



Inwewin

"Our Voice" Newsletter

Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

July 2013

Boozhoo!

Greetings from your Communications Office! We are proud to have been selected to serve you, and are looking forward to sharing the great events, the many activities, and important Tribal information with you. *If you have great news to share, please contact us in the Communications Office.* Email us - Brandon Thoms (bthoms@ldftribe.com) or Kim Swisher (kswisher@ldftribe.com).



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Eagle Feather Ceremony

On June 12th, graduates, their families, Tribal Council Members and our community gathered to celebrate the accomplishment of our children. The evening's activities began with several guest speakers including Tribal Chairman Tom Maulson, Raymond Wildcat, professional basketball player and Tribal Member Dustin Mitchell, Guest of Honor Donna "Squaw" Larson, and Marge "Grandma" Greene. Leon "Boycee" Valliere delivered the prayer, and Tribal Council Member Ruben Santiesteban was the Master of Ceremonies. The Tomahawk Circle Drum Group performed an honor and a closing song. Following dinner, 20 year Army Veteran Melissa Doud presented the Eagle Feathers to graduates and scholarship award recipients.

High School Graduates: Haley Jo Ackley, Francesca Atkinson, Joseph Beard, Robert Bolocca, Jonathon Cadotte, Dalton Chapman, Daniel Chapman Jr., Lyle Chapman, Nick Defoe, Kevin Diver, Jon Dowd, Brandi Eades, Dayzha Hagamon, Victoria Jack, Eriak Johnson, Haley Johnson, Misha Johnson, Chelsea LaBarge, Alanna Lemieux, Dylan Lerdal, Joshua Long, Danielle Maulson, Frederick Mermuys, Rachel A. Moore, Aaron Plasky, Savannah Rankin, Shawna Roulston, Spencer A. Smith III, James Tecumseh, Jalen Thoms, John Jack Thoms, Megan B. Tucker, Darrin Valliere, Andre T. Virden, Johnathon Wawronowicz, April Wayman, Sherelle Wheelock, Raymond Wildcat.



Post-Secondary Degrees: Technical Certificates – Mary Armstrong, Mary Lou Boyle, Patricia Chapman, Aaron Clah, Bonny Eilo, Milton Novak, Jenette Potts, Karrie Smith, Carla Winters, Darla Winters. **Technical Diplomas** – Sarah E. DeCota, Lara Kalmakoff, Polly A. Vachon. **Associate Degrees** – Cathy Beson, Patrick Day, Kelly Hanson, Shanae Hickman, Twighla Jack, Verdella Jarvis, Cyless Peterson, Camille St. Germaine, Candice Valliere. **Bachelor Degrees** – Christopher Batiste, Maurissa BigJohn, Helen Bruckner, Melissa Doud, Tina Handeland, Richard Isham, Lynn Long, Ashley Maki, Brittany Perry, Gina Poitra, Deja Sero. **Master Degrees** – David Butler, Gary Christensen. **Juris Doctorate** – Daniel Hickey.

Additional photos may be viewed on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LDFtribe). No account is needed to view the page, posts and photos.

WOLF Receives Grant

On June 12th, Chairman Tom Maulson presented a \$100,000 grant to Fern Orié of the Wigamig Owners Loan Fund, Inc. (WOLF)

This grant will enhance Wigamig's current loan products and provide more lending opportunities for consumer loans to the Lac du Flambeau community.



Wagamig Owners Loan Fund, Inc., is a non-profit, US Treasury Department Certified Community Development Financial Institution created to provide lending opportunities for various types of housing loans including down-payment assistance, home rehabilitation loans and small home mortgages. Wigamig also provides debit consolidation loans, and in the near future will offer emergency loans.

Currently these loans are available to community members that reside in or around the Lac Du Flambeau Reservation.

In the near future, and as Wigamig grows with collaboration from other Wisconsin Tribes, they will be able to provide lending opportunities on other Reservations.

"Little" Bill Stone, Jr.

On June 13th, Chairman Tom Maulson hosted a special luncheon to honor "Little" Bill Stone, Jr. for his terrific attendance. From Kindergarten through 4th grade, Little Bill has only missed four days of school. For the past two years, he missed no days!

When asked why he hasn't missed any school days in the past two years, Little Bill said, "Because of my Mom". Little Bill is 10 years old, and will be entering 5th grade this fall. He is looking forward to his family vacation in July, where he will be visiting Washington, DC.

