



**LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE**  
**DISTRICT II REPRESENTATIVE**  
**STEVE WHITE**



First let me say hello to everyone and I hope you are having a good spring so far. This is a great time of year as we see the lakes wake up from the winter freeze, the sap is running, and summer is just around the corner.

I would like to thank the employees of Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe who donated to the toy drive, which was a huge success. Seeing our employees come together to support our families and their children was heart-warming and awe-inspiring.

**District 2 LIC updates**

Chi Miigwetch to the Local Indian Councils for all their hard work and dedication to their communities during the holidays, many of you came together on short notice and planned remarkable events.

The Bena LIC hosted an elders Christmas party along with local community members on December 8, 2012. Several elders and community members were in attendance. A delicious feast was prepared and served by volunteers. All elders left bearing gifts from "Santa".

Sugar Point LIC came together to host a Christmas dinner for the community, the council members prepared the dinner, organized and hosted the party. Several community members were in attendance and many brought their favorite dish to share.



New Year's Day, the Sugar Point LIC and School District #118, Northland Community Schools, collaborated to host a mini pow wow to celebrate the New Year. The community gathered together for a day of dancing, singing and sharing numerous dishes brought by all the community members attending. The Northland school drum was the entertainment for the days



festivities.

Kego Lake is in the process of planning more activities for their youth by using funds to purchase movie tickets and Easter-gift baskets for their younger children.

In January, much of our time was focused on planning the 2013 Kid's Perch Jerk that was held on Saturday February 23, 2013. Numerous letters requesting donations were mailed, several staff members attended meetings during lunch hour to organize and delegate duties amongst the committee. We are pleased to report this year was the most-attended

year so far and we look forward to next year's event on February 22, 2014. The committee has also developed a Facebook page dedicated to the Kid's Perch Jerk. We are always grateful to hear new ideas, suggestions and comments, please feel free to provide input on the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/KidsPerchJerk>





*Leech Lake Legacy participants*

In other news: The District II office has been working closely with the Animal Control Officer (ACO), Rory Haaland on making clinic information accessible and also any other services available to our loving pets. Rory is a blessing to our animals. He has provided numerous clinics at little to no cost to the Band or the pet owners. During the month of January we had many very cold days where our pets were in need of shelter. A grant was submitted to PetSmart® Charities by the ACO which provided shelters for dogs; in January, the department was awarded 150 igloo dog-houses. These houses were used as an incentive to register dogs according to the newly adopted ordinance with a priority given to elder pet owners.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> three Northland High School students attended an educational trip to Chicago with their instructor, Ben Kinser. The District II office is pleased to support these inspiring young musicians in their educational endeavors and we wish them the best.

Beginning mid-January our time was also focused on communicating with Mapesti, (our lobbyists in the Washington D.C.) to begin discussion and action plan with regard to Bands priorities. The March issue of the



*District II Rep. Steve White with former Senator Byron Dorgan after accepting the Inouye Indigenous Spirit Award on behalf of the Center for Native American Youth.*

DahBahjimon reported on MAST (Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes) Impact Week, and the visit to D.C. during the appropriations committee meeting. Several meetings were arranged during these visits to convey our priorities to our elected Federal Government officials and a few that serve the greater American

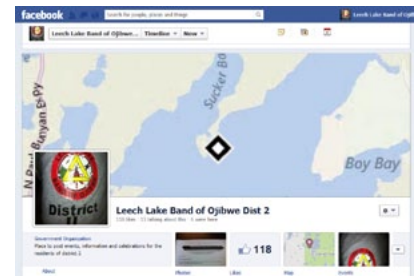
Indian community nationally. During MAST impact week, I had the opportunity to share our concerns about the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school's below standard facility with the National Indian Education Association (NIEA). I humbly requested to include our concerns in their testimony to the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful to report a fair amount of the four page written testimony was dedicated specifically to the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school and its need for replacement! Testimony can be found at (<http://carrijones.com/featured/statement-of-carri-jones-chairwoman-house-interior-appropriations-subcommittee/>). I would also like to personally thank the four students, who dedicated their time and exceptional representation to their school. These students have made a lasting impression on our efforts, Chi Miigwech

At the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's January Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) meeting, there was a new sub-committee added to the representatives duties. The Natural Resources sub-committee was formed to help deal with issues of an environmental concern. For example: mining on the iron range and how it affects wild rice, the wolf hunt and the moose hunt in Minnesota as well as animal populations and well being, invasive species that are being found in our lakes.

On March 2, 2013 we received confirmation of support from Cass County Environmental Services along with the application for the 2013 Project Priority List, which will focus on the issues of existing individual sewage treatment systems located in Sugar Point on the Leech Lake Reservation. According to Leech Lake ISTS (individual sewage treatment systems) inspector Jeff Harper, there have been multiple failures of the ISTS systems in the area. These failures are contaminating adjacent private wells and Leech Lake itself. Investigation on alternatives for the failed ISTS systems will begin very soon and the scoring worksheet will be submitted on April 2, 2013.

Beginning the later part of July, Leech Lake Tribal Roads and Cass County will begin the construction of the Boy River Bridge and fishing pier. Construction will last around 6 to 8 weeks and should end around the beginning of September. This is a direct result of our lobbying efforts in Washington D.C. and our efforts of lobbying the State of Minnesota.

Please feel free to "like" our District II facebook page for updates on events, government information, and general news about the Band at:



<https://www.facebook.com/11bodist2>