The first planning committee meeting was held on March 18th in the Facility Center Tribal Chambers. Members present were Larry Aitken, John Morrow, and Jamie Robertson of the Leech Lake Tribal College; Luella Seelye and Ardith Morrow, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Area Agency on Aging; and the following community representatives: Edsel and Norma Estey, White Earth; Alan Goldberg, Headwaters Area Agency on Aging; Joyce Lyons, Cass Lake Community Education; Les Northrup from the Fond du Lac Reservation; Helen Cummings and Amy Flocken, Minnesota Indian Council of Elders, and the following community representatives: Edna Whitefeather, Cecil Ryan, and Vince Flocken; and Burnham Rock from the AMVETS.

This meeting began with a pot-luck luncheon to promote a spirit of togetherness, harmony, and goodwill among all members. Burnham Rock dedicated our meeting with a prayer to the Creator.

John Morrow gave a brief explanation on how it came about that the Leech Lake Tribal College and MCT/AAA would work together on sponsoring the Honor the Elders Pow-Wow.

The conference and pow-wow will be intergenerational with input from both Seniors and LL Tribal College students. Passing wisdom will be the dominant theme of both the conference and the pow-wow. Neither agency has the available funds to sponsor both events, so therefore it will be co-sponsored by the MCT/AAA and LL Tribal College.

It was agreed that the Tribal College would handle all matters relating to the pow-wow including a pipe carrier for the four-day event. They will help us locate speakers and presenters for the conference. Hank Mason from the MCT/International Falls office will be contacted to see if he can get Jim Wind Eagle as a presenter at the conference again. Jim is very traditional and must be approached in such a way as not to offend him. Ardith Morrow will speak to Hank about handling this for us.

Everybody contributing time to the conference and pow-wow will be asked to do so on a voluntary basis. Funds for these events are very limited and we will not be able to pay people for their time. However, it was agreed by all that it is necessary to provide a gift to the pow-wow dancers and drummers.

Fund raising events will include: April 1st - Spaghetti Lunch and White Elephant sale at the Facility Center, including garlic bread, tossed salad, and a dessert. April 15th - Indian Smorgasbord at the Facility Center, cost $3.00. April 29th - Fish Fry at the Leech Lake Tribal College. John Morrow will do the necessary permission forms with Mert Lego and Jim Michaud. Cost will be $4.00, also to include a White Elephant sale. (Note: Wild Rice and Potato Salad will be served with the fish.) May 13th - Indian Tacos - Site to be discussed at next meeting.

Also, a War Pony raffle will be held at Leech Lake. John Morrow will contact M&M Auto about getting a "War Pony" at a reduced rate. Robert Sherer will look into having a similar raffle at Grand Portage. Also, the war pony will be filled with groceries. Teal's will be contacted as a possible site to view the war pony. There is much excitement among planning members concerning this raffle. The drawing will be held on Saturday, June 4th at the Pow-Wow - need not be present to win -- $1.00 per ticket.

Ardith and Luella will prepare donation requests to the various reservations.

Ardith will do promotional posters for the fundraisers and will also do the raffle tickets.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 30th at 1:30 in the Tribal Chambers.

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Time steals from everyone

Old age, sustained by "the long view," should reach a balance more readily than youth. Stendhal observed that knowledge of life prevents one "from becoming passively concerned, from behaving madly over nothing."

Such a sense of proportion helps in accepting the thefts of time. One year, time steals a dear friend, the next some lower teeth, and the following, a driver's license. Time steals from everyone and is not just picking on you.

Such thefts are unacceptable to the grasping, to those filled with the unsurrendered things of the soul. They tend to harp on the trivial. The elderly tend to harp on the trivial. The elderly who can accept such losses bring with them the injection of good courage. They are more than configurations of tormented atoms. To be able to lack things gracefully -- that's a prayer worth praying...

