


VOTING MEMBERSHIP MEETING
CURT'S CORNER 1



SECRETARY'S REPORT
TREASURER'S REPORT . . . 2

UPCOMING EVENTS
MAYO CLINIC TESTING
LISA ELBERT LEAVING . . 4

○ APRIL | ○ VOLUME | ○ 2007



Mendota Dakota Community news

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

MAY 1ST IS THE START OF NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENEES MONTH.

Voting Membership Meeting Tuesday, April 24th at 7:00 p.m.

The MMDC voting membership meeting is on Tuesday, April 24th at 7:00 p.m. **We will be voting on an important issue so please plan on attending.** Our Constitution requires that we have a minimum of 15 members attending to conduct any business. We really need to support our community to make it work. We're contacting all members to ensure they want to continue their membership. If you have not been contacted to verify your current information, please call the office at 651-452-4141 or Renee Johnson at 763-757-8354 - we may not have your current phone number.

Payment books should be available to pick up at the Voting Membership meeting on April 24th. **Please** send in your monthly donation, even if you don't get a statement. If each Community member sent in \$15 each month, we would have enough funding to cover our operating expenses and our programs. Also, please consider using our automatic payment plan. It is safe, confidential, and easy!

Please make an effort to attend our April meeting at our new office next to Axles 1324 Sibley Memorial Dr. Your input and ideas would be greatly welcomed. Thank you for your support.



Minutes

A copy of the minutes are always available in the office for your viewing pleasure at any time.

Curt's Corner

This year, 2007, is our 8th traditional Pow-Wow. Every 4 years we will be doing a give-away. We



are asking members to bring donations to the office for the give-away. Preparations for the Pow-Wow are going well. We have 11 members on the Pow-Wow committee. We meet the second Tuesday every month however starting in May we will be meeting twice a month. Still need volunteers to help at the Pow-Wow. We will have a sign-up sheet in the office at all meetings.

This year we hope to have all Four Colors represented (**Red**-Indian; **White**-White people; **Black**-Black people; **Yellow**-Asian people). The Four Colors will be performing their native dances and Culture on Saturday night after the Grand Entrance. May 1st is the start of Native American awareness month. There will be special guest every week at the office through out May. I always enjoy seeing my relatives at the office and at other events. Please come join us and support our community. I appreciate everything every one is doing to help out our community.

Dakota Ohinni un (always be Dakota)

Curt LaClaire

Curt LaClaire

Secretary's Report

by Tiffany Eggenberg

Renee Johnson, treasurer, reported that the 05 taxes are done. The 2006 books are going well. Renee will file the 990 form with the Attorney General's Office. Until the paperwork is filed, we cannot solicit funds.

She also went over a quick balance sheet showing income vs expenses. Unfortunately, we have more money going out than coming in – which resulted in our phone service being cut off for a short time. Thank you members who helped pay the bills. Some members have chosen to help by sending extra cash with their dues. Our monthly expenses are \$3,000, so it is up to the whole community to keep us going.

Curt LaClaire said Tribal Council Members will be calling everyone in our files to update our records and to inform them of their membership status. Payments books will be mailed out soon.

The city of Mendota waived our business license fee.

Jim Anderson has a new court date for the treaty issue. The pre-trial is set for May 7th, 2007 and the trial will begin May 10th. The dates may change, so please call for more information.

Wally Ripplinger has accepted our request to be head dancer at the Pow Wow. Please call office if you would like to be on the committee.

We are looking for an event coordinator for a wild game feed to be held in the fall. If interested, please contact the tribal council.

Please help our community to raise funds by signing up with Food Perspectives; a taste test company. If thirty new people sign up MMDC will receive \$100.00. You will be paid for your time also. Taste testing is usually every month or every other month and money will be paid to us every time you participate. Call the office if you wish to sign up. Kathy LaClaire will be taking photos for ID cards soon. There will be a \$5.00 charge for the cards.

Members have six months to catch up on their dues. If not caught up by September, their membership status will become "inactive".

The changes in our constitution and by-laws were approved by the community.



Treasurer's Report

by Renee Johnson

It's been a busy first quarter! We submitted our 2005 Form 990 (taxes) to the IRS. We also filed our Charitable Organization Annual Reports for 2004 and 2005. The Minnesota Attorney General's office requires that we file the Charitable Organization Annual Report each year. It is extremely important because it allows us to ask for grants and other funding in the State of Minnesota.

on wrapping up 2006 and filing those taxes.

I LOVE QuickBooks! The data entry for 2006 has been very simple and uncomplicated. I've entered in all the information and only have a couple of questions for our tax accountant. In another few weeks we should be all caught up.



In Memoriam of

Charlene A. Hammond
(nee Robinette)

Beloved wife, mother, daughter

Age 58 of Somerset, WI, formerly of Mendota.

