

Special Edition

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Primary Election 2006

Secretary/Treasurer Candidates



Benay Fairbanks



Burton "Luke"
Wilson



Leonard M.
"Lenny"
Fineday



Archie LaRose



Frank Bowstring

District I Candidates



Mike Brown



Sandra
Fairbanks



Gary Charwood



Steve Jackson

Photos Unavailable:
Marlene Mitchell, Harry "Jon" Greene,
James Howard, Lawrence Gotchie, Sr.,
Walter "Frank" Reese, Donnie Headbird
and Delores Fineday

District I Candidates



Robbie M. Howe



Samuel John-
son, Jr.



Milton Gotchie

District II Candidates



Bonita Brown
Desjarlais



Lyman "Dede"
Losh



Debbie
Tibbetts

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LEECH LAKE CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Submitted by Jackie Tibbetts, Compliance Director and Co-Chair of the Regulatory Board

I would like to address the candidate background process for the upcoming Leech Lake Election process. There are many "rumors" out there and I would like to educate "everyone" about the process and make some statements that I know to be true rather than made up by those who wish to interfere with our election process.

First of all the background process is needed to assist the Tribal Council in the certification process. The new amendments to the MN Chippewa Tribe Constitution addresses the need to confirm residency within Leech Lake for the past year and to prohibit candidates with felony convictions or lesser crimes that involve tribal theft, from participating in the election process.

The Tribal Council directed the Compliance Department, housed within the Regulatory Board to complete the background process. Why would the RTC ask Compliance to handle the investigations? Because Compliance has been completing background investigations for Gaming employees for the past 12 years. As long as the Tribal Council continues to act as our Gaming Commission, the members need to be backgrounded to meet the requirements of not only our Tribal/State compacts but also the Indian

Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) enforced by the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC).

The only way to receive past criminal history is to fingerprint the individual. The Regulatory Board has the ability to send fingerprints to the State of MN who then forwards that information to the FBI. Within 24 to 48 hours the Board receives the results of the fingerprint process from both State and FBI records. We also review any information available through the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension over the internet.

We did not "take mug shots" of any candidates! They completed a background form and were fingerprinted – by a very personable staff member. She is the most people pleasing person I know or have ever met. She is not capable of being rude or demeaning in any way, shape, or form. Ask the candidates what type of person fingerprinted them – they can attest to the process they were put through.

The cost of the criminal history search is \$15.00 for the State of MN and \$29.00 for the FBI to search their database. The process was completed by all candidates – with the exception of one – and the information was available to the Tribal Council members on February 15th. The State of MN searches the

entire State and the FBI searches the entire United States. The FBI supplies an arrest record and the State supplies a conviction record.

Please direct any further questions to the Regulatory Board. We are located in the first building past the Palace Casino Hotel – the old daycare center.

LOCAL INDIAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Leech Lake Band members who are interested in running for their respective Local Indian Councils must sign up in the Election Board Office at the old RTC building in Cass Lake between May 1st and May 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Candidates

NPP = No Platform Provided

Burton "Luke" Wilson
Walter "Frank" Reese - NPP
Franklin E. Bowstring
Arthur "Archie" LaRose
Donnie Headbird - NPP
Delores Fineday
Benay Nazhike Fairbanks
Leonard M. "Lenny" Fineday

District I Candidates

James Howard
Robbie M. Howe
Milton Gotchie
Samuel Johnson, Jr.
Mike Brown
Lawrence Gotchie, Sr. = NPP
Steven A. Jackson
Sandra Fairbanks
Lewis Bowstring
Gary Charwood

District II Candidates

Lyman Losh
Marlene Mitchell = NPP
Bonita Brown Desjarlais
Harry "Jon" Greene = NPP
Deborah "Debbie" Tibbetts

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Arthur LaRose, Secretary/Treasurer
Burton Wilson, District I
Lyman Losh, District II
Donald "Mick" Finn, District III

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SECRETARY/TREASURER

CANDIDATE PLATFORMS

Delores June Fineday

My name is Delores June Fineday. I reside in the Cass River Community just northeast of Cass Lake. My parents are Annie Fineday and the late Henry Fineday. I have three sisters and 1 brother, three of whom reside on the reservation. Harry Chase Jr., and I are raising three children, Candace, age 18, who is currently attending Northwest Technical College, Geraldine, age 8, and Leith, age 6, who attend the Cass Lake Bena Elementary School.

Harry and I have worked for the Band for over 20 years. I started in the Summer Youth Program Mini Workers. I graduated from Chief Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School and then went to work at the Che-We Cafe as a waitress and then as the cashier/bookkeeper. I was also employed with Leech Lake Gaming as a slot technician; pull tab operator, and 20-20 bingo as floor clerk/caller. I went on to be employed by the reservation accounting department as a file clerk, moved on to data entry, then to accounts payable clerk, then accounts payable accountant, and last as the accounts payable team leader. As you can see, I'm familiar with accounting.

I am asking for your support and your vote this election year, as I believe that I can definitely make a difference for our reservation's families. Along with your support and ideas we can make a change for the better.

I will strive for better programs for our elders; we need to listen to what they tell us, they have come before us.

Education - our children will lead us to the future.

Employment - we need employment that will create self-sufficiency for all Band members.

I look forward to visiting

each community on the Leech Lake Reservation and Twin Cities area to gain your support and listen to your concerns.

Vote April 4th, 2006 for Leech Lake Tribal Council Secretary/Treasurer.

Mii-gwetch.

Leonard "Lenny" Fineday

I am running for Secretary/Treasurer to offer the people of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe a choice. I believe that our politics



have become so focused on the short term and on the people who are currently serving or currently running that we are not looking toward the future and that means we are not doing enough to ensure that the future generations do not have to suffer or endure the hardships that we are faced with. When we fail to learn from history, we are bound to repeat it.

