

MINUTES FOR QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN INDIAN ELDERS ASSOCIATION

JULY 26, 2017

HOSTED BY SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE

The conference began with the playing of the drums. The flags were brought in by the Veterans and posted. Carl Wesaw acknowledged each veteran by name. Clarence White opened with a prayer. Clinton Pelcher, Jr., gave opening comments. Chief Frank Cloutier welcomed everyone. He gave thanks to the Creator; encouraged elders to stand up and use their influence in the war against drugs. Chief Cloutier hopes to gather tribes together to form a coalition on the war against drugs. He also made an announcement on different activities going on throughout the day. Chief Cloutier was thankful to have everyone who was able to attend. He also noted that youth workers were available to help with elder needs.

ROLL CALL

The Roll Call was conducted by Secretary Dawn Lenger. All eleven Tribes were represented by their respective delegates. A quorum was achieved with 20 voting representatives from eleven tribes.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- i. Julie Shananaquet - Elder Power
- ii. John Kawegoma - Pipeline Update
- iii. Appointment Announcement
- iv. Thank You Note – Eagle Staff
- v. Establish Committees - Volunteers
- vi. Student Incentives
- vii. AYAA Ventures

APPROVE AGENDA OF JULY 26, 2017

A Motion was made to approve the Agenda for July 26, 2017, with Additions by Brenda Garries. Seconded by John Kawegoma. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 4, 2017

A Motion was made to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2017, with two noted corrections by Coleen Nessner. Seconded by Beatrice Bailey. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR APRIL 2017 ~ TOM DERWIN

Mike Duschene was not able to attend. Tom Derwin reviewed the Treasurer's Report on Mike's behalf. Account balance is \$37,926.85. Scholarships are projected to be \$7,500 and Student

Incentives were \$10,925. The account has more than enough money to cover the incentives; so, a lottery will not be necessary.

Joann Douyette made the Motion to Accept the Treasurer's Report for April 2017. Coleen Nessner seconded. Motion carried.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION UPDATE ~ TAMMY OKULY-SHANANAQUET

Of 30 applications that were received, nine met the criteria for consideration. However, she is still waiting on the scores from one judge. Once the final determination is made, awards will be distributed and posted to the website. Awards will be officially announced at the October 2017 meeting. Dale Anderson asked if the scholarship amounts were the same as previously awarded. An answer could not be provided at that time.

NOTE: On Thursday, July 27, 2017, before the Closing Ceremonies, Tammy had received the scores from the final judge. The winners were announced: \$1,000 Scholarship – Jamie M. Cheske (Pokagon Band), Elissa B. Griffin (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe), and Caitlin E. Wanie (Bay Mills); and \$500 Scholarship – Kyle E. Flynn (LTBB), Grayson K. Roe (Keweenaw Bay), Bailey A. Birenbaum (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe), Cimantha R. Veale (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe), Taylor St. Onge (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe), and Robert S. Dick, Jr. (Pokagon Band).

SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED ~ DAWN LENGER

The Suggestion Box was well received. A list of the April 2017 suggestions that were received was reviewed. Copies were available on the tables. Dawn reviewed the list providing the Executive Committee's input and what changes had been made to date. She also noted that other items will be implemented but may not always be available, being technically dependent, *i.e.*, overhead screens, PowerPoint projectors, *etc.*

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING (NICOA)

The next meeting is September 10-13, 2018, in Temecula, California. Carl Wesaw was the representative in 2016. His expenses, *i.e.*, hotel, food, and mileage, were covered. Discussion ensued. The former MIEA President and his wife were sent and expenses paid by MIEA. Tootsie from Little Traverse Bay Band also attended previously. Tribes sent their own delegates at tribal expense. NICOA is a valuable meeting! Maxine from Pokagon recommended sending two representatives because of the large number of workshops. One person can't attend them all. Tammy believes NICOA is very valuable and two representatives of MIEA should attend.

John Kawegoma made a Motion to send two delegates or Executive Committee members plus pay expenses to NICOA 2018. Seconded by Beatrice Bailey. Motion carried.

WHAT IS HOSPICE?

