

S.I.R. Tribal News



TRIBAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

August 2016

How mu e nanumu. Ne togo'o pesa tabeno ne geahoo. Tatabeno ne togo'o ewa'yoo sootuhina ne gea. Oosoo pesa pewu pesa soomayu nu tubengu.

Greetings fellow tribal members. It is good to have another opportunity to make an address to all of you. Work with the Tribe continues to unfold at a very fast pace. We have been working on many different matters, i.e. different types of corporation business, administration of our tribal governance, preparing for the implementation of Head Start/Daycare, familiarizing ourselves with the intricacies of the Compact negotiations, securing our tribal facilities, updating a number of our Ordinances, and the list goes on. The tribal government continues to work very hard to ensure that we are improving everything we do. I am thankful to all of the staff that have done their fair share in accomplishing the different tasks handed down to them. We remain fortunate to have such dedicated people.

I am happy to report to all of you that the TBC has been in conversations with our various corporate entities, and as I am writing this report we have set profit shares with all of those entities. While these profit shares will not translate into millions of dollars this year or next, we are finally in a position to expect revenue from SIRCO, SFSI, and SDH. With all things considered, this is a win for the Tribe. I want to thank the SIRCO CEO Gretchen Cox, the SIRCO Board, Mr. Aaron Dixon, Dwight Lowry, and Doyle Lowry for their efforts in helping us bring more revenue to the Tribe. We should expect good things from all of these entities over the next several years.

With that very positive news, I feel that it is also important to address a certain dialogue that has been circulating in the community. It is being said that SIRCO has been taking a significant share of "tribal money". This is in fact a false narrative. In 2009 the TBC voted on Articles of Incorporation for Sierra Property Management and for Diamond Mountain Mini Mart. The passage of those Articles made those businesses SIRCO businesses. Obviously, this has been a source of conversation and inquiry with different Council and Corporate Board Members. Recently I sought the opinion of the Tribe's attorney, and he has reiterated that SIRCO is not shortchanging the Tribe by taking the profits from SPM and DMM. After the overhead is paid, the profits from those businesses are subject to distribution to the Tribe.

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**The next SIR General Council Meeting
is scheduled for November 5, 2016 at 1pm
845 Joaquin Street,
Joaquin Sports Complex (Gym), Susanville, CA**

SIRCO has a profit share that the Tribe has agreed to. This means that we will get the agreed upon amount, and everything that is left will be SIRCO's for further business development. We must see that it is imperative that our Corporations continue to grow and become more profitable. This is how we will become a stronger economic force. I realize that we all have differing opinions when it comes to tribal governance and even business. That said, it is very important to know the facts when we weigh in one way or another. If you are a person that is interested in what we are doing, please stop by my office and we can have a conversation about any question that you may have. This will allow you to be more accurate when you do decide to communicate your opinion about what the Tribe is doing with its businesses.

As we continue to develop more professionalism in how we provide service to our people, i.e. tribal governance, the need to ensure that all staff are on the same page drives on. Over the last several weeks, the Human Resources Department has conducted staff wide trainings on the new Policies and Procedure, Emergency Response Handbook, and it is in the process of procuring several staff-level education tools/trainings that will further develop our awareness of difficult subjects like discrimination or sexual harassment. I am happy to report that we are almost complete with the staff wide trainings, and I expect that we will begin to see a more professional and unified group of individuals. Obviously with this sort of change there has been staff turnover. This is an uncomfortable subject that I take no pleasure in having to oversee. Be that as it may, it is my belief that professionalism and effectiveness can only be achieved by insisting that we follow our guidelines and demand performance from everyone that we hire. While most of these difficult decisions have weighed on me a great deal, my motivation in doing what's right for the Tribe first has and will always be at the forefront of everything I do as the Chairman. If doing what's right means that I must face consequences, then so be it.