We all know that our elected government is inadequate and that endemic problems face each and every one of our communities. Merely pointing out the problems is not sufficient; we need real leadership that will offer meaningful solutions. I have a proven track record of organizational fiscal accountability as well as promoting good governance based on fairness and equality as well as applicable policy. Working in Washington D.C., in St. Paul and right here on Leech Lake has provided me with

the knowledge and insight to start Leech Lake down the right path.

I want to open the decision making process as well as enumerate the powers of the RBC and reserve other powers to the people. We need to create economic opportunity and diversification on Leech Lake. Above all else, my message is that we can have hope; hope in ourselves, hope in our community, hope in each other. Reaching this goal is hardest - we must stop fighting each other and start working together! All of this will take a lot more than rhetoric; it will take a lot more than anything that I or any RBC can do - it will require action by the people! That is my vision and this is the message of my campaign.

I am well aware of my age (23 years old). All I can say on this issue is that I am the only candidate to have worked in Washington D.C. on federal policy initiatives, to receive the Presidential Service Award for outstanding community involvement, and to have led a team that balanced a total Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Budget. I have also graduated from Bethel University with a major in political science and a minor in leadership studies. These are my characteristics and qualifications that I will face this job with.

I do have several specific plans and ideas to offer, but I can only promise that I will work as hard as I can for the Leech Lake people; to be fair, honest and open. Though I am young, I have a proven track record of experience producing substantial results. My space has been limited here, so please contact

me at lennyfineday@yahoo.com for more specific information. We have a lot of work to do, but together and only together, we can get it done! Talk is simple; action is difficult. Tearing down is easy; building up is hard. It may be tough, but let's make the right decision.

Benay Nazhike Fairbanks



My name is Benay Fairbanks, and I am running for the office of Secretary Treasurer.

I believe there are three basic questions that will need to be answered by the Leech Lake Reservation:

- What are the needs of the People?
- What is the role of the Tribal Government?
- How will we pay for it?

What are the Needs of the People? What do we need most? Housing * Employment * Safety * Education * A Future

To all these are basic needs; Housing is inadequate, unavailable and often substandard; Employment is often not available or does not pay enough to support families. Our safety is uncertain due to crime, drugs, violence, our government has done much, but there is so much more that can be done. Our communities must be united and focused against all this. The youth of Leech Lake must have opportunities. Our adult people

Continued on Page 4

Benay Nazhike Fairbanks

Continued from Page 3

who wish to continue their goals in education must have opportunities available to them, and we as a people must support them as best we can. A future...everything we do, everything we have done ultimately defines our future. I see a powerful positive future for the People of Leech Lake, we must all take up our burdens not only for ourselves, but the generations to come who will take up their burdens, as we have, to keep our nation together.

What is the role of the Tribal Government? Government in detail is simple, the Government are servants to the Band. The Band is the people, and the structure of Government for which serves the people. It is the role of the Tribal Government to provide options to the Band. By that the Government must be completely accountable to the Band. The Tribal Government isn't just the Tribal Council, it is also the Division Directors, the Program Managers, the Coordinators...all who accept employment with the Leech Lake Reservation should understand that they are not only working for themselves and their families, that they also must work for the Leech Lake Reservation and all who are members of it. Above all the Tribal Government must be responsible to the people of Leech Lake, by proper budgeting and spending, and by making reasonable goals, and most important, providing service to the Leech Lake People as best we can with what we got.

How will we pay for it?

Each fiscal year the Leech Lake Reservation is often tasked to provide more services to more people for less money. The Leech Lake Reservation must begin to look into other avenues of generating money. Gaming has been our main source of money for too long. We will look into taking advantage of our abilities to promote industries that will generate more revenue. Construction, Commerce, E-Commerce, Native Arts and Goods, and Recreation and Leisure are

just a few possibilities we must investigate.

I do not subscribe to the *US* against *THEM* approach. It is just *We* **We** as Leech Lakers... **We** as Anishinabe...**We** are family and friends, and neighbors, and co-workers. **We** are all together in this one, and when **we** are together, **we** will all have the same fight, the same sight and **WE** will all share in the fruits of our efforts.

Please consider me to be your next Secretary Treasurer on April 4th 2006.

I can be reached at Home) 218-335-0080 Cell) 218-760-0777 Email) nazhike@yahoo.com

Franklin E. Bowstring

If elected as your next Secretary/Treasurer, I will be more than proud to serve you in this official capacity. I will make it my sworn responsibility and duty to make every effort to work with the other elected leaders to ensure that this reservation will be a better place to live, raise our children in safety, and work towards the benefit of all enrolled members!

A year ago, I served a tour of duty in Afghanistan with the US Army and I am very proud to have served over seas in the defense of our country and for you and your family as well.

My tour of duty is done with overseas. Now, I would appreciate the chance and opportunity to serve you once again as your next Secretary/Treasurer for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

If elected, I promise to work hard for everyone and show no favoritism to anyone!

I promise you that I will work hard to make our communities a safe and drug free place, for our



enrolled members to live and raise their families. Our children deserve the best possible chances of success, and I for one believe that they deserve every opportunity to succeed so they can live a happy and rewarding life.

The major topics that I worry and care about include the following:

Elderly Care: When it comes to the elderly, it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that our elders are protected and well cared for. They are the keys of knowledge to the past and the eyes of wisdom to the future.

What our elders have gone through during their lifetime is paramount to our survival as a people in the future. The knowledge from living and learning throughout their families cannot be lost.

We must do this through better health and housing services. We must ensure that they live in a safe environment that is free from danger. They must be protected from harm and costs should not be a consideration when it comes to the health and welfare of our elders. We have to protect our number one resource to the knowledge of the past.

Youth: During my life I have seen many young men and women make choices that have had dramatic effects on their lives in one way or another. Some were good. Some were bad.

We must teach our children the difference between a positive choice and negative choice. They must know the consequences that are associated with the choices they make.

