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Ahnee (Hello)!

As Dora mentioned last week, I was unable to write up an email blast for last week's work, so this week is a two-week email blast! (I know...very exciting!)

From Sunday through Friday of last week, I was attending the National Congress of American Indians (www.ncai.org). Please visit NCAI's website for information pertaining to the 66th Annual Conference; it would take too much space in this week's email blast to share all that was presented! I also want to encourage those that have Twitter accounts to please follow me (@GTBChairman) as I did "tweet" throughout the week from the NCAI conference. I also want to thank @Indians (www.indianz.com) for the twitter activity they provided during the conference.

Indian Country Today (www.indiancountry.com) interviewed me for an article they ran this week on their website, please click here to view the article: www.indiancountrytoday.com/home/content/64487762.html.

Last Friday, I had an enjoyable (but cold) opportunity to sail West Bay with a great group of individuals from the Maritime Heritage Alliance (www.maritimeheritagealliance.org). We left out of GTB's tribal marina on board the schooner, Champion. As taken from the Maritime website:

"In the fall of 2008, the Maritime Heritage Alliance acquired the 1968 Concordia-built cutter CHAMPION. Mr. Henry Barkhausen, of Harbor Springs, MI, donated the vessel for the purpose of providing educational sail training opportunities to the greater Northwest Michigan community, and specifically for use in a new sailing program for at-risk youth.

At 39 feet long, built of wood, and traditionally-rigged, CHAMPION is perfectly sized to be manageable by a small crew yet large enough to offer a true sense of power under sail. She is maintained to the highest standards by a dedicated group of volunteers to be safe, strong, and beautiful for all who have the privilege of sailing her."

I want to personally thank Mark Thompson, Executive Director, for this opportunity to learn and experience a small portion of the great work they do! I also want to thank Desmond Berry for going out with me on a cold northern Michigan day!

*****New email blast section*** --> Featured Story!**

Before I get further into my report, I wanted to give a “shout out” to GTB tribal members/students at Suttons Bay High School who are involved with the Student Newspaper (www.norseview.com). There is a new section to the newspaper titled, “Native News”, and on the website the following students are identified as the “crew from Norseview’s Native News”: Marcia Gould, Marci Gould, Misty Rose Chippewa, and Delia Schawandase. I think this is great and fully support our tribal youth in this effort. Please click here to view their site: www.norseview.com/Site_2/SBTV/Entries/2009/10/15_Native_News_Introduction.html



10.09.09 Sailing with members of the Schooner, Champion, crew. The second picture show that yes I did actually work on the schooner! What a great time.



10.10.09 GTB Annual Membership meeting. 1st picture; Councilor Connie TwoCrow addresses the membership. Our Membership meeting had a new format, with some similarities from prior meetings, and the comments have been very positive! We appreciate the membership accepting changes that we hope only better allow us, as elected leaders, to communicate more efficiently and productively.



At the membership meeting, we had departmental information booths/areas set up so that membership could have “face-to-face” time with staff and offer a more intimate learning atmosphere. In the first picture, we have staff from our Elders and Culture programming, the 2nd picture is our Housing Department and the last picture has staff from both our Natural Resources Department and Law Enforcement.

Megwetch (Thank you) to the GTB staff for their efforts at the Membership meeting – it is very appreciated!

Below are pictures from the National Congress of American Indians conference held 10/11-16/09:



This year’s NCAI conference was also an election year. Several qualified and dedicated tribal leaders stepped forward to run for the executive positions of the NCAI Board. Running unopposed were W. Ron Allen, Chairman of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe for Treasurer and Theresa Two Bulls, President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, was elected Recording Secretary. In the race for President and Vice President these were the following election results: Jefferson Keel (Chickasaw) won with 72 percent of vote for President. Juana Majel-Dixon (Pauma) won with 64 percent of the vote for Vice President. Congratulations to both of these long-time Anishinaabe (Native) Leaders!!

I am pictured above with newly elected NCAI President, Jefferson Keel. Keel is a retired U.S. Army officer with over 20 years of active duty service. He earned a bachelor’s degree from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma and completed his Master of Science degree at Troy University in Alabama. He has background experience in social services and tribal health programs. Keel is in his third elected term as Lt. Governor of the Chickasaw Nation.



Kimberly Teehee addresses the General Assembly at NCAI. Ms. Teehee is the Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs, responsible for keeping President Obama advised to the issues impacting Native American Nations and its people. Her position serves on the Domestic Policy Council in the Administration.