Aging as Worship, Edward Fischer
Senior Spotlight, March-April 94
Minnesota Indian Council of Elders

A meeting of the Minnesota Indian Council of Elders was held at the Mille Lacs Grand Casino on February 15th.

Dave Matrious, Mille Lacs Band Secretary-Treasurer, gave a welcome. Invocation was by David Sam of Mille Lacs.

Roll Call: Mille Lacs, Present; Leech Lake, Present; White Earth, Present; Grand Portage, Present; Red Lake, Present; Fond du Lac, Present; Twin Cities (Urban), Present; Bois Forte, Absent. Minutes read by Luella Seelye, motion to accept by Amy Flocken, second by Helen Cummings. Motion carried.

A history and overview of the Minnesota Indian Council of Elders was provided by Amy Flocken. A short film titled "Sam Yankee" was presented.

Old Business

Minnesota Board on Aging membership recommendation. Helen Cummings has been recommended by MICOE to fill the seat left vacant by Emily Peake. No action by board has been taken. We will keep in touch with them regarding this.

Rule Committee (Formula) Recommendation: No action by MBA. Question from Lou Rock, Urban Group, "Why is there no urban representative nominated for this board?" Luella explained that the Board on Aging did not ask for recommendations by areas - only by categories. Selections were made from those members present at the October 28th meeting in Fond du Lac.

Indian Elders Task Force Report: Luella read that the Bill will be presented to the state legislature at their next meeting. We anticipate the Bill passing at that time. Question from Alberta Norris on why Red Lake was not represented on the Task Force. There was a representative appointed by the Governor From Red Lake; however, she attended the first two meetings and was unable to attend any further meetings because of scheduling conflicts. Lou Rock requested a copy of the draft - Luella will mail him one. Questions regarding the Fiscal Agent - Minnesota Chippewa Tribe probably will be the fiscal agent for the State Desk on Aging, MICOE will be given the funds through MCT. Seed money will be needed to grow on - a possible source will be grants from the State.

Burnham Rock gave a short presentation of the Indian Veterans Association (AMVETS) and how serving in the armed services in combat has impacted on his life. He encourages all veterans to speak out how their lives have been affected by having served in armed combat.

Ira Sailor gave a brief speech regarding politics and the importance of Indians, both young and old, to exercise their rights as citizens to vote and impact on government. Also try to get other groups involved in minority issues (such as Jews, Blacks, etc.).

Charter and Membership Reports

Luella Seelye: the White House Conference on Aging will be held next year. We should all be thinking about and planning for this as it will be an important conference. Issues will be discussed here and decisions made that will impact on the elderly from all areas of the country.

Mike Meurers: Red Lake gave some pointers on Lobbying. He has been directed by Red Lake to aid MICOE in legislative issues. He stressed the importance of voting.

Charter Report from Helen Cummings, Leech Lake - Fund raising has been on-going to attend the National Indian Conference on Aging in Spokane, WA. They are stockpiling dollars for this conference. Events included Bingo, 50-50 raffles, dinners, and pull tabs.

Charter Report from White Earth - No report.

Charter Report from Bois Forte - No report.

Charter Report from Almeda Lussier, Red Lake - They have a bingo permit and raise approximately $600/month. They currently have $6,000 in their account. They have a lot of support from their tribal council.

Charter Report from Grand Portage - They have not received any information on the National Indian Conference on Aging, but now that they know about it they will make every effort possible to raise funds to attend this conference.

Pastor bring warm greetings

Richard Latterner, a Vicar of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, recently donated handmade quilts to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Indian Area Agency on Aging, for distribution to seniors of the six member Reservations of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

The Vicar, a White Earth enrollee, moved to the area recently with his wife, Caroline, and sons, Matthew, Michael, Jonathan, and Andrew. He is a graduate of the Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. He was adopted at an early age and grew up in Park Rapids. He is looking for his natural family.

