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LSD Commission Established for Tribal Election to be held November 7

PEMBROKE-It's official! The 39 member Lumbee Self-Determination Commission met in an all day session at Bear Swamp Baptist Church Saturday and, after ironing out real differences between commission members, established November 7 as the election date for those wishing to serve on the new tribal government.

The filing period for Lumbee Indians who wish to serve on the new tribal government will run from August 23 until October 6. The new body will have a tribal chief and 23 tribal council members from 18 districts.

Chairman Jim Lowry said, "This is a major step forward for the commission and the Lumbee people. Now we can move forward to carry out this election." Many of the decisions made Saturday were based on survey findings authorized by the commission and carried out by faculty members and students from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The survey is being validated by the North Carolina Institute of Government on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

Robeson County will have the most representation with ten districts. **District One** includes Fairmont, Whitehouse, Sterlings, Orrum Thompson (in Robeson County), as well as Columbus County. **District Two** includes Back Swamp, Smyrna and Britts. **District Three** (2 representatives) includes Lumberton, Wishart and East Howellsville. **District Four** (2 representatives) includes Burnt Swamp, Red Springs, Philadelphus and Raft Swamp. **District Five** (2 representatives) is made up of Smiths (Oxendine & Prospect) and Maxton.

District 6 will include North Pembroke. **District 6A** (2 representatives) will include South Pembroke & Union. **District 7** includes representation from Gaddys, Rowland, Alfordsville and South Carolina. **District 8** includes West Howellsville and Saddletree. **District 9** is made up of St. Pauls, Parkton, Shannon, Rennett & Lumber Bridge. **District 10** covers all of Hoke County. **District 11** will include Scotland & Richmond counties. **District 12** (2 representatives) includes all of Cumberland, Pender, Brunswick, Bladen and New Hanover counties. **District 13** covers Eastern N.C., including Wake, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Chatham, Orange plus counties east. **District 14** covers Central N.C., including Guilford, Alamance, Forsyth, Randolph, Davidson plus other central counties. **District 15** covers Western N.C., including Mechenburg, Union, Gaston, Cabarrus, Anson, Iredell, Lincoln, Rowan, Catawba, Stanly plus counties west. **District 16** will cover eastern U.S., or all states east of the Mississippi except N. & S. Carolina. **District 17** will cover western U.S. including all states west of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers & all foreign countries. ***Unless stated otherwise, districts will have one representative.** Candidates for office must: be an enrolled member, be 21 years old, live in the district except for the tribal chief, pay a \$100 fee and have full citizenship.

Ms. Pearlene Revels, Executive Secretary of the Robeson County Board of Elections, met with the commission Saturday to discuss the election process and offer suggestions. The commission hopes the commission and elections board can work together, either for the elections board to supervise and validate the election, or allow the commission's election board to set up shop near by during the November 7 election in Robeson County. The commission expects to finalize election procedures and plans at its next meeting.

The commission also approved a public relations campaign, including a proposed website and extensive mailings before the election.

The election is part of a mandate established by Superior Court Judge Howard Manning in which he set up the commission and procedures to assure Lumbees the right to determine what kind of tribal government they desired, if any, and the mechanisms to carry it out. Manning intervened when the Tribal Council sued Lumbee Regional Development Association and asked the courts for tribal assets. Judge Manning ruled that neither LRDA nor the Tribal Council was the rightful government. The election November 7 will elect a new body which will write the governing document for the tribe and establish the tribal government. Judge Manning has said that he will authorize this elected body to be the government and to handle monies coming into the area for the tribe.

The next meeting of the LSDC will be Sept. 9 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Chavis Center on the UNC-Pembroke campus.

The official address of the LSDC is P.O. Box 2709, Pembroke, N.C. 28372. Public notification will be given as soon as a commission headquarters is established within the next ten days or so. Until then, candidates can file by registered mail.

School Board Approves Ninth Grade Team at Lumberton High

LUMBERTON-In spite of a plea for more time to "create a quality program", the school board Monday night gave Lumberton High Principal Greg Killingsworth the charge to establish a 9th grade athletic program.

Killingsworth had pleaded for more time since the school year was underway and the football program beginning a week from Friday. Killingsworth said, "It would be extremely difficult to field a ninth-grade football team but if you tell me to make it happen, I'll find a way to make it happen." In spite of Killingsworth's concerns, the board voted unanimously to establish the program.

Board member James DeFreece officially took his seat, and was sworn in after an unsuccessful complaint by Thomas Jones, the losing candidate for DeFreece's seat in the last school board election.

Prior to the meeting, the acrimony on the board surfaced anew as a number of board members objected to a seating arrangement suggested by John Campbell, the board chairman. After a long discussion, the board finally complied with Campbell's request and moved to the new seats. Board member, Patrick Bullard, for instance, objected and said, "this is professionally demoralizing. Here we are crying and whining over our seating arrangement when there are bigger fish to fry." Board members Terry Smith, DeFreece, Steve Martin and Millicent Nealy also publicly objected and resisted moving to their new seats.

