



THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting

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VOLUME 11, NUMBER 6

25c PER COPY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1983

SPECIAL MEETING EXPECTED TO BE DENIED BY LREMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Bruce Barton

A news analysis. This article may include opinions of the writer.

Lumberton-The Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors meet today at 5 p.m. to decide if the petition calling for a special meeting of the cooperative membership can "show" cause to merit such a course of action. A Lumbee River EMC spokesman verified Friday that 2,000 names, "which exceed the 10 percent requirement of the cooperative's by laws" for calling for a special meeting had been met.

The petition calls for a special meeting of members to be held on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cumberland County-Memorial Auditorium in Fayetteville for the purpose of a recall election to replace all 12 members of the LREMC Board of Directors.

The dissident group, led by a white farmer named Carl Branch, and calling itself the LREMC Action Group, was formed following the board's decision not to extend Derl Hinson's (the cooperative's former general manager's) contract.

RECALL EFFORT HAS RACIAL CONNOTATIONS

Although the LREMC (sic) Action Group began by spouting racist remarks the group has recently been devoting its attentions to exposing the expenses of the board of directors, calling them excessive.

Reprinted is one of the first releases from the group.

"LREMC Action Group organized December 29, 1982 in an effort to persuade the Board of Directors of LREMC to explain their reason for firing Derl Hinson, the General Manager.

"Some of the organizers had inquired of the Board, at the Board of Directors' meeting on December 4, 1982, why Mr. Hinson was fired.

However, through a total lack of class and common courtesy the Board ignored our request. We felt as members we had the right to communicate with our elected representatives, which are one White, one Black and ten Indians. With this strong imbalance of races seems to come strong prejudices, in that the only true fault to be found in Mr. Hinson is the fact that he is white.

"The Bylaws of the Corporation allow the members to petition for recall when Directors do not proportionally represent the members. In light of these high handed actions, as well as their high expenditures, and racial imbalance, we have chosen to petition for recall of these Directors.

"This group feels that the Board

must be challenged before the fiscal health of the Corporation is endangered."

The group has also talked about too many Indians on the board, and castigated them as "high rollers," and inferred that they were using corporate monies "to party it up" in Las Vegas at a recent gathering of electric cooperative officials.

The board's only official response has been to speak of an "erosion of confidence" between Hinson and the board in an official statement on January 18, 1983.

At a meeting of concerned consumers at the Mt. Airy Jaycee Clubhouse recently, an Indian participant noted "this whole fuss is because Indians (of the 12 member board 10 are Indians, 1 Black and 1 White) fired a white man and, worse than that, replaced him with an Indian (Ronnie Hunt)..."

Another nuance that has surprised mostly Indian consumers is the fact that not a single word has been stated about Derl Hinson's seeming extravagant spending habits.

For instance, according to information compiled by this writer, Hinson was responsible for spending \$259,557 over a three year period of 1980, 81, 82. This includes expenditures, benefits and salaries. According to LREMC records Hinson bought three expensive autos for his use, from June 1980 until August 1982, including a 1982 Buick Diesel. Interestingly enough the so-called LREMC Action Group never uncovered this information while investigating expenses of the board members, or decided not to share it with the rest of the membership.

The petition gives two reasons for calling for the special meeting.

Branch and his cohorts say the board was guilty of "The imprudent and uncalled for dismissal" of Hinson and "imprudent and arbitrary actions..."

Concerned about the continuing attacks in the press, Rev. Elias Rogers, seemingly the focal point of much of the dissent, has hired Barry Nakell, a UNC-Chapel Hill law professor, to represent his interests. Some of the other members are considering using Nakell too.

Nakell said, at the Mt. Airy meeting, that the petition does not give cause for a special meeting and recommends that the board deny the recall effort. Nakell is well known in the area for serving as official attorney when Indians broke double voting in 1974.

This writer, also a LREMC consumer, has also asked to appear on the agenda of the meeting today at which time I will ask the board to deny the request for a

special meeting, for a number of reasons, including the reason that "Said recall effort...violates my voting and civil rights" in attempting to overturn my votes cast at most recent annual meeting in October (a meeting that Carl Branch has admitted publicly he did not attend)." and "that Carl Branch...has caused a number of racially offensive statements to be publicly stated." For instance statements have noted "high handed actions..." "Party it up..." "Strong imbalance of race..." "high rollers..." "...A total lack of Class and common courtesy..." "Only true fault to me found in Mr. Hinson is the fact that he is white..." and more.

