

Rosie Tom ~ Seekseequa District

My name is Rosie Tom, and my family background: My maternal grandfather was Samuel Wewa, who served on the first Tribal Council for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs from 1938 to 1941. He also served in World War II. My grandmother was Maggie Paiute, and my mother was Christine Wewa Tom. My mother also served on the Tribal Council from 1965 to 1968. My father was Elmer Lawney Tom. I am a descendant of Chief We-You-Wa-Wewa and Chief Paulina.

I have one son, Preston Tom, who is employed at the Plateau Travel Plaza. I also have three granddaughters, Askewin Tom, Skylar Tom and Tonikia Tom. And I have one grandson, Waukeen Tom.

I was raised in Seekseequa most of life, attending Warm Springs Boarding School, and grew up as a cowgirl, working outdoors with horses. I also was raised up traditional and culturally, and was taught by my grandparents and parents how to preserve our traditional foods such as roots, berries, venison for later use during the winter months, by drying and canning.

I also assisted my grandmother with her hide tanning. We would wake up early in the morning and stretch hide while there was moisture in the air. I was taught to sew moccasins and beadwork, and to sew on a machine. I learned from my mother how to sew baby moccasins, and how to make small shell dresses and sew on beaded bags. Our family was taught how to sustain and preserve our ways. Our family also participated in Indian dancing at the Agency Longhouse and HeHe Longhouse where we participated in the Feasts and other ceremonies. Currently, I belong to the Northwest Native American Basket Weavers and the Great Basin Basket Weavers. I am a Master Weaver and a Master Beadworker.

I attended Warm Springs Boarding School,



and went to school in Madras. I decided to go to boarding school, and graduated Chemawa Indian School in 1972. I was employed with the Tribes as an assistant teacher, cooks helper, Activity aide, Tribal Council Secretary, and receptionist. I then landed my first job in Finance in Cash Management, and also worked in Accounts Payable Supervisor, Contracts and Grants Analyst-Supervisor, and in insurance.

I retired from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in 2018 with 43 years of service, working in the financial field for 30-plus years. Finance brought many opportunities of learning such as state and federal regulations, procurement and many policies to follow, also reporting financial reports in a timely manner, learning the ISD Indian Self Determination P.L. 638, and gained experience in budgets.

In 1985 I was assigned by the Secretary-Treasurer to sit on the National Contract Support Cost Workgroup. I served in the capacity for approximately nine years. The major highlight for me was working with the Indian Country attorneys and experiencing the Ramah Navajo Settlement, by which the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received monetary payment. It was all based on having a current Indirect Rate.

I am currently in my third term serving on the Culture and Heritage Committee, also following our Charter for the committee preserving our tradition and cultural ways.

Education is very important for the tribes and our next generation of leaders. We need to encourage our youth and young adults to continue their education, and give them the tools and employment to gain experience in the workforce.

With our newly elected President and administra-

tion we need to be aware and protect our tribe and to advocate for funding. We have to be able to solve problems and improve operations, and make strategic decisions. We all need to be on the same page when it comes to our organic documents, which drive the tribe. We need to make them uphold our Reserved Treaty Rights, Sovereignty, Trust Responsibility, and our relationship nation-to-nation.

Financial status of our tribe is very important. We need to be prepared for what is yet to come forth. We need to exercise our Reserved Treaty Rights, and keep them accountable for our funding IHS, BIA-BIE, JOM, Impact Aid, Title VI, DHHS Head Start. We also need a better understanding of all the functions of finance and how they all work together, so that we may get back on track to better service the departments and our people. Our people are our Stake Holders of the Tribe. Finance is a key department, and integrity is a must in the workforce.

Sovereignty is the Supreme Law of the Land. It's the protection of our rights, traditional foods, huckleberries, fish, roots, game, plants. There were NO written laws. We lived by the Creator, giving thanks for providing food, water and the songs and the land we lived. Spirituality is our backbone of our existence, and we need to protect our Religion, Language, Culture and Natural Resources and Ceded lands. We need to walk and live accordingly to the ways set forth by our Creator. It is our way of life and it defines us as Indian people. All the elements for our people to live and survive by. I truly believe if we walk this way of life that the Creator and our Ancestors' laid out for us. We must protect, honor and respect what was given in order for it to persist into the future.

I would like to wish all Candidates the best!
Rosie Tom,
Seekseequa District.