



Winter 2014

# Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community News

Our office is at 340 River Rd PO Box 50835, Mendota, MN, 55150  
MMDC is a Tribal 501C3 Organization 651-452-4141 [www.mendotadakota.com](http://www.mendotadakota.com)

## Voting Membership Meeting

Our next voting membership meeting TENTATIVELY will be held Feb 27, 2014, 7:00 – 8:30 at the office. Last meeting was cancelled due to cold. FYI: We do not have voting membership meetings in December. Our Constitution requires that we have a minimum of 15 members attending to conduct any business so we hope to see you there!

Responsibilities for bi-weekly Tribal Council meetings include:

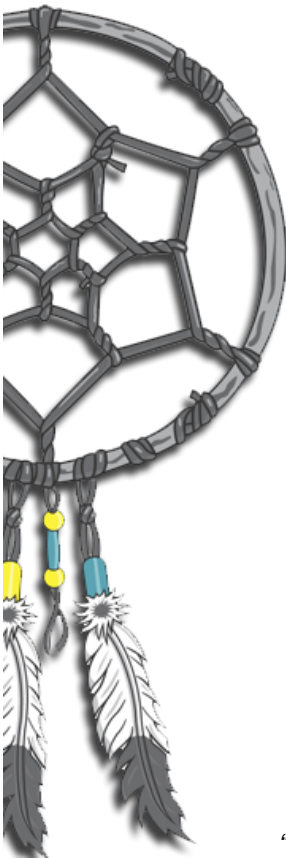
- Attend meetings
- Create agendas & take minutes
- Type up those minutes and submit them to the Tribal Council for review and approval

Responsibilities for Monthly Voting Membership meetings include:

- Attend meetings
- Create agendas & take minutes
- Type up those minutes and submit them to the Voting Membership for review and approval
- Submit minutes to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Membership meeting.
- Go Green!
- Lang/Cult Classes
- New Members!
- Humor
- Fun Facts
- History
- Quotes
- MMDC Contacts
- And more!



## REMEMBER YOUR 2014 CONTRIBUTIONS.

All members of the tribe, even honorary members are required to pay contributions.

We wish to express our gratitude to all the tribal and honorary members who pay their contributions on time or who use the automatic payment system.

These contributions are important for keeping our tribal office running.

They pay for things like cultural events, education, pow-wows, legal services, office supplies and more!

Need to get caught up on your contributions? It's easy with our ACH automatic payment system.

Visit [mendotadakota.com/ach](http://mendotadakota.com/ach) for more information



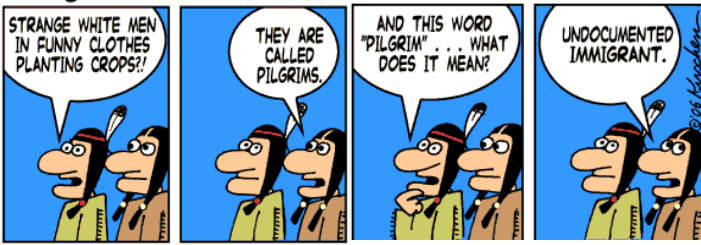
*"I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself."*  
Lone Man (Isna-la-wica) of the Teton Sioux

## Dakota Language / Culture Classes Cancellation

**Culture Class will not be held this Feb 26th.** Instead we will announce our new honorary members including Anne Hansen, Yoichi Ahzzma, Calvin Burnside and others. Cultural Class will then start again on it's regular schedule of every last Wednesday of the month. Language class is always the first three Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Dupuis House, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota Heights, MN 55120 [tiny.cc/dupuis-map](http://tiny.cc/dupuis-map)

### Dry Bones

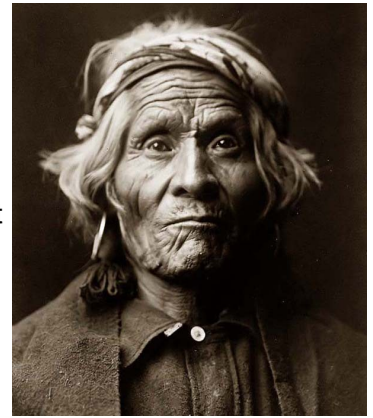
THE FIRST THANKSGIVING



### Native Logic

An official was explaining daylight savings time to an old Native Chief who held up his hand stopping him.

"Only the government would believe you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket, sew it to the bottom, and end up with a longer blanket."



