

MINUTES FOR QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
MICHIGAN INDIAN ELDERS ASSOCIATION

October 8, 2019

HOSTED BY Nottawaseppi Band of Potawatomi Indians

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Bradley Settlement played a grand entry song and a flag song. The flag carriers and the shawl warriors introduced themselves. An invocation was given by Nancy Smit, *Nottawaseppi Band of Potawatomi Indians* elder and tribal councilor. Nancy then acknowledged the tribes present and welcomed the MIEA to the community.

**Call to Order**

MIEA President, Jerry Curtis, *Keweenaw Bay Indian Community*, called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Jerry Curtis conducted the roll call. MIEA Secretary, Jodie Palmer, *Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians*, announced eleven tribes were represented with eighteen (18) tribal delegates and/or alternates present; a quorum was achieved. Jerry stated he had reached out to Bay Mills to ask why they are not sending delegates.

Jerry asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Items from the previous evening's delegate dinner were added to the agenda (see revision).

**Approve Agenda for October 8, 2019**

Jerry Curtis asked for approval of the agenda. Dale Anderson, *Nottawaseppi Band of Pottawatomi Indians*, made a motion to approve the agenda. Theresa McFall, *Pokagon Band of Pottawatomi Indians*, seconded the motion. The motion carried with eighteen (18) yes votes.

**Approve Minutes of July, 2019**

Jerry Curtis asked for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Coleen Nessner, *Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians*, made a motion to approve the agenda with a correction of Hannahville not hosting the July 2020 meeting. Wanda Ritsema, *Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians*, seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed with eighteen (18) yes votes.

**Treasurer's Report for July 2019**

Treasurer Tammy Okuly-Shananaquet, *Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians*, presented her report. She stated as of September 10, 2019, the bank balance was \$42,444.06. \$625 was spent in student incentives and \$6000 was spent in student scholarships. A (.17) fee was charged due the cash deposit of \$5,298 which was over the \$5000 limit. The July auction was record setting! Wanda Ritsema made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; Coleen Nessner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed with eighteen (18) yes votes.

### ❖ Audit

Theresa McFall will now be conducting an audit of the financial records after the delegates' dinner. Theresa reported she was confident in the accuracy of the records and praised the treasurer on the file she keeps.

### Nominations and Elections

Nominations and Elections Committee Chairperson, Collen Nessner, stated nominations for vice-chairman, treasurer and officer-at-large were held at the July meeting. These positions will be for two year terms. Elections will not now be necessary at the October meeting as one of the nominees withdrew from consideration. The new Vice-Chairperson will be Judy Winchester, *Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians*. The Treasurer will continue to be Tammy Okuly-Shananaquet, *Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians*. The Officer-At-Large will continue to be Rebecca Kladder, *Nottawaseppi Band of Potawatomi Indians*. Their terms will start April 2020.

### Committee Updates

#### ❖ Bylaws Committee

Charles Fisher, *Little River Band of Ottawa Indians*, said he will give an update in April 2020.

#### ❖ Flag Committee

Jodie Palmer said no one came to the last flag meeting so she will be posting the flag choices. Flag choices will be numbered. Voting will take place all afternoon. Those present were asked to write their names on a slip of paper and indicate their choice of the six flags. The winner will be announced on Wednesday, October 9.

### Presentations and Discussion items

- ❖ Should we limit (Red) Shawls – It was previously determined each tribe would design and make their own shawl(s) using the colors of red, purple, pink, and turquoise. The question was raised and a lengthy discussion followed; some delegates felt each tribe should be allowed only one shawl to represent their tribe; some delegates felt it didn't matter how many shawls followed the veterans in as it raises awareness of issues faced by communities and individuals; some felt it detracted from the tribal veterans; some felt it was an opportunity to represent some who can't walk for themselves. Wanda Ritsema made a motion to accept each and every shawl dancer who wishes to follow the veterans. Lois Bedell, *Keeweenaw Bay Indian Community*, seconded the motion. The motion passed with sixteen (16) yes votes and two (2) abstentions.
- ❖ Tuition Waiver – John Kawegoma, *Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians*, gave a brief history of the MITW at the July meeting and had called for MIEA to take a stand. He brought a resolution to meeting. Jerry Curtis read the resolution to the membership. Lou Ann Bush, *Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians*, made a motion to pass the resolution with a correction to the date of citizenship. Theresa McFall seconded the motion. The motion carried with seventeen (17) yes votes and one (1) abstention.
- ❖ MackinawOde & Line 5 Update – Nathan Wright, Sarah Jo Shomin and LJ Denemy shared freshly prepared tamarack tea with membership; the tea should help with nerve damage. After the tea, they gave an update to the membership. Twenty percent (20%) of fresh water is being put at risk by Line 5. It presents a major threat to our environment and climate; there are areas where the pipeline is already leaking. The pipeline transports oil from Tar Sands, Alberta, Canada to a refinery in the Detroit area. Recently a Marathon Refinery blew up! There has been a shift to

develop community and networking throughout the state. Sarah has been reaching out to the Detroit natives to raise awareness and support. LJ and Nathan have to work in addition to their activism. All three called upon MIEA to remember love, peace and prayer. There is a Facebook page with updated news: MackinawOde (Heart of the Turtle). Nathan brought herbal products to sell to the memberships with profits going toward the cause. Our treasurer will work with them to provide an accounting of MIEA distributions for assistance.

### **Adjournment**

Colleen Nessner made a motion to adjourn. Joann Douyette, *Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians*, seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed with eighteen (18) yes votes. The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

### **Upcoming Conferences:**

April 27-29, 2020 ~ *Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians*

July 20-22, 2020

October 2020 ~ *Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians*