

Enroll your children before they reach age 18



**DENISE CHASE, DIRECTOR,
UNIT IV, VICE CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to start out by congratulating the new tribal chairman and the returning and newly elected board members. The membership has spoken in this election with their vote and I look forward to working with the new board and moving forward in a positive direction for our tribe and membership.

We attended a four-day retreat/orientation session on Sugar Island at the culture camp. The new board members were introduced to various staff and division directors who presented their programs and services available to the membership. I would like to thank all the staff who took time out of their busy days to attend this session, it was very informative. There will be more retreats/sessions in the future because the board did not get through all of the goals/items Chairperson Payment had on the list/agenda.

Currently, there are 4,296 elders 60 and over in the tribe and within five years those numbers will surpass 15,000 (baby boomers), three times the current number of elders. This will impact some direct service programs, elder's services and elder's checks. That's why it's very important that we look for other revenue making ventures/resources, like the Lansing casino, to be able to provide the needed services to our membership, especially the elders.

I would like to urge all parents to make sure your child has an updated tribal card and is enrolled. If you aren't sure if they're enrolled, please contact the Enrollment Department to find out. Remember, once they turn 18 and have never been enrolled they will not be able to apply for membership (unless the rolls are opened). This is very important as programs and services look at the head count of members for expansion of services like Head Start and childcare. It's very important for higher education, too. So please take a moment and call enrollment to verify your child's membership at (800) 251-6597.

It was reported by Dr. Bruce Anderson that he would be interviewing a candidate for the vacant dentist position open at the Manistique Dental Clinic. Right now, we have a contracted visiting dentist providing services to our members, so our children and elders won't be without the needed services.



Board members make pizza together at the Sugar Island Culture Camp.

Marlene Glaesman, Manistique and Munising rural clinic director, attended the orientation, too. She reported that the Manistique Health Clinic has over 2,500 active patient files. The clinic and ACFS need to expand their open hours for business to benefit the working people who can't get off work to receive services.

It was suggested by the Culture Department staff that the old Munising Tribal Center be utilized as a culture camp for the western end and a Cultural Department staff person be hired to provide cultural teachings and activities. Joan Carr Anderson has brought this up before so the building does not go unused. It would definitely

fill a need for the communities and will probably be discussed at a future workshop.

A future goal would be to allow our tribal members to attend board meetings by videoconference. They could address the board with their concerns ideas, and issues during the membership input. The tribal centers with video conferencing capability like Manistique and Munising could be a start.

In the last issue of the tribal paper a board member made statements that weren't accurate. She painted a picture that some board members only work or show up one day a week. She is greatly mistaken. She has no clue how many hours each board member

spends or works in their respective units. Board members field 200-plus phone calls a week, not to mention face-to-face meetings with membership daily, while assisting members to access community and tribal resources and helping them solve issues, holding office hours, community events, elder meetings and home visits, reading and processing over hundreds of emails a week, meeting with local government officials, plus attending board meetings, traveling time (4-5 hours a day), attending workshops, plus more. I can assure you that not one day of the week goes by that I am not contacted by constituents in my unit or someone else's, or membership at large. That is what I was elected to do and I enjoy working for the membership. So let's move forward — the election is done! I will not play into a board member's negativity, it drags everyone down. We cannot continue to run the government of the tribe as a house divided.

I would like to say thank you to Tom Miller for his years of service to the tribe and the Unit IV members. It was a privilege working with you.

Director Morrow and I will be holding office hours through out the Unit IV area. We will advertise the dates when scheduled.

I look forward to your calls and input. If you need to reach me, call my cell (906) 322-3819 or home 341-6783.

Thank you,
Denise Chase