

Getting up to speed on tribe, members needs



**DARCY MORROW, DIRECTOR
UNIT IV**

Thank you to everyone who supported me during this election I am honored to be your new Unit IV Representative. I would like to congratulate Chairperson Payment and all the new and returning board members. And,

congratulations to our new vice chair, your Unit IV rep., Denise Chase. We need to move on from this election and move forward as a tribe, the people have spoken and changes have been made.

Since the installation, Director Chase and I have spent 100.5 hours each on the road and attending meetings from July 10 – July 31. This does not include the phone calls, hundreds of emails weekly, material to read or constituent work, for example, face-to-face meetings, phone calls, etc.

I have attended three elder meetings this month with Director Chase and Chairperson Payment. The elder meetings for Unit IV are as follows: First Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn – Marquette; second Wednesday of the month at Noon at the Manistique Tribal Center – Manistique; third Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. at the Willow

Creek Building – Escanaba. If you haven't attended a meeting in your area, please do, they are always looking for more members.

A board orientation was held from July 29 through Aug. 1 on Sugar Island at the culture camp; what a beautiful building and grounds to have the orientation held at. We were introduced to 16 different programs and services with many staff in attendance to introduce us to their programs and what services are available to the membership. I would like to thank all the staff that presented to us. It was great information that will keep me up to date on programs and services for constituents.

I would like to address a director's report from last month stating that, due to the election changes, we have lost institutional knowledge. I am greatly offended by this statement, really — what about the knowledge the

new chair and board members bring to the table? I bring 20 years of knowledge from working for our tribe; five years within our health field, six years within ACFS and nine years casino management, which makes me well rounded to hold a position on our tribal board. I have seen the stranglehold of power many have held over the years while being on the board; it's time to get over your personal issues and move on so we can make positive changes for our membership.

This director's report also stated, "you have board members who show up for everything and half the board shows up for only Tuesday meetings." This board member has no idea what other board members do in their own units – people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. Instead of attacking other board members you should be worrying about helping the membership who

elected you into office. With all the emails, phone calls, meetings and conferences we will not be able to attend everything. As a board member I am able to read or present financials I do not need to have staff spoon feed me information that I can read myself and ask questions if I have any via email or a phone call.

For the betterment of our people, please leave your personal issues at the door and let's all work together and move our tribe forward in a positive way. I am proud to represent Unit IV as a full-time board member and available to help any member that needs it.

Thank you for your support,
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