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REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

NOVEMBR 20, 2015 • WIN AWENEN NISITOTUNG

Baama Pii, Negee ~ Vice Chair Bob LaPoint



Ahneen, Boozo, Negee:

I have Some sad news this month. On Nov. 5, 2015,

we lost my former Vice-Chairperson Bob LaPoint. He was born April 20, 1930. Bob was first elected to the Tribal Board of Directors in 1998, and was re-elected in 2002 and 2006 with significant margins. He also ran for Chairperson in 2000 under the "Straight Arrow" slogan and nearly defeated a 13-year incumbent.

I owe my Chairpersonship to Bob LaPoint as he ran in 2004 as I was not sure the time was right for me to run. He encouraged me to run and in his "straight talk" way, he told me, "I'll run until you can figure out if the time is right." As it turns out, the time was right; I did run in '04 and was endorsed by Bob LaPoint after winning the primary.

After I was re-elected in '12, Bob then 83 years old, drove from Drummond Island to the Sault to greet me at my office on my first day back. I count Bob as a friend and will miss him but his spirit of activism and change lives on.



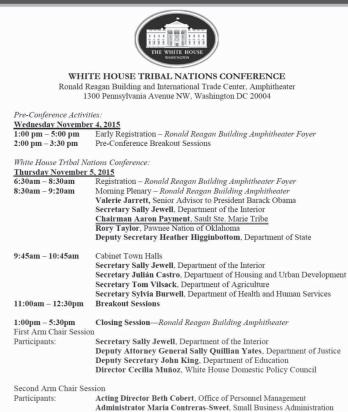
Vice-Chair Bob LaPoint with Tribal Members Bonnie and Ron McKerchie at my 2004 Tribal Victor Party picnic. Bob enjoyed himself but got right to business to make change.

REPRESENATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS: TRIBAL LEADERSHIP STALLED AT HOME

~ Chi MeGwitch, Bob.

As I think of the various reforms that have permeated board and chair campaigns since 2000 when Bob LaPoint first ran, I can't help but be disappointed. While, undoubtedly, we have made great strides, there are some reforms that Bob and others brought to light that have been entirely ignored by the governing body. One item for example is that of becoming a real government and a true representative democracy by divesting the central and oligarchical power structure that is the Tribal Board of Directors and creating a true separation of powers. Clearly, given the board is the judge, jury and executioner that writes the laws, interprets the laws and enjoys a judicial branch that serves at their benevolence, they do not want let go of a power structure that supports and reinforces arbitrary and capricious decision making.

While I do believe it is a corruption of power, to





tion of being the Tribal Leader selected to do the welcome. In the middle with US Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell just before going on stage. To the right, giving my address. I dedicated my presentation to Bob LaPoint and our Tribal Leaders who paved the way who are now deceased. I was humbled to do so.

Guess what, he lost his seat. Pay close attention to those who are stalling while sitting back and enjoying their unfettered and unchecked exercise of dominion over the lives of our people.

WHITE HOUSE VISIT 2015

While our efforts at home have stalled due in large part of inside squabbling and power struggles at the power level including various camps who refuse to work together and backbiting and clique like behavior, I have chosen to do my best to manage the budgets and lead the team members to ensure quality services and fiscal integrity, I have not given up on reform efforts back home, I am merely putting in the effort where I can effectuate positive change including at the national level.

This past year, I have worked hard to create a greater focus on improving the lot of our members' lives with emphasis on addressing the worst of the worst statistics our people experience like: the lowest high school and college graduation rates. On the next page, you will see that Native students lag behind "white" students at a rate of nearly 20 percent. This disparity in unacceptable and is the at the heart of both my dissertation research, as well as, my professional contribution. Based on my efforts in Education, as well as, leadership roles in Health, Contract Support Costs, and data related committees to improve the

Administrator Maria Conditeras-Sweet, Small Business Administration Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Department of Energy Secretary Thomas Perez, Department of Labor

Third Arm Chair Session

Participants: Director Dr. John Holdren, Office of Science & Technology Policy Director Christy Goldfuss, Council on Environmental Quality Deputy Secretary Mike Connor, Department of the Interior

President Barack Obama

draft new constitution to a vote of the people. In 2012, my opponent for chair acknowledged that the felt our people were not smart enough to vote on comprehensive constitutional reform.

hold so tightly onto such

power, I believe it is simply

the nature of the beast. After

all, if you had complete do-

minion over your surround-

ings, would you also hold on-

to such power? If we truly

followed the Seven Grandfa-

ther Teachings rather than put

on a little show like some, we

would respect the inherent

sovereignty of our people and

immediately move to put the



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