Richard LeBlanc, incumbent
Bay Mills Secretary candidate

I have been honored to represent Bay Mills as your Executive Council Secretary. And, with your vote, I would like to continue.

As a Council member, I believe it is my duty to bring the issues that are before the board, to you. I believe I have done that with my bi-weekly posts to the Executive Council Facebook site. I have done this faithfully for the last four years, while I continue to have an open-door policy for all membership.

As a Council member, I believe I must serve as a bridge between tribal services and membership. I have accomplished this. Many members have brought their issues, problems and concerns to me and I did my best to represent them in hopes of alleviating them or providing them with a path toward a solution. It doesn't matter who needs my help. I have worked hard for everyone.

As a Council member, I believe the decisions of the Board must keep an eye to the future, not just the issue of the day. I have, and will continue to support efforts that pave a stable path for our tribe far in to the future, beyond the next election. We need 10, 20 and 30 year plans if we are to ensure our future generation greater opportunities.

As a Council member, I believe it is vital that financial responsibility be the rule of the day. I have been part of a proactive effort to obtain and review an accurate picture of our financial fitness as a tribe. Tough decisions have been made, but much more are looming. I have the knowledge and experience as a Council member to review and successfully navigate through the financial questions and hurdles to ensure the essential services of the tribe continue.

As a Council member, I believe we must look to our talented, experienced and educated members to assume import roles within the tribe. Opportunity is only a word unless we exercise it. In the last 2 years, tribal members have been given greater opportunity to seek and obtain important positions within the tribe. The future of our tribe should depend on the effort of its members.

There is a huge benefit to being on the Council for as long as I have: I know my way around and I know where to dig and find the answers. Please consider reelecting me to serve you. Miigwetch!

Jillian LeBlanc
Bay Mills Secretary candidate

Hello, my name is Jillian LeBlanc and I will be running for Tribal Secretary in the 2013 election year. I am the daughter of Joni LeBlanc and the late Gerald "Daffy" LeBlanc. I currently reside in Sault Ste. Marie. I graduated from Lake Superior State University in 2011 with my Bachelor's in Nursing. Presently, I am the Community Health Coordinator at the Bay Mills Health Center; working primarily with the diabetic and elder populations. With this position I have many other duties assigned such as the chair of the Infection Control committee, a contributing member of the Risk Management committee, involved with Emergency Preparedness planning, and a contributing member to the Quality Improvement team; with a goal of improving overall patient care at the Bay Mills Health Center.

A few personal notes about myself are: I enjoy spending time personalizing my new home, walking my two dogs, Dayzee and Bosiefus, playing a good game of euchre, working out, spending time with my two nephews, Jaydin and Jaxon, and most importantly spending time with my family and friends.

I asked myself numerous times why I decided to run for council in the past few months, and I have come up with many reasons. I want to make a difference in our community, may it be big or small, beyond my position at the health center. I see potential for growth in our community, the possibility to establish a safer environment, and improving the focus on our youth through education and mentoring until they grow into educated and healthy adults. I feel I will bring a unique prospective to Council because of my education and profession. Through the many projects I am involved with, I am able to see the needs of our community including, but not limited to, health and safety. I would like to focus more attention on improving the projects which pertain to family dynamics, youth, elders, and the community's overall health in all areas of life. The few goals I listed may not be accomplished in a two year term; however beginning to bring the focus back to these core aspects of our community is just the start.

Tony LeBlanc
Bay Mills Secretary candidate

Dear Tribal Members,

Hi my name is Tony LeBlanc, and I am running for a seat on the council. Most of you know me for I have been a lifelong resident of Bay Mills. I'm running for council because I feel this tribe (council) is in need of a change. I have seen the ups and downs of this tribe over the years and for too long now this tribe has basically gone nowhere. Just to let you know I have never worked for Bay Mills and still don't. My decision to run for the secretary seat is strictly to try and help this tribe out. Hopefully getting on the council with other new members can bring new ideas and strategies to help get us back on our feet. I'm an honest person who will give you an honest answer when asked. This tribe wasn't built in a day and I don't expect it to be fixed that fast either, but with new council members using new ideas and getting a grip on our current situation I feel we can get this tribe moving forward again.

I ask for your support in the upcoming election.

Thank you for your time.

Candidate Profiles were not received from Secretary Candidates Jake Parish or Paula Carrick

Gerald "Jerry" Parish
Bay Mills Treasurer candidate

My decision to seek this position was based on my concern with the extremely uncertain federal budget process and the adverse impact it may have on our community.