As most of you should be aware by now, the Tribe has entered into a partnership with Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities. This partnership will allow the Tribe to lease space to SCFO for the administration of a Head Start, and hopefully a Daycare Facility. We are looking to the end of August to know for sure if SCFO will be able to offer daycare. How is this important to you? The answer is simple. If you are a parent of young children then you have a very good opportunity to use their service. It's important to remember that these programs are federal and state funded. That means that there will be certain requirements for people to meet in order to utilize the service(s). I am happy to report that SCFO representative Brenda Potete, was able to get preference points approved for SIR Tribal Members. Enrollment is open right now, so if you are interested please sign up with Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities as soon as possible. If you are approved, you will have first priority to bring your child to the Rancheria for Head Start and hopefully Daycare. Please go and sign up now!

The Casino has been a very important contributor to our tribal government since opening its doors. Under its current leadership the Casino has not only been stable for over a decade, it has been able to be consistent in its contributions to the Tribe, even through the economic collapse a few years ago. I am very thankful to the Casino GM for his effectiveness in ensuring that the Susanville Indian Rancheria benefits from its Casino. I look forward to continued success from the GM and all of his staff at the Diamond Mountain Hotel and Casino.

We all know that a Compact must be set so that the Casino can continue to generate revenue, and we all know that 2019 is fast approaching. Currently, Secretary/Treasurer Dixon and Gaming Commission Chairman Dixon are doing their part in the CTSC negotiations. The Tribe is looking to them to make sure that SIR's interests are kept in mind during the course of these talks, and hopefully we will see a Compact that SIR can live with. Pardon my simplified summary of how the Compact negotiations work, but I want to put it in terms that everyone can understand.

As it is in play now, California is asking for certain things to be put in the Compact, and CTSC either agrees or disagrees. California obviously wants as much control as it can get, and CTSC seeks to limit that control to IGRA regulations. Thankfully, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior has weighed in quite heavily, and it seems that CTSC has a very influential person involved in this situation. Especially since the Secretary is the one that approves or disapproves Gaming Compacts. I am hopeful that the renewal of the 99 Compact will be accomplished, because of expressions from representatives in the applicable arms of the Federal Government. As more develops I will make sure and communicate that to the membership.

By now, those of you that live on the Rancheria have noticed the new gates that have been constructed at both entrances of the Tribal Office, and the construction of the new gate by the walkway, adjacent to the children's playground. Unfortunately we have had to contend with various types of theft and vandalism. You may have also noticed my mention of the Emergency Response Handbook earlier in my report. In order to properly implement the Handbook we must take certain security measures, the gates are just the first step in doing that. As you are reading this report, the Public Works Director and his staff are working on more security measures that will ensure the safety and security of staff, and more importantly of our children when they are at Indian Education.

While we may not like talking about it, there is a significant amount of foot traffic on and around the Rancheria. Some of this foot traffic is of those that seek to steal, vandalize, or even harm others. As we move forward, the Tribe is doing all it can to present a safer environment for Tribal Members, Staff, and all others that frequent our government offices. You may have also noticed that the gate on Spring Ridge Drive is now locked as well. This was done in response to non-Indians frequenting our land for various different reasons. The locked gate on Spring Ridge does not mean that tribal members are not allowed on the land. If you have the need to get in, please contact the Tribe and we will be happy to assist you.

When I was running for office last year, every person I talked to expressed the desire for the Tribe to follow and enforce its own tribal laws. Since taking over as the Chairman, I have sought to do just that. Obviously, this has not always been easy, and some tribal members have been angered by this. That being said, we continue to press forward. In doing so, we have looked at two more Ordinances more seriously. The first is the Land Assignment Ordinance, namely the language that deals with land assignments kept in disarray with trash, abandoned vehicles, and other health and community hazards. It is important to remember we are all part of the community, and in that we must do our part to make sure the Rancheria is a safe place for everyone. If you have a land assignment, please do what you can to keep things safe and in order. The next Ordinance that we have looked at and updated is the Animal Control Ordinance. In the coming days I will send out a letter detailing some of the significant changes, and how the Tribe will enforce the provisions found in the Ordinance.

