



Membership Responsibilities

January 8, 2013

Hau Mitakuyepi, Koda,

We are entering an exciting and important time in our lives as a Dakota community. As most of you know, we are working diligently to become federally recognized. Our most recent recognition by the mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis, are indicators that support our recognition as a MN Dakota Tribe. We are also working with a Lenape development group and we will soon be sharing conversations in which we have been engaged.

These are not projects simply for the tribal council to handle. Before we jump in and begin our long sought development and tribal recognition, we must ask each and every member to work with us as we update tribal records (mainly enrollment). Letters have been sent out to tribal members regarding enrollment and asking your assistance in locating enrolled members no longer living in or near Mendota, MN.

We anticipate hearing many voices as we enter into discussion with our new Lenape colleagues and as the tribal council reviews expectations of enrolled members. Please work with us so that we all have ownership in this venture into growth and recognition.

Arrears in membership dues have been erased from 2012. We will begin afresh now in 2013 and expect that you will be faithful to a commitment to pay dues in full by the end of the year. You may certainly pay monthly (\$180.00/12 is \$15.00 per month).

Your participation in activities and committees is essential to making Mendota a true and strong community. It is an imperative that you sign the attendance sheets at all meetings you attend. Despite these forms being available at each and every meeting, many of us have not been regular in signing.

Enrolled members are required to assist, work, enter into participation in programs and activities of the community. Our largest project each year is our Wacipi. All enrolled

-2- Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community

members are expected to donate their time during the wacipi to work security, our booth, setting up and taking down and other similar activities. We welcome our honorary members to assist in these same places.

Those who are able are asked to “adopt” an elder who might need transportation to and from activities and meetings, getting a meal, and/or other activities and needs. Your assistance and attentiveness in becoming one of those who adopt our elders is much appreciated.

Let us live every day as the proud, sincere, faithful, Dakota that we are in order to strengthen our community, live our lives faithfully, and walk in the footsteps of those who have gone before us. We are fortunate to have Dakota language classes available to members as well as our inipi and local Sundances. Entering into these ceremonies and using our original language help bring us closer to the ancestors who, among many other Dakota, struggled for freedom to practice our ways.

What is a Mendota Member?

Who wants to be Dakota!

Who wants to learn the language, culture, go to sweats, sundance, etc.

Who cares that the Mendota Community is successful and will be forever!

Who pay their dues to help maintain our office in Mendota.

Who can donate their time at the office from time to time.

Who comes to our voting membership meeting once a month, or when they can.

Who helps at different events, at least help at 4 events a year, if not more.

Who helps at our Wacipi for one or two days.

That is what a Mendota Members is.

The Mendota Tribal Council.

Toksa, na anpetu waste,