

Tribe hiring casino experts - major changes coming



**DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

During my first two years on the board, one challenge that has been consistent is that any changes that need to happen either happen at a snail's pace or you are met with resistance, especially if

it is not certain board members' ideas. This is not how we should be operating our businesses or our services to the membership.

An example would be the major changes that are needed in the management of our casinos. One reason I ran for the board was to help fix the casinos, to bring back the friendly atmosphere our workers and customers once had not too long ago. Myself, Director Chase and a few other board members have been met with opposition by certain board members, I guess for some the less they know or act like they don't know the better.

Two years ago, casino team member surveys were done at all five of our casinos. From these team member surveys, immediate changes should have been initiated but the majority of the board

didn't want to make any changes to management at that time. At the end of last year our casinos didn't meet our bank covenants, which ended up costing the tribe money; once again no changes were made to management. Again the casinos have told us we might not meet our covenants this year at the bank because business continues to be down.

Over two years later and now changes are finally starting to take place. If a majority of the board would have listened to the team member surveys, we could have had changes happening two years ago and already had a turnaround team in here fixing the major issues at each of our facilities. Currently we are in the process of hiring professional casino experts to make major changes

to our five casinos. The board needs to allow these individuals to come in and do the job we are paying them to do. No longer can board members worry about their family and friends, which is why our casinos have gotten to the state they are in today. We need to keep politics out of our businesses and let the professionals do their jobs, so they can in turn provide more revenue to provide more services for our members.

Sault Tribe member Martha "Marty" Snyder passed away on Oct. 23, 2014, in Manistique, Mich. Many throughout our tribe knew Marty for her work in the tribe's ACFS program. She was the very first caseworker the tribe had on the western end. She dedicated 36 years to the children and families of our tribe. Marty held a

bachelor's degree from NMU and earned the title of "expert witness" for the many child welfare cases she worked on throughout the years. Everyone who came into contact with Marty always walked away with a smile, she was such an advocate for our tribal children and she will be missed by all.

Elders holiday dinners: Marquette, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m., at the Holiday Inn; Manistique, Dec. 4, at the Manistique Tribal Center; and Escanaba, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m., at Chip-In Casino.

To sign up for the Manistique or Escanaba dinners, please call 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137.

Thank you,
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