We need to provide services and activities that will enable them to learn and grow up healthy and happy.

They must be given the opportunity to learn. We need to give them the tools to do this: a setting that is free from drugs and alcohol. A location they feel safe.

An environment that is conducive to learning.

Education: Education is one of the keys to the survival of our future as a sovereign nation. If elected as your next Secretary/Treasurer, I will make this a priority for all band members. We need to invest in the future, and the future of our children and their children as well. We must believe that by getting a good education, we have the ability to determine our own destinies. We need to invest in the education of our Indian people, so they can pursue educational wisdom and dreams.

Financial Stability: The bands financial future is one of the main areas that must be carefully managed. Our finances must ensure that we will be able to keep our people employed. The finances of the Band must be able to support our families.

Safety: A safe and healthy community is essential for our people to live happy productive lives. I oppose drugs and gang activities anywhere, especially without our own communities.

Health: We need to insist that our people get the best medical care, now and in the future. Our lives depend on a quality health care facility that serves our peoples medical needs.

Natural Resources: As a Tribe, I strongly believe that we need to protect and defend our natural resources so that our children for generations to come will be able to enjoy the benefits of a healthy environment.

Remember to get out and vote for the candidate of your choice.

Burton "Luke" Wilson

Currently I am serving my second term as



District 1 Representative since 2001. Several factors contributed to my decision to run for Secretary-Treasurer i.e. misappropriation of funds, deficit, social problems, concerns for youth, elders and disadvantaged families. Two years of financial secrecy, from 2002 – 2004, by former Chairman White and current Secretary-Treasurer LaRose lead Leech Lake into a substantial deficit. I did everything to stop the misappropriation of your tribal dollars by court order, initiated a federal investigation and exposing the perpetrators. Thus a federal investigation and forensic audit is underway.

Since the 2004 election Leech Lake has made enormous strides on the deficit reduction plan by following the budget ordinance, budget cuts and fiscal accountability. It has been a pleasure to work with Chairman George Goggeye, District II and III Representatives Lyman "Dede" Losh and Donald "Mick" Finn on a strategic plan for the current and future of Leech Lake.

It has always been my priority to serve Leech Lake to the best of my ability. I initiated a drug and gang violence task force in 2001 and continue to fight the problem today. Currently I am revitalizing the Healthy Communities Partnership that includes a Wellness Center, Drug and Violence Task Force, more youth activities and communication throughout Leech Lake. I also serve on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Commission besides being a Tribal Representative for the Bemidji area office Direct Service Tribes (DST) representative. The LLBO ICWA Commission is vital in representing and placing our native children. DST is vital for seeking more dollars and better service to Indian Health Service (IHS) hospitals.

Spirituality and sobriety is essential in my life by having 25 years of sobriety by continuing to

attend Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). By starting an AA group in Winnie Dam in 1999 has contributed support to countless people seeking help for all chemical dependency problems. I am a trustee, lector and rosary and alter society member of the St Josephs Catholic Church in Ball Club. I am also active in healing sweats, ceremonies besides continuing to promote spiritual gatherings.

Housing and land base issues continue to be an ongoing problem which I will continue to seek resolution. In 2001 I started a donated mobile home service and provided shelter to a number of families. However we continue to face growing problems because of the lack of mobile homes available. I was chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee from 1999-2002. Leech Lake budgeted \$500,000 a year for land purchases and this will continue once we are out of the deficit.

Elders are very important in our lives and many times they are overlooked. I have always gone out of my way to help and will continue to seek more services and better housing.

Having an education in Accounting and Business Administration, excellent employment history and first hand knowledge of Tribal Government qualifies me to be your next Secretary-Treasurer. I have been married to my wife Linda for 39 years and have five adult children with eight beautiful grandchildren. We have been foster parents for sixteen years. Currently Karen, Keith and Terry have been with us for twelve years. I am a man of commitment and will continue to work hard for the betterment of Leech Lake. Please feel free to call me at my office, home or cell at any time. My telephone numbers are 1-800-442-3909 work, 218-760-1689 cell, 218-246-8382 home or email luke@llojibwe.com.

Arthur "Archie" LaRose

I have been a life long resident of the Leech Lake Reservation, graduated from the Cass Lake/Bena High School in 1990 and 1 ½ years of college from the Leech Lake Tribal College.



I am the proud father of 4 children, dedicated to my family, and the Leech Lake Reservation.

I have proudly represented Leech Lake throughout the United States as an amateur boxer and have been dedicated to this sport for 13 years. During this time, I have learned many values; such as discipline, courage, motivation, and positive leadership.

I have proven myself as a fighter and will continue to do so for the Leech Lake Reservation if I am re-elected as the Secretary/Treasurer.

My accomplishments while in office include:

Fought against a gaming policy that prohibited paydays on Friday because it was founded on the belief that our people are all drunks and wouldn't make it to work. I pushed for gaming paydays on Friday so that they would have money for cultural events, activities, etc. This is because I believed in our people and did not think that they would behave irresponsibly if paid on Fridays.

Established an internal audit division to ensure that tribal administration was adhering to policies and procedures in the accounting department.

Initiated a preliminary audit of travel expenses. This resulted in the recovery of funds that were due back when employees traveled for business purposes. Today, even the RBC members will have these funds deducted from their paychecks if they do not close out

their travel in a timely manner. We no longer have hundreds of thousands of dollars unaccounted through sloppy travel records. I was unable to continue a second phase of the audit because the rest of the RBC was against it.

Attempted to start a day labor program so that members could receive a hand up instead of a hand out. I received no support from the rest of the RBC, but will continue my fight for this if re-elected.

Convinced the RBC to place pool and foosball tables in our community centers for children to use after school and on weekends.

Refinances \$52 million loan for Northern Lights expansion with a savings of \$130,000 per month and no balloon payment due after a few years and lowered interest rate.

