

## Improving communication with membership

**LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR,**

**UNIT II**

Aanii!

As usual, things for our tribe continue to move at a rapid pace. I am very happy to announce that we will be paying off one of the tribe's bonds one year early. By making an early payoff, we will save \$54,250 in interest alone. The bond totaled just over \$7 million and not due until Sept. 1, 2012, but we are paying off the remainder of what we owe on Sept. 1, 2011. This is a great savings for us and a direction we should always attempt to go. Thank you to our staff for making the necessary adjustments to make the possibility of paying this bond off a reality.

Another step we are taking to enhance our communication to membership is the change in election code that recently passed at the board level that will now allow our elders' subcommittees to hold debates with candidates during our election cycle. This will be a great way for our elders and all of our members to get to know our candidates better and give everyone an opportunity to ask questions and be proactive in our tribal election process. The election committee is working with all parties involved to set up a timetable for this process.

One of the projects I know you have all been asking about is the Sault Tribe website. We have been working on updating this page to be easier to navigate, give you more information and stay fresh. A new website should be available to the public this month! We are all very excited about it — be sure to check it out at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com). It will not be available until after Sept. 15.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in making the Hessel powwow such a great event. We had three full days of spiritual gatherings. Many people take the time to arrange and get our community ready and I'm thankful. A very special miigwech to our home community drum Mukwa Giizeek for their non-stop heartbeat all weekend and Sturgeon Bay. Many of my family were here to help my uncle, Jerry, who is going through a tough struggle. Remembering how we have to take care of each other is who we are and I'm proud to say my family and our community all took part in that "old way," to keep my uncle strong.

In closing, I'd like to congratulate our new tribal chairman, Joe Eitrem. The board appointed Director Eitrem on Aug. 23 at our regular meeting to finish out the remainder of Mr. McCoy's term. With his position will come many obstacles and challenges. There are many political agendas and many unanswered authorities that he must try to deal with in that role. There is a huge power grab for that seat and, frankly, I wanted no part at this time. I took my responsibility as vice chairperson with humility and a sense of quiet stability for our tribe and our members. I will continue as vice chair and assist and support Chairman Eitrem fully as I have full confidence in his leadership. Joe and I where elected together the same year; we struggled through many things on the board and I trust him.

Thank you to directors Hollowell, Pine and Rickley for nominating and supporting me. A very special miigwech to all the staff that kept out tribe running smooth through the transition in our time it took to appoint a new chair. Miigwech to all the members that had confidence in me and helped me all the time. I will be here and I'm very happy to have my vote and voice back for Unit II and the tribe as a whole.

Please contact me at (906) 484-2954 anytime if you would like to meet or discuss any issues or concerns.

Baamaapii, Lana Causley

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