's workforce office, Wednesdays, noon-4:30 p.m.
- East Lake Community Center, every other Tuesday, by appointment only
- Chiminising Community Center, every other Thursday, by appointment only
- Lake Lena Community Center, alternate Tuesdays, by appointment only
- Urban Workforce Center, by appointment only

Note: Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley no longer use Certegy Check Services.

History of American Indian Voting Rights

By Mary Sam, Mille Lacs Band Local Government and Community Relations Coordinator



Rick Anderson

Excitement has long been building for this year's Election Day – November 4, 2008 – when we'll choose representatives for numerous local, state and federal offices. This is a time when we get to cast our ballots and exercise our right to vote as American citizens.

However, the right to vote has not always been granted to all Americans.

While the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (passed in 1868) states that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States" are American citizens, many groups of people were denied citizenship – and with that the right to vote. This led Congress to pass the 15th Amendment in 1870, which banned states from limiting voting based on race.

However, governments still found ways to impose voting restrictions and deny citizenship to certain groups of people. For example, African American men were given citizenship in 1870 following the Civil War, but encountered threats, literacy tests, and poll taxes that prevented them from voting. Suffragettes struggled for years to secure women's right to vote, which was granted in 1920.

American Indians also faced difficulties in obtaining voting rights. When the Mille Lacs Band negotiated the 1855 treaty with the U.S. government, the Band wanted its members to be given the right to vote, but was denied this until nearly 70 years later. Minnesota, among other states, had laws that limited Indian voting.

In 1917, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in Opsahl

v. Johnson that Indians did not have the right to vote because they lived on reservations and were not part of the "civilized" population. The court determined that "civilized" referred to American Indians who were living off reservations and pursuing the customs and traditions of white Americans.

During this time, thousands of American Indians were fighting overseas in World War I. Upon their return, many Indian soldiers were granted citizenship because of their military service. Other American Indians obtained citizenship for other reasons, such as marriage to white Americans, or through treaties or special statutes. By the early 1920s, however, about one-third of American Indians still did not have citizenship. Without the right to vote, American Indians didn't have a voice in electing the leaders who made decisions affecting them, such as policies to assimilate them into American society.

Then in 1924, Congress granted all American Indians the right to vote through the American Indian Citizenship Act, largely due to the high number of American Indians who served the country during World War I. With the passage of the act, American Indians now had "dual citizenship," which means they are American citizens and members of their respective tribes, allowing them to vote in their tribal elections and in local, state and federal elections. While the act gave American Indians voting rights, states governed their own voting requirements and often passed laws that limited this right. In 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, which prohibited states from using discriminatory voting practices (further enforcing the 15th Amendment).

The country has come a long way in granting voting rights to all its citizens, but cases still arise today over voters' rights. When we head to the polls this Election Day, it is important to remember the significance of our right to vote and the challenges some have faced in obtaining this right.

Calendar of Events

July 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
<p><i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at 255 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 102 St. Paul, MN 55101</i></p>	<p>Commissioners on call A Mille Lacs Band Commissioner is available every weekend to help Band members handle emergencies. If you have an emergency, please contact the Commissioner on call at 877/239-2444. The emergency phone is answered from 5 p.m. Friday- 8 a.m. Monday.</p>	15	<p>District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam, 320/532-7422</p>	16	<p>District III Community Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 320/384-1424</p>	17	<p>Willie Nelson* GCH Amphitheater 8:30 p.m.</p>	18	<p><i>Commissioner on Call Joycelyn Shingobe, Commissioner of Education 877/239-2444</i></p>	19	
20	21	22	<p>Election Judge/Voter Protection Training 1-3 p.m. GCML See page 3 for details</p>	23	<p>District II Community Meeting East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311</p>	24	<p>Howie Mandell* GCH 8 p.m.</p>	25	<p>ABBA Tribute Show* GCML 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.</p>	26	<p><i>Commissioner on Call Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources 877/239-2444</i></p>
27	<p>District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Kimberly Sam or Sarah Oswaldson, 320/532-7423</p>	28	29	30	<p>Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb, 612/872-1424</p>	31					<p><i>Commissioner on Call Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources 877/239-2444</i></p>