### Investor Relations

We are still dealing with potential investors. There's no new news but we will keep everyone informed. The best way to stay in the loop is to attend meetings.

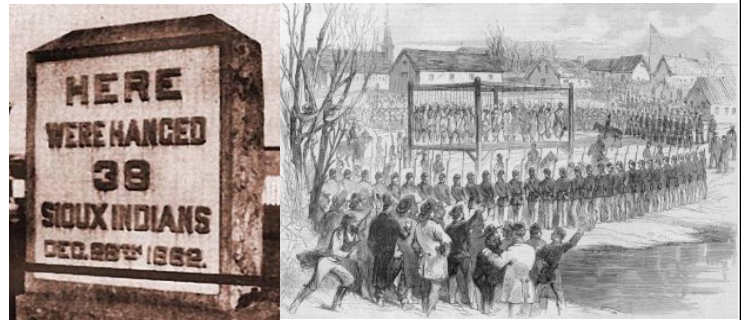
### Honoring our ancestors Feb 1, 2014

We will be honoring our ancestors Feb 1, 2014 at the Fort Snelling State Park. Park entrance is off Highway 5 at Post Road near the Mpls/St. Paul International Airport.

**Please print page 4 to use as your free pass into the park.** We will light the sacred fire at 11:00am and the ceremony will commence at 12:00pm. Also we are having potluck at the Dupuis House 1:30pm to 4:00pm 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota Heights, MN 55120 [tiny.cc/dupuis-map](http://tiny.cc/dupuis-map) Please bring something to share.

This will take place no matter the weather or temperature.

If you think it might be too cold out, please consider our ancestors who were forced to endure the frigid temperatures, with poor threadbare clothes.—



### Taoyateduta's Mother, Leaf Dweller

We've heard many stories of the life, tribulations and deeds of the mighty Sioux chief Taoyateduta, or "His Red People". White people mistranslated his name to be "Little Crow" and that is the name most people know him as today.

But what of his mother?

Little Crow's mother, Leaf Dweller was the daughter of a mighty Sioux chief. She was celebrated for her beauty, spirit and intelligence.

She raised her son to be a mighty warrior and a wise chief. She wanted Little Crow to grow strong and healthy so, according to legend, would plunge him into the frigid lake through a hole in the ice and then rub him with snow to strengthen his nerves.

She would also remain with him in the deep woods for days at a time, so that he might know that understand solitude and not be afraid of nature.

"My son," she would say, "if you are to be a leader of men, you must listen in silence to the mystery and to the spirit." ([tiny.cc/leafdweller](http://tiny.cc/leafdweller))



## Minnesota State Capital Building Art May Not Reflect True Native History

Gov. Mark Dayton may consider rethinking some of the paintings and Civil War murals which adorn the walls of the Governor's Reception Room at the State Capitol.

Some of the art portrays early meetings between Native Americans and explorers and settlers. These paintings reflect a problematic mythology around Minnesota's creation story and they deserve discussion.

The most prominent painting, "Treaty of Traverse des Sioux," hangs behind the governor's podium.

Signed in 1851, the treaty in question secured a third of the land for the future state of Minnesota. The painting depicts what seems to be a fair and formal negotiation between two sovereign nations. Lying on a table, the treaty document appears to radiate light, like a holy object in religious paintings.

read more: <http://tiny.cc/capital-art>



"Treaty of Traverse des Sioux" by Frank Blackwell Mayer. This painting hangs in the Governor's Reception Room.

### Christmas Toy Donations

The Christmas toy drive was a real success with three large bags of toys donated.

All toys were delivered to local families with children.

Thank you again to everyone who donated.



### Pilamaya Aloha to the following!

**Tom Duke** for his possible assistance in generating funding towards a Mendota Community center. We need to show the importance and potential of our tribe in the community.

**John Varon** who has offered to help with grants for the wacipi.

**Mrs. Burnside** who will help with writing requests for grants.

**Mike Mathew** will be contributing salmon for our wacipi.

**Cinnamon Quale** for helping find volunteers to help with grants.

**Sharon** for working with our bank to remove the \$25 monthly fee.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ATTENTION GRANT WRITERS:

We could use some help with grants. If you have any experience or expertise in this area, please contact Sharon 651-452-4141

### NEW HONORARY MEMBERS:

In an upcoming meeting we will be discussing the possible adoption of some new members. Please attend as your vote counts!

### ELECTIONS:

Around April or June we will be having elections.