Joining Chairman Maulson for the special luncheon were Little Bill's parents, Stacy and Bill Stone, Sr., Ron Grams, Principal of the Lac Du Flambeau Public School, and Larry Ouimette,



School Superintendent. Chairman Maulson explained why he's celebrating this milestone by saying, "I want to appreciate the family and let this young guy listen to our discussion. Maybe one day he'll be in my seat."

Great job Little Bill!

Misha Johnson Named WIEA Student of the Year

Misha Johnson, daughter of Melissa Doud and Brian Jackson, was recently named the WIEA (Wisconsin Indian Education Association) student of the year. Misha was inducted into the National Honor Society because she maintained between a 3.5 and 4.0 grade point average for seven semesters, and is the only Native American in the NHS at Lakeland Union High School.

Misha is active in her community and school - she is a volunteer at church, the Secretary of the German Club, and participates in the school band and choir. She has traveled to Nashville, New York and Germany for various German Club and band events in the past two years. She plays the baritone saxophone, and earned a "1", the highest ranking possible at the state competition.



Misha received four scholarships: two Lac Du Flambeau Lions Club scholarships, the Dorothy Poupart Memorial Scholarship, and the Gerald "Jerry" Maulson Scholarship. She is in the PEOPLE (Pre-College Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence) program, and will be attending UW-Madison this fall. She will be leaving for the Summer Collegiate Experience at UW-Madison on June 22nd and will be gone through August 9th. *Congratulations Misha on your many accomplishments and good luck in your future endeavors!*

Shullsburg Update



On June 12th, *Inwewin* had the opportunity to chat with Richard Jack, Terry Virden, Joseph Hunt and Duane Chapman, some of the members of the Shullsburg workgroup, to learn more about the Shullsburg project.

Members of the workgroup shared information from the LDF website, and provided a brief overview of the project. As you may already know, in early 2000, during an initial period of off-reservation gaming expansion, Tribal representatives actively canvassed municipalities throughout Wisconsin. The response from Shullsburg was positive from the first meeting onward, and remains so today.

The Tribe has historical ties to the Shullsburg area. The area around present day Shullsburg is within the boundaries designated by the Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1825 for the Council of Three Fires which included the Chippewa, Ottawa and the Potawatomi. A representative of the Tribe signed the Treaty, and the Treaty was subsequently ratified by all Chippewa Tribes in the follow-up gathering at Fond du Lac, Minnesota in 1826. This land was later ceded to the United States in the Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1829. The Chippewa retained the right to hunt on the lands ceded in this territory.



The tribe signed a purchase offer for 93 acres of land just outside the city of Shullsburg in November 2000. The tribe purchased that land in December 2004 for \$357,000. Following the passage of the LDF referendum in September 2012, work began and the project has remained steadily on track.

When asked why this project was so important, Duane Chapman, Project Leader, replied, "This is perpetuating the Tribe, providing income and financial structure for the Tribe's future."

Two applications are being worked on concurrently - one to get the land into trust status, and the second for the purpose of Gaming. The Gaming application has been submitted, and the trust status application will be complete when the Tribe says it is complete. Ongoing activities include an environmental impact study, which is waiting for the federal government to publicize the Notice of Intent.

"The Shullsburg workgroup is consistently working hard, and in the best interests of the Tribe. There is still a long way to go, and we are here to facilitate the people's decision. We've taken our past experiences, we've learned from them, and we are pursuing a business venture that, if successful, will go a long way towards helping the Tribe meet our unmet needs," said Chapman.

Duane is a busy guy! In addition to his work on the Shullsburg project, he also works in Internal Audit, sharing his time between the Lake of the Torches Resort Casino and the Tribe. Prior to coming home in August 2002, he served eight years in the Army, worked for three years in Germany in retail management, and attended a hotel, restaurant and gaming school in Las Vegas. He readily shares his future goal - to become the first Tribal Member to be the Gaming CEO.

For more information on the Shullsburg project, please call Duane at (715) 588-4272 or Richard Jack at (715) 588-4454.

LDF Business Development Corporation



After a rigorous selection process, the Tribe has selected officers and directors for the newly created LDF Business Development Corporation (BDC).

The new Board welcomes (Left to Right) Randy Soulier, Vice President, Melissa Doud, Secretary, Tribal Chairman Tom Maulson, Shawnie LaBarge, Treasurer, Bill Beson, Jr., President, and Gary Christensen, Board Member.

Each director brings vast business knowledge to the Business Development Corporation. The directors will oversee daily operations and the businesses that operate under the BDC umbrella.

