

# Tribe has best financial picture seen in years



**LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT II**

You may have attended one of the many membership meetings the chairman and Legal Department have held in the units, as well as downstate to provide accurate and truthful facts pertaining to the Kewadin

Lansing project. In Unit II, we have held one at both tribal centers in Newberry and Hessel and will also be holding one in Naubinway this coming week.

There was an attempt to schedule in Detour/Drummond but those I spoke with stated they would attend at the tribal center. If anyone is interested in having an additional meeting in a specific location in our unit, please contact Director Hollowell or I and we will make arrangements with the chairman's office to schedule. We want all members to be educated and well informed of the intentions for this project.

This past month has been busy with policy review and we again will be addressing the separation of the CEO and chairman based on the secretarial election that was held some time

ago. I have placed this on our agenda many times to discuss and am relieved that other board members feel the need to discuss and address for a solution and outcome to move forward. I will keep you posted of our progress and be consistent about the need to secure the separation for a smoothly run government.

We will also be discussing the Constitution Committee and the document we have drafted. I encourage everyone to attend these open workshops so that you can help us steer this once again; we have a final product but the document has never been fully supported by leadership (past or present) or the membership. I believe we need to prioritize and make amendments, just as we did for prohibiting board members to hold office and work for the tribe (this is

prohibited now and changed in our Constitution) and separating the CEO and chairperson. That seems to be the only way we can accomplish the necessary changes that are needed. Please call your reps, call (800) 793-0660, or view our schedule on the website to attend these important discussions. At our monthly Unit II meeting I will be gathering input on what you believe is priority for changes needed.

As always, we constantly receive financial reports to keep us updated on our financial status. I'm very happy to announce that we ended up in the black for 2011, with a reserve. We did not carry a deficit into 2012 from 2011. With our spending decisions and programs reducing costs, WITHOUT cutting any services, we were able to have this outcome. Miigwech to our

staff that has been watching this carefully and assisting our programs. We still have a very long way to go to pay off our debt and increase revenue, but this is the best financial picture we have been in, IN YEARS. I will continue to be very cautious and prioritize.

It's again election time for our tribe, it gets ugly and many non-truths are spread in our communities to hurt people — please beware of this.

As always, please contact me directly (484-2954 or [lcausley@saulttribe.net](mailto:lcausley@saulttribe.net)) if you would like to meet or discuss any issues or concerns. Many of you I will see at our three monthly meetings in the unit and will attend as regular and scheduled.

Baamaa Pii,  
Lana Causley,  
Vice Chairwoman