

## **Printed in the March 7, 2007 edition of the Moccasin**

### **VISIONS**

**By**

**Vice Chairman Reede**

Greetings San Carlos! I am happy to be back in the land of the Apache. This past week I traveled to New York City on behalf of the Tribe. I was honored to lead a delegation composed of Council Members Jonathan Kitcheyan, Martha Interpreter Baylish and Burdette Goode. Other attendees included tribal legal representation and tribal planning director, Ms. Cassandra Kipp and my staff member Ms. Beverly Russell. The purpose of this trip was to meet with the Merrill Lynch Native American Banking and Financial Services Team to learn more about tribal investment opportunities.

Our delegation was pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Bill Lomax a financial advisor with the Investment Advisor and Financial Education Division, Mr. Paul Critchlow-Vice Chairman Public Markets of the Tribal and Local Governments division, and Victoria Wright, Vice President of the Business Development. The topics of discussion included Native American Banking and Financial Services, Tribal Cash Flow, Investment Structure Models, Tribal Investment Management Services, and Merrill Lynch's Native Financial Education Initiative. In summary, this meeting offered us a view into the financial tools that have long been in practice by major companies that are now being customized to serve Indian Country. These tools have the potential to offer tribes more flexibility to be creative in their financial transactions in regards to building new facilities and other high capital projects. These types of financial services could specifically be helpful to San Carlos as we work toward continued economic growth and consideration of major projects such as a long term care facility for our elders.

After a day full of valuable information, we took some time to visit with a few of our enrolled tribal members living and working in the New York City area. We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Curtis Harris and his son Zachary Harris of the Gilson Wash District. Mr. Harris resides in Northern New Jersey and works as the Director of the Center for Continuing Education for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Curtis also is a board member of New York City's American Indian Community House. We also met Mr. Sonny Martin Grant of the Seven Mile Wash District who is attending graduate school in New York City studying film. I was inspired to learn that we have tribal members all over the world doing great things.

We ended our day by paying a visit to the American Indian Community House in New York City. The American Indian Community House (AICH) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization serving the health, social service, and cultural needs of Native Americans residing in New York City. AICH provides services to an estimated 27,000 Native Americans living in New York City. AICH membership is currently composed of Native Americans from 72 different tribes including the San Carlos Apache. AICH executive director, Ms. Rosemary Richmond offered us a tour of the facility and shared some of the issues faced by tribal members living away from their home lands especially the urban Indian youth. After some dialogue we discussed the possibility of exploring a short term exchange program that would offer our high school age youth the chance to visit a city to gain valuable exposure to the many career opportunities available. Although this concept is still in the idea stage, I hope I can help to build a movement that will provide our

young people with experiences and visions that extend beyond the reservation boundaries.

The possibilities are endless.