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Ahnee (Hello)!

What a great way to start the work week by attending the Traverse City United States Coast Guard facility's Open House this past Sunday! Commander Jonathan Spaner and his staff did a great job greeting and informing all the visitors who attended. Even with the heavy rain, I was pleasantly surprised of the large turnout. That speaks volumes for the support for the men and women who proudly serve our country and local areas!

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2009 at the Leelanau Sands Casino Showroom. Please visit www.gtbindians.org for more information. I am very excited about this year's membership meeting as the typical agenda has been changed – yes change! Tribal Council recognized that declining attendance could be attributed to an agenda that needed to be revamped and offer the Tribal Membership a more intimate opportunity to learn about their Tribal Nation.

Per the GTB Tribal Constitution, Article III, Section 7, reads “*Tribal Membership Meetings: The Tribal Council shall hold an annual meeting of Band members for the purposes of informing the membership of the status of the affairs of the Band and transacting such other business as may be deemed desirable by the Tribal Council*”.

During the morning meeting, several “break out” sessions with GTB Government, Gaming and Grand Traverse Resort and Spa staff will take place with definite opportunities to ask questions and receive responses. I know personally how much it means when I have one-on-one time with State and Federal officials and we look to offer this to the Tribal Membership on Saturday. The meeting will end with a Tribal Caucus for Membership to present to those in attendance their comments and concerns.



10.04.09 Spectators at the USCG Open House. Visitors were able to learn firsthand about the helicopters, watch simulated helicopter rescues and visit with staff. In the 2nd picture, CDR Jonathan Spaner is pictured with my daughter, Daanis.



10.06.09 GTB was proud to host the Access to Recovery (ATR)/Behavioral Health Networking meeting at Eagles Ridge in Peshawbestown, MI. We had representation from Alaska, California, Oklahoma, and Michigan. ATR has been extremely successful assisting individuals and also with tribes meeting needs of Native people. Inter-Tribal Council of MI (www.itcmi.org), Inc needs to be recognized for their role both in Michigan and within Indian Country for their commitment and vision of what ATR could offer Tribal Nations, communities, and individuals.

The first picture, GTB member Eva Petoskey addresses the conference participants in the opening session. On Tuesday night, GTB tribal youth Hoop Dancers performed and Prevention Specialist James “Bud” Day shares the meaning and teachings behind Hoop Dancing.

To view two of our Tribal youth who performed individual performances, please click on the links below. I also want to thank Edmund Nevaquaya and Bud Day for providing the singing and drumming for our dancers!

Vanessa Schocko: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMWH479tn4A>

Tyra John: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdfuDxX0CvI>



10.07.09 Sharon Teeple, Executive Director of Inter-Tribal Council of MI (www.itcmi.org), and I met to update each other on current events affecting Tribes in Michigan. We also began planning for the next Inter-Tribal Council of MI Board of Directors meeting. Sharon has an extensive, and thorough, work experience not only in Michigan but throughout Indian Country! And, in some circles, she goes by “Auntie Sharon”...



10.08.09 On Thursday, I met with representatives of the Michigan Land Use Institute (www.mlui.org) in Traverse City, MI. This is definitely a group of dedicated and focused individuals promoting the local economy and northern MI, but also with an understanding for future generations – and why we need to take action now and be part of the solution!

In the first picture (L-R) is Hans Voss (Executive Director), Jim Lively and Jim Dulzo. The next picture captures all of the MLUI hard-working staff!

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 250 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).



10.07.09 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).

The three above pictures captures what could be the photo used for the United Way ad. Of course, these were taken with my iPhone, but I asked if I could provide the pictures (thanks Tonia!) that were taken through my phone – and they said of course because the message would be further promoted! This photo should be in one of next week’s editions of the Record Eagle.

When I said yes, I asked though 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.

Again, as a reminder, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians’ Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2009 at the Leelanau Sands Casino Showroom. Please visit www.gtbindians.org for more information.

On Sunday, I am leaving for California to attend the National Congress of American Indians 66th Annual Convention and Trade Show (www.ncai.org). I will be returning to the office on Friday (later because I am taking the “red eye” flight back on Thursday night!).

Have a great weekend and week!

Chairman Bailey

www.gtbindians.org

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