### PROFITS & LOSSES, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The office does not need to file the 990 forms as we made less than 50k this year.

Remember, anyone who comes to the voting membership meetings can ask to see the profit & loss balance sheet.

### BOAT DONATION:

Our tribe received a boat as a donation. We have finalized all the paperwork now including title and tabs.

### DONATIONS, FEDERAL RECOGNITION AND GRANTS:

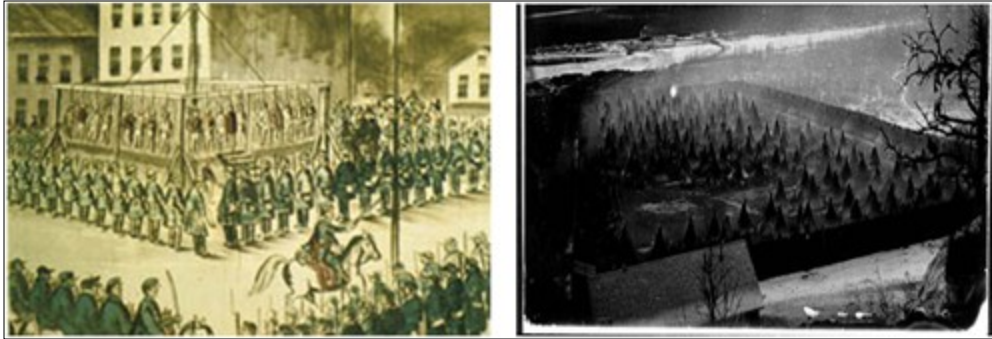
We have been working very hard examining hundreds of documents in an attempt to boost the tribes visibility in the community, develop ties with agencies and groups to assist us in gaining federal recognition, working with fundraising ventures and locating grants both private and governmental.

**Print This Flyer, it serves as your FREE pass into the park**

Honoring Our Ancestors Feb 1, 2014. We will meet even if it is very cold. Consider the people back in 1862 who were forced to brave the cold.

We will light the sacred fire at 11:00am, ceremony is at 12:00pm.

On December 26, 1862, the U.S. military lynched 38 of our Dakota patriots in the largest mass execution in United States history. On November 7, 1862, a group of about 1,700 Dakota, primarily women and children, were forcibly marched from the Lower Sioux Agency to a concentration camp at Fort Snelling.



Saturday February 1, 2014

Jim Anderson Mendota's Chairman, Dan Veeseemeyer keeper of the drum, member at large and Greg Strandmark culture person, member at large, will light the sacred fire at 11:00am. The ceremony is at 12:00pm.

Where

Fort Snelling State Park.

The park entrance is off Highway 5 at Post Road near the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.

Drive down into the park, go inside the building to get your free pass, which is this flyer, or print it now. Mendota will have flyers at the entrance building too. Thank You to the DNR for their help each year.

Pot luck will be at the DuPuis House from 1:30 to 4:00. 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy Mendota, MN 55150 across from Lucky's 13.

If you need more information please call the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community office 651-452-4141.

"Dress warm, the ceremony is outside, women should wear skirts. Please bring some tobacco for an offering"

Pidamaya from the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community! Jim Anderson Chairman

**Did You Know?**

Sitting Bull was originally known as "Jumping Badger."  
Later in life he was given one of his father's names.

**Finances**

The tribe currently has \$12,000 in the business account.  
\$4,000 in the Wacipi account and \$1,100 in the scholarship fund.

**New MMDC Office!**

Our tribe needs an office space, either to rent, purchase or via donation. We would like to accept donations to help the tribe pay for office space somewhere. If you have any suggestions or if you can help, please contact Sharon.

**Hohahe to The Following!**

We welcome the following new descendant members to our tribe! Joy Borbchardt, Eric Borbchardt, Kimberly Miner & Jami Dalmont.

## Did You Know?

Only Sioux Chiefs wore warbonnets however each tribe could have many Chiefs. There were was a War Chief, Civil Chief, and a Medicine Man who was also considered a Chief.



The Sioux tribe was a Confederation of many sub-tribes and each sub-tribe was politically sovereign although they tended to work together in times of need which benefited them greatly in battles against other tribes.

When Euro-Americans and natives met, they used ancient diplomatic protocols that included formal language, ceremonial gifts, and displays of military power. But behind these symbols and rituals there were often very different ways of understanding power and authority. Such differences sometimes made communication across the cultural divide difficult and open to confusion and

misunderstanding. Each tried to reshape the other in their own image. The white man sought to impose their own notions of hierarchy onto Indians by “making chiefs” with medals, printed certificates, and gifts. Native people tried to impose the obligations of kinship on the visitors by means of adoption ceremonies, shared names, and ritual gifts.

