

Gathering knowledge to make informed decisions



**DARCY MORROW, DIRECTOR,
UNIT IV**

This unit report is a combination of last and this month's report. During the month of August and September, Director Chase and I spent 261 hours combined on the road and attending meetings; this time does not include constituent phone calls, emails or reading material.

A big "THANK YOU" to our Escanaba elders, volunteers and two casino staff who helped clean up the Indian Point Cemetery in Nahma Township. And "thank you" to the casino for the staff and lunch they provided. Director Chase and I were sorry we were unable to attend — we had a prior commitment to attend the United Tribes of Michigan in Lansing on Aug. 22-23.

While in Lansing, we had a chance to tour the site of the Lansing casino and meet with the Lansing mayor. At United Tribes, we were informed on many things — Special Diabetes Program For Indians, The Affordable Care Act, Native American Insurance Management Firm and Honoring Our Children Initiative, for instance. This was a good networking conference and it was very informative.

During a board meeting on Sugar Island last month, the

new Constitution was put on the agenda and at that time we asked to table the item until I and Directors Chase, Sorenson and Anderson could read the document and ascertain the true financial impact on the tribe and our membership. I asked for a copy of this document a month prior to this meeting because I knew this item would be coming in front of the board and it could not be provided from our administrative office. As your board representative, I will not vote on an item until I have read it and been provided with all of the financial impacts to the membership.

At this meeting an ad hoc committee consisting of the original 29 Constitution Committee members, board members, elders was approved along with input from all communities. Director Chase and I have provided copies of this document at all three of our elder meetings this month;

we want to ensure that everyone has input on this important document. The membership needs to be shown the pros and cons of this document and the overall impact on our tribe. Your input is very valuable, so please make sure you and your families attend these important community meetings. There is a 90-day timeline on this project and community meetings will be announced.

This past month, FEMA held a weeklong training for our staff and surrounding tribes at the Sault casino. I attended the emergency management overview for tribal leaders. This was a very informative session — our staff came away with a lot of knowledge on how to prepare our tribe for emergency situations.

A training given by James Mills on leadership roles and responsibilities and Robert's Rules of Order was held at the Sault casino. The training

touched on characteristics of an effective leader, leaders as motivators, responsibilities of governing boards, ethics and so forth — and, how to effectively run meetings using Robert's Rules of Order. This was very helpful. I was able to take a lot of good information from this training.

Flu shot clinics will be held October and November please contact the Manistique Tribal Center at (906)341-8469 for the date and time.

Director Chase and I will be holding office hours on Oct. 17 at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, from 10 a.m. to Noon, and 4 to 6 p.m.; and Oct. 18 at the Willow Creek building in Escanaba from 3 to 5 p.m.

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