Unexpectedly on April 2, 2007. Preceded in death by her father Donald and brother LeRoy. Survived by her husband Tom; mother Louise Robinette (nee Matykiewicz); children Nick, Allen (Betsy) and Michelle Johnson; 9 grandchildren; 1 great grandson; sister Nancy Ryan and brother Pat Robinette; also nieces and nephews.

Constitution/Membership Committee

We have 82 applications currently in process right now. We meet at 6:00 PM on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the office. Our next meeting will be on May 8th. We will begin reviewing old applications and drafting follow-up letters to send out. Please join us if you can.

The Policy Committee

by Renee Johnson

The revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws were passed. We only received six (6) no votes for the Constitution and eight (8) no votes for the Bylaws.

Thank you to those members who questioned the validity of accepting no response as a "yes" vote. I'm glad folks are looking out for our Community's best interest. Accepting no responses as a yes vote is a very common practice. The Community adopted this practice several years ago due to a lack of any response from at least two-thirds of our Community members on some critical issues. To ensure everyone understood this practice, we clearly stated it on the cover letter. We also extended the deadline for returning votes to allow everyone adequate time to respond.

One of the Policy Committee's goals is to create sound written policies for the Community. We need folks who question our current practices and policies on this committee. Please consider getting involved and making a difference. Much of our work can be done electronically and through teleconferences.

We meet at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the office. Our next meeting is on May 16th. If you cannot attend, but still wish to be involved, or if you have ideas for new (or revised) policies, please call or send an email to me at mmdcorg@comcast.net.



Federal Recognition Committee

by Brian Eggenberg

I am asking the community again to please go through all their old photos and papers. This will help us to write our book and receive Federal Recognition for the community. Please contact me Brian Eggenberg if you need any help with the process.



Historian Report

by Jim Anderson

Dan the Oakman was nominated for an award this year by the International Oak Society. Dan was able to save four Sacred Oaks which grow on the bluff by St. Peters church. We had a party to honor him on April 21st, the birthday of the trees



Mendota Dakota Community *needs*

Materials Needed

We are still in need of heavy canvas pieces to recover our sweat lodge. The tarp we are using now is not adequate. If members have old heavy tarp or tents they no longer need please consider do-



nating them to us. They can contact the office at 651-452-4141

Newsletter articles

You can submit an article by faxing it to the Newsletter Editor at the MMDC office: 651-452-4232
Emailing it to: Kathy LaClaire or Robin Agan
Or mailing it to the MMDC office.

Upcoming Cultural Events

- **Prairie Restoration Planting**
April 28th from 8:30am - noon.
Through the United Theological Restoration Project.
They are inviting natives whose ancestors lived on the land. This is a reconciliation and blessing service.
They are looking for 200 volunteers.
- **Diane Wilson-** (Author of Dream Cars)
Will be in the office May 16
- **Mendota Days 14-15 of July**
- **8th Annual Pow-Wow**
August 10th -12th



Mayo Clinic

The Mayo Clinic is doing Native American Diabetic studies. One is for eye exam and the other is for nerve testing. The testing is free for the participants and Mayo would like participants to do both - to help them better understand the results. The nerve exam study is on Friday April 27th and the eye exam will be on Friday May 4th. Both will be conducted at the Prairie Island Community Center, 1158 Island Blvd, Welch Minnesota. Appointments are required for both exams. To schedule your appointments call Sue Capelle at 507-266-1616 or 1800-803-1307. You can also e-mail them at Nativeamericandiabeticstudy@mayo.edu.

FREE ADVERTISING

We have an opportunity for free advertising for Minnesota's American Indian Month - May! If anyone knows of any worthwhile events /speakers that we can have participate at our community, please call the office and we can get it advertised in several places for free.



Learn About the Dakota Culture

Mark your calendars for the last Wednesday each month. Jim Anderson, our Historian, will share his knowledge about our Dakota heritage and ceremonies. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn about this beautiful life way. Bring your families and children. They are our future!

Pidamiya ye do
by Jim Anderson

Learn the Dakota Language

Lisa Elbert, our language teacher is leaving. We'd like to have a part, get a gift for her and a certificate of appreciation. Who can we get to take over? A couple of ideas were: Phoebe Iron Necklace or Fait Bad Moccasin. We need to look into getting a language grant. Gerti, an elder Sharon knows, speaks Dakota. Maybe twin feathers? Glenn, a teacher out at Shakopee? Friday - April 27th at 7:00 PM we will be having a potluck at the office.

Tribal Council:		Committee Chairs:	
Acting Chairman	Curtis LaClaire.....763-205-1286	Polices	Renee Johnson.....763-757-8354
Vice Chairman	Vacant	Fund-raising	Jim Albrecht.....952-472-1571
Historian	Jim Anderson.....763-753-2833	Federal Recognition	Bryan Eggenberg...952-226-4084
Secretary	Tiffany Eggenberg..952-226-4084	Land	Jim Albrecht.....952-472-1571
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