### Go green and help us save money!



The newsletter is an important tool to keep members up to date on the happenings of the tribe including events, education, finances, notices, etc.

Each time we publish the newsletter it costs the tribe in ink, paper and postage.

Please consider accessing it online at

[mendotadakota.com/newsletter](http://mendotadakota.com/newsletter)

Help us reduce our costs by sending us message at [newsletter@mendotadakota.com](mailto:newsletter@mendotadakota.com) and let us know you read it online. Thank You!

### YOUR ADVERTISEMENT COULD BE HERE!

Just think, if your advertisement was here, other people would be reading it!

All proceeds go to help the MMDC. We are a tribal 501C3 organization. Contact Sharon for pricing 612-913-1903

### Tribal ID cards

The tribe is trying to decide if we should outsource the job of creating our ID cards or do it “in house”. Here are the options:

We can purchase an ID card printer which prints both sides of hard plastic in full color. It will cost around \$800 for this printer. If 100 people purchase cards at \$10 each the tribe will have recovered the cost. Then each card purchased can go towards the ink, blank cards, office supplies, savings, etc.



OR

The tribe can send our members information to a third party who can print our IDs in full color on hard plastic (like a credit card) and then send them back to us. This company will charge \$10 per card and the tribe will earn nothing but no up-front costs needed.

Please come to the meetings to discuss and vote.

### Native American Tours and Tourism

Friends of St Paul Library ([thefriends.org](http://thefriends.org)) have invited our tribe to play a part in an exciting upcoming venture spotlighting important, local, Native American sites. A barge is being donated to them which will allow river tours of our important landmarks.

We'll have more info soon.

Watch [mendotadakota.com](http://mendotadakota.com) and make sure we have your updated email address if you wish to stay updated.



Tribal Contacts	
<b>Tribal Council</b>	
Chairperson	Jim Anderson jim@mendotadakota.com
Vice Chairperson	Sharon Lennartson Sharon@mendotadakota.com
Secretary	Marlene Dixon
Treasurer	Marlene Dixon
Head of Cultural	Dan Veessenmeyer dagv44@comcast.net
Historian /Member at Large	Greg Standmark gstrandmark@gmail.com
Member at Large	Dan Veessenmeyer dagv44@comcast.net
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	
Admin Assistant	Sharon Lennartson Sharon@mendotadakota.com
Constitution	Jim Albrecht, Patricia Baldwin David LeClaire, Joan Neilson
Membership	Sharon Lennartson Sharon@mendotadakota.com
Fed Recognition	Jim Anderson, Greg Standmark, Randell Voight, Sharon Lennartson, Joey Browner, Joan Neilson,
Grants	Michael Mathews whitebuffalo63@yahoo.com
Grants	Rebecca Ware rware@mendotadakota.com
Grants	Claudia Windal
Newsletter	Brad Saint George brad@mendotadakota.com
Public Relations	Sharon Lennartson
Scholarships	Greg Standmark greg@mendotadakota.com
Economic Development Authority	<a href="#">Lenape Development Group</a> tshon@mendotadakota.com
Environmental Department	Rebecca Ware rware@mendotadakota.com
Web / IT Consultant	Brad Saint George brad@mendotadakota.com
Web / IT Consultant assistant	Joe Lennartson

*Knowledge is rooted in all things. The world is a library.*



### Contact the Editor

Do you have an idea for a story? Would you like to find or write interesting articles for the MMDC website or newsletter? Well we would LOVE to hear from you!

Please send us your articles, stories, ideas, anecdotes, pictures, etc.

**newsletter@mendotadakota.com**

### FYI - About MMDC

**The Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribe is a non-profit 501C3 organization dedicated to preserving the Dakota heritage.**

In 2002, the MMDC membership participated in a comprehensive strategic planning session that resulted in the development of seven (7) long-range goals striving to:

- Promote and support the preservation of the Dakota culture, including protecting sites of cultural significance to the Dakota people.
- Promote a better understanding between the Native American community and the general public.
- Teach community members and others the Dakota language.
- Develop self-sufficiency through in-house business.
- Obtain federal recognition.
- Maintain a tribal office in Mendota.
- Acquire a land base.