During my time in office, I assisted anyone who came to my office whether they voted for me or not. The people's resources rightfully ought to be used to help the people in their times of need.

By voting for me, you will be sending a message to the RBC that you also believe that the people's resources belong to the people and not just to the RBC to spend as they see fit.

I will fight and make sure that Band members are hired first when it comes to mid-high level jobs. We have plenty of members with qualifications and experience to run our Reservation programs and businesses. I will not continually give the top level jobs to non-Band members as this current RBC has proven.

The Leech Lake elders have long been forgotten in this new RBC administration. I am proposing a Leech Lake Elder's Council that has just more than advisory authority but rather a governmental function.

Intensive research for

Arthur "Archie" LaRose

Continued from Page 5

federal and state funding for youth programs that provide jobs and work experience for our youth so they can run our Tribal programs and businesses in the future and for the next seven generations.

I support the veterans of Leech Lake. Support is needed in the areas of housing and government services for our veterans.

I oppose any tribal/state Casino that requires Leech Lake to pay 700 million and the State of MN pays nothing as a partner.

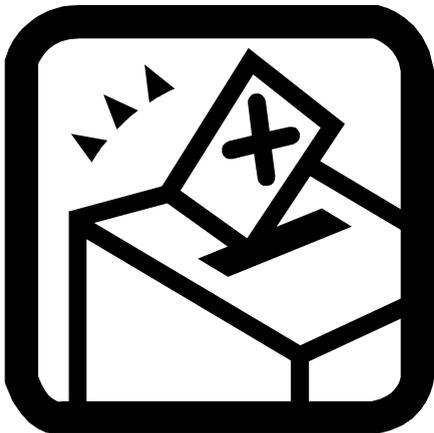
I support an honest internal audit of Leech Lake finances with RBC approval as well as the people's approval.

I have always practiced the "Open Door Policy" and will continue. Elected officials should work for the people and not for themselves.

I believe that Tribal government must be able to work together for the common good of the people. The fighting on the Tribal Council must stop immediately.

We must continue the fight against agencies that try to cut our treaty funded programs!

We need to start a program that allows 1 to 4 people to start gathering traditional food for our elders. Many of our elders have requested berries, venison, fish, wild rice, rabbits, etc.

**DISTRICT I CANDIDATES****James Howard**

Boozhoo, my name is James Howard, candidate for District One Representative.

I reside on the Leech Lake Reservation near the community of Inger, MN. My family includes my wife Laura and 5 children, James Jr, Valerie, Chelsea, Rozella and Shawnte.

I am currently employed by the Leech Lake Gaming Division as the manager of the Transportation Department. I have decided to run for this elected position because of my concern for our future. Also, I am very concerned about the state of the Band and will work hard for the betterment of all. Listed below are some of the issues and concerns that I will be working on if elected.

Economic Development and Planning:

Leech Lake Reservation needs a proactive and viable program to address our needs. We need to take care of the business' we have and insure there is enough trained labor. We need to look at cottage industries and lure more businesses to our area. This cannot happen without full cooperation from the elected tribal council and the employees of the band. We need goals and objectives for our tribe that are achievable and well thought out.

Education:

Band members trained and educated are important for the advancement the Band. From Head Start to the Tribal College, all should have equal opportunities to get their education. There should always be enough educated administration and staff to run these schools. Additionally, with the rising cost of post secondary education, we need to allocate enough funding to our Tribal members so they may

achieve their goals. We also need to insure our kids are receiving a good education from the schools that are currently operating. Our children are continually at the bottom of all achievement tests and I am tired of seeing this.

Housing:

We need to improve the homes we have and build new and affordable housing. There are many ways to accomplish this using our own labor. In the long run, it will be cheaper to build new homes.

Enrollment:

We need to work on changing the requirements for the blood quantum for enrollment in our tribe. The future of our band depends on enrollment of our children. If we continue to disregard the other tribe's blood quantum, the future status of some of families is questionable regarding rights to services guaranteed to tribes and the members.

Employment:

Fair and equal treatment of our employees is needed. We have enough jobs for all our band members. There should be no discrimination against Leech Lake members looking for employment within our government. A question I would like answered is, "What are the statistics for Band member employment in gaming?"

Natural Resources:

We need to protect and enhance our natural resources.

Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs:

We need to aggressively start educating our people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. It is a problem we all know about and need to address with adequate funding to the A&D programs.

Thank you for your time and would appreciate your support in the upcoming election.

Robbie Howe

My name is Robbie Mechelle Howe and I am currently running for the District I seat on the Leech Lake Tribal Council.



I was born to Laura (Howe) Grauman and Darwin (Jerry) Wilson Jr. I grew up in the Itasca County area all my life and have made my home in the Ball Club Community for the last 14 plus years. I have 5 children; Jimmy, Josh, Nicole, Nashel and Natalie. They are my inspiration and my world...I had my first child at a very young age, I graduated from High School and went to college for a short time. However, being a single parent, I had to no choice but to work to make ends meet and make a home for my boys. I have worked for the Leech Lake Reservation ever since. Starting my journey of positions at the Palace Casino and Hotel in 1992, from there I worked at the LL Gaming Division, then transferred to the Division of Resources Management in 1996, then I transferred to the RTC Administration in 2003, where I am currently still employed. Throughout my years here, I have met many wonderful people and have learned so very much. I have great knowledge of the programs, resources, and policies & procedures that we have in place and will do my best to abide by and strengthen them.

I enjoy working with our people and live to help in any way possible. I have seen the struggle of our people and have witnessed great things that we, as a Band, can accomplish when we come together and work towards a common goal. I have faith that things

Continued on Page 7

District I Candidates Continued...

Robbie Howe

Continued from Page 6

can only get better if we work together, and I am willing to do just that.

I know that there are many good people running for the District I Representative's seat, and each have many great qualities to offer, I just ask that you get out and vote at the Primary Election on April 4th to let your voice be heard. Vote for whom "YOU" believe would be a great representative for our people. Thank you.