Directors are unpaid volunteers who donate their time and expertise for the benefit of the Tribe. They meet twice a month.

"The LDF Business Development Corporation is a for-profit, wholly-owned entity of the Tribe, and its purpose is to diversify the asset base of the Tribe beyond gaming," said Brent McFarland, Chief Operating Officer. The LDF BDC is profit-oriented and focused on creating quality, living-wage jobs for Tribal Members and their descendants. The LDF BDC is responsible for its debt and the liability it assumes brings no risk to the Tribe. This business structure is currently used by other successful tribes including the Ho-Chunk, the Potawatomi and the Oneida.

For more information about the LDF Business Development Corporation, you may contact Brent McFarland at (715) 588-4289.

War on Drugs

On April 6th, the Tribal Council held a public information meeting - and more than 400 people came to hear the "State of Emergency" declaration, and the proposed plan of action to combat drug and alcohol abuse.

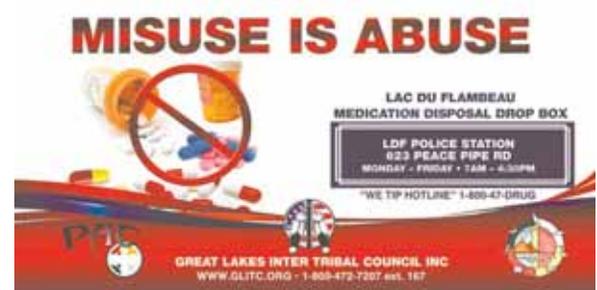
"We have an obligation to ourselves, our families, our loved ones and our friends. People bring it in and sell it to the Tribe so we need to deal with this situation," said Tribal Chairman Tom Maulson.

Those in attendance included Vilas County Sheriff Frank Thomlanovich, Oneida County Sheriff Detective Sgt. Sara Gardener, LDF Tribal Prosecutor Paul Arbuckle, and Chief Judge of the LDF Tribal Court Gary Smith.

Detective Sgt. Gardener discussed synthetic marijuana, and showed a video depicting individuals under the influence. She spoke of her interactions with people who ingested drugs, sharing "I've had a guy tell me that he had helicopters following him, barricading himself in his house with a shotgun claiming snipers were out to get him." She also added, "I'm seeing people younger and younger getting addicted to these drugs, and the truth of the matter is that we don't know the long term effects they have on the brain and body."

Each Tribal Council Member spoke of the need to work together as a community to deal with the epidemic. "Today is that stand the Tribal Council is taking, and without you it doesn't mean anything," said Council Member Ruben Santiesteban.

A strategic plan to reduce the influx and use of drugs in the community has been launched. Professionals from health care, law enforcement, mental health, AODA, community organizations and private citizens are involved. "We're in this together, and we're going to give our kids a future, the time is now," said Chief Judge Gary Smith.



For information on treatment assistance, you may contact the Family Resource Center at (715) 588-1511. The Family Resource Center is located at 533 Peace Pipe Road.

New Wellness Court

Rehabilitating criminal offenders has long been a theme of civilized society, but with years of prison overcrowding and lack of adequate resources the need for alternatives to incarceration have never been more pressing. Recognizing this, the Tribe has committed to the creation of a "Wellness Court" that will offer offenders the opportunity to avoid prison and receive the support they need to get healthy and become integral parts of our community.

After many discussions, much research and a lot of hard work, the Tribal Council approved the creation of the Wellness Court. Chief Judge Gary Smith and Tribal Prosecutor Paul Arbuckle have organized a group of individuals to build the new program. With help from Tribal Council Members, AODA professionals, spiritual leaders and law enforcement, much of the infrastructure is in place and the court is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2013.

Cooperation

Knowing the number of Tribal Members that go through the Vilas County Circuit Court system each month, Judge Smith and his team sought to work with Vilas County District Attorney Al Moustakis and Circuit Court Judge Neil Nielsen to offer options to incarceration and, more importantly, give Tribal Members hope for a better future. A memorandum of understanding between the two agencies will allow the Tribal Court the authority to handle the disposition of criminal cases. This agreement strengthens the Tribe's sovereignty and allows for self determination. As the Court evolves, the possibility of the Tribal Court handling prosecution of criminal cases increases. "Jurisdiction is a major issue in Indian Country. We are asserting our right to self-determination. We have a great working relationship with both the Vilas County DA and with Judge Nielsen. They have been very supportive of this initiative. Our goal is to get our people healthy, and that means in all facets of their lives," said Brooks BigJohn, Tribal Council Member.

