



Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community News

651-452-4141 www.mendotadakota.com www.facebook.com/mendotadakota

Office: 1310 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota, MN, 55150
MMDC is a Tribal 501C3 Organization

VOTING MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS:

Voting membership meeting will be the last Sunday in Feb (This Feb will be on the 22nd) 2:00 – 4:00 at the Dupuis House. This is pot-luck, please bring a dish to share. Meeting times vary, please check the website or ask Sharon. Also we'll be sending email updates.

FYI: Our Constitution requires that we have a minimum of 10 members attending to conduct any business so we hope to see you there!

Winter : 2015

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UPDATE: After a vote in May, 2014 changes were made to the By-laws and Constitution. Tribal members who are current with their contributions would have received these updates.

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.

REMEMBER YOUR 2015 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, wacipi, 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 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:

Dakota Language Class is cancelled until Spring but Culture Class is ongoing!

Normally the Culture Class is the last wed of each month and is held at the Dupuis House, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota Heights, MN 55120 tiny.cc/dupuis-map

We are hoping to have some exciting guest speakers/teachers for culture class.

Be sure to check www.mendotadakota.com for updates, times and events.





FEDERAL RECOGNITION UPDATE:

Attorney Brian Gilbert will be helping our tribe pro bono with fed recognition.

Sharon has known him for about 6 years We recently had our first federal recognition meeting and will be sending all the documents to Brian. We are also continuing to work with the BIA.

CHRISTMAS TOY DONATIONS:

The 2014 Christmas toy drive was a real success with many large bags of toys donated.

All toys were delivered to local families with children.



Thank you again to everyone who donated.

A big thank you to St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church in Eagan MN for donating a large cartful of toys!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS:

For over a decade Beverly Scott has been writing a book about the our family history, including Leclair / Felix and it should be completed by our 2015 wacipi!

Bruce White, former MN. Historical Society, has been helping Beverly with accuracy and publishing.

This book explores genealogy, family stories, history and more.

We're excited about it's completion and look forward to reading it.

Make sure to check mendotadakota.com & [facebook.com/mendotadakota](https://www.facebook.com/mendotadakota) for updated information on how to purchase the book and make sure to come to the wacipi to say hi to Beverly!



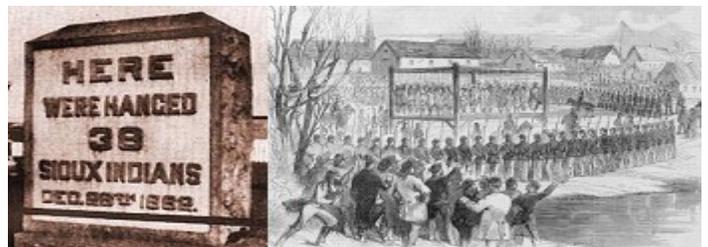
HONORING OUR ANCESTORS 2015:

It was a wonderful event, hope you were able to attend. Neal McKay officiated the ceremony .

There was prayers and many stories were shared, it was a beautiful day, warm and sunny. About 50 people came. We lit the sacred fire at 10am. The ceremony was 11am and at 1pm we went to the Dupuis House for a feast.

Honoring our ancestors takes place no matter the weather or temperature.

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



PROFITS & LOSSES, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The tribe currently has \$12,000 in the business account, \$4,200 in the Wacipi account, \$2,400 in the land account and \$1,400 in the scholarship fund.

We reconcile all four checking accounts each month.

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

Reconciling of the checking account, profit & loss and balance sheets are available to be seen at the Tribal and voting membership meetings.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ATTENTION GRANT WRITERS:

if you have experience or expertise with grants, we could sure use your help! Please contact Sharon 651-452-4141

DONATIONS, FEDERAL RECOGNITION AND GRANTS:

We've been hard at work 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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We would take to take a moment to welcome our newest members: Jessica, Michael, Joseph and Jennifer Leclair.

NEW HONORARY MEMBER:

Welcome Missie Hickey of Mendota! She's excited to help Sharon at the office and with grant writing.

NEW OFFICE:

We have found a new office space. It's tiny at only 200 sq feet but at least it's clean and bright with a large window.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DUES:

Members who haven't paid dues during the last 30 days will not receive email updates and members who haven't paid dues for 360 days will be removed from membership. This doesn't apply to honorary members.



TWO DECADES AS A COMMUNITY!:

This year we will be celebrating 20 years of 'formal organization' as a Tribal Community! Please join us for a celebration at St. Peters Church (where we hold our wacipi) 10am to 5pm June 27th 2015 1405 Sibley Memorial Highway, Saint Paul, MN 55120

If you would like to be on the planning committee please call Sharon ASAP.

We are looking for powwow pictures, stories, memorabilia, video, newspaper clippings, etc. which could be used during this event.

PIDAMAYA TO THE FOLLOWING!:

Margery Otto who has donated \$5,000 dollars to our tribe for two years in a row.

Claudia Windal who donated over \$1,500 towards our wacipi since last year.

Mike Mathew who has promised to contribute salmon for our wacipi.

Joe Lennartsons for helping us to get a \$10,000 grant for our 2014 wacipi and for his continued work in 2015.

Mendota Heights Mayor Sandra Krebsbach for showing her support by attending our 2014 Wacipi.

