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Community response very positive at LRDA public meeting

On Monday, August 07, 2000, Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. held a community meeting at Fairmont Middle School. The meeting was hosted by board members, James "Sonny" Sampson from the Rowland area and board Chairman Leroy Freeman from the Fairmont community, to receive comments and questions from the tribal membership. In addition to Freeman and Sampson, all board members were in attendance, with the exception of Gwen Locklear of Hoke county and Roderick Locklear, one of the at-large board members.

After opening comments from the Chairman, at-large board member Leon Jacobs, who is also the Chairman of the Federal Recognition Committee, gave an update on the tribe's efforts to obtain federal recognition. Each program director was present and gave an extensive presentation on their respective programs. They also provided those present with brochures detailing the programs. Applications for tribal enrollment, as well as applications for the Day Care and Head Start programs were available for those interested. Program Directors responded to questions from those present and encouraged tribal members to feel free to contact them at their offices for any needed assistance.

Tribal members were very interested in the Lumbee Housing funds and asked their questions of Donald Locklear, Director of Lumbee Housing. Questions were answered and two persons who questioned the status of their applications were given special attention and their names and addresses received by LRDA in order for the status to be given on Tuesday morning.

Joel Garth Locklear, recently reelected to the North Carolina Indian Commission, was sworn in at this meeting by District Court Judge Jeff Moore. One of the responsibilities of LRDA is to oversee the election for a Lumbee representative to the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. Mr. Locklear is being sworn in to begin his second term in that position.

There was approximately 300 tribal members present. A meal was provided prior to the meeting. Tribal members in attendance commented on the need for such meetings, and welcomed the opportunity to learn about LRDA programs. The meeting was most successful. According to Chairman Leroy Freeman, it is his intention to see similar meetings held in each tribal community.



LRDA Board Chairman Leroy Freeman is shown at the podium. Fairmont is included in his district.

Judge Dexter Brooks Re-appointed to the Bar Association's Race Relations Implementation Committee

On 14 July 2000, the President of the North Carolina Bar Association, James B. Maxell, announced the re-appointment of Senior Resident Judge Dexter Brooks to the Race Relations Implementation Committee. The Committee is charged with developing a plan for the implementation of the Final Report and Recommendations of the Commission on Race Relations in the Legal Profession adopted by the Bar Association's Board of Governors in April 1996.

Judge Brooks also served on the Commission on Race Relations by similar appointment of the President of the Bar Association. The Commission was created through joint action of the North Carolina Bar Association and the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers in order to promote the elimination of "both a perception and a reality of continued racial discrimination in the legal profession."

Although laws which formerly mandated discrimination on the basis of race are now illegal and laws have been enacted prohibiting such discrimination, the reality is that such discrimination may stubbornly endure in practice rather than in law. For example, in 1995, a 53-year old

white male, serving his fourth term as district attorney, was removed from office for using a racially derogatory term in referring to a black professional football player while trying to start a fight with him in a bar.

Today the primary problems may be with officials and people who act out their prejudices and racial attitudes, often in a very subtle fashion. In another context, according to The Fayetteville Observer, a recent study at Duke University Medical School, "revealed that white male students, when assessing identical coronary conditions in a white male and a black female, considered the man's more severe and the woman's quality of life less desirable. Minority and female medical students, on the other hand, rated the two equal." The study concluded that "some medical students show biases about patient race and sex even before they begin their clinical experience."

The progress in Robeson County, however, stands in stark contrast to the rest of the state. What has occurred locally in the Sheriff's Department, Clerk's Office, and with judges and magistrates appears to be unprecedented and unequalled throughout the state.



Joel Garth Locklear, left, is shown receiving the oath of office to the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs from District Court Judge Jeff Moore.



James "Sonny" Sampson is shown above. He mingled with the crowd after speaking to them. He is from the Rowland area and has served on the LRDA Board for twenty-five years.



Elvis To Appear For SATW! Closing Night!

Artistic Director David Oxendine has announced that he will perform an Elvis skit the closing night of the regular season of SATW! August 12, 2000 at 8:00 pm. After many request that he perform the Elvis impersonation he decided to perform it on the closing night. Oxendine has directed Randolph Umberger's Strike At The Wind! for 10 years this season and occasionally performs the pre-show having not performed in the show since 1990. According to Oxendine, "audiences get a big kick out of the Elvis performance and really get a chance to get involved in the show." He also stated this will coincide with the 23rd anniversary of Elvis Presley's death on August 16, 1977 of heart failure. For the price of one show, audiences will relive some of the magic of Elvis Presley and experience one of the best, if not the best outdoor drama in the country, "Strike At The Wind!" with music composed by Willie French Lowery. So come out early on August 12, 2000 to the Adolph L. Dial Lakeside Amphitheater 3 miles west of Pembroke off highway 74 near Purnell Swett High School. In order to get a good seat and catch one of Elvis' scarves, audience members should arrive at the theatre by 7:45pm. After the Elvis performance at 8:00pm SATW! will begin at 8:30pm. Ticket prices are \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for senior citizens (age 50 and older), and \$4.00 for children under age 12. For further ticket information please call 521-2433.



Dock Hunt, left, and his brother, Johnny Hunt of Rowland, were on hand for the public meeting.



Little Miss Lumbee Takonna Lynn Bullard is shown with Cat Littleturtle. They were both in attendance at the Fairmont meeting.

Photos by James M. Chavis

Gathering Of The Eastern Indian Nations At Sunset

Pembroke, North Carolina--The NC Indian Cultural Center will host the "Gathering of the Eastern Indian Nations at Sunset" on September 2, 2000, from 10 am to 9:00 pm. Activities will include Native American Arts & Crafts, food, swimming, boat tours, canoeing, "free" fishing, volleyball, and fireworks. Special guest appearances by Miss North Carolina Lorna McNeill and several North Carolina Indian Princesses. An honorary ceremony will be held to give special recognition to Korean and World War II Veterans. A special ceremony will be held to honor all Veterans. Entrance into the park and entertainment is free. Tickets for activities will be \$20.00 for a Family Pass (Parents & up to 4 Children (each additional Child \$3.00)); Individual Pass for \$5.00; a Group of 10 or more will be \$3.00 per person. A meal is included in the ticket price and will be served only from 11:00am until 2:00pm. Vendors are invited to setup for a \$50.00 fee. For additional information, please contact Beverly Collins at (910) 521-2433 or Kara Jones (910) 843-9484.

Every day is a new day to serve God

When we wake in the morning, we realize we have another day to serve God. Some of us, shortly after waking sit down and enjoy a cup of coffee and a little food. It's a pleasure to enjoy the taste of what we have. If we are lucky, when we leave for work or another daily activity, we are amazed at the sight of the rising sun. A little later we pause to enjoy the smell of the summer flowers, a rose or the smell of the fresh air itself. As we stand and listen to the birds sing, we wonder if they are talking to each other or just sending up praises to God. As the day heats up from the late day sun, we are pleasantly refreshed by a cool northern breeze. As the day draws to a close and we return home, we pause to thank God for the simple pleasures of life. Our five senses are a witness to the love and power of God. So much more should we ourselves be. "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord - praise ye the Lord." Psalms 150-6 Thank God for Jesus.- A Concerned Christian