The board also heard an update about teaching vacancies, the number announced as 47 at the meeting. Richard Monroe, a human resources specialist, noted that "a third of these vacancies are in kindergarten through

fifth grade because the state requires certified teachers there." Monroe also said that the remaining vacancies were scattered throughout the system, and that all classrooms were staffed with substitutes "suitable to teach our children."

An update was also given by Pete Harrell of Construction Systems, the company overseeing the county's building programs. He announced that the new wing and cafeteria at Lumberton High "are substantially complete." Other work at the school is on schedule.

The board also approved bids totaling \$2.6 million for additions and improvements at the Union Chapel Elementary School and approved a re-bidding process to other schools, including Long Branch, Orrum Middle, Southside/Ashpole, Union Chapel and W.K. Knuckles Elementary.

Wood plans to use diversity as Strength

Robeson County Commissioner Noah Woods kicked off his campaign for NCACC third vice president during last year's Annual Conference. Woods was recently elected to this position.

Following are some of the basic facts about Woods and his statement to introduce himself and his candidacy:

Born: Aug. 5, 1939, in Robeson County

Education: Bachelor's degree in elementary education, Pembroke State University; National Science Foundation Institute, Mercer University, Macon, Ga., 1966 and 1967, and Earlham College, Richmond, Ind., 1968; master's degree in educational administration, East Carolina University; master's degree in education specialist, ECU; Educational Leadership Training, Dr. Larry Coble; ECU Leadership Academy, Dr. Selma Blinson.

Professional Background: Principal, Pembroke Elementary School; principal, Pembroke Middle School, 1994-1997; principal, Magnolia High School, Lumberton, 1981-1994; principal, Oxendine Elementary School, Maxton, 1968-81; teacher, Oxendine Elementary School, 1962-1968; OE Fellows Program, U.S. Office of Education, Division of Adult Basic Education, 1970.

Political background: Member of Robeson County Board of Commissioners, 1990-present, including chairmanship of personnel committee, 1991-97; chairperson of human

relations committee that recommended establishment in 1993 of county's human relations office; chairman, Robeson County Board of Adjustment, 1991-present; member of public works and jail health committees, 1991-present; chairman, Robeson County Board of Health, 1992-present, during which the health department has won numerous awards from NACO, NCACC and other organizations; member of the National Association of Counties' Board of Directors, 1999-2000; NCACC director, 1999-2000; presidential appointment, National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

Community involvement: Member of Pembroke Jaycees, including club treasurer (1968-69), internal vice president (1974-75); recipient of several Jaycee awards, including Key Man (1969), Outstanding Spoke Award (1969), Spark Plug Award (1970), Outstanding Young Educator (1974), Jaycee of the Year (1975) and Rooster of the Year (1979); member and one of the initial founders, Riverside County Club of Pembroke Inc.; member and church school superintendent, First United Methodist Church, Pembroke; past member of the Board of Directors for Robeson County Historical Drama Association ("Strike at the Wind"); Babe Ruth baseball coach, 1963-1978; T-Ball coach and organizer, 1980-1995.

Spouse: Dr. Ruth Dial Woods

Children: Seven children, eight grandchildren.

"It has been said that to whom

much is given, much is required.' I have had the opportunity to serve humankind in a variety of fields. My life's history records almost 40 years as a teacher and school administrator, extensive involvement in church and community development and activities, and leadership in promoting youth development through recreational opportunities. For the past 10 years I have had the opportunity to serve as a member of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners and to serve on numerous local, state and national committees and boards.

"Throughout my personal and professional life, I have consistently advocated and supported inclusion to ensure that we approach equity as a process of meeting diverse needs of diverse populations in contrast to 'one way for all' approaches. My candidacy is about uniting east and west, rural and urban, suburban and inner city. My campaign is about building upon our differences by using differences as strengths to achieve unity through diversity.

"As 3rd vice president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, I will support our state legislative goals that reach out and address our diverse needs for our counties and our state. I will work with the National Association of Counties to advocate the inclusion of our goals and to share visioning with them to help all of us combine our resources and talents to improve the quality of life in our communities, our state, and across our nation."



Fleetwood's Lumberton Plant General Manager John Beddow delivers a check to UNCP Chancellor Allen C. Meadors following the Fleetwood/Teaching Fellows Charity Golf Classic. Teaching

Fellows Director Irene Aiken and Pembroke Plant General Manager Scott Harker look on.

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Support Groups to meet

The Spinal Cord Injury Support Group will meet Monday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. in the Family Room at Southeastern Regional Rehabilitation Center of Cape Fear Valley Health System, located directly behind Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

The group usually meets on the first Monday of each month at the same time and location. For more information, please contact Kim Horne, Senior Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, at 609-6461.

