

# Vice Chairwoman reports



**LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT II**

Aanii,

As reported last month, I and Director Massaway attended the Midwest Alliance for Sovereign Tribes. Many issues critical to our tribe came up. A major issue facing our tribe is bill H.R. 1505. This bill would allow border patrol officers unrestricted entry into our trust land. It's our position, with many other tribes in the nation, that this is not acceptable. We have significant and capable law enforcement on our tribal land and do not want any more cracks in our rights to remain sovereign. The board will work on a national level to oppose HR 1505.

This past month, Chairman Joe

Eitrem spoke to the board and offered me compensation for the time period I carried out chairperson duties. The total amount I received was \$5,382.08. When I took over the chair's responsibilities, I did, in fact, state there was no additional compensation at the time. We didn't discuss it, nor did I ever expect it. It came as an announcement to me. I accepted this amount and am very grateful to donate this money.

I've decided to donate to each one of our elders' groups in Unit II in Newberry, Hessel and Naubinway. The donations will go directly to them and they can decide what they would like to do with the money. I am also donating to some tribal members who are in need for the holidays (this made me smile) and made two personal donations with the remainder.

I struggled over accepting the money. I decided to accept it, let everyone know about it, and give something extra to our elders and tribal members. Some will make this dirty campaign fuel, but I assure you, the members I speak to are tired of that. I'm grateful I was able to share this and I will own it.

I'm also happy to announce that we will be holding our annual

children's Christmas parties in Unit II. The Hessel/Pickford/Rudyard area party will be held on Dec. 10 from 10 to 2 p.m. at the Hessel Tribal Center; Engadine/Naubinway will be held at Engadine Veterans' Hall at 2 p.m. on Dec 11; DeTour/Drummond Island at the Village Hall on Dec 10 from 10 to 2 p.m.; and Newberry on Dec. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Action building.

We have set aside one workshop per month to go over policy changes for our team members. The presentations will be open to the membership and team members should attend to give input and also hear discussions. Our schedule is available.

We are still awaiting the results of our tribal wide wage grid study. In my last report, I stated team members would receive a 3 percent cost of living increase — it seems I misunderstood this. The 3 percent included in the 2012 budget is to start the process of wage adjustments per position.

At this time of year, we all feel the Creator in our lives; it's a time to feel at peace with our families and those we love. I sincerely wish all of you and yours a Merry Christmas and hope many receive miracles that I know happen at this time of year.