Because the federal government has never provided adequate funding to meet even the most basic needs within Indian country, the tribes have had to supplement governmental and service programs using discretionary funding predominantly derived from gaming. For years, base funding for Indian tribes has remained at approximately the same level and in some cases actually declined. It is now not uncommon for tribes to provide a majority of the funding for these programs. In fiscal year 2013, the legislation commonly known as the "Sequester" imposed across the board cuts to tribal programs of 5.24 percent requiring that the tribes contribute additional program support dollars in order to maintain the status quo. Without legislative change, which is not likely given the present political climate in Washington, we can expect additional funding reductions in each of the next several years. I don't believe that our income from gaming and other sources will be able to fully meet the additional burden resulting from these cumulative funding reductions. We can meet this challenge, but we have to develop reasonable conservative budget projections for all of the community governmental operations and services in order to plan and prioritize our spending. The resulting decisions won't be easy.

I was employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 36 years. I eventually rose to the position of Superintendent of the Michigan Agency from which I retired in April of this year. During my federal service, I was involved in all facets of preparing our yearly budget submission to Congress. Prior to my retirement, I also prepared Agency budget projections for the next five years which clearly showed the severe impact that will occur if sequestration is allowed to continue. I hope that this experience can be an asset to the Council as it serves and leads the community.

I understand that some persons within the community have expressed their concerns about a lack of disclosure of our tribe's financial position and related transactions. It is my opinion that tribal members should have access to such information, but at times full disclosure should be reserved in order to not adversely impact our business operations and decisions. If elected, I will see that a simplified financial report with notations is provided.

A Candidate Profile was not received from Treasurer Candidate Jason A. LeBlanc, Sr.

Albert Bertram, Bay Mills Treasurer candidate

Hello, I am Albert Bertram, the son of Vern and Sherry Bertram and the grandson of Ronna Summerville, I have submitted my name into the election committee to run for the Treasurer of the Bay Mills Indian Community's Executive Council. For those who don't know me personally, I have been taking Business classes for 6 years and I will be completing my Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA), with a Finance concentration, in February of 2014. I have worked as the Finance Specialist for the Charter Schools Office for over two years and I hope to use the knowledge and skills I have acquired to serve my community. I hope to start a trend towards more involvement in the community among the younger generations to help the tribe move forward in a positive direction. I look forward to answering any questions and I can be reached at: E-mail – albertra@umflint.edu or Cell: 906-440-3467. Thank you for your time.

Alexander Easton
Bay Mills Treasurer candidate

Aniin,

My name is Alexander Easton or Al Easton as most of you know me. As you know, I will be running for the office of treasurer for the Bay Mills IndianCommunity. Now please let me tell you about myself. I was born in Detroit, MI 50 some yrs ago, lived here on the 'res' every since. I enjoy anything outdoors, hunting or fishing, etc.

I graduated from Brimley High School and took some courses at Bay Mills Community College. After high school, I worked hanging drywall for 3 yrs then I began to commercial fish, which I did for most of my life until I started to work for Bay Mills Resort & Casinos, a position I've held for the past 13.5 years. Being here at the Resort, I see the day to day operations -out front- not behind the scenes. I have a few ideas on how to save money, which we are always concerned about. I also have a few ideas on how to make a few dollars for the tribe too.

Also, I have previously served on council as councilman for 6 yrs, which I think I've learned from. As always , I will do my best to serve the members of this community from the 'little guy' to the general manager, or any one else who has concerns. For those who know me, and those who don't, you know that I am a honest, sincere, and respectful person, and I would appreciate your vote on October 16th for treasurer of this tribe. Megwetch.

Stacey Walden, Bay Mills Treasurer candidate

Fresh out of college, May 1996, I was hired as a Revenue Auditor for BMRC. In the fall of 1998, I transferred to Human Resources, starting as a Recruiter, assisting management in making employment decisions and training staff. I became the Benefit Administrator in the spring of 2009, where I manage the Tribe's single largest expense outside of labor costs – Health Insurance. Since 2008, I've been an active member of the Gaming Commission, which has prepared me to critically evaluate policies, security, and the Tribe's current legal situation. I have recently applied to CMU's Master of Science in Administration program, with the intent to start classes this January. During my career, I have learned to adapt, be flexible, and communicate effectively. Now more than ever, I am prepared to take on the challenges of tribal leadership.

I'm dedicated to my family and the success of my daughters, as well as the other children in my life. I try to be a positive role model for them and all the young people in our community. I strive to maintain a positive outlook, try to volunteer whenever I can, and go out of my way to help anyone I'm in a position to help.

I believe in fairness in administration of policy; reviewing long-standing policies that may not reflect our society any longer; holding people accountable for their responsibilities; and the success, education, and health of all of our tribal members, both young and old. I've grown up in a community of strong, successful women and I'd love the opportunity to perpetuate that tradition.

Recently, I've been having conversations with my daughter about college and career choices. Like a typical teenager, she talks about moving away and then living in a big, glamorous city somewhere. I keep saying, "Just wait -- you'll learn how much you love this place the minute you leave." Our conversations have made me realize just how much I love it here. I can't imagine living or working anywhere else. I'm proud to call Bay Mills Indian Community my home.