The Renal Support Group will meet Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 6 p.m. in the Observation Unit Waiting Room on the third floor of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center of Cape Fear Valley Health System.

Patients, family and friends of those with renal disorders as well as those interested are welcome to attend.

The Renal Support Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, please contact Jean Canady at (910) 609-6713.

Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have experienced the death of a child, will meet Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Drive Education Center of Cape Fear Valley Health System, located at 3418 Village Drive.

The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the month at the same time and location. For more information, please call Martha Lynch at 609-4481.

Fleetwood Charity Golf Classic Raises \$7,000 for UNCP Teaching Fellows Program

The eighth annual Fleetwood Homes Charity Golf Classic played at the Pine Crest Country Club raised an estimated \$7,000 for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke's Teaching Fellows Program.

It was record amount for the annual fund-raising event. Fleetwood has now donated nearly \$80,000 to the program over the past eight years, including \$10,000 to help start the Teaching Fellows Program nearly a decade ago.

"We're very committed to doing anything we can to improve education in this county," said Scott Harker, general manager of Fleetwood's Pembroke plant.

UNCP Chancellor Dr. Allen C. Meadors said Fleetwood's donations have allowed the Teaching Fellows Program to set a record this year.

"We just can't say enough about their support and the fact that this year we have a record number of freshmen entering into the program," said Chancellor Meadors. "A very, very large amount of this record goes to these folks. The money from this (event) helps make our program a cut above."

Both Harker and John Beddow, general manager of Fleetwood's Lumberton plant, competed in the team tournament. Each team had four golfers and played under a

captain's format.

Scott Rhode, Pat Locklear, Dosey Chavis, and Gregory Nash captured first place with a 61. Steve Crawford, Lemuel Strickland, Herry Bradley and Lynn Joyer finished second with a 62 having to win a tie-breaker over the team of Bobby Housnel, Eric Batchelor, Ken Johnson and Rust Jones who also shot 62, but had to settle for third place.

In addition to the tournament, the event had prizes for tee shots closest to hole on the course's par three holes. Housnel won on the second hole, Bill Brewer won on hole seven, Jeff Tiffin won on hole 10 and Cliff Despain won on hole 12. Leon Singleton won the longest drive competition on hole eight.

While several golfers went home winners, no one went home as big a winner as the Teaching Fellows Program according to the program's director, Dr. Irene P. Aiken.

"I'm extremely grateful for what this event allows us to do with our program," said Aiken. "It helps support seminars, mentor activities and travel for the fellows."

The Teaching Fellows Program is a state supported program that provides scholarships, education and guidance to UNCP students who commit to becoming teachers upon graduation from UNCP.

AmeriCorps Grant To Boost Services For Those With Disabilities

Raleigh-The NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service has awarded a \$299,137 AmeriCorps grant to the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services to help welfare recipients with disabilities enhance their job skills. The program, called the CAREERS Project, is designed to enable 200-300 North Carolinians with disabilities to become gainfully employed.

Each of the twenty AmeriCorps members working with the CA-

REERS Project will mentor 10-15 clients over a twelve-month period. Mentors will work with vocational rehabilitation counselors, job placement specialists, mental health program providers and other social service providers to give clients a support system to become more marketable in the workplace.

In addition to ensuring that clients receive adequate job counseling/training, mentors will assist with transportation and day care needs, arrange classes on such topics as

nutrition and money management, and help coordinate services for problems such as substance abuse and domestic violence.

"I commend the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation services for helping those with disabilities achieve their employment goals," said Gov. Jim Hunt, whose office houses the NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. "The CAREERS Project will help those on Public assistance become more self-sufficient, instill in them a sense of

pride and accomplishment, and enable them to provide for themselves and their families."

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, part of the NC Department of Health and Human Services, was created in 1920 and provides a comprehensive program of rehabilitation and independent living services for persons with disabilities. The Division will recruit and train AmeriCorps members for the CAREERS Project during the fall of 2000 and launch the CA-

REERS Project in early 2001.

The twenty AmeriCorps members will serve clients at ten sites in Craven, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Lenoir, Mecklenburg, Pitt, Robeson, Rockingham, Wake and Wayne counties. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members will receive monthly stipends and educa-

Revival Planned at Youth for Christ

Revival with Evangelist Teddy Freeman will be held August 20 through August 25 at the Youth for Christ Holiness Church in Maxton, N.C. Services begin at 6 P.M.

tional awards to repay student loans or finance college, graduate school or vocational training.

For more information on the CAREERS Project, contact Georgia Steele, Assistant Director, NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services at 9190733-3364.

on Sunday night and 7:30 P.M. nightly. The public is cordially invited to attend by the pastor, Rev. Odell Wilkins, and the congregation. NC. Services begin at 6 P.M.