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# CAROLINA Indian Voice

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## Candidates for Tribal Chairman

### Rev. Jimmy Strickland, Running for Tribal Chairman



The Rev. Jimmy Strickland, Pastor of Union Chapel Community Baptist Church, has announced his candidacy for Tribal Chairman. In making his announcement, Reverend Strickland released the following statement:

"After days of meditation, prayer and discussion with other tribal members, I am offering to serve my tribe as the first Tribal Chairman. I realize that it is an awesome responsibility, but I strongly believe that we as Lumbee people must set a precedence with our first tribal council. We must, for the sake of our grandchildren and great grandchildren, elect people to represent us who are spiritually mature, morally sound, full of integrity, and honesty, and those who have no personal agenda.

"If elected Tribal Chairman, I affirm to you that I will seek the face of God before making decisions.

I will seek the Counsel of others, especially our elders. I will make all decisions with this thought in mind: All wisdom comes from God. With that thought in mind, I will not become a typical politician. I will by the Grace of God remember that the Lumbee people are a proud people.

We are people who believe that a man's word is his bond. I will strive, if elected, to uphold the principals of the Lumbee people - truthfulness when we speak, honesty in our business dealings, responsibility for our young and elderly, a strong commitment to education and better employment opportunities.

"I have a vision for our people. I visualize a nation that provides for the social, economic, cultural and educational welfare of the Lumbee-Cheraw. I visualize our young people returning to the traditional ways of our forefathers, respect for others and a belief that we are indeed our brother's keeper. I visualize our elders feeling safe and secure in their homes. I visualize a return to hope and confidence in the ability of our young to make the right decisions, confident that the upcoming generations will be good, moral leaders who will protect our future while preserving our past.

"I believe that we can and must preserve the old way of life while continuing the basic Christian principles which have made us a strong, proud, and determined people."

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### Rev. Hubbard Lowery to Seek Tribal Chairmanship



Rev. Hubbard Lowery, local minister and businessman has announced his candidacy for tribal chairman. He released the following statement.

"My name is Reverend Hubbard Lowery, candidate for the Tribal Chairman for the Lumbee-Cheraw Tribe. I'm married to Phyllis Clark Lowery. We have four beautiful children, Willie Wabnema, Ella Olehonna, Erra Nizone, Kylee Shakorie. I am presently Pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church, just started on our ninth year there, and the Lord is still blessing our ministry.

For more than 20 years now I have been actively involved in religious, economic, and social concerns of our Indian People in Robeson and surrounding counties.

"Ten years ago I was appointed to the Board of the Southern Baptist Native American Fellowship. This is a National organization, with membership in all 48 states, Alaska, Canada, Central and South America. I have had numerous occasions over the years on this board to represent our Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, and our Lumbee people, before groups, in Boston, MA, Virginia, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, South Dakota and others.

"Every five years our Board sponsors the largest and most prestigious Indian camp in the nation. Indian Falls creek in Oklahoma at our last sponsored camp, we have more than 5000 Indians to attend from the U.S., Canada, several foreign countries.

"In addition to this board, I've had the opportunity to write several quarterlies for the Baptist Sunday School Board, the largest and one of the most prestigious publishers in the nation. I wrote the Native American edition which was published and distributed throughout the United States and Canada and several foreign countries.

"As Baptist Men's Director for the Burnt Swamp Association, I've had opportunity Dakota and Oklahoma. The first two projects with works crews from our local churches we went out to New Mexico, and South Dakota bought the materials, and built the churches in three days, in both cases. These projects as well as others still in progress have brought the Burnt Swamp Association and the Lumbee a lot of well deserved recognition among the Indian Tribes across the Nation.

"More recently as Chairman of the friends and supporters of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, I had opportunity to go to our state legislature to lobby our Senators and Representatives, and to speak before the Senate Sub Committee against a

bill designed to kill the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. I thank God that our efforts were successful. In June of this year I was invited to the State Capital building where I witnessed our Governor Jim Hunt's signing our 99 year lease for the cultural center.

"As Co-Chairman of the People for the Lumbee Constitution Committee, our campaign committee, several associations, methodist, Church of God, Assemblies of God, and a resolution of support from the LREMC Board of Directors. Our committee was also successful in working hard to acquire the Indian people with the constitutions, and getting out the vote on the election days, that resulted in a land-slide victory, and historical milestone for our people over the fourth of July holiday.

"Being on the cutting edge and in the trenches for our people is nothing new for me I've out there in front for years, that's why I am seeking your vote to elect me as your Tribal Chairman.

"If I am elected as your Tribal Chairman, immediately after the election I would move to have the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs and Gov. Jim Hunt to recognize the newly elected Tribal Government as the legitimate government of and for the Lumbee Nation.

