



Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community News

DECEMBER 2006

P O Box 50835, MENDOTA, MN 55150

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 8

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*We are a
non-profit
organization
dedicated to
preserving our
Dakota heritage.*

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*Holiday Party is Dec.
9, 2006 at the new
office from 1pm-4pm.*

*Bring a dish to share
and toy or clothing
donation if you would
like. This is a good
opportunity to see
the new office!*

Voting Membership Meeting Saturday, December 9at 7:00 PM

Attention: We Have Moved!!

If you don't already know, MMDC has moved! We are now located just down the street from the Dupuis house. We are in the house next to Axels (sometimes referred to as the canoe house) with bright blue trim and a mural on the North side. It was a lot of work moving and we had many helpers. We still could use help with unpacking and organizing. It is a huge job! Our new address is 1324 Sibley Memorial Highway, Mendota, MN 55150. Our P.O. Box remains the same.

We are looking for a snowblower, shovels, etc.

We will be responsible for taking care of the sidewalk, driveway and steps (clearing the snow). If anyone has a plow truck that wouldn't mind running to Mendota when it snows, let us know!

Like gardening? We need you!

We need to get a gardening committee formed. The yard at the new office is set up with raised beds. We would like to get a native garden growing. Maybe some of you members have plants to share next spring? We could grow things like sweetgrass, raspberries, sage, etc... Get your heads thinking...

Dues-

Please pay your dues. We have moved and have a new landlord. It is a high priority to make sure we make our payments on time. We don't have much more money coming in this year and if you could take the time to see if you are current on your dues would be helpful to us. Thank you.

Thanks to all- Thank you to all the members and friends who helped with the garage sale! It was a great success. We ran it longer than anticipated, and we were able to catch up on some of our bills. We had many helpers on hand.

Help Your Community!

Federal Recognition committee

We need members involved in the recognition process. We are looking for stories about our families in Mendota. If you could write them down, record them, or call Brian Eggenberg to tell your stories, that would be great. This is part of the Federal Recognition Process. We need more people involved to get this going.

Remember your ancestors



Dakota Commemorative March

November 7-13, 2006. The walk started in Morton, MN. Our good friend Bear walked the entire time! He wrote an article about his experience. I hope it will stir enough interest for more members to get involved. Most of us have ancestors that were on the walk in 1862. There were Renvilles, Campbells, Freniers, etc...Here is Bears story:

Mitakuye Oyasin: I am writing this to say how much I enjoyed my 3rd "Dakota Commemorative March" this year. I arrived at Lower Sioux in Morton MN on November 6th with my good friends John and Debra from Minneapolis.. As we arrived, they were having an inipi for the boys and walkers. Another inipi for women was planned for after the boys. We went to the community center and met a lot of old friends/relations from the past two walks and had a good feast. We slept in the gym that evening, it was "waste" (good) to see two members from the Mendota Dakota Community. Tiffany and Red Sky came and met new friends and gave their support. On November 7 at 7:30am we started to walk after we had a canunpa ceremony (pipe veremony). I helped to smudge all the walkers down to set off a good healthy walk. It was a good day and Red Sky helped to walk the 1st morning with Tiffany. We had a good crowd. We carried the Mendota Dakota Community Staff, my staff and a womens staff that Wazyatawin Angela made and a staff brothers in S.D. made with 38 prayer ties for the 38 Dakota that were hung in Mankato. We had about 40 walkers the first day. We walked all day, stopped at 1 pm for a good lunch and laughter. Phyllis Red Day , Angela and RandiLynn placed a stake in the ground each and every mile. Each stake had two names of Dakota who were on the original march and a red ribbon tied on. They read off the names of relatives who walked and or died on the way. It was hard as we put candi (tobacco) down at every relative. Many tears were shed along the way, myself, I cried as I know how the Dakota suffered terribly on this walk. We were fed food at night and mornings along the way. A lot of us got a lot of blisters on our feet, but we still walked. I walked on because I want to support the Dakota people and know the Dakota women and children had it a lot tougher when they had no warm clothes, shoes, and were abused terribly along the way. So I suffered too and wanted to walk every step and all seven days-150 miles-which I did. It was a very emotional walk- I parayed a lot along the walk and prayed for families who suffered and I also prayed when the 1st day we placed a stake in the ground for a Renville (many of the MMDC members tie to the Renvilles). We had a lot of children on the walk. Autumn Wilson, 16,walked the entire walk, every day. We had non-indian friends go all the way-7 days (Debra and John among them).The hardest walk was through New Ulm-we all walked quiet and prayed and no one was laughing or talking-we walked through snow in the morning and never stopped because of the snow. New Ulm is so sad as this is where a lot of the children and women got beaten, stoned, died and others let the tears flow because we felt the hurt and sorrow as we walked through New Ulm. It was fun to see horses prancing and come to the fence when we walked and sundance songs playing and the eagles sitting in trees and watching, protecting us. We had 2 dogs walk with us for 8 miles. We had students from Brooklyn Center come and walk one day, from Osseo and White Earth, and Upper and Lower Sioux students also. It was sad that no schools from Mpls came to support us. We held circle time every night after supper and many tears were shed-including mine talking about the walk and past abuses of our people. We would get up in the mornings, shower, eat breakfast and I would smudge everyone dwon and with Cliff Cankus help-he would sing a song and we started out again at 7:30 am. It was cold but

