



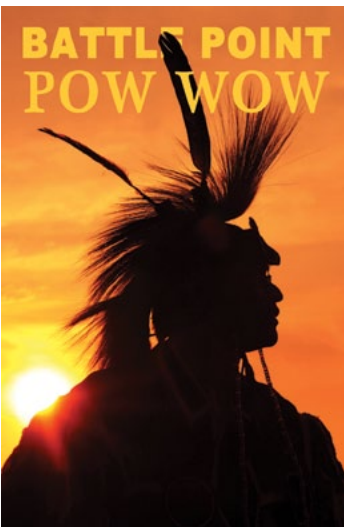
LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE DISTRICT II REPRESENTATIVE STEVE WHITE



Geetings, I am hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Since we last met in October the District II office has been working diligently on several projects.

Since 2010 the District II office has been working on securing funding for improvements to the Boy River Bridge on CSAH 8, the Leech Lake Roads Department, Cass County and District II office have collaborated in lobbying efforts for funding for the Boy River Bridge project. We are pleased to inform you, the project has been awarded \$770,000 in Federal Grant funds and LLBO Tribal Roads has been able to secure the remaining funds in the amount of \$130,000. The project is scheduled to begin in July 2013.

In the month of October much planning for upcoming projects was done. The Quarterly Meeting was held at the New Sugar Point community center, it was nice to share the new facility with everyone in attendance. We are very pleased with this project and grateful for the opportunity to share it with everyone. Following the quarterly meeting we received comments and concerns on locating the community centers in the District II area; we are now working to place highway signs in the appropriate areas to assist in locating the three community centers in District II.



A calendar was developed displaying photos of the Battle Point Pow Wow 2012. Photos were taken by the DahBahJiMon Graphic Arts Designer Ryan White and these calendars are now available at the District II office.

The week of October 15th to the 19th District II Executive Assistant, Renee Gale attended the Blandin Leadership training to improve resources for

the District II communities and to enhance the services available to constituents. Upon completion Renee will be eligible to apply for community improvement grants through Blandin for up to \$5,000; prior to her acceptance to the training a grant for \$1,000 was approved for the Sugar Point Community Center to enhance technology services available to the community members.

I attended the National Congress of American Indians 69th Annual Convention and Market Place October 21st, 2012 to October 26th, 2012. Over the course of six days, meetings and events focus on the rights and sovereignty of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. Throughout the week NCAI convened it's General Assembly, educational breakout sessions, and cultural celebrations, all with the purpose of engaging Indian Country in reconnecting with NCAI's original mission, to serve as the unified voice of Indian Country and protect the rights and sovereignty of tribal nations. One priority issue was bringing Indian Country together in the Presidential Election. Leech Lake was well represented here and also did an excellent job being supportive and letting their voice be heard, I would like to thank all the band members that got out and voted.

On November 9th, 2012 the LIC Summit was hosted at Northern Lights Event center and was well attended. It was great to see the communities come together to discuss similar issues and begin improving the effectiveness of our LIC's. Mii-Gwetch to all of those in attendance.

The District II office would like to thank the Bena LIC and community members of Bena for hosting a Veteran's Dinner on November 10th. It was very well attended. All in attendance were pleased with the meal. I look forward to assisting with future community events such as this and will be supportive in securing funding for supporting these events.





The Leech Lake Early Childhood program opened the door to the New Sugar Point Headstart classroom on November 27th, 2012 and held an Open House on November 29th. The classroom is located in the new Sugar Point Community Center. This new headstart hosts a classroom of 18 students and employs 5 people.

The District II office was instrumental in planning the Twin Cities Appreciation Dinner held on November 27th at the East Phillips Cultural and Recreational center. The menu consisted of many traditional foods. This was well attended by the Urban community a there were around 300 people



in attendance and it was a great time to socialize and gather together.

December was very busy as well. Much planning went into the check distribution, Toy Drive, Christmas Parties in the communities and also office events. I would like to thank the employees that donated to this year's toy drive either monetarily or volunteering at the Toy giveaway. This year was a great success and many children were served.

I would also like to congratulate Leah Monroe, District II community member from the Sugar Point area on being supported by the Tribal Council to deliver Ojibwe Language to ALL students at Northland Community Schools. Mii-Gwetch to Leah and her staff for working so hard to expose all students to the Ojibwe language and culture.

On December 17th, 2012 Leech Lake DRM, Minnesota DNR, Chairwoman Carri Jones and myself met at the Bena Community center to discuss leasing property between the Bena Community center and the lake shore to serve as a Community Pavilion to provide the residents and neighbors with a recreational area to host family gatherings and community events. Environmental Program Director, Levi Brown has been working with the District II office on this project since 2011 and we are in the process of coming to an agreement with the State of Minnesota on the lease of the property and are anticipating the Bena Community Pavilion project will begin in May 2013.

