

The CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges in a Tri-Racial Setting"

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LRDA Awarded Rehab Grant for \$443,710.00

Lumbee Regional Development Association has been awarded a \$443,710.00 grant from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency to implement a Single-Family Rehabilitation Repair Program. The grant was announced to the Board of directors of LRDA on January 24th.

"The award of 443,710 was more than LRDA expected to be funded, if it was to be funded at all," said Mr. Dewey Locklear, Executive Director. LRDA had requested a grant of \$500,000 from the NC Housing Finance Agency in September under its Request for Proposals for the Single-Family Rehab Grant Program.

Locklear stated that "It is unusual

for an organization to get most of what it asks for in such a grant request. If you get half you have to be pleased. This makes us very excited about future relations with the NC Housing Finance Agency since we have demonstrated the capacity to do a project of his magnitude. They have a host of other programs we plan to apply for."

According to the grand award letter from the Housing Finance Agency the Single-Family Rehab Program attracts applications from a broad variety of housing providers across the state. Forty-three applications were received with funding requests totaling over \$12 million. Twenty-three or-

ganizations were approved for funding. "Success in this competition reflects the need for housing rehabilitation in your service area and perhaps more importantly, your organization's commitment and capacity to meet that need. For that we congratulate you," wrote A. Robert Kucab, Executive Director of the Housing Finance Agency.

LRDA will have to attend several workshops in March on the program procedures and reporting to be conducted by the Housing Finance Agency in Raleigh before services begin. This is the largest grant for rehab received by any Indian organization in North Caro-

lina in the history of the Housing Finance Agency.

Mr. Leroy Freeman, Chairman of LRDA, received the news of the award with great satisfaction. He stated, "This will allow LRDA to continue a service that is one of the greatest needs in Robeson County. Poor housing conditions lead to income drain on poor families due to energy efficiency losses and more payout to utility providers. This program will allow for repairs to homes that will lead to increased home values and saving in heating and cooling costs in the long term," he continued. "For the elderly on fixed incomes this will be a blessing that is definitely needed."

Our Tribal Constitution

by Cynthia L. Hunt

This week we will continue our look at the Lumbee Tribal Constitution. Our review thus far has included an evaluation of Article I, which defines the tribe's territory and jurisdiction. This week's installment will begin with a review of Article II that defines the membership of the tribe. Article II is one of the most important provisions in our tribal governing document. It explains who is eligible for membership in the Lumbee tribe. This week I will explain the current enrollment membership of the tribe and the effects the language included in Article II will have on future membership issues.

Before we begin our review of Article II, I feel it is important to discuss the issue of tribal membership, and how those issues were decided before the adoption of our tribal constitution.

Historically in the Lumbee tribe, there was not a written membership criteria. Everyone knew who the tribe's members were. However, in the 1800s when the Indian school system was established, there were committees established to address questions regarding whether someone was a member of the tribe in order to attend the Indian schools. These committees became known as the "blood committees" and functioned as late as the 1950s. The committees were composed of tribal leaders from the various tribal communities and had exclusive authority in determining tribal membership.

In 1979 Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc., the agency responsible for administering tribal programs for many years, opened the Lumbee Tribal Enrollment Office. This office was charged with the responsibility of establishing a procedure for tribal enrollment. For many years the Lumbee Tribal Enrollment Office, tribal leaders, tribal elders, and Julian T. Pierce of Lumbee River Legal Services worked at length to develop a sound membership criteria. The tribe adopted formal enrollment criteria in the 1980s to determine tribal membership. Under these criteria, eligibility for membership is limited to persons who can demonstrate direct descent from a person identified as Indian on the source documents. There are various source documents including US Federal Census records and church records.

This language is included in Article II / Section 1:

The general membership of the Tribe shall consist of those persons who apply for enrollment and demonstrate direct descent from a person listed on Source Documents which are listed on Exhibit A to this Constitution and incorporated herein by reference, and who maintain contact with the Tribe.