LOCAL INDIAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Leech Lake Band members who are interested in running for their respective Local Indian Councils must sign up in the Election Board Office at the old RTC building between May 1st and May 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Steven Jackson

I am Steven Jackson, candidate for the vacancy on the Leech Lake Tribal Council district one. This seat will not only represent the district, but the Tribe as a whole. We have a number of issues that need to be addressed, one of which is answering to the people of our nation. We will need a unified council to help control and manage our future.

Leech Lake has been involved in many treaty agreements, that came down from the federal government. But somewhere along the line, we allowed our government to get side tracked by greed. A true leader helps others before themselves, to help ensure there are leaders and hope for the future. For the future, the needs are:

Health Care:

We have the need of a medical center on the reservation that can handle all of our medical needs, no need to out-source our health care.

Housing:

We have 20 units coming up south of the Northern Lights Casino, but we have unfinished houses on our reservation which will have to be finished.

Education:

Our Tribal College and tribal school can be upgraded to handle the populace. Post-secondary educational facilities near our reservation can help. Take your responsibility for the future serious by voting, because in the end it will make for a better future for the next generation.



Lewis Bowstring

My name is Lewis Bowstring and I've been an employee of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for a number of years. I'm presently employed with the Leech Lake Mental Health Program, prior to that I worked with the CHR Program-Community Health Representative program.

The reasons why I am running for the position of District One Representative in the upcoming 2006 primary elections are:

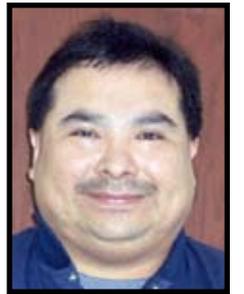
- I believe in equal and fair representation for all District I constituents.
- I support and promote a drug free environment.
- I will work for and support to have better health care at I.H.S.
- I will explore new job creations for our people.
- I will find ways to have better housing opportunities.
- Promote and support better business opportunities for all our communities.
- Find ways to protect our surrounding environment.
- Promote better opportunities for our elderly.
- Restore programs that were terminated that helped people.
- Promote programs that will increase our youth to have the potential to be more than they can be.

These services are not being delivered to people that need the services and some people are being left out. I believe in being fair and honest to them.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to me and let me know. I am always open to hearing new ideas. My door is always open to come and see me; or to have me come and see you. Or you may give me a call – I can be reached at 218-832-3404.

**GET OUT
AND
VOTE**

Milton L. Gotchie



Accountability for District I – Financial, operational and personal.

Support elders and youth development and growth – new programs to help with prevention and development.

Local Council input – Local Councils and the people will have more input on decisions we make for District I

Economic Development for District I – Possible manufacturing, retail and native crafts.

Land Acquisitions – Chippewa National Forest and land for housing and businesses

Gaming Allocation and Revenue Ordinance – To make sure all funding is spent accordingly.

Communicate and work with Leech Lake Housing Authority – For better service and training programs for District I members.

Daycare for District I – To help with childcare needs for the communities.

Develop plans for Community Center in Deer River – to help with local events.

A & D proactive development, social responsibility and traditional responsibility

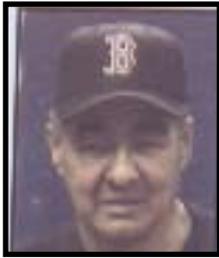
Internal controls for the Leech Lake Tribal Council Government – For accountability and to make sure controls are being followed.

If elected, I will be available for all of the peoples concerns and questions they have pertaining to government operations. I will be available to attend all Local Council regular monthly meetings. I will have an office in District I that will be accessible to all members so that I can better serve them. I believe in being fair, honest, responsible, and accountable. Please help in my mission for being your next District I Representative. I will serve all members with respect and fairness.

District I Candidates Continued...

Mike Brown

Ahneen. My name is Mike Brown and I am running for the office of District I Representative for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO).



Experience

I am the Safety Director for LLBO. For over twelve years, I have contributed to reducing the number of accidents and injuries to employees and gaming patrons alike. This experience has been especially satisfying in terms of hundreds of thousands of cost savings, leadership skills earned in my specialized area of expertise and working as a team with so many fine individuals involved with all aspects of safety and loss prevention.

Why am I running?

I believe in dignity and honor of our people. We share many of the same ordeals and values that were established by our ancestors. Among them, we uphold our right to self-government and shared identity. My goal is to serve the people and respond to their issues and concerns. I am dedicated to quality leadership and accountability in my proposed leadership position.

What is the definition of leadership?

"I believe that leadership is solving others' problems." As Safety Director, I encounter and solve problems on a daily basis. My knowledge and experience will assist in helping the people solve their problems and build their confidence in my leadership. "The day people stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can

help, or have concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

"I have resolved that from this day forward, I will lead, not follow. I have made my choice to create, not destroy; I will make a difference."

"With a fair and just mind and with a good heart, I will work hard to serve our people. Let's all work together toward reaching our goals and a better future. We can make a difference!"

What differences do I hope to achieve?

If I am elected, these are the specific goals that I would endeavor to accomplish by working with the local Indian Councils.

Inger Community Center: My goal would be to build a facility that is more accessible to our people. Our center would house a youth center, fitness center, and elderly nutrition program.

Ball Club Fitness Center: My goal would be to make this center more accessible to our people to build a new ENP Center in Ball Club that would better service the people.

Squaw Lake & Winnie Dam: My goal would be to build fitness centers in these areas also.

Housing: My goal is to help our homeless and work towards developing future homes in District One.

Education: I would assist tribal members in reaching higher levels of education.

Drug Use: I am committed to drug awareness and a drug free environment on our reservation.

Economic Development: I will create a plan to improve employment opportunities and encourage tribal members to seek jobs. This will create a better quality of life for all.

Let me close with this quote: "Character is the sum total of all our every day choices."

