

Departments' quarterly reports worth attending



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Having our division directors give quarterly reports to the board of directors and to the members is an integral part of our tribes

disseminating information. The board does show up on these published dates but rarely do any of our members. It may be because the meetings are during the day or it may be that members are not aware of the dates but if we can make them easier to attend I would like to see that happen.

In our last quarterly division reports, the Cultural Division explained repatriation of our grandfathers. Many institutions are now returning remains from our area to the local tribes. These remains are honored and in a culturally respectful manner reburied as close to the area they were disinterred from. Hundreds of remains were placed back in our hands this year, mostly from Michigan universities. Some

were buried in Hessel and the Sault areas. Some were places on Mackinac Island but none were reburied back in St. Ignace. The reason for that is that no formal Native burial grounds have been established here. A large percentage of the remains come from St. Ignace but are buried elsewhere. I ask the tribal residents of St. Ignace what their thoughts are on this. Do we want to rebury our ancestors back here? Can we find a suitable plot of land to repatriate these remains to? All of us should work to make this happen. Land donated to the tribe would be held in the Trust Land bank and would forever be a place to bring back our lost grandfathers. If you have any thoughts or suggestions please call or write me and we will dis-

cuss the possibilities.

In another review we discussed our Purchasing Department of the tribe. These reports are very in depth and very complete. Six years ago the tribe did not try to standardize the products they purchased but now we have a complete system to run all our expenses through so we maximize our buying power. We have even used this process and tied three or four other tribes in Michigan together to purchase in such large bulk that we have dramatically reduced the price for all the tribes involved. Our tribe came up with and instituted these programs and procedures that many tribes now participate in.

In a lot of instances, the members only hear of the tribe's

mistakes, its losses, its failures, but what you should also hear is our great successes. There are programs that are used as national examples. Our Head Start program is one of these. Our law enforcement and our social services programs are one of the most recognized in Indian Country. Other programs like Housing, Eldercare and Healthcare are unrivaled.

So many people of our tribe work so hard to raise the standard of our people it makes me proud to be a part of it all. Thank you for all the cards and phone calls. I enjoy hearing from you all.

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