

# Differing opinions are what makes a democracy



**DENNIS MCKELVIE, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT I**

Unit reports are a great tool for board members to reach out to their constituents and to the mem-

bership as a whole. It is an opportunity for the membership to read through each director's report and decide, based on your beliefs, what are facts and who is being open. There is nothing wrong with differing opinions, that is what makes democracy work. Without democracy we would have a dictatorship or a monarchy and that works for no one except the dictator or king.

Now on to updates for budgets, efficiency audit, Lansing project, Indian Energy and casinos.

The budget for 2013 looks like we are going to make it through the year in one piece. The 2014 budget is still questionable because we don't know how sequestration will effect us. We can only keep a watchful eye on

the bottom line.

We have recently had an efficiency auditor come to our casinos to evaluate and give recommendations on our operations. They covered two main areas of marketing and the restaurant and touched on human resources. They gave an exit report where their initial report shows they can save us money in our operational costs. The written report will be sent to the board of directors in the next few weeks for review and consideration.

The Lansing project is still moving along through the court system. There are no changes as of right now. Hopefully, by the end of the year we will have a positive outcome and be able to move forward.

Indian Energy came to the board of directors and presented an update. They reported that they currently have \$750,000 left and no major progress on any projects. I personally do not see any hope or payback for this investment in the future. I believe they will go bankrupt before anything pans out. I truly hope I am wrong.

Casino revenues are down. Hopefully, the summer business will bring us up a little closer in line with what we had last year. A lot of the loss is due to the economy as a whole. Perhaps, if we follow through on the efficiency audit, we can save some money and realize a small profit for the casinos.

Last but not least, I would like to thank those who participated,

cooked for, donated to, and those who attended the Sugar Island Powwow. It was a great weekend with everyone working together!

If you should have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (906) 632-7267, 203-6698 or dmckelvie@saulttribe.net.