Our Clinic is another very important service provided to Indians and even to members of the outside community. Our new Chief Operating Officer is fast at work in developing a new direction focused on fiscal solvency. While times seemed bleak at the beginning of the year, the Clinic Staff are turning things around. Sometimes change comes slowly, so we must be patient and be ready for positive outcomes with our clinic. For those of you that don't know, we have adjusted the schedule creating more availability, we have hired a new and more capable Pharmacist with great ideas on generating revenue, our dentists and doctors continue to stay busy, and we have hired a very capable tribal member in our billing department. In a very short time Ashley Chedwick has shown herself to be a very big part of turning around the billing department. By this time next year, I believe the Clinic will be high functioning and profitable.

Tribal Chairman's Report (Cont'd)

We all have responsibility to this Tribe. For those of us that live on Tribal Land, we have a duty to ensure that we maintain our properties, and that we respect our neighbors, who in most cases are relatives. It is incumbent upon us to understand that we are individually responsible for what and who we bring on our assignments. To all tribal members, we have a duty to take part in tribal governance. We must vote at every election, whether it's for new Council members, or for ballot measures. With a quorum of the General Council around 219 voting members, we have a duty to the Tribe to show up to these meetings. If you do not vote, or do not attend General Council Meetings you are selling yourself short, and diminishing your opportunity to do service to the Tribe. Change continues to develop, and I stand steadfast in doing what I said I would. Thank you for your time, and thank you for the opportunity to serve this great Tribe.

Grants Update

This last quarter we submitted over \$1.5 million in grant requests to fund Natural Resources projects and Education projects. The Natural Resources grant requests fund the ongoing environmental programs, including water monitoring, as well as the Tribal Historic Preservation Program. We also submitted grants for new college-readiness programming in our Education programs, for both elementary and high school aged children. We expect to be notified if we received these grants in the early fall.

This upcoming quarter will focus on maintaining our ongoing grant programs. Continuation applications for our Diabetes program, childcare, and education funding are all coming up during the next quarter. We are also actively identifying funding for the construction of new tribal facilities

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Brandon Guitierrez Tribal Chairman • Arian Hart Tribal Vice-Chairman, • Aaron Dixon, Sr. Tribal Secretary/Treasurer, • Tina Richards Tribal District 1 Councilwoman, • Robert Joseph Tribal District 2 Councilman, • Marvena Harris Tribal Member At-Large (Lassen County) • Tina Sanchez Tribal Member At-Large (Trust Land).

Susanville Indian Rancheria Education Center

SIREC Programs include Academic Year After-school (K thru 8th grade) tutoring program, Child Care Voucher Program, Library, Summer Youth Enrichment programs (K thru 8th Grade) and the Teen Center program.

Education Center Staff:

Anna Pasqua– Director

Vacant– Admin. Assistant

Twila Alokoa – Tutor

Jeremy Melton– Tutor

Rainey Valadez – Tutor

Vacant -Tutor

Rafeal Pimentel– Driver/Tutor

Valerie Lent – Driver/Tutor

Vacant – Driver/Tutor

Kurt Merino– On-call Driver

Kelsea Chedwick– Peer-tutor

Genesse Cunningham-Peer-tutor

Raven Benjamin- Summer Food Service Assistant



Dates to remember:

- Last day of summer session is August 4th
- First Day of school August 18th

- **First day of Academic Year SIR Center August**

Summer Program (K thru 8th Grade)

We have 45 kids enrolled in our after school program. With a daily average of 31 students. We are still accepting applications. Our summer session began on June 20th. Our program runs from Monday thru Thursday from 11am to 3:00pm. Lunch is free for students in the summer program.

What Education Center has been doing:

- Sacramento State AISES shared science activities & their college experiences in May 2016.