I have made a choice

to apply my leadership skills to improve the lives of our youth and quality of life for all constituents of my district. I am committed to making a difference for the next four years.

You also have a chance to make the right choice. I ask that you choose to support me and vote for Mike Brown. I will work hard to serve the people of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe well. Megwitch.

Gary Charwood

Ahneen. I am from S(quaw) Lake Minnesota, and a candidate for District I Representative. I am 45 years old, a father of five, and also have the honors of adopting two sons and two daughters in our traditional way. I enjoy hunting, fishing, gathering and most of all attending pow-wows and ceremonies for I am a traditional dancer also.



Currently, I work for the Leech Lake Youth Division as the Programs Manager/Youth Senior Coordinator. I have held the position as the Division Director for the Youth Division and relinquished the position in order to further my education. After high school, I logged for about ten years while continuing my education at the Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. From there, I had the opportunity to work as a welder in highway construction. After exploring my opportunities, I then joined up with the Millwrights local 1348 and soon became a journeyman Millwright for the next 15 years obtaining a pension through the Union. This unique trade has brought me many talents in the construction trade, such as working in places like the mines on the Iron Range, Blandin Paper Company, Minnesota Power in

Cohasset, Potlatch in various cities, and my favorite place was working at the Ford Motor Companies in St. Paul and Ohio.

After the arrival of my two youngest children, I made the choice to stay closer to home to watch them grow and to guide them with some traditional teachings. Working for construction pulled me away from that. At that point, I got involved with the youth programs.

Besides working with the Youth Division, I sit on the JOM Committee and our Local Indian Council as chairperson representing our community. I am very active and committed to our community. I have obtained some recognition from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe with some awards also, the one that humbles me the most, is receiving the Outstanding Parent of the Year award in 2005 I received from the Minnesota Indian Education Association. This particular award I dedicated to all parents that are trying and working hard. Presently, I am in my second year at the Itasca Community College and pursuing an Associates Degree in Indian Studies.

As a concerned and involved Anishinabeg, I have decided to run for District I Representative. I believe in our people. We can make a difference when we work together, and seek advice from our elders. It is time we listen to them. Our middle age parents need to be heard also.

I believe that I am the ideal person to meet the challenge of a District Rep. position. I am very dedicated to all communities on the Leech Lake Reservation. I work very hard putting in endless hours to make this happen, as I state, do not thank me, thank my children for allowing their father to work in this manner here on Leech Lake. I hope to have the opportunity to bring my hard work and sincere sense of responsibility to the position of District I. I am

District I Candidates Continued...

Gary Charwood

Continued from Page 8

offering myself to you the people, as a District Representative to listen and represent your voice. I would appreciate your support in making this happen.

Sandra Fairbanks

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Sandra Fairbanks, I've been married to my husband Bob for 34



years, we live in Ball Club. I have 3 daughters, 4 granddaughters, and 1 grandson.

I graduated from Deer River High School in 1970. I graduated from Northwest Technical College in 1987 as a Word Processing Specialist. I've taken classes in Business Management and working toward a Business Management Degree in the future.

I have approximately 10 years experience working with Tribal Government. I'm very knowledgeable of the policies and procedures of Tribal Government. I've worked most of my career with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in some capacity. I worked with the Indian Health Service as a Grand Coordinator for Pick Your Path to Health and SAGE program (Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening) for Native women.

I'm a very strong Native woman. When I'm elected District I Representative with your help and support we can accomplish the following:

I give you hope for a better future.

Secure grants to build youth centers in our district. Within these

youth centers we will offer classes on drug and alcohol awareness and life skills.

Employ more youth coordinators in the Ball Club, Winnie Dam, Inger, Deer River and S. Lake communities. Our children are our future.

Fight the drug & alcohol battle that is consuming our Native people. I feel we need a treatment center within our reservation. We should have another halfway house for our people, so individuals can be closer to their families. We need to help the recovering Native people get a job.

A more secure Dik In Aa Gan Center. We need to protect our little people.

Better financial aid for Leech Lake Band members attending secondary education.

Bring more women's health programs and information regarding breast/cervical center and heart health. We need to keep our daughters, mothers, sisters, aunts, and grandmothers of our reservation healthy and strong.

District I area needs more child care facilities, so we don't have to transport our children so far for childcare.

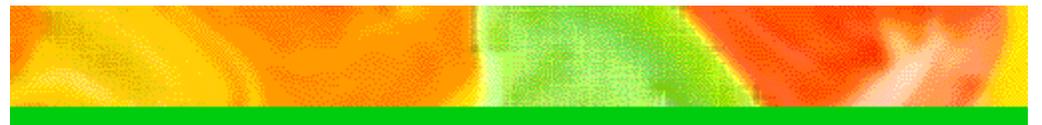
We need Neighborhood Watch programs in our communities.

I will host community dinners to inform the District I members what's going on with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

I will respect all employees and potential employees of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

Attend all Local Indian Council meetings to be aware of the continuing concerns and ideas of the District I members.

These are just a few of the issues I have. I look forward to visiting with you and your family and listening to your issues, concerns and ideas. When elected I will always be willing to listen to your concerns and ideas. I will work with the current Tribal Council to better Leech Lake Reservation.



Team Minnesota

2006

NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

Basketball & Volleyball Try outs

WHO: Parents, STUDENTS, and Athletic Directors

WHEN: SUNDAY, March 19, 2006

WHERE: Red Lake Humanities Center – Red Lake

TIME: It's always good to be early!

- 11:00 A.M. Boys & Girls Basketball Ages: 13&14
- 12:00 P.M. Boys & Girls Basketball Ages: 15&16
- 01:15 P.M. Boys & Girls Basketball Ages: 17-19
- 02:30 P.M. Girls Volleyball Ages: 13-19

Please bring Tribal I.D or Enrollment Number and or proof of Indigenous Heritage, and Birth Certificate.