The 2nd picture is Shawn Atleo, the new Grand Chief of Assembly of First Nations in Canada.



(1st picture): Jodi Gillette, Standing Rock Sioux, of the White House of Intergovernmental Affairs shared about national insurance reform.



(2nd picture): Indian Health Services (IHS) Director, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Rosebud Sioux, discussed health care and insurance reform.



(last picture): Larry Echohawk, Assistant Secretary of the Interior and head of the [Bureau of Indian Affairs](http://www.bia.gov).



I participated in the Health Subcommittees during the NCAI conference. Pictured above (L-R) are: Jessica Burger (standing by table and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians tribal member), H. Sally Smith, and Reno Franklin (Chairman, National Indian Health Board – www.nihb.org). Our tribal health leaders did a great job – Megwetch!



Congratulations to Matt Wesaw and Ribs Whitebird (alternate) on elections to NCAI Area Vice-Presidents for the Midwest Regio. Wesaw is the Tribal Chairman for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians (www.pokagon.com). Chairman Wesaw in the 1st picture. Mr. Whitebird is in the 2nd picture, far left (wearing the navy blue blazer).

I wanted to personally say, “Megwetch!” to Ernie Stevens, Jr., Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA). Mr. Stevens is an extremely dedicated Anishinaabe Leader not only in gaming but advocating for Tribal Sovereignty and Indigenous Rights. To learn more, click here: www.indiangaming.org.

Mr. Stevens is pictured in the 2nd above picture and standing in the middle.



10.20.09 GTB Tribal Manager Jane Rohl and I met with administration from Elk Rapids Public Schools. This meeting was an initial meeting to increase communication and collaborative work efforts between GTB and the Elk Rapids School system. This meeting was very rewarding and also inspiring, especially when you see the same centered focus on our youth and education! In the above picture (L-R): (standing) Irene Schmidt, Terry Start, Jim Standerfer, Mike Travis, Superintendent Mike McIntyre; (seated) Maggie Antcliff, GTB Tribal Manager Jane Rohl, and Bryan McKenna.




10.23.09 This morning I met with Scott R. Vele; Executive Director of M.A.S.T. (Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes), and also representatives from Cottingham & Butler Consulting Services (www.cottinghambutler.com). Our discussion focused on what type of healthcare analysis Cottingham & Butler could offer the GTB in terms of healthcare improvement and costs.

Pictured (L-R): Benjamin Butler; Vice President, Scott Vele (also newly elected council member at Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians – www.mohican-nsn.gov/index.htm), Peter Wells; Senior Consultant, and Paul Bell; Risk Specialist.




10.09.09 Last Friday I visited one of our GTB Tribal Fisherman, Preston Tyler. Preston is pictured above (wearing the red coat) along with Desmond Berry (GTB Environmental Services Coordinator) at the fishery building near our tribal marina. Let us not forget to support our tribal fishermen (and women) who are daily reinforcing our treaty rights! Plus, you can not beat fresh whitefish and other local catches!

Chairman Bailey and the Grand Traverse Band's Future




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As Tribal Chairman of the Grand Traverse Band, I had the honor of being asked to be part of the United Way (www.unitedwaynwmj.org) campaign effort this month. For 30 days during the month of October, a local individual will be placed in a color advertisement for United Way in the Traverse City Record Eagle (www.record-eagle.com). When I said yes, I asked that GTB tribal youth be also a part of the photo and they thought that was a great idea in recognizing our efforts for future generations.

The above picture is the United Way campaign photo used in the TC Record Eagle on October 15, 2009.

*****TOMORROW – Saturday, October 24th:*****

On October 24, 2009, there is a great event being planned at the Open Space in Traverse City, MI, and this is not just a local event – it is international! TC350 (www.tc350.org) is our chance to be part of an international movement! This is a common call for CLIMATE ACTION. What does 350 represent? 350 signifies that 350 parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere is the maximum amount to sustain the planet and reverse climate change! This event will begin at 1 PM on Oct. 24th and a group picture will be taken to capture the moment. MLUI also offers several other areas of interest, and I invite you to their website to learn more: (www.mlui.org).

Also on Saturday, the 27th Annual St. Francis Gladhander event is being held at the Traverse City St. Francis High School. The following link will provide more information:
[www.gladhander.com/uploads/file/Gladhander/Gladhander09_InfoCard%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.gladhander.com/uploads/file/Gladhander/Gladhander09_InfoCard%20(2).pdf).

Have a great weekend and week!

Chairman Bailey

www.gtbindians.org

“A Nation grows stronger when built upon shared visions.”