Please note the phrase "maintain contact with the Tribe" included in Section 1. Not only does an individual have to demonstrate a genea-

logical tie to the tribe, but an individual applying for tribal membership in the Lumbee tribe, must be able to demonstrate they maintain a certain level of contact with the tribe. This is a strong requirement for enrollment in a tribe. However, the requirement of maintaining tribal relations is important because it protects the tribe from individuals having remote tribal ancestry who themselves, in every sense of the word belong to other ethnic groups and who may be more numerous than the entire legitimate tribal membership.

Article II - Section 2 also addresses maintaining contact with the tribe as a requirement for tribal membership.

Article II - Section 3 addresses dual membership. Dual membership means a person may be eligible to enroll with two tribes. However, this Section states, "Notwithstanding eligibility otherwise, no person's application for enrollment shall be accepted if the applicant is an enrolled member of any other Indian tribe unless the applicant has relinquished in writing his or her membership in such tribe." Therefore, if a person is enrolled with the Waccamaw-Siouan and applies for membership in the Lumbee tribe, they must give up their membership in the Waccamaw-Siouan tribe in order to be enrolled Lumbee.

Article II - Section 4 defines the voting general membership of the tribe. It is defined as "... all members of the tribe who are eighteen years and older and who are registered voters in accordance with duly adopted tribal ordinances." Sometime before the next Tribal Council election in 2003, ordinances regarding voter registration must be enacted. These ordinances will determine how voter registration will be dealt with in tribal elections.

Article II - Section 5 states the following:

The tribal council shall have authority to enact such tribal ordinances governing tribal membership as are consistent with this and other articles of this constitution, provided that no individual shall be eligible for adoption into the Tribe unless such individual can demonstrate Lumbee or other Indian ancestry.

This Section gives the Tribal Council the authority to enact tribal ordinances relative to tribal membership. It also allows persons who can demonstrate ANY Indian ancestry the right to enroll in the Lumbee Tribe. This means that a Coharie, Waccamaw-Siouan, Haliwa-Saponi, Person County Indian, Meherrin, Eno-Occaneechi, or even a Cherokee from the Qualla Boundary reservation could enroll in the tribe.

This language in our tribal constitution is most disturbing and is not in the best interest of the tribe. The current enrollment in the tribe is approximately 50,000. We do not need language that will increase this number. The only thing the tribe can gain from this is to dilute the tribe's distinctiveness as to Lumbee genealogy. For many years, the

tribe has been criticized for having such a large membership. In addition, while I agree that we should not apologize for having such a large membership, I do not feel that adopting any person who can demonstrate Indian ancestry will achieve anything useful. I am positive this Article will be the subject of an amendment at a future date.

In conclusion, tribal membership is vital to any tribe. The US Supreme Court has ruled that every tribe has the right to determine who its members are. Tribes cannot function effectively without sound membership criteria. It is important to note that tribal enrollment is one of the most significant governmental functions our Tribal Council has at this point.

Next week we will continue our review with Article III - Distribution of Powers.

Bryan Adrian Summer Basketball Camp

Registration is now open for the 24th Annual Bryan Adrian Summer Basketball Camp. Boys and girls ages 5-19 are eligible. The Summer Camp is held at North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, N.C. the date is July 7-11. Included on The Camp Staff are: Kris Lang (UNC), Jason Capel (UNC), Anthony Grundy (NC State) and Darius Songaila (Wake Forest).

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White Hill Baptist Church Food Distribution Successful

By Vinita Maynor Clark

This past Saturday many people discovered White Hill Baptist Church, their caring and compassionate members regardless of their age who began giving out boxes of food in the early hours of the morning and did not finish until the last box of food was passed out before noon. The public as a whole were honestly surprised at the over packed boxes of food that contained enough for several meals. Very few people walked away with just one box. Also, noted was the precision and dedication of those who were in charge. "I had never been to White Hill before," stated a person in line. "The only two things that I knew about it was that when they have a Gospel Singing, you can hear them all the way down the highway and that this is where Polly Lowrie, the daughter of Henry Berry

Lowrie is buried." One lady from the church invited everyone to come back on Sunday. Then the crowd replied "what time does it start?"

