



Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community

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Our Mission

To preserve, protect, and promote the Dakota culture for future generations.

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Cut this out and put it on your calendar

Monthly Meeting Schedule

Voting Membership meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the last Tuesday of each month in the office. Your participation and input are critical towards achieving our goals. We are required to have a minimum of 15 voting members present in order to conduct any business, so please mark your calendar for the remainder of the year now.

January 29	May 27	September 30
February 26	June 24	October 28
March 25	July 29	November 25
April 29	August 26	*December 7

* December is our holiday party in place of our meeting.

Strategic Plan 2008 – 2010

The Tribal Council met in December to review and refine our strategic plan. Here's a summary:

- Obtain federal recognition
- Protect treaty rights
- Preserve the Dakota traditions
- Protect sacred sites
- Preserve the Dakota language

We've broken this down into a 3-year action plan. The entire plan is available at the office. Here are some of our key goals for 2008:

- Create infrastructure, including policies and procedures, to sustain the organization in the areas of tribal membership, personnel, finance, governance, and fundraising
- Hire an Executive Director, who will then hire a Volunteer Director and a Program Director – this could be the same person to fill both positions
- Recruit members for the various Tribal Council committees: Fundraising, Land, Membership, Policy, Pow Wow and Federal Recognition
- Create and monitor a twelve month work plan for each Tribal Council committee
- Land Committee and Executive Director will begin to identify potential new sites for the Tribal Office – current lease expires September 2009

Upcoming Events

Date: Every Other Tuesday
Time: 4:30 PM
Tribal Council Meeting

Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 6:30 PM
Dakota Language class

Date: Every Other Tuesday
Time: 6:00 PM
Pow-Wow Committee

Date: Last Tuesday Each Month
Time: 7:00 PM
Voting Membership Meeting

Date: Last Wednesday Each Month
Time: 6:30 PM
Regalia-making class

See our website for a complete schedule of events and activities.

Dakota Language

How are you?
Toked yaun? (do-KED ya-oong)

Very good!
Nina waste! (nee-NAH wah-shtay)

Congratulations!

To Jim Anderson and his fiancée Claudia on their March 28th wedding. We wish them many happy years of wedded bliss.

To Curt LaClaire, who received the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Silver Beaver Award at a banquet on March 29th. Established in 1931, the Silver Beaver Award is presented for distinguished service to young people within a BSA local council. It is given to those who do not actively seek it. It is given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members: Nancy Bean, Travis Bean, Leola Burke, Greg Martineau, Nancy McLeod, and Amy Peterson. We hope to see you at our meetings and events.



EBay Sales

We are ready to sell on EBay! We now have accounts setup on EBay and PayPal so we can take donations. If you wish to donate something to sell, please call Connie Blaisdell at 651-454-6530. We must first determine if the item is sellable.



2007 Accomplishments

We were very busy in 2007. Here's a short list of all we accomplished in 2007:

- Held our 8th annual Traditional Pow-wow. Attendance exceeded 1,500 participants, representing a 300% increase since our first pow-wow in 1999. We had 10 traditional drum groups participate, which is almost unheard of for a traditional pow-wow. We registered over 30 dancers in traditional regalia and had many unregistered dancers participate. Our volunteers donated over 300 hours of time & talent to make this event a success. .
- Initiated the establishment of a charter school, Wakanyezapi (Sacred Little Ones), which will focus on the Dakota culture and language as part of its overall curriculum. We will continue to pursue this into 2008 and beyond.
- Hosted the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires) meetings. The first of such traditional council meetings in over 100 years to be held. These meetings are held to discuss issues pertinent to all Dakota people.
- Held weekly Dakota Language classes open to the public and free of charge. Had an average of 10 attendees at each class. Brought in elders fluent in the Dakota language to share their knowledge. Provided audiotapes of elders speaking fluent Dakota as a teaching tool.
- Held monthly Dakota Culture classes open to the public and free of charge, where we had an average of 20 attendees at each class. These classes covered Dakota history, traditional ceremonies, and shared traditional stories.
- Awarded scholarship to community volunteer to assist them in pursuing their Dakota Language education.
- Protected 1805 treaty rights (pass & re-pass rights at Camp Coldwater) through appropriate legal challenges.
- We participated in Mendota Day's community celebration, Earth Vigils in Washington DC, and Moon Dances in Mexico.

Fundraising Committee

We fulfilled our obligation according to the terms of the Otto Bremer grant, by hiring Pam Zeller to help us reach our goal of having a paid executive director and administrative assistant.

