

In Brief

Fall/Winter 2014-2015



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Gathering of Oregon's First Nations 7th Annual Event
Saturday, January 24, 2015
Oregon State Fair & Expo Center
- LCIS Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Oregon State Capitol Building
- Tribal Government Legislative Days
Thursday, February 19, 2015
Oregon State Capitol Building

CURRENT COMMISSION ROSTER

Dan Courtney, LCIS Chair
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

Leo Stewart, LCIS Vice-Chair
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Charlotte Roderique
Burns Paiute Tribe

Bob Garcia
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw

Brenda Meade
Coquille Indian Tribe

Cheryle Kennedy
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Don Gentry
Klamath Tribes

Dee Pigsley
Confederated Tribes of Siletz

Raymond Tsumpti
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Jackie Mercer
NARA, Portland Area

Ted Ferrioli
Senate Republican Leader

Senator Arnie Roblan
Oregon Legislature

Representative Greg Smith
Legislature

Representative Caddy McKeown
Legislature

STAFF

Karen M. Quigley
Executive Director

Dianna Brainard-King
Commission Assistant

Website
<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/cis>

SHARING PERSPECTIVES

We will be conducting periodic interviews with members of the Commission and others who work on state-tribal relations and providing their responses in this newsletter.

Our first "Sharing Perspectives" interview is with Cheryle Kennedy. Cheryle Kennedy is on the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and is the longest serving LCIS Commission Member currently on LCIS.

What do you see as the value of LCIS?

It has tremendous value. Oregon is the only state to have organized itself where tribes are a part of the legislature, equating to tribes having a government-to-government relationship with the state, and truly being respected as sovereign nations.

(LCIS) Puts tribes at the table when there are discussions about proposed or amended laws, to make sure tribes are part of the early discussions. It is harder to undo something than to have tribal consideration right at the beginning. At times people get entrenched and dig in their heels when they hear a point of view that they feel more of an affinity to. Karen Quigley is able to express freely the law and what it would mean to tribes, with either positive or negative impacts, which makes for a better law.



LCIS allows tribes to come together and to talk about the matter at hand, whether it is the law, communication with the governor, stated positions, etc., it is a good forum. Karen filters through proposed new laws, gives LCIS members copies of any new laws, and we are able to digest those and offer opinions or comments or to set-up testimony. There are internal activities that take place within LCIS when the nine tribes get together. Sometimes we don't know the issue, just learn about it and LCIS allows us time to discuss it together.

Is there anything about serving on LCIS that has been particularly interesting or surprising to you?

I am surprised at how little information there is about tribes. Tribes deal with the highest level agency heads: some who are new to Oregon so they don't know anything about Oregon tribes, and there are others who have more information than others, who go to Karen as the point of contact on a matter that will impact the tribe. I find it interesting that there are a lot of services the state of Oregon provides, yet the tribes are not aware of them. Historically, no one offered those services to the tribes, and tribes are treated in a way that some may view as citizens outside of Oregon.

For some people it appears they think Indian reservations are supposed to provide all these services and that's where they should get them. Public Law 280, which Oregon and the tribes are subject to, puts the State of Oregon in first place for services around public safety, welfare, social services. Not all tribes are under Public Law 280, such as the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, who may provide all or most of their own services. Funding and jurisdiction issues remain to be problematic to Oregon Tribes.

Turnover in prominent agency positions are very high for those who have the responsibility to understand and work with Public Law 280 issues.

*Is there something that legislators, other public officials, state agencies, local governments and the public should know about LCIS?

I think it's important for the legislature and agency executives to know there's a difference between urban Indians, who sometimes are not members of a tribe at all, and enrolled tribal members. Unenrolled Indians don't have the rights that enrolled tribes do. Also, if an Indian lives in Oregon



TRIBAL PERSPECTIVES *continued*

but enrolled in a Tribe outside of Oregon you don't have the same right as members of Oregon tribes. I see that as a big problem. When we talk about Indian organizations, such as NAYA, that organization claims there is about 40,000 tribal Native Americans residing in the Portland area. Using this population figure they go to state, county and city for funds to build their organization. The population count is based on self-disclosed Native Americans status, so whether or not they all are Native Americans no one really knows. There are a lot of people in the United States who claim in the 1880's their family belonged to some tribe somewhere, and they've never had to prove or say what their traditions or culture may be, yet they claim Indian ancestry and seek funds designated for Native Americans. Comparatively, Oregon tribal members apply for membership through a rigorous process to become tribal members. Appropriation of dollars, which generally comes from the federal government, is for federally recognized Indian people, yet those funds are diluted because organizations similar to NAYA don't have the target population accountability that tribes have. Some of this accountability includes proof that the target population is Native American tribal citizens.

Tribes are sovereign nations, who develop our own laws and policies, have our own courts, have jurisdiction on our lands, and to confirm the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has seven (7) treaties with the United States.

**Is there something you would share with a member just joining LCIS?*

Aside from welcome aboard, that the Commission has been a formalized commission whose members have spoken in unity. We work things out, we unify, and we support issues. We clear the deck for issues that are not tribal specific but broad tribal matters that affect Oregon Tribes. There's a lot of listening and a lot of information dispersed through the Commission. Questions are honored and asked, so put them out on the table. Everyone is an equal there, and we highly respect one another.

**Anything else you would like to say about yourself and/or LCIS?*

Karen has been a real champion for the Commission and she's been very active in making sure that matters that could possibly affect us are brought to the table. She runs interference with agencies that don't appear to comprehend, and she provides them with information and talks to them until an understanding is reached. She's been very professional in her position and I appreciate her. Support staff keeps the office running and ready for the annual summit and quarterly meetings. I am proud of the professional attitude and way LCIS perform their jobs.



THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON INDIAN SERVICES IS A STATUTORY BODY OF 13 MEMBERS JOINTLY APPOINTED BY THE SENATE PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER FOR TWO YEAR TERMS. THERE IS A TRIBAL LEADER REPRESENTING EACH OF THE 9 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS IN OREGON PLUS TWO SENATOR AND TWO STATE REPRESENTATIVES. LCIS MEMBERS MAY APPOINT ONE ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR A TOTAL OF 14.

Pictured Above: LCIS Commission members & Exec Director with Secretary of State Kate Brown at the fall 2014 LCIS meeting.

Back row, from left: Senator Arnie Roblan, Representative Greg Smith, Robert Kentta (sitting in for Dee Pigsley), Leo Stewart

Middle row, from left: Raymond Tsumpti, Secretary of State Kate Brown, Representative Caddy McKeown, Brenda Meade, Karen Quigley, Don Gentry

Front row from left: Jackie Mercer, Cheryl Kennedy, Senator Ted Ferrioli, Yvonne McCafferty (sitting in for Dan Courtney)

Not pictured: Charlotte Roderique, Bob Garcia



OREGON'S INDIAN POPULATION

One responsibility of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services is to serve as the information clearinghouse for the State of Oregon on Indian issues. Often the Commission is asked:

- *How many American Indians /Native Americans are there in Oregon?
- *How many are enrolled members of Oregon Tribes?
- *What other American Indians/Native Americans live in Oregon?
- *Where do Indians live in Oregon?

***Special note:**

All permanent residents of Oregon, including Oregon's American Indian/Native American population, are citizens of the State of Oregon and U.S. citizens. American Indians/Native Americans may also be citizens or members of a tribal nation in Oregon or elsewhere. A specific and special relationship exists between the federal government and Tribes that have the formal political and legal status of being "a federally recognized Tribe" which includes an overarching "trust relationship."

HOW MANY AMERICAN INDIANS LIVE IN OREGON; HOW MANY ARE OREGON TRIBAL MEMBERS?

The 2013 census figure for the Native American/Alaska Native population in Oregon is 1.8% of Oregon's total population. The number of individuals who reported that they are American Indian/Alaska Native living in Oregon was 70,741. The recent total for members of the 9 federally recognized tribal governments in Oregon is around 22,300. These are enrolled members, i.e., "citizens" of their tribal government in addition to holding State and U.S. citizenship.

Where Do American Indians Live in Oregon?

- American Indians/Native Americans live in all 36 counties of the State of Oregon
- Many enrolled members of Oregon Tribes live on their Tribe's reservation or trust land
- Enrolled members of Tribes from other states or other American Indians/Native Americans may live on an Oregon Tribe's reservation or trust land with permission**

**As sovereigns, Tribal governments have the right to exclude individuals from the tribal lands under the Tribe's jurisdiction

- The greatest number of Oregon's Indian population is in the area known as "the Portland Metro Area" which for the US Census includes populations residing within the following counties: Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Columbia, Yamhill, and parts of Clark County, WA and Skamania County, WA.

Want to Learn More About Indians in Oregon?

We invite you to visit our website: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/cis>. You'll find:

- The LCIS Oregon Directory of American Indian Resources
- Key Contact Directory
- Links to the websites of Oregon's 9 federally recognized tribes
- State Agency Annual Reports
- Statutes dealing with Indians and Indian Issues
- Frequently Asked Questions about Indians and Tribes
- Events
- Photo Gallery





From the Desk of the Executive Director
Karen M. Quigley

Greetings!

As always, the goal of the Office of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) is to assist efforts to further strengthen the understanding between the State of Oregon and each of the nine federally recognized tribal governments in Oregon. Recognizing that all productive relationships involve two way communication as well as having adequate information to inform decisions, we see our role as serving as a neutral, starting point for legislators, state agencies and other public and private organizations to find out basic information about Tribes as well as contact info and suggestions for how to maximize opportunities to communicate with the appropriate Tribe or Tribes. Our aim is to encourage attempts on the part of state agencies and others to solve problems, exchange information and most importantly, engage in on-going conversations with Tribal governments (individually) or bring issues that may affect one or more tribal governments or tribal members to the attention of LCIS-- so it can be passed along to LCIS Members and perhaps be addressed at a LCIS meeting or dealt with in some other way before it becomes a crisis or "missed opportunity."



Likewise, the position of each tribal government may be enhanced by gaining information about State Government: hearing about what is being considered by the Legislature, changes in state agencies programs, services, leadership or priorities, funding opportunities and any other information that allows each Tribe to determine how they may or may not wish to interact with the State at this particular time, in the near future or father down the line. We are often able to share information about how one agency may be engaged with a particular Tribe that might make another Tribe say "we'd like to explore doing something similar."

We find it is a pretty close to non-stop job providing advice to state agencies that will create a fundamental appreciation and respect for the unique and distinct sovereign status of each of the nine federally recognized tribal governments in Oregon. Much time is spent encouraging state agencies to learn about each Tribe's culture, history, traditions as well as its current organization, leadership, staff, lands, jurisdiction, programs and departments. Critically, we try to remind folks that one Tribe cannot speak for another and consulting with one Tribe on an issue does not mean that you have consulted with more than that one Tribe.

Like State government, tribal governments are dynamic--expanding into new areas while keeping a focus on core responsibilities to provide for the health, education, welfare and safety of its citizens. LCIS serves as a liaison to suggest ways in which the State and Tribes might consider collaborating to avoid duplication, achieve efficiencies and encourage increasing prosperity throughout Indian country and throughout Oregon as conditions change. Fundamentally, LCIS wants to do what it can to increase trust and respect between the State of Oregon and the Tribes, to increase understanding that tribal people have been here since time immemorial and to emphasize that the government-to-government has a very personal component.

As part of Oregon's state-tribal relations law, state agencies are providing their annual reports on their activities with individual tribal governments for this past year. We will be posting them on our website in early 2015 and will provide some highlights in upcoming newsletters. There's a lot going on!

Season's Greetings



*Best Wishes for a Lovely Holiday
Season & Happy & Healthy New Year
- Karen and Dianna*



SOME OF WHAT WE DO

The LCIS serves the public, Oregon Indians, tribal governments, federal, state and local agencies and offices, private and public interest groups and other organizations, as well as government officials, schools, and universities. In addition, LCIS assesses Indian needs and concerns and State programs and services delivery to Indians through consultation and public hearings. The LCIS advises on Indian issues to the Governor, Legislature and agencies and participates in the legislative and administrative review processes.

The Executive Director engages in e-mail, telephone and in-person consultations, presentations and trainings. LCIS maintains a website and key contact directory as well as other relevant information. The LCIS office gets a large volume of phone and mail requests for information or assistance throughout the year. LCIS maintains a staff of 2 employees with an office in the Capitol. The Executive Director serves as the liaison for LCIS and works to insure that legislators, state agencies, tribal governments and others have a point of contact and a resource to assist them in getting in touch with appropriate contacts in Tribes and government around a vast variety of issues including education, natural and cultural resources, public safety, health and economic development. The Executive Director does not speak for individual tribal governments but, rather gathers and provides information and suggests possible strategies to enhance the likelihood of effective interactions.

Commission Members discuss and adopt policy, gather information, consult, investigate and educate via their regular Commission meetings as well as during special meetings, public hearings, trainings and Summits.



LCIS Chair Dan Courtney and Governor John A. Kitzhaber
2014 American Indian Week Proclamation signing
ceremony following the LCIS May meeting.



Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Plank house,—the setting for an evening with former Governor Vic Atiyeh prior to the LCIS-sponsored “2014 Spring Gathering”—a training and conversation day with LCIS Members legislators, state agencies and Tribal representatives.

All Tribal governments generously support the efforts of LCIS to improve communication and cooperation between the State of Oregon and the nine federally recognized tribal governments in Oregon. Grand Ronde hosted this particular event last May.



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