He received the quilts from Lutheran Churches throughout the state. The quilts are made by groups of women who get together for fellowship. He receives numerous quilts every month, donating the "overflow" to Indian seniors. We all thank him and the women's fellowship group for their generosity.
**Fraud and Abuse in the Medicare Program**

Most doctors and suppliers are honest people who are deeply interested in you and your health needs. But not everyone is honest. Some people are more interested in making money than in meeting your medical needs. Unfortunately, these people cost the Medicare program $10 billion each year.

You are in the best position to report fraud and abuse to Medicare. Always read the Explanation of Medicare Benefits (EOMB) form which is issued by Medicare after a claim has been processed. A careful review of the EOMB could show information that you feel should be reported to Medicare.

**What is Fraud and Abuse?**

Fraud is defined as: An intentional deception or misrepresentation that a supplier, physician, beneficiary or some other person/business makes knowing it to be false and that the deception could result in an unauthorized Medicare benefit to himself, herself or some other person. Some examples of fraud are:

- Billing for services or supplies that were not provided,
- Falsely representing the nature of the service provided or changing the date of service.

Abuse is defined as: Incidents or practices of providers, physicians or suppliers which, although not usually considered as fraudulent, are not in keeping with accepted sound medical, business or fiscal practices. Some examples of abuse are:

- Charging an unreasonable amount for services or supplies,
- Submitting services that are not medically necessary,
- Billing both you and Medicare for the same services or billing you for an amount that is more than the deductible or coinsurance.

**You Can Help!**

You can report fraud and abuse involving durable medical equipment or supplies confidentially to the Medicare Region B DMERC. You may call or mail your complaint. Whether you call or write, include the following information:

- The beneficiary's name and Medicare number,
- The date of the service that is in question,
- The item or piece of equipment,
- The name and address of the physician, supplier or provider of service that is in question,
- An explanation and description of the problem or issue, and
- Documentation important to the complaint (billings, payment records, EOMBS, pick-up and delivery slips or medical records).

DMERC Fraud and Abuse Department
Post Office Box 6128
Indianapolis, IN 46208-6128
1-800-270-2313
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. E.S.T.
For the hearing impaired call: 1-317-841-4677
The elders celebrate St. Patrick's day

A St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance was held at the Cass Lake American Legion on March 16th for area seniors. This event was sponsored by Cass Lake Community Education, Leech Lake Elderly Nutrition Program Advisory Council and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Indian Area Agency on Aging.

Dean Brasgalla was the Master of Ceremonies and Vinnie Flocken -- after much coaxing -- volunteered to be the Leprechaun.

The evening's entertainment kicked off with vocal selections by Sue Cross, Special Education Teacher and the Cass Lake School Age Child Care Program. Other entertainment included Dave Baker, Don Robinson, Jon Romer, sing-alongs with the Leprechaun and a Country Dance Demonstration by Lariats and Lace, a newly formed Dance Group from the Bemidji/Cass Lake area.

The party's menu was catered by Teal's Food Store, Cass Lake. Other events included door prize drawings and selection of St. Patrick's Day King and Queen. Jon Romer, music teacher from the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School won the drawing to be King, and Amy Flocken was selected as Queen.

After dinner, the evening's entertainment continued with The Wayward Wind's band providing dance music. Dancing participation included the Butterfly, the Hokie-Pokie, a Swedish Maypole dance, and singing along to "You Are My Sunshine."
With Nature's readily available travel system upon the lakes and streams -- which we could afford -- the Woodland Anishinabe never developed an extensive reliance on the horse. Yet with the coming of mechanized motivation and the subsequent construction of Trails of Earth in all directions, the Anishinabe grew longings to possess these magical, swift beasts -- automobiles.

Unfortunately, the cost of riding one of these as your own was beyond our monetary means. But the People were patient, for we knew that with time their beauty would fade and our patience would be rewarded with good, older horses, which we could then afford. Perhaps their luster and shine would be gone, but they were still capable of great bursts of speed. And with uncanny ability, they would deliver us on each journey, even if their "shoes" were thin-clad "baloney skins" that didn't match. Thus grew the legend of "War Ponies" and "Rez Runners."

