

MCT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Date: 8/29/23 Time: 6 PM

Facilitator: Carol J.

Present: Marcie M., Rita E., Julie H-C, Debra K.

OLD BUSINESS:

Glossary-Rita is taking charge of pulling it together. Send her words and definitions if you have one. This list will only relate to the Alliance Document. Later, we will do a general glossary.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Regarding the Title "Alliance," Rita said some people don't like that name. Marcie responded by saying historically, we had the Three Fires Alliance. We need to get used to it. The delegate convention agreed upon an Alliance. It is better than the organizational system under MCT. We will also have individual constitutions.

2. Article II MINO BIMADIZWIN (LIVING THE GOOD LIFE)

- Change to "We have existed in time and immemorial as a tribe and will continue."
- We have added all the other hunting, fishing, and gathering treaties.

3. Article IX ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL TRIBAL NATIONS

- We need to consider the reason and process for allowing other tribes to join the Alliance. A call out for support?

4. Article X TERRITORY AND JURISDICTION

- Added "and the land held by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe." to the boundaries of Maamawiino Anishinaabeg Nation territory.
- Added Section 5. Ceded lands, known as treaty boundaries, were first used in the Treaty with the Wyandot, Delaware, Ottawa, Chippewa, Potawatomi, and Sauk in 1789, and in subsequent treaties, extended the boundaries of the Maamawiino Anishinaabeg Nation to those ceded territories on which our off-reservation treaty rights are exercised.

5. Article XII CIVIL RIGHTS

- We need to think about how to present Civil Rights.

6. Article XIII RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

- Added a condensed version of the 46 Article of Rights.

7. Article XIV RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

- Added indigeneity
- Changed language to "We will have special protection for children in the juvenile justice system, deprived of their liberty. These protections will extend to children suffering economic, sexual, or other forms of exploitation."
- Added Clean water, clean food, shelter, language, and access to ceremonies.

8. ARTICLE XXIV ETHICS, REMOVAL, RECALL, AND VACANCIES

- Need to define Convictions.
- Defined in the Glossary- Unless Expungement, the process of legally destroying, obliterating, or striking out records or information in files, computers, and other depositories relating to criminal charges. Expungement is usually granted when the offense is minor and the gender has demonstrated good behavior. The following are convictions:
 - Guilty Plea
 - Guilty by Verdict
 - No Contest Plea
 - Alford Plea

9. ARTICLE XXVII ELECTIONS

- Suggestion for hand counting ballots.
- Suggestion for write-ins.

10. ARTICLE XXIX SAVINGS CLAUSE

- A suggestion was to get rid of all of them. They are not valid anyway.
- Another suggestion is to review and draw from them, use the language consistent with the Alliance, and rewrite the others.

11. Rita asked how we respond to a Facebook comment- "Our ancestors did not require a huge written book of rules and regulations. They had a deep connection to spirit and were led by spirit and acted from their heart center. We are mere shadows of the ancestors!"

- Debra K. responded that Court cases can use modern technology.
- Carol J. responded with: Look at the current IRA Constitution. It is void of all the things she is talking about. The Alliance is more in line with what she is talking about than the IRA Constitution does.
- Marcie responded with the following statement:

Our ancestors did have a system of writing/ communication in the form of birchbark scrolls and petroglyphs. However no one knows how to interpret them anymore. So we have to recognize the changing times. I asked about them when I was nine years old and no one knew the meaning anymore. If there is some learned sage out there who knows how to read them, I will gratefully listen and learn.

It is true our ancestors did not have a great big fat book of rules to tell us how to live. If we did have something like that, it would have been destroyed like the Mayan codices and the library at Alexandria. The missionaries and govt did their best to wreck havoc on the minds of our ancestors. More recently the site at Palmyra was obliterated, depriving future generations of ancient knowledge.

We have the oral tradition. Even though the stories and teachings aren't written down in a big fat book, some of them continue to persist. Nothing short of a miracle, I would maintain. The teachings are numerous and they take a lifetime to learn. The Nanbozhoo stories go on and on and they are a great protection against fake news, from a contemporary perspective.

I believe we have to write all this stuff down so that future generations understand the exact meaning. Some of the Alliance text will get lengthy. I think that is all right because we are not a simple people. Instead we are a highly sophisticated people with an advanced understanding of medicine/psychology and the human mind and condition. (ie, look how well we did during the pandemic because some of us remembered the oral tradition.)

I think our education forums can explain all of the Alliance concepts orally and through video for those who are resistant to reading. I realize there are people who hate to read. I think we should continue with the task at hand, while understanding that the naysayers have chosen not to join us in the drafting committee.

Rita suggested that Marcie's response be posted on all the Band's websites.

11. Governing Bodies

- Tighten them up
- Drafting committee delegates read the Grand Council and return with comments next week.
- Be inclusive
- We need to add removal from office criteria.
- We need to weave in the business aspect.

12. Raymond provided the group with two resources

- TOIL, TAXES AND TROUBLE By Vivien Kellems, With an Introduction by Rupert Hughes New York E. P. DUTTON & CO., INC. 1952
- Indians taxed and not taxed

Next Meeting: Meeting on 9/5/2023 at 6 PM