According to an informal polling of the board, it seems that the special meeting will be denied on a split vote. Branch and company, more likely than not, will then take to the courts for relief. The matter is expected to be settled, probably, in the federal courts.

Methodist Lay Rally begins Sunday

The annual Lay Rally of the Rockingham District, United Methodist Church, will begin at 7 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 13 at Chestnut Street United Methodist Church in Lumberton. A nursery will be provided. For those who arrive early a fellowship hour will be held in the Educational Building of the church and singing of some favorite hymns will begin at 6:45.

The program will include Bishop William R. Cannon as the featured speaker, with special music by a combined choir composed of choir members from churches throughout the district (Richmond, Scotland and Robeson Counties). District Lay Speakers will be consecrated, the church with the largest attendance will be recognized as will the Five Outstanding Seniors from the district. Also a district Lay Person of the Year will be named.

Dotsy Reynolds, District Lay Leader, encourages attendance at this rally which will be the final one during the term of Dr. Joseph B. Bethea, District Superintendent.

Dr. Brooks rebuffed in attempt to speak to County Board of Education

by Connie Brayboy

A lengthy agenda was aired at the Robeson County Board of Education on Tuesday evening. The agenda consisted of routine matters mostly.

Dr. David E. Brooks, Pembroke veterinarian, appeared at the meeting and requested to address the board. Chairman David Green advised the board that Dr. Brooks had not followed procedure in requesting to address the board. The procedure is that you make your request to speak by the Thursday prior to the Tuesday board meeting. To add anything to the agenda requires a two thirds vote of the board. On motion by Dr. Dalton Brooks, second by Bill Oxendine, a vote was taken as to whether Dr. David Brooks would be allowed to speak. Voting for were Dalton Brooks, Bill Oxendine, and Gerald Maynor. The motion was lost.

Dr. Brooks stated that he had some suggestions for making the school system better...He also stated that he had been to as many as sixteen schools as a volunteer this school year. However, he was not allowed to continue...

The Grievance Committee reported that five parents in the McDonald area had requested clarification as to whether they were actually residing in the county school system. A committee was appointed to investigate and clarify the matter for the parents.

In other matters the board passed a resolution excusing a day lost at Mangolia School when a boiler blew up.

They authorized the superintendent to request that the state board of education deviate class size in compliance with the state class size law. They awarded the contract for West Robeson Sewage System to Frank Horn Construction of Fair Bluff and accepted the audit report for the 1981-81 school year. They again retained S. Preston Douglas Associates for accounting services.

The Vocational Education Advisory Committee was appointed and included Robeson Davis from Maxton, Aileen Holmes from Saddletree and Harbert Moore from the Prospect area. E.M. Morton voted against the motion to approve the committee appointments.

PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

VALENTINE'S DANCE

The Robeson County Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor a Valentine's Dance on Monday, Feb. 14 from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. at the Jaycee Fairgrounds on Highway 41, Lumberton. Music will be provided by a JAT, a D.J. There will be a dance contest and door prizes awarded. Cost is \$2 single or \$3 couple.

PTA MEETING

Union Elementary School will hold a PTA meeting on Tuesday Feb. 15, 1983 at 7:30 p.m. An open house will follow a brief business session. All parents are invited to attend and discuss their child's progress.

PLATE SALE

The PTA of Union Elementary School will conduct a chicken and Barbeque plate sale on Friday Feb. 18, 1983 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The cost of each plate is \$3 and deliveries will be made. Please call the school at 521-4272 to place orders.

CLASS OF '80 INVITED TO COOKOUT

Gene Oxendine invites all the members of the Pembroke Senior High Class of 1980 to a cookout at his home on Highway 72 near Jamestown Trailer Park.

Oxendine, a former football star at Pembroke, is cooking a hog and cow, and looking forward to seeing all his former classmates and friends.

The cookout is scheduled for Saturday night, Feb. 12 beginning at 8 p.m.

PLATE SALE PLANNED

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Church of God Indian District will be sponsoring a chicken and barbecue plate sale at the Saddletree Church of God in Lumberton on Friday, Feb. 18 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Price is \$3 per plate. Proceeds will go for camp ground improvements. The public is invited to attend. Mrs. Millard Maynard is the District LA President.

County Commissioners approve "Workfare" Project

Lumberton-The Robeson County Board of Commissioners have approved a pilot project proposed by the county department of human resources to provide work for welfare recipients and high school students who drop out of school.