With these acquisitions, once again we burst forth with renewed confidence to all ends of Turtle Island. To trade for needed goods, pow-wows and more importantly, to yell "BINGO" as we scooped up our plunder -- our trusty War Ponies stood ready.

Now, for a limited time only with the purchase of a $1.00 Raffle Ticket, you can have a chance to capture one of these magnificent steeds filled with a delicious selection of groceries for the "Pow Wow Trail."

Tickets may be purchased at The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Human Services Division (Luella Seelye or Ardith Morrow) and at the Leech Lake Tribal College. For more information, call 335-8585 or 335-2828. Our authorized representatives will be in the area. Also, you can view the "war pony" in Teal's Parking Lot, Cass Lake.

This "War Pony" Raffle is for the Spring Elders Conference and Honor the Elders Pow Wow, co-sponsored by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Indian Area Agency on Aging and the Leech Lake Tribal College.

Look for further announcements concerning War Pony Raffles on the Grand Portage, White Earth, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte, and Mille Lacs Reservations.

A "War Pony" has been donated by M&M Auto Recycleers, Mike and Mark Schmerbeck, Owners of Bemidji.
Intrastate Funding Formula Rules Advisory Committee

Here is the roster of the Rule Advisory Committee members selected recently.

Connie Bagley, Director
Southeastern MN Area Agency on Aging
421 SW 1st Ave., 2nd Floor
Rochester, MN 55904
(507) 288-4823

Herman Bakker, Director
East Central Area Agency on Aging
100 So. Park St.
Mora, MN 55051
(612) 679-4120

Alda Mac Brewster
P.O. Box 96
Tracy, MN 56175
(507) 629-5584

Stan Cornelius
P.O. Box 807
Baudette, MN 56623
(218) 634-1873

Darwin Cray
326 Wheeler Ave.
North Mankato, MN 56003

Ray Davis
110 E. 18th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Bette Gysland
311 West 4th Avenue So.
A&A, MN 56510
(218) 784-2530

Joseph James, Sr.
HCR 84 Box 1088
Walker, MN 56484
(218) 547-3431

Gleva Kronloken
Box 301
Sacred Heart, MN 56285
(612) 765-2264

Marilyn Ocepek, Director
Arrowhead Nutrition Program
702 3rd Ave. So.
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 749-2912
1-800-662-5711

Greg Reigstad
First Call for Help
P.O. Box 542
St. Cloud, MN 56302
(612) 252-3474 1-800-828-5709

Margaret Sherman
RR #1 Box 3620
Palisade, MN 56469

Andrea Skolkin, Director
Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging
Mears Park Centre
230 E. 5th St.
St. Paul, MN 55101-9881
(612) 291-6497

Ernie Stauffenecker
St. Louis County Social Services
320 W. 2nd St.
Duluth, MN 55802
(218)

Grant awarded for National Resource Centers
Will serve Older Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians

St. Paul, MN – Fernando M. Torres-Gil, assistant secretary for aging in the Department of Health and Human Services, today announced that the Administration on Aging has awarded cooperative agreement grants totaling approximately $500,000 to the University of Colorado at Denver ($249,984) and the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks ($249,879) to establish and conduct two National Resource Centers for Older Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians.

The primary focus of both centers in health, long-term care and related issues. The center at the University of Colorado will highlight the mobilization of community resources in providing culturally competent health care. The center at the University of North Dakota will focus on specific health conditions affecting Native American elders as well as their access to care. Over 40 percent of Indian elders have one or more chronic health conditions.

"In order for us to better serve our older Native Americans, it is critical that we collect as much information as we can about their unique cultures, needs and their special health concerns," Torres-Gil stated. "The data collected at these resource centers will allow our administration to increase its knowledge and sensitivity to those needs, and will enable us to appreciate and respond more appropriately to their concerns."

