

MINUTES FOR QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN INDIAN ELDERS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 9, 2018

HOSTED BY GRAND TRAVERSE BAY BAND OF OTTAWA & CHIPPEWA INDIANS

Peshawbetown Community Drum played a welcome song. An invocation was given by Tom John. Isadore Toulouse introduced the veterans as they posted the colors. A welcome address was given by Al Pedawayden, *Grand Traverse Bay Band*. He acknowledged the tribes present.

Call to Order

MIEA President, Jerry Curtis, *Keweenaw Bay Indian Community*, called the meeting to order at 9:37 p.m. He thanked the veterans for their service.

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 twenty-two (22) tribal delegates and/or alternates present; a quorum was achieved.

Jerry Curtis asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Coleen Nessner, *Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians*, asked Resolution 18-001 be added to agenda item 4, Resolutions, as number iii.

Approve Agenda for October 9, 2018

Beatrice Bailey, *LaVieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians*, made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Coleen Nessner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Approve Minutes of July 17, 2018

Sandra Pittsley, *Keweenaw Bay Indian Community*, made a motion to approve the minutes of July 17, 2018. Lois Bedell, *Keweenaw Bay Indian Community*, seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report for October 2018

Treasurer Tammy Okuly-Shananaquet, *Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians*, presented her report. She stated \$33,562.74 was transferred from the previous account to the new account opened in July 2018. There were \$7,588.94 in expenditures. The current balance is \$41,088.40. Coleen Nessner made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; Brenda Garries, *Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians*, seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed with twenty-two (22) yes votes.

Nominations and Elections

Nominations and Elections Committee Chairperson, Collen Nessner, stated nominations for chairperson and secretary had been made at the July 2018 meeting. Since there were only one nomination for each position, those two candidates ran unopposed and will be beginning their two-year terms at the April 2019 meeting. The two-year term is for six meetings with their terms expiring after the October 2020 meeting. Jerry Curtis will officially be the new chairperson and Jodie Palmer will officially be the new secretary at next meeting.

Committee Updates

- ❖ Incentives Committee – LeAnn Stindt, Chair
 - No one was present to report an update.
- ❖ Scholarship Committee – Deleta Smith, Chair
 - No one was present to report an update.
- ❖ Audit Committee
 - No report
- ❖ Bylaws Committee
 - No report
- ❖ Flag Committee
 - No report; committee will meet after the business meeting is concluded.

Jerry asked the committees to meet while attending MIEA as work needs to move forward.

Resolutions

- ❖ Single Use Plastics – Wanda Ritsema, *Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians*
 - Wanda presented the MIEA board with copies of a resolution to support a ban on single use plastics. The resolution was discussed and many expressed their support as it is an environmentally important issue. Wanda read the text of Resolution #18-002 into the record and made a motion to approve it. Dianna Chandler, *Pokagon Band of Potawatomi*, seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed with twenty-two (22) yes votes.
- ❖ Eagle Staff – Carl Wesaw, *Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians*
 - Carl asked MIEA to draft a resolution to recognize the “Eagle Staff” as the first flag to fly in Michigan. He read a resolution from the State of Illinois as an example. There was discussion and many spoke in support of idea. Wanda Ritsema made a motion for MIEA to draft a resolution asking for the State of Michigan to recognize the Eagle Staff as the first flag. Teresa McFall, *Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians*, seconded the motion. The motion passed with twenty-one (21) yes votes and one (1) opposed. Jodie Palmer will draft the resolution and bring it to the April 2019 meeting.
- ❖ Resolution 18-001 Update – Jodie Palmer
 - Resolution 18-001 supported Senate Bill 140, which included the “Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017”. MIEA passed the resolution on April 10, 2018. Unfortunately on April 16, the bill failed by six votes to move forward. Jodie stated she didn’t believe there has not been another attempt to reintroduce the Act.

Jerry Curtis called for a short recess at 10:10 a.m. He resumed the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA)

- ❖ Jodie Palmer reported the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish sent four representatives from the elder committee to the conference. It was held October 10-13 in CA at Pechanga Resort. It is held every other year. She said there were numerous workshops over many topics. She especially enjoyed learning about the Wisdom Warriors, a program to support elders with chronic diseases. There were any sessions covering dementia awareness and support.
- ❖ Jeff Martin, *Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish*, said the organization has existed for forty-two (42) years and it has been a great advocate for Indian elders at Congress. Unfortunately NICOA is in financial turmoil. He advocated for tribes to help support the organization. He reiterated the numerous workshop topics which included opiates abuse, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.
- ❖ Karla Steffler, *Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish*, also felt there were many seminars on pertinent elder issues. She strongly advocates tribal support for NICOA and their mission.

Discussion

- ❖ Video about How MIEA started – Maxine Margiotta, *Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians*
 - Maxine is the Pokagon elder committee chairperson and she would like to create a video about the beginnings of MIEA. She plans to work with her tribe's education director. She will be speaking to Gerald Wesaw, Clarence White, Sandra Waukazoo and Ruth Antone to document their journey to start the organization.
- ❖ IT assistant for Michael Duschene
 - Jerry Curtis announced MIEA would like an additional person to help with the MIEA website as Michael Duschene is currently the only person involved with it.
- ❖ April 2019 host needed
 - Jerry Curtis asked the delegates to ask their tribes to consider hosting the April meeting. If interested, contact Jerry Curtis or Jodie Palmer.

Adjournment

Sandra Pittsley, *Keeweenaw Bay Indian Community*, made a motion to adjourn. Lois Tovar, *Hannahville Band of Potawatomi Indians*, seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed with twenty-two (22) yes votes. The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Upcoming Conferences:

April 2019 ~

July 23 – 25, 2019 ~ *Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe*

October 2019 ~ *Nottawaseppi Band of Potawatomi Indians*

April 2020 ~

July 2020 ~

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