

CAROLINA Indian Voice

"Promoting Communications Between Indians and Nations"

Pembroke, NC
Robeson County

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Lance Harding Elected Speaker of Tribal Council

Lance Harding, who represents District 21 on the Lumbee Tribal Council, was elected Tuesday night to be the first Speaker of the Council. The speaker will conduct the meetings and serves in the same capacity as the Chairman of a Board. Harding resides in the Saddletree area.

Other officers include: Gary W. Locklear of Pembroke, Vice Speaker; Emma Lee Locklear of Prospect as Secretary; Sam Wynn of Fayetteville as Treasurer; and Rev. Jerry McNeillor Rennert as Chaplain.

In electing the officers, the Council took into consideration the geographic boundaries of Lumbee Territory.

In other business, the Council retained the services of Arlinda Locklear as Tribal Attorney, and also requested the services of Lumbee River Legal Services for administrative services.

The Council will meet on Monday night at 7 p.m. (Oct. 17) in the PSU Chavis Center. Tribal members are encouraged to attend these open meetings.



Ronald Hammonds

Ronald Hammonds Announces Bid for Re-Election to LREMC Board of Directors

Ronald Hammonds of the Saddletree community has announced his candidacy for re-election to the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors. Mr. Hammonds has represented District #5 for the past twelve years. Hammonds, an agri-business man is a board member who will speak out. He will address the issues and take a stand on issues without regard to what is politically expedient. He has demonstrated that he is people oriented and is concerned with the needs of people. He has demonstrated his commitment to other people, not only by his service on the LREMC Board, but by his varied involvement with community service organizations, such as the Saddletree Center where the members render service to the community and have a program by which they encourage young people to seek post secondary education. Hammonds released the following statement:

"I would like to ask the member consumers of LREMC to vote for Ronald Hammonds on Tuesday,

October 18. You must vote for four members of the board of directors. Make Ronald Hammonds one of your four. I am a board member who will speak out and I am not ashamed of my record as a straight forward, honest board member. It is not always popular to be out spoken, but I believe I was elected to represent the members. I cannot do that by agreeing with things when I feel in my heart they are not in the best interest of the cooperative.

"I have worked for ten years in the past for an electric company. This experience has been a basis for building and expanding my knowledge of the electric cooperative programs. I am very familiar with the electric programs and can talk intelligently about the services that we are suppose to be providing.

"I feel that my service on the EMC board has only been a continuation of the community service that I feel honor bound to provide to people in our service area. It is only an extension of community service and I believe that I have a good record and that the record will show that I am committed

to serving our members fairly, honestly and with the utmost integrity.

"As an agri-business man I am familiar with the needs of those of us who reside in rural areas. I am a farmer and believe that I have represented the interests of the agri businessmen well during my tenure on the LREMC Board of Directors. I am a dedicated agri businessman, but first of all, I am dedicated to my family. I am proud of the accomplishments of my wife, Linda, who is completing work on her doctorate and the accomplishments of our four children. I am also dedicated to my church, Mt. Olive Baptist Church in the Saddletree community. I am owner and operator of CCA Farms and promise that if elected I will continue to make decisions on the LREMC board that are conducive to good business practices, fair and equal employment opportunities and do what I can to keep the cost of electricity from accelerating at a rapid pace.

See Hammonds Page 4

Jim Dial Receives Certification and Seeks Re-Election to EMC Board



LREMC Board President Lacy Cummings presents Mr. James H. Dial (right), a member of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation's Board of Directors, a Certificate in recognition of his completion of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Certification Program. Mr. Dial, vice president of the LREMC Board, has served as District 1 representative for six years.

Mr. Dial is seeking re-election to that position. The annual meeting of LREMC will be held Tuesday, October

18, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center of Pembroke State University. Mr. Dial released the following statement relative to his candidacy:

"It has been a privilege to serve as your representative for the past six years. I am extremely proud to have received my certificate. It is an indication that I have fulfilled my commitment to become one of the most knowledgeable person on the LREMC Board. I am committed to continuing my service to the member

consumers of our cooperative

"Running an electric cooperative is a business, and it needs to be run like one. My expertise in the business world, as owner or D & D Drainage has given me more knowledge of the financial perspective of running our cooperative. Since I have been a member of the board of directors, I have seen our business grow from a \$17 million a year business to one operating on a budget of \$48.6 million. This is no small task. We have been fortunate to have added 2,111 new services to bring our total service from 26,065 to 38,493. We have grown from 2,917.7 miles of line to 33,605.6 miles. I am proud of our growth and am happy to have been a small part of this progress by our local cooperative.