- **Melany Johnson** shared information on Acorn processing on June 22nd



What the Education Center has been doing

- We visited the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum



- We visited the Chico Creek Nature Center
- We learned about the traditional use of Pine Nuts and got the chance to taste some Pine Nuts.
- SIREC children created welcome banners and cards to support the runners from the Peace and Dignity journey.

- Students got the chance to hear Achomawi stories about the constellations from the RISE Star Lodge



- Students got the chance to go swimming in the Casino Pool

We are looking for a Tutor/Driver, please contact our HR Department if you are interested

Teen Center:

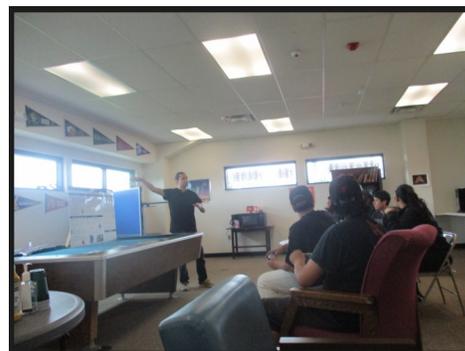
5:00pm to 7:00pm SIR GYM M thru F

Teen Center Staff:

Michael Preston– Youth Advocate

What has the Teen Center been doing?

- UNITY Council meetings are Wednesdays at 5:30pm
- Teens heard from Sacramento State AISES in May
- Attended the Gathering of Native Youth Conference in Reno, NV
- Attended Bear Dance and Maidu Spring Dance
- Went on two college tours to learn about college readiness
- Prepared and made a presentation to TBC about Teen Center activities





Childcare Vouchers

- Are you Native American and in need of childcare?
- Are you a low income parent/guardian who's working or going to school?

If so...Susanville Indian Rancheria has a childcare voucher program for you!

Voucher program referrals are for low income parents who are working or going to school and in need of childcare

Please contact the Education Center at (530)252-1658

to receive a referral and for more information



Job Skills Training Center

New Courses Now Open

If you have not checked out the new Job Skills Training Center located in the Human Resource Department, please stop by. We have many online courses you can take to learn new skills, enhance your skills, learn a new trade or get help with job search and your career path.

The Human Resource staff is available to help get you started.

Here are some of the new courses that just opened up:

Introduction to job search skills
Preparing your resume and cover Letter
How to plan your career path
Achieving personal success
Effective communication techniques

There is no cost to utilize the job skills training center and it is open to all tribal members and employees of the Susanville Indian Rancheria/ Lassen Indian Health Clinic

It's easy to get started

Contact the Human Resource Department at
530-257-4921

Set up a time to come in and get started. We will walk you through the sign up process and provide you with computer access to get started. Your unique login will allow the system to save the courses you start and you can pick up right where you left off the next time you return.

These courses can be accessed from any computer after the initial setup

The training center is open Monday through Friday
between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.



Diamond Mountain CASINO & HOTEL

900 SKYLINE DRIVE
SUSANVILLE CA 96130



Make sure to sign up for the Diamond Club, check out our website at www.dmcah.com, & follow us on Facebook.

Cow Pie Bingo
AUGUST 4TH
Win
CASH PRIZES AND HELP
WITH LOCAL 4H GROUPS!
SEE CASINO FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

SATURDAY,
27TH AUGUST
EDM5
Party
DJ M.MORTAL
DJ JOHN THOMAS
& DJ ROOBZ
NO COVER · DOORS OPEN 8PM

\$2,500
FREE PLAY GIVEAWAY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH
Drawings will be held 2PM TO 7PM
Earn entries by using your
club card on the slots

PHANTOM3 STANDARD



You could **Win**
one of these!

THAT'S RIGHT!

WE ARE GIVING AWAY A DJI PHANTOM3 DRONE AND IT CAN BE ALL YOURS. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS USE YOUR CLUB CARD WHILE PLAYING ON THE SLOTS. **THAT'S IT! SUPER EASY!**

Saturday, August 13th