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<p>*To Purchase Tickets</p> <p>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 612/989-5151, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</p>					1	2		
					<p>Lynyrd Skynyrd* GCH Amphitheater 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Commissioner on Call R.J. Brunkow, Solicitor General 877/239-2444</i></p>		
3	<p>Onamia Indian Education Parent Committee Meeting Onamia School District Office Conference Room 12 p.m.</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9	<p><i>Commissioner on Call Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444</i></p>
10	<p>AMVETS Meeting Grand Casino Mille Lacs 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925</p> <p>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting Aazhoomog School 6:30 p.m. Contact: Skip Churchill, 320/384-6970</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16	<p>Mille Lacs Powwow See page 12 for details</p> <p>Kenny Loggins* GCH 8 p.m.</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call Rick Pardun, Executive Director Community Development 877/239-2444</i></p>

What's Your Favorite Summertime Food?

Brad Harrington



"My favorite summertime food is anything free. All of it."

Carol Shaw



"My favorite summertime food is anything that is barbecued on the grill."

Chrissy Ballinger



"My favorite summertime food is barbecue ribs... Mmmm."

Erik Parsons



"My favorite summertime food is fresh fish."

Justine Shingobe



"My favorite summertime food is anything on the grill."

Kim Big Bear



"My favorite summertime food is freshly picked strawberries and barbecued chicken."

Lance Ballinger



"My favorite summertime food is Indian tacos."

Tawhnee Archambault



"There is nothing like Buffalo Wild Wing's jerk sauce over chicken off of the grill and a side of portabella mushroom,

bell pepper, tomato, pineapple, onion, and potato kabobs sprinkled with chili powder! Me and my family like things spicy."

Photos courtesy of Rick Anderson

ISKIGAMIZIGAN
1966 - 2008

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Welcomes You
Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds
(West side of Lake Mille Lacs, 12 miles north of Oranada on U.S. Hwy 109, follow signs!)

42nd Annual Traditional Powwow
August 15-17, 2008
Host Drum: Mizhadwad
MC: Larry "Amik" Smallwood
Arena Director: Robert Kegg

Grand Entry:
Friday 7pm
Saturday 1pm & 7pm
Sunday 1pm

Events:
Princess & Jr Princess Contest
Brave & Jr Brave Contest
Parade
Horseshoe Tournaments (Adult & Youth)
Best Float Contest
Best Rez Car Contest
Moccasin Game
Will require 6 teams in order to hold the moccasin game.

On Sale:
Souvenir Buttons
Raffle Tickets

Free admission, camping, campfire wood, and showers

Drum Monies:
All drums are welcome to participate, but only the first 15 registered drums will be paid. To be properly registered, drums must have a minimum of 5 singers, all singers must register with their drum, and designate one individual who will collect at payout. At least 5 registered singers must be present at the drum during each role call, in order to be paid for that session.

Vendor Information:
Robert Thompson 320/532-7841
Food & Craft Vendors Welcome
Limited Space, Reserve Early

Powwow Information:
Freedom Porter 320/532-7496
Mary Jo Jennings 320/532-5944

Security and Medical Staff on Premises.
No Alcohol, Drugs or Fireworks Allowed.
Not responsible for accidents or lost/stolen items.
No firewood from other locations allowed on the powwow grounds.

Recipe of the Month

Apple Spice Cake

Submitted by Raenelle Weyaus, Nutrition Education Assistant

Ingredients

- 1 cup 100% all-natural apple juice
- 1/2 cup sliced dried apples
- 1 box (18.25 ounces) spice cake mix
- 1 cup water
- 3 large eggs
- 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 container (16 ounces) prepared vanilla, white or cream cheese frosting

Directions

Place juice and apples in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to medium and cook for 15 to 17 minutes or until juice has evaporated. Cool to room temperature.

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and lightly flour a 13 x 9-inch baking pan.

Combine cake mix, water, eggs and applesauce in a large mixing bowl. Beat at medium speed for two minutes. Fold in apples. Pour into the prepared pan.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely in the pan or on a wire rack. Stir cinnamon into frosting; spread over cake.

This recipe makes 15 servings.