

Bad River Tribal Members,

My name is Etta Burns and I am running for the position of Tribal Treasurer for the Bad River Tribal Council and would like your support and vote in the November 2009 tribal elections.

I received my associate's degree in accounting June of 1986 from Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC); graduating with honors. I began my career in April of 1986 working for Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission as a Bookkeeper and Finance Aide. In March of 1989 I began working for the 1854 Authority which is an inter-tribal natural resources organization in Duluth, MN. I was hired as the Administrative Assistant and later I was appointed as their Deputy Director. While working for the 1854 Authority it was my responsibility along with the Director to develop and implement an accounting program and finance department to ensure compliance with all State, Federal and Tribal regulations pertaining to contracts and grants that were awarded. I worked for the 1854 Authority until October 2001, during this time I was in charge of all financial aspects of the organization including reporting to the various funding agencies and ensuring that all audits were completed in a timely fashion and to answer any questions about our audits. The first few years we had minor findings such as no separation of duties; however there were no material financial findings. The last 8 years that I worked for the 1854 Authority we did not have any negative findings in our audits. With this accomplishment I felt it was time to move on with my career and move back home to be closer to family and friends.

In April of 2002 I worked for the Red Cliff Band in the accounting department as a Special Revenue Accountant; I was responsible for monitoring federal/state grants and contracts to ensure compliance with all State, Federal and Tribal regulations. I was responsible for preparing quarterly financial reports and yearly reports to be submitted to the various funding agencies and assist with the tribe's year end audits. Then in April of 2007 I began working for the Bad River Tribe as the Payroll Assistant. January of 2008 I was appointed as the Payroll Manager where I worked until April of 2009. On June 22, 2009 I began working for the Isle Vista Casino as the Accounting Manager where I have overall responsibility for all finances of the Casino. I am currently employed at the Isle Vista Casino as their Accounting Manager.

I feel with my extensive background in accounting and working with the various tribal organizations I have the necessary education, knowledge and skills to successfully perform the duties and tasks as the Treasurer for the Bad River Tribe. I am knowledgeable in many different aspects of tribal government accounting and casino accounting.

The time is NOW for our Tribe to move forward into the future and to develop economically. We as tribal members must ensure that our finances are protected and secure and that we as a Tribe are financial sound. The Tribe cannot begin to develop economically if our audits and other financial concerns and issues are not up to date as they are now and have been for some time. We must prove that we can be financially responsible and stop the waste-full spending of the past. If elected I will strive to have each program submit their budgets on time and stay within their budgets, this includes the

Tribal Council especially considering the fact that we are using a great deal of general fund dollars. If elected I will make it my number one goal to stop the waste-full spending of our general fund dollars and in doing so all tribal members, their families and the entire Bad River community will benefit with a more stable and responsible financial department, and have budgeted dollars to spend on our PEOPLE and not on special interest projects that benefit just a few chosen individuals.

In addition as your treasurer I will began by ensuring the accounting department is up to date on ALL audits and that ALL employees in the accounting department are knowledgeable in their jobs and performing to standard. Also, it is imperative to make sure the accounting department is using just ONE accounting software instead of TWO, as is the case now. This just makes no sense to have two different systems. We must have all financial information coming out of one program instead of two. In order to get accurate financial statements on a daily, weekly or monthly basis you must have only one program.

Currently the Bad River Tribe is operating without an indirect cost rate; we are losing money from various funding agencies in which an indirect cost amount is based upon our rate. The money that we are losing would cover the accounting department's budget plus any other costs that cannot be directly charged to each program.

NOW is the time for our government to answer to the PEOPLE and to be truly honest with our membership as to the current state of affairs that continue to plague our Tribe. I believe strongly that the membership should be informed and up to date on all financial information concerning the Tribe. It is time for our membership to step forward and have their voices be heard and not to allow our Tribe to continue as it has recently with little or no accountability from our current leaders and little to no input from its members. Furthermore all tribal members should be treated with more respect and dignity then they have been. We must set aside our differences and move forward for the benefit of everyone and not just for the benefit of a chosen few!

NOW is the time to show we will no longer allow this type of government to continue and that we have the right to know what is going on with our finances and other aspects of our government. If elected as your Tribal Treasurer I will clean up the mess that was created by years of mismanagement and distrust and dedicate my efforts to return the tribal government to ALL of the people, our people, our Tribe.

Please vote ETTA BURNS for TRIBAL TREASURE