"Secondly, with our Tribal Government in place, I would begin a process to heal and unify our Indian People behind its government.

"Thirdly, I would expeditiously set up a committee to oversee the design and construction of a spacious building to house our Tribal government, offices board Rooms and meeting halls.

"I would convene our Tribal Council to determine the needs of the 21 Indian districts. Medical, educational, social and cultural, once a dollars amount has been determined, I would go personally to Washington, D.C. to our Congressman first determine the amount of funds presently available for recognized tribes if any, then have a bill introduced in Congress to Obtain the remaining balance of funds necessary to meet the needs of our Indian communities. This action would be repeated each calendar year.

"I would seek the cooperation of Duke, and Chapel Hill Medical community to bring a major Medical Complex to our Indian Community to study and treat the various diseases that afflict our Indian People. As Tribal Chairman I would work to ensure that, that facility be staffed by our own Indian Doctors, Nurses, See Lowery Page 5

### Ray Littleturtle Runs For Tribal Chairman



By Barbara Braveboy Locklear

Saying he had the maturity, time, knowledge and expertise to lead the Lumbee Tribe of Cheraw Indian people Ray Littleturtle, on Tuesday morning, announced his candidacy for tribal chairman.

"One can't lead Indian people without first knowing something about whence they came. Their past is an integral part of their future," Littleturtle commented.

The 56-year-old grandfather said he sought the counsel and permission of community elders before officially filing for tribal chairman. "I honestly believe that anyone who would want to be a leader would have to first seek counsel from the elders, because that's the Indian way.

"In often days people would seek the counsel of the leaders and elders before making a step forward, and I have facilitated doing this...once I got the affirmative that they had no problem with my filing, I assured them that if elected, I would always seek their counsel before going into tribal council so as not to give them the inconvenience or the necessity of having to come and plead their case in front of the council, because as tribal chairman, it would be my

responsibility to access the elders and find if our government is the government of the people and doing what it should do."

Earlier in the month Lumbee Indians overwhelmingly approved a constitution that will set up a tribal government. The constitution provides for a tribal chairman, a 21-member tribal council elected from districts, and a five-member judiciary to settle questions about the constitution. The Constitution Assembly has been charged with overseeing the first tribal election which will be held on Saturday, August 27, 1994.

Littleturtle said he does not see his earlier involvement in the tribal recognition efforts and the formation of a Constitution Assembly as a conflict of interest in his filing for tribal chairman.

"As a matter of fact, I made the formal motion to go back to the churches and get spiritual, solid thinking people who would come up with a document that we all could live with...and not be influenced by anyone, including myself who had been on the recognition committee. I held no position and have allowed the Assembly to do their job."

He said the assembly's job will have ended when the members have supervised an election. "My lack of involvement in their work was by design so as to be appreciative of their work and be able to follow their dictates.

A traditional Indian educator and advocate, Littleturtle has worked at the grassroots level to promote Indian art, history and culture for more than three decades. Nationally recognized for his expertise in Indian cultural promotions and interpretation of Indian culture, he has interacted with all Indian tribes nationwide; particularly the traditionally people who are involved in tribal governments.

"I've learned that their problems are not unique for we share the same problems. But in knowing them, I can network. I see that as a strong quality, because I haven't seen anyone else out here fighting this battle with me."

He said he doesn't have employment conflicts in so much as his involvement in consulting and culture goes along with the networking ideal. "I see my time flexibility as an asset which will allow me to better serve the Lumbee tribe."

Littleturtle said he wants to see the personal agendas put behind because, "There's not going to be any great amount of monetary wealth in the tribal leadership role."

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Assembled for the first Robeson Community College Board meeting of the 1994-95 year are left to right: Trustee James E. Thomas of Lumberton, Trustee Herbie Locklear of Fairmont, School Attorney L. Murchison Biggs, Trustee James H. McLean, Jr. of Maxton, Trustee Sue W. Brown of Lumberton, Trustee Thomas Jones, Jr. of Lumberton, Chairman John A. Staton of Red Springs, Vice Chairman Johnny Hunt of Rowland, Trustee George D. Regan of St. Pauls, Trustee L. Harbert Moore of Maxton, Trustee Joy Johnson of Fairmont, Trustee H. Franklin Biggs, Sr. of Lumberton, RCC President Fred G. Williams, and Trustee W. Earl Antone of Lumberton. Antone, Hunt, Locklear and McLean are appointees of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners. Franklin, Biggs, Brown, Johnson and Thomas were appointed by the Governor and Jones, Moore, Regan and Staton were appointed by the Robeson County Board of Education.