"I am a retired educator and have been a businessman for most of my adult life. I am proud of our commitment to industrial and community development. We have staffed for Economic Development at our local EMC and more than doubled the number of industrial accounts at EMC. We are first in North Carolina to utilize customer owned peak shaving to improve customer rates and financial standing of the co-op.

See Dial Page 4

A Front Page Editorial of The Carolina Indian Voice

In The Name of Jesus: Race, Religion and Politics in Ol' Robeson

This is the third in a series of editorials about the state of things in Ol' Robeson.

It might surprise some Robesonians to learn that Jesus lived in the Mediterranean area of the world when he walked amongst us here on earth...before he was resurrected from the tomb. People in that part of the world, many times, are darkly-hued, tending toward being olive-skinned- yes, even Brown and Black-complexion. In other words, if the truth be known, Jesus looked a lot like we Robesonians, in all our white, red and black anthropological finery.

But you'd never know it here in Ol' Robeson the way people carry on, invoking the name of Jesus in their racial way of looking at things. Two examples are the hiring of the ex-felons issue in the school system, and the candidacy of Glenn Maynor, an Indian Democrat, for sheriff.

The weirdest thing we've seen so far are two letters that appeared in *the Robesonian*, our local conservative daily on October 4, 1994. Here are the two letters.

Bible we read in these parts, not in the unforgiving way he put it anyway.

Also, according to the seeming right wing slant of stories appearing both on the front and editorial pages of *the Robesonian*, we know they're against allowing ex-felons to work in the public schools. After all, they've told us over and over and over again. Their editorials have been, many times, in our opinion, mean spirited and bordering on the edge of racism, as we see it. Go back and review everything *the Robesonian* ever said negatively about William Johnson, the white predecessor of Indian schools superintendent Purnell Swett. Johnson and Swett are superintendents of the same school system. The only good thing we can say about *the Robesonian* is that they did not claim divine revelation in their editorial, right-wing assertions. Also, as you read how some of the stories are skewed, seemingly, against Glenn Maynor, you're left with the perception that *the Robesonian* might be one of those "Democrats (sic) for Sanderson." It is strange that

Local churches voice opposition to board's felons in schools decision

First Baptist members sign petition

Dear Editor:

The members of First Baptist Church, Seventh and Walnut Streets, Lumberton, voted in a business session, Aug. 31, the following session:

"We oppose the recent decision by the Robeson County School Board to allow convicted felons as employees in our public schools. We urge the board to rescind this action and employ only persons of the highest ethical and moral standards possible."

William Powell Tuck

Pastor

(This petition was signed by hundreds of the members of First Baptist Church and personally deliv-

ered at the September Robeson County School Board meeting.)

Chestnut Street United Methodist opposes decision

Dear Sir:

On August 28, 1994, the Administrative Board of Chestnut Street United Methodist Church unanimously approved a resolution denouncing the decision by the Robeson County School Board members to hire convicted felons into the school system. As adamant supporters of public education, we found that the decision to hire convicted felons was an example of poor judgment by the school board members and another strike against an already tarnished school system.

With numerous institutions of higher education in the area (Pembroke State University, Robeson Community College) that are producing highly trained educators and technicians, it is truly inconceivable that there would be a lack of qualified individuals to fill vacancies within the school system.

It was noted at the meeting that to be an elected official carries certain rights and responsibilities that must be morally, ethnically, and prayerfully directed. These responsibilities have not been fulfilled. On behalf of Chestnut Street United Methodist Church, I strongly urge the school board to reverse the decision to hire felons in the public school system.