we never let it bother us as we love the Dakota People and know how hard it was on them. Its hard to forgive/forget all the abuse and torture my people Northern Cheyenne along with the Dakota People suffered by wasicus/calvary all these yearsss. It may take years for us to be healed it it happens. I thank Angela, Gabe, Phyllis, Chris, Diane for all the good work they pyut into this walk and the sanitation trailer and Scott. The last day, Nov 13, was a nice day, it was good to see Tiffany and her son walk all day, the rest of her family following in a car, and Jim Anderson, helping shuttle people and starting the sacred fire at Ft. Snelling. Pidamayayedo Jim. Curt LaClaire, Sharon Lennartson, Becky Wiggins, the Scotts and many other members and friends of the community came to walk the bridge. We were all tired, feet blistered and sore and had a good feast at St. Peters Church. I made a commitment to do the entire walk through 2012 (it will be the 150th anniversary). I thank Debra who took care of a lot of us with blistered feet. I hope people go to Ft. Snelling and pray at the stakes. We all held one last circle after we had a good supper and hugged our old friends and new friends and said we would keep in touch and see them in 2008 or before. Thank you for allowing me to walk and support the Dakota relatives. Pidamayaye do, Ron 'Bear' Cronick, Northern Cheyenne, Lame Deer, Montana.

Voting Membership Meeting

MINUTES

Copies of the minutes are available in the office for anyone to view at any time. There is a 3 ring binder that the minutes are kept in at the office. This is located in one of the in and out baskets. Please ask if you cannot find it.

Dakota Culture and Language Classes

Learn About the Dakota Culture
by Jim Anderson

Mark your calendars for the last Wednesday each month. Jim Anderson, our Historian, will share his knowledge about our Dakota heritage and ceremonies. His talks have been very popular.

Learn the Dakota Language
By Lisa Elbert

The remaining Wednesdays are reserved for Language Class with Lisa Elbert. Lisa is a wonderful teacher and Dakota is a beautiful language. Even if you just come to learn a few words, we want to see you here. This is great for all ages, kids too!

Pidamiya ye do

Friends of the Friendlies

Mendota Dakota Ośpaye
by Linda Rost and Diane Elliot

We are establishing a Society in conjunction with the Tribe to assist in the efforts to preserve the culture. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Society and helping us build our community, please contact us.

Here is the email address: hecetu1@yahoo.com Linda Rost 612-825-1079 (leave a message) or Diane Elliott at 651-457-0312.

Scholarship Committee

We have 3 members that make up the scholarship committee. No report.

Membership/Enrollment Committee

Ann Lauer and Becky Wiggins have been working on membership/enrollment. They will have a report at the membership meeting.

Powwow Committee

Powwow committee needs to set a date for a meeting. We wanted to get started this early so we are more prepared next year. Please call the office if you can be on this committee and we will set a date.

Tribal Council:		Committee Chairs:	
Chairman	Michael Scott..... 612-789-6642	Constitution/ Membership	Ann Lauer 651-665-0108 Becky Wiggins 612-722-8982
Vice Chairman	Curtis LeClaire..... 763-205-1286	Cultural	Jim Anderson..... 763-753-2833 Michael Scott 612-789-6642
Secretary	Tiffany Eggenberg 952-226-4084	Fundraising and land	Jim Albrecht..... 952-472-1571
Treasurer	Renée Johnson 763-757-8354	Federal Recognition	Brian Eggenberg..... 952-226-4084
Historian	Jim Anderson 763-753-2833	Administrative Assistant	Sharon Lennartson ..952-217-5182
Email	kangi42159@aol.com	Newsletter Editor	Tiffany Eggenberg ... 952-226-4084
Scholarships	Greg Strandmark .. 320-629-2959	Public Relations	Dick LeClaire 651-687-9480

Annual Toy Drive

Please remember those less fortunate for the holidays. We are collecting toys and coats to be donated to the Minneapolis Indian Center. We are donating locally this year (last year we had trouble getting the donations to their destination due to lack of funds). You may bring in your donations (new toys, clothing, etc.) before Dec 9. Our holiday party is the 9th of December, you may bring items with you also. We are focusing on teens this year again, but will accept donations for any age. We have a flyer in the office if you would like to hang up a copy at your work, local store, etc...

Newsletter

Please help!! We need a volunteer or volunteers to do the newsletter. My schedule does not allow me time to fit this in at present. The job would include emailing the articles to Diane Elliot. She would edit them, and send it on to Linda Rost who would then put it together and email it to the office. We have volunteers willing to stuff, label and stamp envelopes. Contact Sharon or Tiffany if you are interested.

Moonwalk

A moonwalk is held at the full moon every month, meeting in the pay lot at the south end at Minnehaha Falls Park (near Coldwater Spring). These walks are led by Friends of Coldwater and oftentimes there is a guest speaker that leads the walk. Please call for dates and times or look up Friends of Coldwater online for more information. The next moonwalk will be led by Henry Fieldseth and Sue Ann Martinson on December 4. The theme is "The season of peace". If you wish, bring a poem or saying of hope to share..