Outline of the Program

The main goal of the Court is to give offenders the support and encouragement they need to live a healthy and productive life. Initially an individual who is convicted in Vilas County Circuit Court will receive a referral to the Wellness Court in Lac Du Flambeau. The individual will be instructed to appear before Judge Smith, and will be informed of the expectations and rules of the program - which include:

- Drug testing two times per week.
- Must report to Judge Smith once a week.
- Work with AODA or Mental Health counselors.
- Meet with other members of the program to discuss strategies and develop long term goals.

In addition to Judge Smith, there is a team of 12 people who have received specialized training in the operation of the Wellness Court, and who will actively be involved in the program.

Tribe Pledges Support

By unanimous vote, the Tribal Council pledged \$50,000 to start the Wellness Court, and is committed to including the Court in the annual budget process. "We have been working on this for a quite a while, and are committed to helping Tribal Members grow and better themselves," said Council Member Ruben Santiesteban.

Timeline for General Fund Budget Process FY 2013-14

Here is the timeline for the budget process for the 2013-14 fiscal Year (10/1/2013 through 9/30/2014):

Initial Timeline:

July 2nd or Prior: Hold Informational Meeting
 July 8th or Prior: Public Hearing
 July 9th or Prior: Tribal Council Adopts Budget
 July 11th or Prior: Hold Referendum

If the General Fund Budget is Not Approved:

July 16-17: Schedule meeting with Tribal Council and Program Managers to review budget if needed
 July 23rd: Hold Second Public Hearing if needed
 July 26th: Council Adopts Budget at regular Council meeting
 July 30th: Hold Second Referendum if needed

If you have any questions, please contact Tribal Administrator Jeaninne Bruguier at (715) 588-4205.

Honors Pow-Wow and 8th Grade Graduation

On May 29th, family, friends and community members attended the Honor Pow-Wow and 8th Grade Graduation at the LdF school gym. College, high school and 8th grade graduates were presented tobacco pouches and dream catchers in honor of their academic achievements.



The celebration included a grand entry song by the Tomahawk Circle Singers, followed by the Lac du Flambeau Youth Singers with a Flag Song. Head Dancers Greg "Biskakone" Johnson and Lilith Schuman led the dancers and the Veteran Color Guard in the grand entry. Master of Ceremonies Leon "Boycee" Valliere offered the opening prayer. Awards and recognitions were handed out, and members of the LdF Education Committee, Education Program and the Tribal Council shared in the festivities.

Congratulations to the following 8th Grade Graduates:

Erin Allen, LdF	Beth Annamitta, LdF
Jesse Armstrong, LdF	Jon Balocca, LdF
Debra Chapman, LdF	Kaylin Chapman, LdF
Olivia Chapman, LdF	Rita Christensen, LdF
Devan Decora, LdF	Leon Diver, LdF
William Graveen, LdF	Christopher Houle, LdF
Michael Johnson, LdF	Sophia Kleinsteiber, LdF
Stanley Kmiecek, AVW	Jacob Lussier, LdF
James Lussier, LdF	Jon Lussier, LdF
Kameron Maki, LdF	Layla Maki, LdF
Mariah Maloney, LdF	Kenadi Mayo, LdF
Laureena Meshigaud, LdF	Emily Poupart, MHLT
Tavian Risingsun-Doud, LdF	Brianna Schuman, LdF
Lilith Schuman, LdF	Lawrence Sheppo, LdF
Sasha Snow, LdF	Tarrin St. Germaine, LdF
Jalyssa Theobald, LdF	Erik Vincent, LdF
Jeffrey Wildcat, LdF	Jaeden Young, AVW

July Elder Birthdays

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to Our Elders Who Are Celebrating July Birthdays:

Julie Ackley	July 16
Rose Blomberg	July 14
Beulah Bodeau	July 12
Elizabeth Brunk	July 19
Joseph Chosa, Jr.	July 6
Virginia Chosa	July 14
Williams Chosa	July 13
Peter Christensen, Jr.	July 9
Joseph Cobb, Jr.	July 4
Anaquad Cobe	July 16
Lorna Cobe	July 22
Linda Cohen	July 16
Dawn Diver	July 26
Mrs. Sally Doughty	July 25
Thomas Dowd, Sr.	July 8
Patricia Edwards	July 9
Flora Gilman	July 10
Delores Hoenes	July 5
Mary Jo LaBarge	July 17
Flora Labelle	July 18
Rosette Martin	July 19
Alice Maulson	July 5
Joanne Morey	July 20
Albany Potts, Jr.	July 28
Norma Rivers	July 9
Selmer Saglin	July 13
Yolanda Siegfried	July 2
Annie St. Germaine	July 19
Anna Thompson	July 26
Joseph Valliere	July 30
Sharon Wewasson	July 2
Mary White	July 15
Ervin Williams	July 11
Rosemary Wrobel	July 16