Sincerely,
Timothy Bell
Administrative Board
Chestnut Street United Methodist Church

These two letters are worthy of comment. They never did mention Jesus, nor did they offer any scripture to back up what they said. Like a lot of things in Ol' Robeson, the letters, appearing in tandem, were strange and unsettling in their unforgiving mode. It is significant that these two churches—one Baptist, the other Methodist—are two of the largest, predominately white churches in Robeson County. According to these two letters one could reasonably infer that they would have been against Moses, King David, the Apostle Paul, and even Jesus himself. Moses killed an Egyptian one time for picking on one of his Hebrew brothers. Folks, we suspect some of you find this hard to believe, but God actually forgave Moses. He was, later on, chosen by God to lead the Jews out of bondage in Egypt. King David was not allowed to build the temple in Jerusalem because "he had blood on his hands." Yet, he did mighty deeds in God's name. The Psalms, many of them written by King David, cry out to a forgiving God. The Apostle Paul delivered Christians up to the Sanhedrin to be tried for, as he saw it, heresy and treason. Paul was struck down by a great burst of light (understanding) on the road to Damascus, then got up with a forgiving heart. I wonder if Jesus would be welcomed here in Ol' Robeson, speaking against the state and the status quo like he did. Somebody in our midst might even throw a stone or two, accusing him of treason. But he would have asked us to love one another, to forgive one another, to understand one another. He speaks to us today, but many of us have turned away from Him, and do not hear what He is saying to us.

Another letter-writer who has gotten our attention is an O.H. Lewis, Jr. of Lumberton. He supports Sheriff Stone, decries Rep. Charlie Rose, and speaks strongly against ex-felons. He won't come right out and say it, but we wouldn't necessarily be surprised to find that he is one of those phenomenon in Ol' Robeson called "Democrats (sic) for Sanderson." In a letter to the editor in *the Robesonian* dated August 29, 1994, Lewis said, in part "...certain school board members have surely taken leave of their senses by voting to allow convicted ex-felons to work in our public schools. No! We do not have to allow this to happen, the 'Lord giveth' and the 'Lord taketh,' so says the Bible..." He says more, much more, but you get the self-righteous drift. Also, he didn't give us a reference for that so-called biblical quote because it's not in the

a so-called newspaper for all three races (40% Indian, 25% Black, 35% White) would take some of the conservative stands they have taken lately, but then this is Ol' Robeson. Remember!

We could cite some of the absurd ravings of Richard Monroe, the RAE President, on the subject of hiring ex-felons. In one article, he slurred a slew of people, including just about every one of the board members. Go back and read Monroe's, in our opinion, mean-spirited article entitled "Latest School Atrocity no Surprise" that appeared in *the Robesonian* on August 29, 1994. Monroe got into the act too. At one point, he exclaimed, "Why in heaven's name would the public allow their children to be taught by convicted criminals?" It might be, just might be, because it was "in heaven's name." But, again, enough of that. Let's not use Jesus' name, or refer to heavenly things, except in a spirit of love and peace and, yes, Mr. Monroe, forgiveness!

And now Rep. Frances Cummings speaks in Jesus name. Our Black legislator has bolted the Democratic Party, refusing to support Glenn Maynor, the Indian Democratic candidate for sheriff, allying herself, instead, with James Sanderson, the white, Republican candidate for sheriff. Some things are just mind boggling and a Black representative talking about it has nothing to do with race, while serving in a district that was carved out for Blacks is one of those things. Race was pretty important to Frances Cummings, apparently, when she chose to run in a Black district against a White, Pete Hasty.

Yes, race, religion and politics are strange bedfellows in Robeson County. Yes, strange things are happening in Ol' Robeson. Maybe in a future editorial, when time permits, we'll tell you the story of the church some White Methodists in Pembroke gave to Chestnut United Methodist Church in Lumberton. And how they turned around and sold it back to the community for \$60,000. But time's run out this week. Maybe next week, huh? In the meantime, if anybody-Black, White, or Red-comes to you in "the name of Jesus," except in the spirit of love and forgiveness, show them the door. Amen.

Again, we feel the election of Glenn Maynor as Sheriff on November 8 will go a long way towards healing our racial wounds here in Ol' Robeson. We wholeheartedly support Glenn Maynor for Sheriff.