We hope to hold our wild game feed in April at St. Peters Church. We are still working on the details. If you are interested in helping plan this event, please contact the office and leave your name and phone number.

Historian's Report

By Jim Anderson

I've been busy as a beaver in spring! Besides getting married in Mexico in a few weeks, I've been invited to a few events. The 15th Annual Indigenous Nations and Dakota Studies Conference on April 2-4 will focus on the Dakota people, Minnesota history, and the Sesquicentennial – 150 Years of Lies. The Symposium on Dakota Sacred Places and Cultural Renewal on April 4-5 will bring together elders and others who have worked to preserve sacred spaces against great odds, to examine and recount their history and begin to map the way toward cultural restoration.

Charter School

By: Jim Albrecht

Our goal to open a charter school focusing on the Dakota language and culture has been delayed. The State of MN rejected our request in 2007. We received excellent feedback from several of the people who reviewed our request and will continue to pursue this into 2008 and beyond.

If you are interested in being a part of this important endeavor, contact the office and leave your name and phone number.

2007 Accomplishments (continued)

- Hosted Native American speakers (and even some authors): Faith Bad Moccasin, Chris Leith, Ed McGee, Barbara Marshak, and Angela Wilson to name a few.
- Participated on the National Trust of Historic Preservation Twin Cities Local Advisory Committee.
- Partnered with Great River Greening and the Pilot Knob Preservation Association on a prairie restoration project at Pilot Knob.
- Participated in an EAW for the Dan Patch Trail housing development to protect possible burial mounds in Savage, MN.
- Promoted the Dakota culture through educational outreach with the University of St. Thomas Students for Justice and Peace and the University of St. Thomas English department students.
- And many more events and activities that we don't have room to list.



Federal Recognition

HECUA Partners Internship Program has approved a grant for us to hire a student intern in the summer of 2008. This intern will be involved in recording history of the MMDC as part of the federal recognition process. They will interview MMDC members and Dakota elders from other communities regarding the history of the Dakota in Mendota.



Treasurer's Report

By Renée Johnson

We continued to make excellent progress towards reducing our overall debt in 2007. We paid off one of our gaming loans and the balance due to MN unemployment from gaming. We paid off our credit card and other small debts as well. We have one gaming loan left to pay off as well as our legal fees.

Our financial outlook continues to improve thanks to everyone who is paying their dues and the grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation.

You can help by enrolling in our monthly automatic payment plan. It is a quick and easy way to pay your monthly dues and helps us budget our cash flow to ensure that we can pay our bills each month.

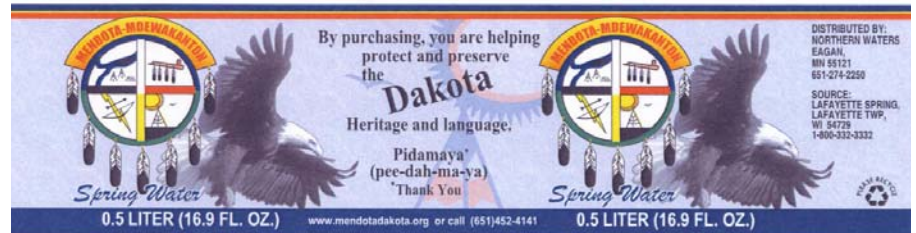
Sugar Bush Camp

March 16th at noon is the opening ceremony at the camp. The camp is located on Independence Road in Maple Plain. Ron "Bear" Cronick is the Camp Director. If you are interested in taking a group out to the sugar bush, call MIGIZI Communications at 721-6631.

Membership Committee Report

We cleaned up our membership rolls and moved over 100 members to inactive status. Many of these people were enrolled by family members and didn't even know they were members of the Community. They were all given the option to make payment arrangements to get caught up on their dues or to request an exemption. Because they didn't do either, they were moved to an inactive status. Once inactive for two years, they will be removed from our membership rolls. By cleaning up our membership rolls, we can focus our limited resources on those who truly want to be actively involved in our Community.

Get them while they last!



Jim Albrecht arranged to privately label our MMDC logo on bottled spring water. These collector bottles will help teach the Dakota language. New Dakota words or phrases will appear every 25 cases. Jim will donate a portion of his profits back to the Community to support our Dakota language programs. For only \$2.00 each you can get yours at the MMDC office. This is an easy way to help preserve our Dakota heritage and learn our language. **Tell your friends and relatives!**

If you know someone who is interested in private labeling their own bottled water (companies, events, organizations, etc.) call George Crothers at 651-274-2250. Tell him you were referred by MMDC and he will donate 50% of the net profit to MMDC.