Constitutional Amendment: Article VIII



On June 20th, a crowd of over 100 people gathered in the Convention Center at Lake of the Torches Resort Casino to hear a presentation on amending Article VIII of the LdF Constitution. Article VIII addresses the process by which the Tribal Membership can amend the constitution. Currently, all amendments to the constitution must go through the Secretary of Interior, which is a lengthy, and sometimes arduous, process. Constitution Committee Chairman Richard Jack along with the Tribe's legal counsel, Tanya Wanageshik and Ken Akini of Rosette LLP, described the process of changing the constitution and solutions to the issue of federal government involvement in tribal affairs. Asserting sovereignty is high on the Constitution Committee's list of goals for the Tribe, and changing Article VIII is a major step in self-determination.

The Lac Du Flambeau Tribal Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and governs all aspects of our tribe. From ordinances to casino gaming, our constitution lays the framework for every law within our society. From the beginning, the LdF Constitution was a "template" given to the Tribe by the United States Government, and hasn't always had Tribal Members' best interest at heart. Many tribes across the country adopted similar "boilerplate" constitutions when formalizing their government structure years ago. Since then, many of those same tribes have taken action and have ratified the language in their constitutions to reflect the needs of their people. Realizing that a constitution is a "living" and changing document is essential to the continued growth and prosperity of the Tribe. Many aspects of the current constitution are outdated and simply do not address today's issues or the realities that Indian People face on a daily basis.

For the past six to seven years, the Lac du Flambeau Constitution Committee has been working diligently to educate not only themselves, but Tribal Members and Descendants to the process of changing the constitution. The term "Constitutional Reform" refers to the process of changing a constitution to fit the current needs of the people.

Through the years, there have been amendments to the constitution, which can be an effective way to address critical shortcomings in the constitution's language and intent. An amendment to the constitution is simply a process used to change one part of the constitution, without altering the entire document. The LdF Constitution Committee has continued to hold regular meetings and informational sessions to gather input from the Membership on what parts of the Constitution need to be changed to reflect our needs as Indian People living in the 21st century.

The next presentation will be held Saturday, July 6th from 9:00 am to Noon at Lake of the Torches Convention Center.

For more information, contact Constitution Committee Chairman Richard Jack at at (715) 588-4454.

Internet Lending Business

In late May, the Tribe launched an exciting new business that has unlimited potential - Internet Lending. While the business model has been around for years, and is sometimes confused with payday lending, there are many differences between the two types of businesses. Internet lending is done strictly online, as opposed to the traditional "brick and mortar" (store) payday loan operations. Some view payday loan and internet lending businesses as predatory, with companies taking advantage of individuals already in unpleasant financial situations. The Tribe's business model is proven, and offers safeguards against individuals defaulting. To avoid conflict, Tribal Members and residents of the state of Wisconsin will not be eligible for lending services.

More than a year of research and much work has been done. In December 2012, the Tribal Council approved an Internet Lending Ordinance. The Ordinance sets forth the rules and regulations for internet lending operations, and the Tribal Council is now in the process of creating an Internet Lending Commission that will develop and implement regulatory standards and procedures, and ensure compliance to the standards and procedures.

Initially the Internet Lending business is set to employ three full time staff to work in the call center and process loan applications. Projections indicate significant growth for the business within two years. Similar models currently in operation have added upwards of 100 positions within the first 12 to 18 months. The Tribe's lending model expects to add at least 40 jobs within the first year of operation. "Our growth projects are modest and grounded in reality," said Brent McFarland, Director of Business and Economic Development for the Tribe. "We want to make sure we do everything right from the beginning. We don't want to grow too fast, and we want our staff to have all of the proper training and skills, which will create a lasting foundation for years to come."

The Tribe has partnered with one of the largest and most experienced lending companies - and the company has successfully helped other tribes enter into the internet lending business. The Rocky Boy Cree Tribe entered the internet lending industry, and has experienced enormous growth in less than three years - now employing more than 100 people. *Inwewin* will continue to update you on this exciting Tribal business venture.

Inwewin

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