Dawn Lenger did a presentation on Hospice utilizing a video and PowerPoint presentation. After the presentation, a Q & A time took place. In summary, the hope is that tribes who have the means, *i.e.*, tribal health department, would establish a hospice program to assist tribal citizens in caring for a loved one who is nearing the end of their time on earth (young and old). If a tribe does not have the means to provide such a program, Dawn encouraged tribes to utilize their local

hospice chapter that will provide the needed support in caring for those loved ones. This is not to take the place of the family but rather to support the family and the individual preparing to pass on.

NOMINATIONS

At the October 2018 Fall Conference of the MIEA, elections will take place for Vice-President, Treasurer, and Officer-at-Large. In addition, because of the recent resignation of Dawn Lenger as Secretary, this position will also be voted on for the remaining 1-year term. Nominations were taken:

<i>Vice-President</i>	Carl Wesaw~accepted (unopposed)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tammy Okuly-Shananaquet~accepted (unopposed); and Jodie Palmer~declined
<i>Officer-at-Large</i>	Emily Harrington~accepted; Clinton Pelcher~accepted; Joan Jacobson~accepted; John Kawegoma~accepted; Theresa McFall~accepted; and Henry Smith~declined (not an elder)
<i>Secretary</i>	Julie Shananaquet~accepted; and Jodie Palmer~accepted

In response to the Suggestion Box, each nominee will provide a brief 2-3 minute talk at the October 2018 Fall Conference as to why they want to serve MIEA and what characteristics/qualifications they believe they have to offer.

NOTE: Mike Duschene will continue to maintain the MIEA website.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1. Julie Shananaquet (LTBB) – Julie spoke on utilizing our elder power by going to individual TC members about a General Welfare Exclusion Act. This would help answer questions about Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, *etc.* July suggested having a tribal attorney speak at an MIEA conference on the General Welfare Exclusion Act. Julie also discussed how many tribal families reside in urban areas. Tribes make donations to United Way and other organizations to help provide services meet the needs of citizens who don't reside in service areas.
2. John Kawegoma – John provided a pipeline update. At the April 2017 Spring Conference, the concern was raised about President Trump continuing the pipeline in the Dakotas. John researched what “Land in Trust” from mid-1980s means when the government was negotiating with Tribes about unclaimed property. This term is supervised by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) but is not necessarily considered pure sovereign rights with the Department of the Interior. Tribes will have to step up and declare rights as sovereign nations to our lands. This is a gray area that President Trump was able to use to order the continuation of the Dakota pipeline. John recommends the

establishment of a Tribal Supreme Court of Michigan Tribes represented by all of the Michigan Tribes with rotating judges.

3. Appointment Announcement – President Derwin announced that in the interim, Jodie Palmer will be the acting Secretary through the October 2017 Fall Conference of the MIEA.
4. Thank You Note – President Derwin would like to send a thank you on behalf of MIEA to Dave Schultz for the work he did on the MIEA Eagle Staff and the box in which it is kept. Dave was recently in a motorcycle accident. He is recovering but did suffer injuries,
5. Establish Committees – President Derwin, again, addressed the desire to establish committees to assist the Executive Committee in its duties. He would like to see volunteers who would be willing to work on fundraising, revision of the bylaws, draft policies, *etc.* If anyone is interested, President Derwin asked individuals to please contact him.
6. Student Incentives – LeAnn Stindt was thanked for her work on the Student Incentives. She announced that many students sent thank you notes. Those notes of appreciation are located on a table to the side of the conference room. Please be sure to read them.
7. AYAA Ventures – Terry Tyler announced that the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has a couple of new ventures, Advanced Protein Solutions and InTerra Nutraceuticals. She gave a brief description of these and would like to have a complete presentation given at an upcoming MIEA Conference.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The auction raised \$3,168 in support of MIEA programs offered to MIEA tribes! Good job, everyone! Thank you!

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Brenda Garries. Seconded by Coleen Nessner. Motion Carried.

Meeting Closed at 11:42 a.m.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

October 9-11, 2017	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
April 23-25, 2018	Hannahville Indian Community
July 2018	Little Traverse Bay Bands
October 2018	Grand Traverse Bay Band
October 2019	Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians