

St. Regis Tribal Council Meeting

The monthly meeting for the St. Regis Tribal Council was held on April 1, 1995. The meeting was chaired by Chief John Loran and there were approximately 50 people in attendance. The meeting opened with the reading of the March minutes by Tribal Clerk, Carol Herne. The minutes were approved and then the first item on the agenda was presented by the Tribal Police Chief, Brad Shippee. Mr. Shippee informed the people that each reservation can only prosecute their own people, i.e., Mohawk people under Tribal laws and their own court system. The arraignments for misdemeanors will be in Bombay and felony cases will be taken to Malone.

The St. Regis Tribal Police have jurisdiction on the reservation and not the State Police. The biggest need for the police is with family disputes and land disputes. Shippee said he is investigating federal deputization. When this happens felonies will be arraigned in federal court in Syracuse. With federal deputization, the tribal police will have peace officer status. Shippee went on to say that any confiscated evidence (such as car, money, drugs) will stay within the community. When the trial is over, the tribe gets to keep all confiscated material. Mr. Shippee ended his presentation by telling the people and the public that he has an open door policy. He encouraged everyone to stop by the police station and he will answer any questions. A tribal member requested the tribal council to host public meetings to educate the community about technicalities and your rights. There were no dates scheduled for these requested public meetings.

The next item on the agenda was a financial report by Lee Cook. Mr. Cook gave his report on the expenditures and rev-

enues for the period January 1 to February 28, 1995. The financial report for this time period shows a deficit of \$402,857.00. There were no questions for Mr. Cook.

The constitution committee was then called upon to give their report. There are to be two public meetings on April 5 at 6:30 and April 19th at 6:30 p.m. Both public meetings will be held at the tribal council building. The constitution committee has a signed resolution setting the date to have a referendum vote on the constitution. The date has been set for June 3, 1995. The committee is producing a video on the constitution and this is nearly completed. The video will be made available to the community.

Allen White, Chairperson of the enrollment committee, gave a report on the committees work. A list of names has been turned over to the tribal chiefs. The tribal chiefs should then give the list to the tribal police for enforcement. Mr. White reported that there are still non-natives coming on to the reserve. The tribal rolls were again closed for a period of two months except for new born babies with two Mohawk parents. This was made in resolution form by Carl Tarbell and seconded by Reginald White. The resolution passed. If anyone has any questions they can be addressed to the enrollment committee. A tribal member asked if non-natives had any rights on the reservation. Chief Loran said, "none, only basic human rights." A suggestion was made that the tribal council send letter to the businesses on reservation requesting they secure work permits for their non-native employees. The tribal council said they would look into the feasibility of charging an assessment to non-natives.

The final item on the

agenda was other business. The tribal council reported that the caucus will be May 20 and the elections on June 3. Carl Tarbell asked what was happening with the Plattsburgh Air Force Base. Chief Philip Tarbell explained to Mr. Tarbell and the people that the issue of the Air Force Base was in the hands of the Department of Interior. Another person made a point of saying that she thought Chief Norman Tarbell and Chief John Loran had put a stop to the Plattsburgh business. There are bills to be paid and this has not been done. There was no reply to this comment. An update was given on the Salmon River School issue. The Mohawk Education Committee is moving ahead with a court continuance. Chief P. Tarbell said they were waiting to hear from Salmon River right now. A question was then asked by Melvin White about the progress of gaming. Chief Loran said you have to ask those involved. Ricky Tarbell said he's close to finding the dollars to back his casino. No other potential gaming contractors were in attendance to give updates on their progress. A question was posted to Chief Philip Tarbell in reference to a consulting organization called Sun Gold. The tribal member wanted to know why Sun Gold was not considered a management contract. Chief P. Tarbell said Sun Gold was assisting with the development of White Pines and was not a management contract. At this time Chief Norman Tarbell interjected that he was removing his name from the White Pines contract. He is quoted as saying, "I will not allow you to have this."

Before the meeting closed, a tribal member asked if the tribal council has attempted to get permission from the other

councils about having gaming or to ask if they want gaming. No one wants a recurrence of 1989 and if you, the tribal council, want local busi-

ness people to help with financing, then there needs to be input by all councils. The meeting adjourned with this comment.

St. Regis Mohawk Health Services Diabetes Committee News

The St. Regis Mohawk Health Services Diabetes Committee, the staff of the Tsitewatakaritat (Let's Get Healthy) and the Mohawk Coalition Committee participated in an informational workshop presented by the University of Vermont staff who are working co-operatively with the Akwesasne program. The University of Vermont has been working with the St. Regis Mohawk Health Services for several years to help the Akwesasne community better understand diabetes. The UVM team, Health Services and Tsitewatakaritat (Let's Get Healthy) are working with the children at the Mohawk School, their parents and the community to educate each other about diabetes and to introduce preventative measures.

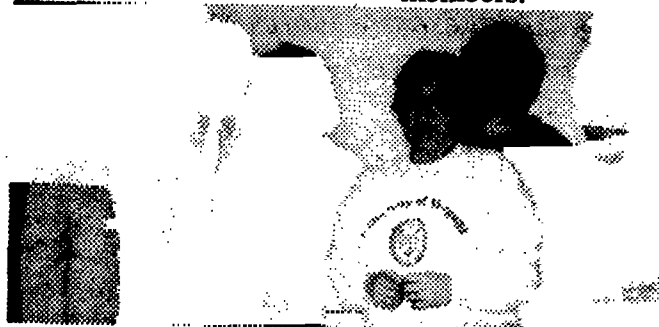
The UVM staff are doing research work to better understand how diabetes is affecting the community of Akwesasne. The Native American communities across the United States and Canada have the highest number of diabetics. To prevent diabetes in our community, the Health Services, health advocates and the Mohawk Coalition Committee need data and information to use in educating the community.

The UVM research team have collected data on eating habits; exercise; how

often and what kind of exercise; diet changes; weight gains; and food preferences. The students were asked questions in a survey and parents were also surveyed. The results of the testing showed that there is a need to reduce the fat in the food, preferences for children. There is a need for more activities involving exercise. Studies show that children tend to eat what their parents eat. The children and parents need to eat more fiber and fruits and vegetables.

The Tsitewatakaritat staff, the UVM staff composed of Dr. Virginia Hood, Dr. Roger Seeker-Walker, Mr. Jean Harvey-Berino and Mrs. Anne Dorwaldt, Health Services and the Coalition Committee are working together to help Akwesasne learn and prevent diabetes in the community using preventative medicine through educating the children, the parents, the educators and the elders.

The UVM research material can be reviewed at the St. Regis Mohawk Health Services or at the Tsitewatakaritat office. If you are interested in helping to generate ideas or activities for diabetes education please call Janine or Terry at 518-358-2755 or stop by their office at the S.O.A.R. building. The Mohawk Coalition Committee welcomes new members.



UVM Staff, Tsitewatakaritat and the Mohawk Coalition Committee