The project will be supported with \$250,000 in federal funds at no cost to the county. Chris Antwi, the director, told the commissioners.

According to Antwi, the project will set up a jobs training program for people on welfare, especially targeting women receiving Aid For Dependent Children payments.

Antwi said the project will rely on private industry to provide training and jobs in exchange for tax credits and direct payments.

Under the new project, businesses may receive reimbursement for as much as one-half the salary for a year of qualified low-income people they hire. In exchange, the industry must agree to continue the person's job at the end of the training program.

Antwi said the funds will also be used to find employment and provide counseling for high school students who are considering dropping out of school.

Antwi said all the school systems in Robeson County have indicated an interest in participating in the program.

In other business Monday the commissioners approved a \$16,950 annual audit contract with the William E. Barnes accounting firm in Elizabethtown.

ROBESON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY COUNTY CONVENTION

The Robeson County Republican Party will hold its bi-annual County Convention Thursday, February 17th at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the Robeson County Court House, Courtroom #2.

The purpose of the Convention will be to elect officers for the upcoming two years and to select delegates to attend the 7th District Convention. Your attendance is appreciated.

BLOOD DRIVE

A Blood Drive will be held February 17 at 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Prospect School Gym. It is sponsored by Prospect School. All are urged to come and give.

Bobby Bell sees Stars in Miami

Bobby Bell of North Miami, Florida, attended a show at the Eden Roc, Miami Beach, last month. The show starred Dorothy LaMour, Yvonne DeCarlo, Patty Andrews, Morey Amsterdam, Gordon McRae, Forrest Tucker, and Gloria DeHaven in the Pompeii Room.

Such a lineup would have been impossible 20 years ago. Any one of these stars would have cost as much as a movie producer or night club could afford. The show was great.

Carnell Locklear questions election procedure for Indian Commission

Pembroke-Carnell Locklear, an unsuccessful candidate for a seat on the board of directors of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, has registered a complaint with the commission concerning, as he sees it, electoral and procedural shortcomings in conducting the election. Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA), a constituent member of the Indian Commission, conducted the election. The meeting was held Jan. 27 at Pembroke Senior High School.

Locklear, general manager of the popular outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind," questioned the fact that nominations were received from the floor after most of those participating in the election had already voted, and the lack of voting procedures being explained to those participating in the election.

Locklear was one of those vying for the seat vacated by Mrs. Ruth Woods, who chose not to seek re-election to the position which represents the Indian populace from the Maxton, Smiths, Pembroke, Philadelphia precincts.

Clinton L. Thomas, Jr., executive director of the Pembroke Housing Authority, easily won the election, swamping the opposition with a resounding 428 votes. Carnell Locklear followed with 143. Other receiving votes were Elisha Locklear, 61; Lisa K. Locklear, 40; and Hubbard Lowry, 15 votes. Harold G. Dial, who nominated himself from the floor, did not receive a vote.

The Indian Commission has not officially responded to Locklear's complaint as A. Bruce Jones, executive director, is out of town attending a meeting in behalf of the commission.

Pembroke celebrates Jaycette week



Left to Right, Frances Chavis, Chairman of Jaycettes Week, Bess Marie Lowry, Co-Chairman, James A. Ja-

cobs, Mayor of Pembroke, Karen Dial, President. (Elmer Hunt Photo.)



Town of Pembroke

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

NORTH CAROLINA

ROBESON COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING JAYCETTE WEEK

PROCLAMATION NO. 1983-1

WHEREAS, the United States Jaycettes provide leadership training and individual development for young women between the ages of 18 and 35; and WHEREAS, the Jaycettes is the fastest growing young women's organization in America; and WHEREAS, over 59,000 Jaycettes are setting the pace by their example of volunteer service to their fellow man, their communities and their country; and WHEREAS, Jaycettes strive to be, "In factually become more efficient and productive; and WHEREAS, Jaycettes believe that "faith in God gives meaning and purpose to life";

NOW, THEREFORE, I James A. Jacobs, Mayor of the Town of Pembroke do hereby commend the Pembroke Jaycettes for their many accomplishments to the Pembroke Community and to the State of North Carolina and Salute the Pembroke Jaycettes during the U. S. Jaycette Week February 13 - 19, 1983.

ATTEST: JAMES A. JACOBS (SEAL) MAYOR