"This sure does make up for the Christmas Basket that I did not get. I know some people that could take lessons from these people" stated an elderly lady of the Lumbee tribe. The boxes included fresh pork sausage, fruit cups, cherries, flour, instant potatoes, canned juices, cooking oil, trail mix, canned vegetables, sweet potato pies and other items. There were no dented cans, or bruised food, no missing labels and nothing past the expiration date was given out.

By noon, the last box was given out with the count being more than 500. Several churches had applied to receive this food from the

USDA which is distributed to tribal governments and churches. However, there was a conflict over who would oversee the different distribution areas. The members of White Hill Baptist Church operated like a fine oiled machine and only took one break the entire morning. Members of the church assisted many who could not carry the packed boxes and the handicapped and disabled.

At the end of the day, when the members finally got the opportunity to sit down, many reflected on how they had spent this day in a positive manner and that it made them feel good inside.

There should definitely be more people like the members of White Hill Baptist Church.

Anniversary

of James & Rev. Tessie Blue

You are invited to attend the 56 Anniversary of James (deceased) & Rev. Tessie Blue, Sunday, February 24, 2002 at their home in Rayham, N.C. at 2:00 p.m.

We will have free food. We will have a drawing for a bicycle, pillows, bedspread and big pig.

An airplane will drop Rev. Tessie's gifts from the air at her home at 2:00 p.m. "Come on out and enjoy the food and bring your whole family."

Everyone is invited.

Carolina Indian Voice
521-2826

Third Annual Taste of Robeson

On February 26, 2002 the Literacy Department at the Robeson County Church and Community Center will be hosting its third annual Taste of Robeson. It is a food tasting frenzy featuring restaurants from all over Robeson County. This event will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Southeastern Agricultural Center located on HWY 74 East. Adult tickets are \$5.00 and children under 10 are \$3.00. A silent auction will also take place and all proceeds will go to benefit the literacy programs at the Robeson County Church and Community Center.

'Of Ebony Embers' Shows at UNCP, Sandhills

Pembroke, N. C.-- Performances of the music theatre production "Of Ebony Embers" will be staged at UNCP and Sandhills Community College.

The UNCP show will be Wednesday, February 13 at 10:15 a.m. in Moore Hall. The Sandhills show will be Tuesday, February 12 at 7 p.m. in Blue Hall.

Both performances are free and a part of the celebration of Black History Month. The production consists of a solo actor and a chamber music trio. "Of Ebony Embers" explores the lives and works of three outstanding but very different African-American poets with a musical backdrop.

Poets- Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay, all central figures in the African American artistic explosion in the 1930s known as the Harlem Renaissance- are seen through the eyes of painter Aaron Douglas.

Nationally known actor Akin Babatunde portrays Douglas. He is known for his work on the Public Television program, "Wishbone."

The Core Ensemble, consisting of a piano, cello and percussion, performs works by Duke Ellington, Jelly Roll Morton, Billy Strayhorn, Thelonious Monk and Charles Mingus. The Core Ensemble is the 2000 recipient of the Edward McDermott Award for Excellence in the Arts, awarded by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"We are very fortunate to have this wonderfully talented group of performers during Black History Month," said Dr. Gail Morfesis for the UNCP Music Department. "We would like to thank Sandhills Community Colleges for joining us in this venture and Chancellor Meadors for his support."

The performances are sponsored by UNCP's Music Department and the Office of Chancellor Allen C. Meadors and Sandhills Community College.

McIntyre Honored for His Work on ALS

Washington, D. C. -- At a celebrity filled event in Durham Saturday night, U. S. Representative Mike McIntyre received the Lou Gehrig/Jim "Catfish" Hunter All-Star Award for his efforts in the fight against the deadly disease Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

McIntyre, who is Co-Chairman of the Rural Health Care Coalition, has been instrumental in passing ALS specific legislation that waived the two-year period for ALS patients to receive Medicare benefits. McIntyre has also supported additional funds for the National Institutes of Health that conducts research into the cause of ALS.

