

Director Causley updates Unit II membership



**LANA CAUSLEY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Halloween day and I woke up to snow on the ground, knew it was coming but I'm not ready. Hope this article finds all of you ready for the winter.

I had a busy month with membership issues, meetings and attending a United Tribes meeting in Watersmeet this past month. At the United Tribes conference we meet and discuss items that are of mutual concern with the other recognized tribes in Michigan (gaming is off limits to discuss) this session focused on an update about the Michigan Indian Child Welfare Act, we receive statistics and information on items of concern. I've always had the basic understanding of the act and to date we are attempting to educate agencies and court systems about the importance of the law. I have many calls about the concerns on and off trust land and it gets frustrating with some of the circumstances that we find our families in when it comes to jurisdiction. Our tribe has many cases throughout the service area as well as off trust land. If you or a family member has a particular situation that needs our attention, please call our Anishinabek Community and Family Services, as they will offer the procedure you can go through to have us assist. While attending, we did receive updates on the wolf hunt campaign our tribe has been very active in as well as legal updates in Indian Country. By the time you read this, I hope the hunt on the very sacred animals and our brother is out behind us.

I attended the Naubinway and Hessel elders' meetings this month and it was so nice to update and visit with everyone. Naubinway is meeting at the new snowmobile museum on a regular basis now and has a very

active and good turnout with our elders in the area. I'm sorry we didn't make the Newberry elders' meeting this month, we were on travel to the United Tribes conference that week and I didn't return home in time. I really enjoy watching the elders at the meeting visit, ask questions and advise me toward a positive future for our tribe. It's always a good feeling when I leave and know that I've been able to spend some time with them and they are full from all the good cooking we get at the meetings. Miigwech for having us.

I've spent some time with our Youth Education and Activities coordinator this past month to go over the cultural and education activities in our unit. As I spoke about priority and funding in my last report I want our members to see the activities and cultural outreach to our youth we provide. One of my most important priorities for distribution of our tribal support dollars are these programs listed below. This list does not include the activities that Dawn Griffin coordinates in our Rudyard area but the list is long for her as well and if you would like your children to participate in any of these activities, please contact either Lisa or Dawn to inquire. You can call our (800) 793-0660 number for our Education Department as well, they can get you to all our tribe's coordinators. I'm listing this to update you on what we have to offer as well as a reminder. You can see that we have many activities for the benefit of our youth and I would encourage you to send your children in your area. We have many parent volunteers as well so if you have any suggestions for activities or would like to get involved, both the coordinators are always welcoming to that. The programs are in collaboration, it's our Community Health staff and other tribal programs. I would also like to say that while I was attending the Naubinway elders' meeting, the same evening Director Hollowell was attending a public meeting at the Pickford area school to discuss an Indian Education program to be discussed there. Please keep in mind we need parent volunteers for the committee and participation from the school. Look for updates in future.

JANUARY

- Tribal youth council meet-

ings.

- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- Winter Wonder Land sleep over in Hessel for students in grades 2-5.
- Cedarville School After School Program.
- Building Circles of Support, Drummond Island students in grades 3-6.
- Building Circles of Support, DeTour Fine Arts Academy, grades 3-6.

FEBRUARY

- Tribal youth council elders' appreciation dinner.
- Winter survival games.
- Building Circles of Support DeTour and Drummond Island, grades 3-6.
- Grand tribal youth council meeting.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- Cedarville School After School Program.

MARCH

- Tribal youth council.
- Teen leadership conference, all areas.
- Drummond Island and DeTour, Building Circles of Support.
- Drum social in Newberry.
- Spring feast.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum practice.

- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum, Head Start graduation.
- Cedarville After School Program

APRIL

- Drummond Island and DeTour, Building Circles of Support.
- Cedarville School After School Program.
- Women's Health Fair in Newberry.
- Environmental Day in Hessel with MSU Extension, Cloverland Electric, Conservation District, Sault Tribe Environmental Department, Community Health Program, USDA Program, Traditional Medicine.

- Talking circles.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- Tribal youth council.

MAY

- Women's health fair in Hessel, Traditional Foods Program, USDA, Contract Health, Community Health.
- Tribal youth council meeting.
- Grand Tribal Youth Council meeting.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum, captured spirits Fort De Buade.

- Ojibwa Museum Anishinabe fest.
- Cedarville School After School Program – Environmental Department, USDA Healthy Foods.

- Gardening with Community Health Traditional Foods and MSU Extension.

JUNE

- Circle of Life Summer Program Camp, DeTour.
- Circle of Life Summer Program.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- GTYC Bike the Sites Project.

JULY

- Circle of Life Summer Program, all youth in unit.

AUGUST

- Youth Empowerment Powwow, all youth in unit.
- Hessel powwow.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- Jump Start Program.

SEPTEMBER

- Cedarville After School Program.

- Cultural Enrichment in Engadine School.

- Fall feast.
- Tribal youth council.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.

OCTOBER

- Cedarville After School Program – Mackinac County Sheriff, Halloween safety, computer games, physical activities and crafts.

- Building Circles of Support, Newberry.

- Family celebrations in Newberry.

- Cultural enrichment at Engadine School.

- Talking circle.
- Fall sleepover, students in grades 2-5.

- Fall harvest feast, MSU Extension, Community Health, Traditional Foods, USDA.

- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Cedarville alternative school, cooking Indian tacos.

NOVEMBER

- Annual ghost feast and pipe gathering.

- Cedarville After School Program, vegetable pizza with Marlene Pacoro from USDA, tribal police K-9 unit.

- Cooking vegetable pizza with Marlene Paccoro of USDA.
- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Building Circles of Support, Newberry.

- Cedarville Alternative School environmental lessons with AJ Mclarahmore and Tesha Zimmerman, Environmental Department.

- Engadine and Newberry cultural activities.

DECEMBER

- Christmas Family Fun Day, all areas.

- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Grand Tribal Youth Council.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- Cedarville After School Program.

I would like to assure tribal members that we as a tribe are activity participating and very vocal about the action on our proposed raise on electric bills. This is the threat that the Upper Peninsula residents will be charged extra on electric bills due increase costs for local electric companies to upgrade a power plant planned to shut down (please see front page story). We are proactive and will be sending letters to all members about this issue and ask that you contact our state and federal reps to assist in their effort and support. We have a very hard time in this area with heating and electric bills as well as serving members with our programs, if this increase happens we will be in hard times in households as well as our own business operations. Please look for the letter in the mail soon. We are on this battle and will continue.

I wrote a lengthy update on our casinos last report and to update you this month (lots more discussion and debate) we have voted to begin to negotiate and attempt to retain a selected management firm to assist in our casino operations. This is in the final stage and hopefully next month we can report a name and forward plan for our casino operations. It's a priority.

In closing, I want to ask that we all say a prayer for our veterans for the holiday season. I remember asking this last year at the same time but again, it's a very hard road for them especially the holidays and if you can do one small thing for anyone on any day do it! If you would like to meet with me or discuss anything please contact me, (906) 484-2954, 322-3818 or lcausley@saulttribe.net.

Baamaapii,
Lana Causley