Some selections and registrations cannot be made with out these items.

If Interested you may contact:

Henry Harper, Games Coordinator – TEAM MINNESOTA

(218) 335-2121.

Teresa Drift, Mission Team MN(218) 820-6979.

This will be the FINAL tryout for the 2006 Minnesota Team.

VOTE!

DISTRICT II CANDIDATES

Lyman "De De" Losh

Boozhoo to all Leech Lake People.

I am asking for your support in the upcoming Primary Election



April 4, 2006 and the General Election June 13th, 2006 as your Representative to the Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council from District II.

I was born in Cass Lake and have lived and worked in the Bena area all of my life except for two years with the United States Army (Distinguished Service Vietnam). My parents Charles and Irene Losh raised me, with my seven brothers and sisters. My parents instilled me in a strong work ethic-if you wanted something done you had to work for it and I am still working for the people of District II.

I started working in the woods when I was 16 years old. I then worked for US Steel Company in Calumet for one year. From February of 1971 to 1978 I was Deputy for Cass County's Sheriffs Department. Deputy pay wasn't good then, and with a family to support I went to work as a Heavy Equipment Operator for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. In 1981 the Sheriff's Department asked me to return, and I did for the next seven years. I mostly worked the night shift during that time, and I can tell you that night duty is hard work. I needed a break, so I drove bus for the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School. In 1989 the school transferred me to full time to the Transportation Department and I was promoted to Operations and Maintenance Director in June of 1993.

I have been an active member of the Johnson O'Malley Committee- when my children attended school in Remer, the Parent Advisory Committee while at the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, Chairman of the Sugar Point Local Indian Council, Leech Lake Housing Authority Board, Leech Lake Honor Guard, newly established Post 2001, and I've had the privilege of serving as your District II Representative on the Leech Lake Tribal Council for the past 8 years.

Accomplishments that have happened within the last couple years:

- Funding being received for the New Bena Community Center set to begin in the summer of 2006.
- Shingobee Project, close to completion
- Well Drilling equipment for Well and Septic Department
- Heavy Equipment Department providing snow removal and yard maintenance for elderly and disabled.
- Carefully balancing our financial resources and still address concerns and retaining the ability to meet our needs.
- Plans underway for Wellness Center which will include:
 - *New Health Division
 - * Fitness Center
 - * Mental Health
 - * Health and Human Services Division
 - *Opiate Treatment Division
 - *CD Treatment Program
- Medicine Project located at the Leech Lake Twin

Cities Office.

Today my wife and I have made our home in Sugar Point for the past twelve years. We enjoy our time together with our 6 children and eight grandchildren.

Today we are confronted with a multitude of issues. Such as Chemical Dependency, welfare, education, housing, youth and elder concerns. I could go on and on with these issues that our people are confronted by on a day-to-day basis as there is a lot to address. However if you have any questions or concerns your voice will be listened to with consideration and respect.

I humbly and respectfully am requesting your support for District II Representative in the Primary and General Elections.

Bonita Brown Desjarlais

Bena has been my home for the past twenty-four years, the place that I raised my five children. My children are descendants of the Bijah Chase family.



After I was born at the Cass Lake hospital, I was brought to my grandfather's home at the Mission on Lake Andrusia. My grandfather was Zhingobeance, who was known as Jake (Jacob Jones). My Grandpa Jake played a major role in my life. He taught me how to live in these beautiful woodlands that surround us. By watching him prepare for each season; I learned how to plan carefully. I have learned how to use our resources, and that the availability of resources is important to our daily lives. I believe that

it is because of my grandfather's teachings that I have learned to become a strong advocate and hardworking.

I have a real concern for our people. As a leader, I will bring strength to the people through careful understanding and nurturing of our cultural beliefs, to re-establish our inherent ways of caring for each other. Our elders must receive the best available health care and services. Our youth must receive the guidance and activities through existing programs that will cultivate responsible and healthy adults.

I believe in the fair distribution of services. Employment, health and human services should be made available to all members. I know there are many of us who are struggling to get hired on the reservation, but have found that there are no jobs for us. We all have the right to be employed and I clearly understand that we deserve good jobs, not just low-wage jobs that create even more problems for our MFIP families struggling daily to meet the required quotas in order to receive childcare and food benefit.

We have a right to equal distribution of emergency funds without the bureaucracy of being made to experience further hardship to justify our crises. When elected I will work hard to redesign our programs to fit the needs of our sovereign nation.

I am a firm believer in education. Currently, there are many barriers that stop us from achieving success. It is through education that we will create a better economy for our families today, and our future generations. I will work hard to ensure that students receive full benefits in a timely manner.

Let's put new life into our

Continued on Page 11

Bonita Brown Desjarlais

Continued from page 10

tribal government by making good choices through your voting power. Like you, I have thought long and hard about these issues, and believe because of my life experiences, I have the ability to identify problems and provide solutions needed to break free from this oppressive state. We have resources; let's make them work for us.

It is in the best interest of the people that as leaders, we trust one another and treat all with dignity and kindness, and to establish a productive working relationship.

When in office, I will work hard for the peoples needs. Please call if you have questions at 218-760-1303.

Debbie Tibbetts

I am running for District II representative. I have been married for 34 years to Mike Tibbetts and currently live in Bena. I have six children and eleven grandchildren.



I'm currently working for the Secretary/Treasurer in Cass Lake. I was born and raised in this area and believe that everyone has rights to free speech, education, and a right to work. Working this last year as a secretary, I've had the opportunity to hear the people and see where changes could be made.

I feel that we should have a council that works together; not in their best interests but in the people's. If you want a strong leader and feel these issues are as important as I do, please vote for me.

The unfairness of the way people are treated; they don't have a voice. Many have expressed to

me that they're afraid of losing their jobs if they express their personal opinion. In the past, when someone was voted in members of their family and close friends would get high paying positions they were not qualified for.