Among the dignitaries at the Black-tie celebration of the ALS Association -Carolinas Chapter were baseball stars Cal Ripken, Jr., Curt Schilling, Lou Pinella, and Reggie Jackson. The honorary co-chairs of the event were Kevin Costner and Mrs. Jim "Catfish" Hunter.

ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal neuromuscular disease. A person diagnosed with ALS can expect to live an average of three to five years. ALS has no remission and its onset is rapid with inevitable deterioration, paralysis, and death. There are approximately 30,000 people in the US living with the reality of ALS every day. Currently, there are 2,400 known cases in North and South Carolina. Funds raised at the event will be used for continued research of a cure for ALS.

Dr. Jeffrey Moore Named Medical Director

Laurinburg, NC-- The renovation of Scotland Memorial Hospital's Third-floor for the new Center for Inpatient Rehabilitation is almost complete. Physicians will begin admitting patients to the Center by the middle of February.

Dr. Jeffrey Moore, pulmonologist and internal medicine physician with Laurinburg Internal Medicine, has been named the Center's Medical Director. Dr. Moore has practiced in Laurinburg since 1987. He is board certified in internal medicine and completed a pulmonology fellowship at Creighton University in Nebraska. He attended the west Virginia University School of Medicine and completed an internship and residency at Allegheny General Hospital in Pennsylvania.

When it opens in a few weeks, the Center will provide seven private patient rooms, a rehabilitation gym, an Activities of Daily Living room (ADL), a whirlpool room, and a dining area. Inpatient rehabilitation is a specialized program for hospitalized patients recovering from orthopedic surgery such as joint replacement, stroke, or other neurological disorders and injuries. Occupational, Speech, Recreation, and Physical Therapy will aid in each patient's recovery. "Our physicians and the hospital staff are very excited about this addition to our hospital's services," said Dr. Moore. "I'm sure our patients and their family members will be extremely pleased to know that they can now receive this care right here in Laurinburg. It's very hard on family members to help care for and visit their loved ones when they must travel out of town to recuperate from orthopedic or neurological conditions. In addition, our physicians can now more closely follow their patients' recovery."

My. Wood, Hospital CEO added "I'm delighted to see another member of the medical staff lend his expertise and leadership to help the hospital. Dr. Moore has served this community excellently for almost 15 years with quality care and compassion and we look forward to him overseeing the care of these patients."

The Center for Inpatient Rehabilitation at Scotland Memorial has a home-like atmosphere, making it easier for patients to transition to independent living when they are physically able. Most inpatient rehabilitation patients require a two-week stay and must be medically stable and able to tolerate a minimum of three hours of therapy per day.

"We invite the community to visit the Center during our open house and ribbon cutting on Tuesday, February 19 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.," continued Dr. Moore.

For more information about the Center, contact your physician or the Center for Inpatient Rehabilitation at Scotland Memorial at (910) 291-7321.

Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp

Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The Camp is by Invitation Only. Boys and Girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Players from 48 States and 7 Foreign countries attended the 2001 Camp. College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. Camp Locations Include: Boiling Springs, NC, Thousand Oaks, CA, Babson Park, FL, Gainesville, GA, Champaign, IL, Greencastle, IN, Dubuque, IA, Hillsdale, MI, Saint Paul, MN, Rochester, NY, North Canton, OH, Lock Haven, PA, Bristol, RI, Athens, TN, Commerce, TX, Blacksburg, VA, Olympia, WA. There is also a Team All Star Camp for School and A.A.U. Teams. Team Camp Locations Include: Boiling Springs, NC, Thousand Oaks, CA, Babson Park, FL, Greencastle, IN, Hillsdale, MI, Lock Haven, PA, Blacksburg, VA. For a free Brochure, call (704) 568-6801 ANYTIME.