We would like to say thank you to Jimmy Anderson for being our Tribal Chairman for 4 years. He is still involved with the tribe, however he's no longer on the tribal council.

Thank you to our new tribal council for doing such a good job.

Thank you to our Tribal Chairwoman Sharon Lennartson for her continued diligence in pursuing federal recognition.

We would like to thank the following churches for their generous contributions and continued support of our community:

- Cherokee Park United Church in St. Paul, MN.
- St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church in Eagan, MN.
- Church of St. Peter's Mendota, MN.

INIPI:

Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community Inipi (Sweat Lodge Ceremony Agreement) with the Minnesota Historical Society.

The recovery of ceremonies, spiritual practices and culture is of vital importance to the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community as it is for all Indigenous peoples.

Together they represent a traditional Dakota way of life that can be a gift for all Minnesotans and all peoples. The Inipi Ceremony is among the seven rights given by the White Buffalo Calf woman so that the people might live. While it is a ceremony with immediate benefit to participants, the Inipi also reflects a way of life, calling for humility and through the seven directions an awareness of being part of something much greater than oneself.

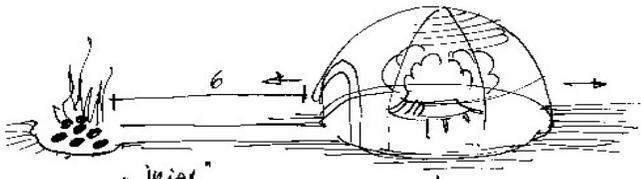
All the elements of the Inipi are sacred, connecting participants to the Creator and the spirit present in all existence. The "grandfather" rocks are sacred. The water poured on the rocks is sacred. Steam from the water rises up as prayers to the Creator. Walking in the way of the Inipi provides a path for healing of body, mind, spirit and emotions, touching all four realms on the journey toward wholeness and relationship with the Creator and all people. The Inipi is not only an ancient and vital sacred tradition for the Dakota people; it is a way of life that offers promise to all people.

-Paster Tim, Cherokee Park United Church in St. Paul, MN.

Joseph Bester will be officiating the inipi ceremony every second Sunday of every month. Please check the website for more information including scheduled dates and times. Come and join us for a sweat!



This is what an inipi looks like, also known as a sweat lodge.



EXCITING INSURANCE UPDATE:

Our community needs to have insurance for our inipi ceremonies and the Dupuis house.

The quote we received for a 2 million dollar policy was \$850 a year.

Also we have insurance on our office which equals \$450 per year, this is a total of \$1,300 per year we must pay for insurance.

GOOD NEWS:

We want to thank Pat Stark for letting us know about Curtiss Stark at American Family Insurance.

He has been an insurance agent for over 22 years and he worked with us to get us the best possible rate.

Thanks to Curtiss, our \$2 million insurance policy will now be only \$125 per year and that includes both the inipi AND the office insurance!

If he was able to give us such a good rate, he may be able to help you with your insurance needs as well.

Give him a call at his office and let him know you heard about him from us.



Curtiss Stark, American Family Insurance
Office: 651-771-1978 Fax: 651-771-0309
11200 Stillwater Blvd N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042



This is a photo from our 2014 wacipi, to see more photos, visit www.tiny.cc/powwow2014

TRIBAL CONTACTS:

Chairwoman: Sharon Lennartson (612) 913-1903
Vice Chair: Chris Antiel (612) 817-2538
Treasurer: Marlene Dixon (651) 734-3290
Secretary: Marlene Dixon (651) 734-3290
Historian: Perry Altendorfer (612) 327-0100
Cultural: Jim Anderson (612) 328-7837

You can view a complete list of contacts by visiting:
www.mendotadakota.com/mn/contact

CONTACT THE EDITOR:

Do you have an idea for a story? Would you like to find or write articles for the MMDC website or newsletter?

Are you an artist/cartoonist, storyteller or photographer?

Well we would LOVE to hear from you! Please send us your articles, stories, ideas, anecdotes, pictures, etc.
newsletter@mendotadakota.com

I went to the Pow Wow when I was in America last year and I have never met a more friendly group of people in my life.

Everyone was cheerful and happy and I think everything about it was fantastic.

They accepted everybody, I didn't feel unwanted there. Everyone went round in a circle and shook hands; again they were so friendly and welcoming. We had a big meal and I really enjoyed that too. People were chatting to me; I had a nice chat with a man and his wife.

The second day at the Pow Wow we saw the dancing and I thought it was damn marvelous! I really enjoyed myself. I bought lots of souvenirs from the stalls and I am really hoping to go back again this year. I only have one regret, and that is that I couldn't get up and do the dancing with them

Sincerely, Reginald Davies, 78 - UK



ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER:

If your advertisement was here, people would read it for years to come, both in print form and on the web.



For info and prices, call Sharon (612) 913-1903

WHO AND WHAT WE ARE:

The Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal community 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.



GO GREEN AND HELP US SAVE!

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 & postage not to mention the time involved to stuff and ship envelopes.

You can help us reduce our costs by sending us a message at newsletter@mendotadakota.com and let us know that you read it online. Thank You!

View current and past newsletters at www.mendotadakota.com/newsletter

