

Unit 4 board report — updating membership



**DENISE CHASE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

In less than four years time, the tribal debt of \$28 million will be eliminated. After the debt is paid off, we will be able to

reprogram the funding (about \$7 million a year) back into programs and services and set aside a percentage of funding for future generations.

The tribal board needs to schedule a workshop to create a five and 10-year tribal strategic and revenue plan. The revenue plan is very important. We need to have a plan in place when casino expansion projects like Lansing occur so we can obligate a percentage of the casino revenues into savings, future expansions, provide additional funding for programs and services for the elders, youth, health and social services, etc.

The board also needs to plan and take a look at the possibility of giving ALL of our hard working team members either a

raise or cost of living increase. Some board members have commented during workshop discussions that some divisions can afford pay increases for their employees. We shouldn't pick or choose one program, division or enterprise over another, all team members should get an increase if the funding is identified, without cutting any programs or services.

The Gathering of the Clans powwow planning committee would like to invite you to the June 14 and 15 powwow in Manistique. The powwow is held behind the Manistique Tribal Center; free entrance and rough camping is available. Saturday grand entry is at 12 and 7 p.m. Feast meal is on Saturday at 5 p.m., and the auction is right after the feast meal. If you would

like to donate any items for the auction, please drop them off to Viola Neadow at the Manistique Tribal Center. I look forward to seeing you there.

On May 10, the Escanaba elders held a clean up of the Indian Pointe Cemetery in Nahma, Mich. Thank you to the following individuals who were able to volunteer: Betty Majestic, Gerald and Charlene Peters, Ernie and Pam Demmon, Ron and Brenda Nelson, Edward Goudreau, Beau Rochefort, Levi Morrow and Darcy Morrow. Thanks to the Manistique Kewadin Casino for providing lunch, pop and water, and for lending two of their maintenance workers to assist with the clean up. And, thanks to Beau for grilling. Pictures will be in

the *Elder Times* section of the newspaper.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge and thank our good friend and co-board member Joan Carr Anderson, for her years of service and dedication to the tribe, membership and her Unit V members. I wish her all the best, safe travels and good health during her retirement. I will miss this soft-spoken lady greatly, she is a true friend.

I would also like to say "congratulations" to all the high school and college graduates.

Thank you,
Denise Chase, Vice-chairwoman
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