

Gravelle updates Unit I membership on CEO position



KIMBERLE GRAVELLE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

In November, we hired a temporary casino executive officer. The reason behind this move was for the temporary casino executive officer to assist us

with hiring a permanent chief executive officer (CEO), which is a key position. The hiring policy, approved by resolution, requires all jobs be posted. The key employee resolution, which includes the CEO, requires seven votes to hire a person in this position. At our last board of directors' meeting, we voted on whether to post the CEO position. I voted to post it because there is a resolution in place that states all key positions will be posted. The resolution failed and this key position will not be currently posted.

I've had calls from members thinking I voted not to keep the temporary casino executive officer. I told them my vote was to follow policy set forth by the board of directors and post the

key position of CEO. If this position was posted, the temporary casino executive officer could apply if he feels that strongly about staying with our tribe. The board of directors had concerns with this because they said he wouldn't meet the first round of the interview process, which goes to qualified tribal members.

I also received calls regarding my 'no' vote on the resolution for hiring a Behavioral Health counselor in Manistique. There were two qualified tribal members in round one and a qualified non-Indian in round two. I felt we should have chosen one of the applicants from round one. The resolution that was brought forward was for a budget modification to hire the non-Indian who qualified in round two.

Further, we were asked at the membership meeting in Lansing about opening enrollment again. One of the board members asked the elders at the elder meeting this week and it was a resounding 'no' from them.

I hope everyone is aware that March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month! This cancer affects both men and women and is the second leading cause of death from cancer in the United States. Although this cancer has a high death rate it is one of the most preventable diseases. Some of the things you can do to prevent this is get screened starting at age 50, be physically active, maintain a healthy weight, don't drink too much alcohol and don't smoke. Ninety percent of colorectal cancers happen to people

over 50. Some people are at a higher risk than others, especially if you have a family history of colon cancer.

I was diagnosed with colon cancer five years ago and had to undergo surgery to remove a tumor and 12 rounds of chemo. After I found out I had colon cancer, I also found out we have a family history of this kind of cancer. No one ever really spoke about this, so you may want to start asking your parents and grandparents questions about your family's health background.

Thank you to everyone who called me with their concerns. I can be reached at (906) 203-6083 or kkgravelle@saulttribe.net.

— Kim Gravelle