Doctor's and dental care and prescription availability are two common complaints I have heard the most.

We have nothing for our homeless, our youth, our elderly and everyone in general. There are currently no facilities in our communities for community education, health and fitness and jobs to keep our children busy and productive.

Freedom of Speech: The people vote us in and they should have a say in what we do after we get in. I propose a monthly meeting where people can come in with their ideas and concerns to develop solutions. Positions should go to those who are the most qualified, they should not be pre-selected. A board should not be able to hire their own relation.

I would like to know why it takes 24 to 48 hours to get your prescriptions filled. We need to better our doctor's care because many people don't have insurance or healthcare.

I would like to see our homeless shelter re-opened, fair housing assistance for those that need it, more jobs and training facilities for everyone.

Leech Lake Elders: The Elder's Division was but without any input from the Leech Lake elder's. I would propose that we re-establish an Elders Division with input from them.

The elder's need to determine the type of services and assistance that would benefit them the most. They understand who needs the services as well as the fairness in delivering those resources.

Leech Lake's greatest resource will always be the elder's

who have years of knowledge and experience in life. Many of the Leech Lake elder's speak the language and practice the traditional ways of Ojibwe culture.

Leech Lake Youth: Our youth need to be included in the everyday decisions that impact their lives. I propose that we support youth councils in each of our communities.

We need to expand the programs and services that are provided to the youth. More funds need to be set aside for our youth and cultural activities.

Leech Lake Employment: Have you noticed the high unemployment of the Leech Lake people? If you are lucky to have a job, it's either an entry level position or the lowest level in management.

I propose to enforce the Leech Lake preference for hiring. We need to provide better training and better opportunities for our people.

The last time I looked, it's our reservation. We need better control over hiring and placing Leech Lake people in upper management positions.

Leech Lake RBC: We need a government that works for the people and listens to the needs of its members, and who work together and to treat its people fairly.

I propose that internal controls and balances be developed that favor the rule of the people. The financial books must be opened for public inspection and this must be done immediately.

Education: The United States has a treaty responsibility to propose the people an education. I propose that we lobby Congress for more money. I would further recommend that Leech Lake set aside more funds for education.

I am sincerely requesting your support in the upcoming District II Primary Election. We can all make a difference by voting April 2006.

E l e c t

Irene

Folstrom



For

Senate



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe ELECTION CALENDAR 2006

January 4:	Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for other RTC office.
January 19:	Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for vacated RTC seat.
January 23:	Election Announcement
January 24:	Opening of period for filing for office
February 3:	Close of filing period
February 24:	Notice of Certifications to TEC
March 1:	Deadline for appointment of Election Boards and Judges.
March 3:	TEC provides ballots for Primary Election/ Notice of Primary
April 4:	Primary
April 5:	General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results
April 6:	General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results
April 7:	Deadline for Request for Recount
April 11:	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for Contest of Primary election
April 12: (Results, if Allowed or 10 th or 11 th If earlier request):	Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount,
April 21:	Decision on Contest
April 24:	Deadline for Appeal to Tribal Court of Election Appeals
April 27:	Record of Contest to Tribal Court of Election Appeals
May 1:	Last Day for Hearing on Appeal
May 10:	Last Day for Decision on Appeal
May 12:	Notice of Regular Election TEC provides ballots
June 13:	General Election
June 14:	General Reservation Election Board certifies results of Election
June 15:	General Reservation Election Board publishes election results
June 16:	Deadline for Request for Recount
June 20 (5 P.M.):	Deadline for Notice of Contest
June 21 (or 20, 19, if Request for Recount Is filed before deadline)	Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.
June 30, (or ten days from Notice of Contest, whichever is sooner):	Decision on Contest
July 3:	Deadline for appeal to Tribal Court of Election Appeals.
July 6:	Record of contest forwarded to Tribal Court of Election Appeals
July 10:	Last Day for Hearing on Appeal (hearing within 7 days notice of appeal)
July 18:	Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal to the Tribal Court of Election Appeals
Ten days from Hearing on Appeal.	Deadline for decision of the Tribal Court of Elections
Appeal:	
Day following Decision of Appeal	Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Primary Election to be Held on April 4, 2006

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe hereby announces that a Regular Election will be held on June 13, 2006 on the Leech Lake Reservation.

The regular election provides for an April 4, 2006 primary election in the event there are more than two eligible candidates for each open position.

Elected positions to be filled are as follows:

Secretary/Treasurer – Four (4) year term
Committeeman District I – Four (4) year term
Committeeman District II – Four (4) year term

Polling places are as follows:

District I:	Inger – Community Center Ball Club – Community Center Squaw Lake – Community Center
District II:	Bena – Community Center Sugar Point – Community Center Smokey Point – Kego Lake Community Center
District III:	Cass Lake – Old RTC Administration Building Mission – Community Center Onigum – Community Center Cass River/Pennington – Community Center Oak Point – Community Center

Leech Lake
Twin Cities Office: Minneapolis American Indian Center
1530 East Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN

General Reservation Election Board is located at the old RTC Administration Building at 6530 U.S. Highway 2 NW in Cass Lake, Minnesota, 56633. Absentee voting location also.

Polls open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

The following is an excerpt from Election Ordinance #10 which states the voting requirements.

Approved forms of voter identification:

Photo Identification: (ID must be valid)
Tribal identification with current address
State identification with current address
If Tribal or State ID has former address, you may bring a recent utility bill, current bank statement, current paycheck, or government check with name and current address of the voter to us with your ID.
ID issued by the U.S. government
U.S. Passport
U.S. Armed Forces ID
Student ID
Employee ID

Non-photo Identification:

Current utility bill - Current bank statement - Current paycheck - Government check

Utility bill must come from the utility company, have your name, current address, and be due within thirty (30) days of the election. Utility bills may be for electric, gas, water, solid waste, sewer, telephone, or cable TV.