

I REPRESENT YOU, NOT THE FEW HATERS ON OUR BOARD



Dialoging with US Secretary Burwell in my role on the HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council regarding historical trauma and suicides.

Aaron A. Payment, MPA
Tribal Chairperson
Representing All Members Everywhere

Ahneen, Booze, Negee:

In my report to you last month, I highlighted several items I have been working on at the national level to represent our tribe. Like most of our Members, I usually ignore the hate spread in some Board unit reports, but Members have urged me to make a clarification then move on. I know some Board Members take exception to the work I do representing you at the State, Regional and National levels. Just read some Board reports and you can see I can do nothing right in their eyes. I chose not to dignify their individual and petty expression of jealousy with specific responses other than to say that I work very hard to serve as your Chairperson.

It has been three years, isn't it time to get over it?

Tribal Board Member haters' negative attitudes are inconsequential to me, but when their petty jealousies continue to surface their ugly head, our Tribe suffers. When I was recently elected unanimously to serve as the Chairperson of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority Board which is the five Chairpersons and our Conservation or National Resource/ Con-

not needed here". I promised Members not to miss our meetings. The haters don't have to like it, but they should respect my commitment to our people. It was just to change it by one day. After testify in the U.S. Congress regarding our enduring treaty rights is an honor. Those who consistently vote no are Bridgett Sorenson, Lana Causley, Catherine Hollowell, and Jennifer McLeod so I failed to get a positive majority vote.



National Congress of American Indians Board of Directors right after I was unanimously elected as an Executive Officer Member as Recording Secretary

servation Chairs from our respective tribes. Together, we work collaboratively to pro-

Notwithstanding this immature Board opposition defiance, I will continue to work hard at all levels to represent you and to work to gain even higher levels of access to push our Sault Tribe agenda at the highest level. What good it does it do our Tribe to continue to undermine the office of the Chairperson?



American Indian Youth from across the county selected for recognition by the Aspen Institute, a program established by former Senator Byron Dorgan (D-North Dakota).

hard to provide leadership in these areas. Several have received national honors, leadership roles in national, regional and State level committees and great success in securing federal funding so that none of these three receive funding from our Tribe unless there is a mandatory and marginal match.

I am paid about 42% of what one of my predecessors received which was an obscene \$240,000 with retirements benefits, sick and vaca-

member who rolls up his sleeves and a leader at the national level. I know I have the support of my fellow



U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi addressing the NCAI General Assembly.

Chairpersons as evidenced in their votes to appoint me several State, regional, and National posts. I also know I have the strong and steadfast respect of those I oversee and supervise, and provide ministerial oversight. Recall that not that long ago, nearly a landslide of support from you ~ the people ~ was demonstrated in the last election. So what is the problem with the



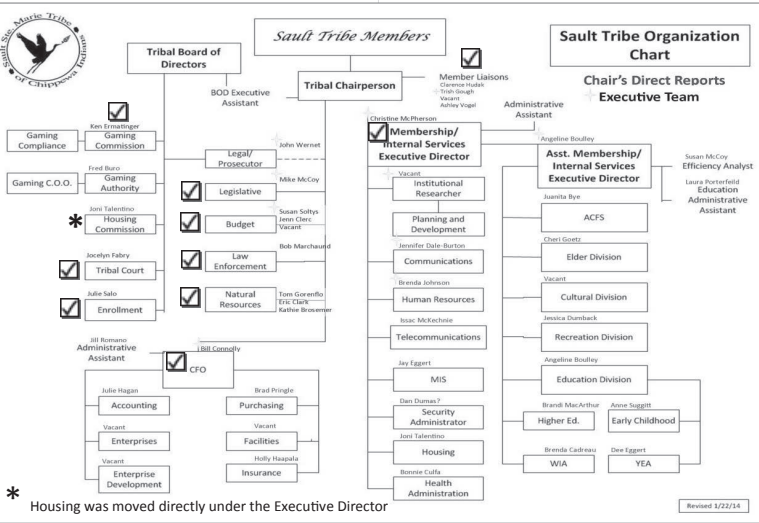
Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell talking about the importance of providing our Native youth opportunities.

tion time, and a clothing allowance! I am glad to serve you on the home-front and believe I do an excellent job at both levels. I work hard each day to try to continue to earn your respect and support.



Wendy Hoffman, Sault Tribe Transportation planner & Senator Elizabeth Warren.

few on our Board who cannot see what you see and put their



Assistant Secretary of Interior Kevin Washburn addressing NCAI General Assembly.

As Chairperson with the delegated administrative authority, I oversee the top governmental administrators of the Tribe including our Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer. I provide ministerial oversight over our Chief of Police, Judge, Gaming Commission Executive Director, and the Tribal Registrar. I proudly lead our Natural Resources team including our Environmental, Fisheries and Inland Directors. I work

Those detractors on our Board are not really my con-



Tribal Women leaders on implementation of the Violence of Against Women Act with NCAI President Bryan Claadoosby.

tect our 1836 treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather. As the Chair of CORA, I was invited by the US House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee to testify later this month in Congress but the date conflicted with the Manistique Board meeting. The Western-end Board Members ~ Directors Chase, Morrow, and Glyptis all voted to support changing the date but several Board Members voted to not change the date so it failed. Their argument, "skip the Board Meeting ~ you are

The test of someone's



Delegation of Sault Tribe Members in the Longworth House Agricultural Committee Meeting room with financial supporters of M.A.S.T. Picture front row: Director Cathy Abramson, Michelle Castagne, Meghan (Kelly) Starling, Carrie (Biron) Wichtman.

leadership is what others think of them in the long run. I am recognized as a team

own petty politics over the benefit of our entire nation? Ask yourself this question and decide whether or not their habitual hate is sufficient to earn their pay and your continued support. What are they doing other than complaining? What are they accomplishing to earn their weekly \$1,288 gross pay?

cern. Because you see, you put me here, not them. There exists a faction on our Board who have repeatedly opposed my requests related to change meeting times to accommodate my national level work.



With a great group of very smart American Indians and smart Federal Partners on the IHS Contract Support Costs Workgroup

Call: 800-793-0660 Cell: 906-440-5937 Email: chairpersonpayment@saulttribe.net Facebook 'Aaron Payment'

Chi-MeGwitch, Negee!

WATCH SAULT TRIBE BOARD MEETINGS ON LIVESTREAM: <http://new.livestream.com/TOSSABCS2>