"The Administration on Aging has a specific mission to improve the quality of life and the delivery of supportive services, including nutrition services, to American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians through Title VI of the Older Americans Act. These centers will be focal points for the development and sharing of technical information and expertise to Indian Tribal organizations, Title VI Older Americans Act grantees, Native American communities, educational institutions, and professionals and paraprofessionals in the field. These centers will facilitate service providers who are working on a daily basis with Native American elders by providing badly needed training. This technical assistance and training are essential components of a system of community based services," Torres-Gil said.

Spern M. Manson, Ph.D., will serve as the director of the University of Colorado Resource Center, and Leigh Jeanette, Ph.D., will serve as the director of the University of North Dakota Resource Center. Both centers will also function in an advisory capacity to the Administration on Aging.

"The Administration on Aging recognizes the many contributions that Native Americans have made in the development of our nation," said Torres-Gil. "Many Indian tribes have survived because the tribal elders cherished and kept their heritage alive for generations. These resource centers will serve to continue that legacy."

Project Grow

On March 9th, staff from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Indian Area Agency on Aging met briefly with Gill Goetz, Project Grow Coordinator, and John Morrow of the Leech Lake Tribal College. Discussion centered on a Health and Wellness Curriculum to be coordinated with our two agencies. We are looking for Seniors willing to participate in this project to provide advice on growing natural foods in our gardens this summer. We would also like some recipes on homemade remedies and natural herbs and medicines of nature. Any seniors willing to participate in Project Grow should contact either John Morrow at the Leech Lake Tribal College, 335-2828, or Luella Seelye or Ardith Morrow at The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe AAA, 335-8585. Seniors: WQe need your input.

Indian Affairs

The Minnesota Board on Aging [MBA] is supporting a bill authorized by Senator Harold "Skip" Finn and Representative Karen Clark to create a State Indian Office on Aging. The office would help coordinate its efforts with the National Indian Council on Aging. Special assistance and better access to services for Indian elders is required by the federal Older Americans Act. The Minnesota Indian Council of Elders is supporting the bill.

Senior Spotlight
Vol. 23, No. 2
Institute of American Indian Arts

PRESIDENT

The Institute of American Indian Arts Presidential Search Committee and the Board of Trustees invite nominations and applications for the position of President of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development (IAIA). The President is the Chief Executive Officer of this fine arts college located in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Founded in 1962, IAIA is the only institution of higher education in the world devoted solely to the study and practice of the artistic and cultural traditions of all American Indian and Alaska Native people. IAIA offers an Associate of Arts degree program in fine arts and related disciplines, including courses in Indian languages and cultural studies, and provides leadership for approximately 250 students from 78 tribes.

Applicants with the following qualifications are encouraged to apply: proven strong leadership abilities in appropriate fields; accepted and respected in Indian country and the nation in general; demonstrated depth knowledge and sensitivity to American Indian and Alaska Native values and issues; demonstrated understanding of American Indian and Alaska Native art and its role in Indian cultures and heritage and their survival; proven skills in financial management, planning and accountability, and administration; experience with federal budget appropriations process and educational governance structures, preferably with an Indian education institution; demonstrated effective participative management and development of institutional resources; superior communication and interpersonal skills and proven experience as an effective spokesperson; proven fund raising and resource acquisition skills; and an appropriate terminal degree is preferred.

It is highly desirable that the president be American Indian or Alaska Native. Preference will be extended to American Indian and Alaska Natives.

Submit letters of interest to: Mr. Thomas Thompson, Chair
Presidential Search Committee
P. O. Box 1836
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

IAIA is an equal opportunity employer. Opening date for applications: February 23, 1994
Closing date: April 7, 1994 - Applications received after the closing date may be considered until such time as position is filled. Salary and benefits negotiable.