

## **Fall 2020 - General Council Report**

The Closure of TeeWeePuu Center at Orofino, has made it difficult for the Senior Advisory Board to secure a meeting place in Orofino. Secretary Gloria Johnson has to call around to secure a meeting place. We had meetings at Orofino Fisheries, at Orofino City Park, and the Ponderosa Restaurant banquet/meeting Room.

We held meetings to plan and have input by Seniors for the annual Nez Perce Tribal Elders Day. There was a breakdown in communication by the Senior Advisory Board and the Senior Citizen Staff. The Social Service Director needs to address these problems, that Nez Perce Tribal Senior/Elders want to have input in their Tribe's Elder Day. Also when Social Service staff attend Nez Perce Senior Advisory Board Meeting, they need to conduct themselves in a professional manner and follow Roberts Rules of Order.

The Nez Perce Elder's Day was cancelled. the Advisory Board continued to have nominations and voting for Male & Female, Elder of the Year. We had the month of August for Nominations, & the month of September for voting for Elder of the Year. This year we had a ballot box in the Nez Perce reception area of NPTEC. The winner will be announcement at Fall General Council.

We requested information from NPTEC in our June Quarterly meeting, on Resolution GC Fall 18-02, Recognition of Elders 80 years Honorarium. General Council voted to change the age, we are waiting to see if NPTEC also passed this resolution. We did not hear from NPTEC Chair and we have requested this information again in our September Quarterly meeting with NPTEC.

We appreciate the NPTEC Liaisons for their attendance at our Advisory Board meeting and appreciate their comments and support.

We had made arrangements to attend the NICOA Conference in Reno, NV. The conference was cancelled because of the Corona Virus. Conference Contact Cheryl Archibald & Rebecca Morgan of Albuquerque, are confident the conference will continue next year at the same place

The Advisory Board questioned the Title change and raise in pay for a Senior Citizen staff. The Office Specialist was changed to Activities Specialist. If there is a change in job title with a raise in pay is this an issue with the HR Dept. policy.

We have discussed the Title VI Grant. The Senior Citizen program has done an excellent job on the Culture aspects and the congregate activities. The Grant states there should be an Evaluation Measure. The Board receives a lot of verbal complaints from Nez Perce Tribal elders. The complaints and concerns could be addressed if the Grant guidelines were followed with a program evaluation by participants.

The Senior Advisory Board has read over their Constitution and Bylaws and feel this need to be updated and changed.

The Advisory Board has proposed a public meeting to NPTEC, for Nez Perce Tribal Seniors and Elders. There are several programs that address needs of Seniors and Elders. Some programs have different age groups and qualifications. To name a few: Elder grant with Social Service, Later in Life program, Firewood program, Elder Abuse, Elder home rehab. Nez Perce Seniors & Elders need better communication with the Tribe for more information. Most retired elders don't have email, internet, or face book and are not aware of some programs.

The Board has received complaints of the Elder of Year elections. We are also concerned with this process and need to have further discussion, to include our NPTEC Liaisons.

We had concerns about Elders living alone & not being checked on during the pandemic. We also had complaints of Elders after surgeries needs. There is a Senior Citizen care provider at both Lapwai and Kamiah. We also have community health reps.

The deliveries of meals to our Nez Perce Tribal Elders needs to be addressed. The selection of who receives meal delivery is unfair and needs further discussion.

The Senior Advisory Board is a function of the Nez Perce General Council and is funded by Nez Perce Tribal money. The elections of Board members are due. The members have been elected at the monthly Birthday party at each Senior Meal site, every 2 years, elected verbally & voted on by Nez Perce Tribal Seniors. We have not been able to gather to hold an election. We did not know the virus would last this long. We are open for discussion & suggestions.

Susie Weaskus, Chair 208/276-3250

Marilyn Bowen, Vice Chair 208/935-8107

Gloria Johnson, Secretary 208/816-1491

Allen Slickpoo Jr, Treasure 208/702-2637

Betty Kinser, Member 208/791-8650

Loretta Islas, Member 208/791-7633