

# Utu Utu Gwaitu Benton Paiute Election Committee Newsletter April 2008

The 2008 Election Committee Members consist of Rana Saulque, Juanita Watterson Becerras, and Jamie Meredith. We hope you are all doing well with the beautiful spring season upon us all. We want to inform you of the Annual General Council Meeting scheduled as mandated by the Utu Utu Gwaitu Benton Paiute Constitution voted on and approved by 29 voters which on November 22, 1975 was at least thirty percent (30%) of the qualified voters at that time.

The Utu Utu Gwaitu Benton Paiute Tribe is now One Hundred Forty Two voters strong! We hope to see more of you voters at the General Council Meeting casting your votes in person and sharing some time, stories, pictures, and food with us on May 25, 2008 at the Utu Utu Gwaitu Benton Paiute Tribal Office.

A “Candidates Night” will be set up for Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Election Committee will be serving different kinds of beans and would like to have the community potluck salads, kumasaa’ (bread), drinks, or anything you like to eat with your beans at the Tribal Office.

## **Attached to this newsletter you will find:**

[SAMPLE BALLOT](#) to view the candidates running for office

[ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION](#) to request a ballot if you will **NOT** be able to attend the Annual General Council Meeting.

**Deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is May 5, 2008.** This means YOU are responsible for getting your request into the mail PRIOR TO MAY 5, 2008. You can also call the [Temporary Election Committee voicemail @ 760 920-5402](#). You **MUST** leave a message of your name and a phone number where we can call you back and get the necessary information to send your absentee ballot to you. You can also fax the request to the Tribal Office at 760 933-2412

[Absentee Ballots](#) – If you plan on voting via absentee ballot you need to know that your ballot will be sent:

Certified = \$2.65  
Return Receipt = \$2.15  
Regular Postage .41¢  
Restricted Delivery Fee = \$4.10

The Restricted Delivery means that **ONLY the person who the letter is addressed to will be able to pick up the letter.** You will not be able to have someone else pick up your letter for you. The election committee has to verify each signature on the envelope to the “green” return receipt card that you sign when you pick up your certified/return receipt letter.

We’ve had some comments that people don’t feel comfortable signing the outside of the envelope for security purposes during the current times. The committee will be sending you TWO (2) envelopes to return your absentee ballots. You will fill out your ballot place it in your “SIGNATURE ENVELOPE” sign the envelope and seal it.

Place the whole “signed and sealed envelope” inside another envelope that will have the Election Committee address on it and **mail back to us in a timely manner so that we will receive absentee ballots by Friday May 23, 2008.**

### **What Happens when we get absentee ballots?**

On Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> Election committee will go down to the Benton Post Office at 12pm and pick up the locked box at the U.S. Post office. There are two keys to the locked box. Two of the Election Officers keep each of the keys and the one Officer without a key will keep the lock box. At 7am on Sunday May 25, 2008 the election committee will assemble at the Tribal Office. We will open all envelopes in the lock box and take out the signed and sealed envelopes. We will verify all signed envelopes to the “green” returned receipt cards and check off all voters who we have received absentee ballots from. Their envelopes containing their ballots will then be placed in the voting box.

At 6pm the Election committee will open the box take all ballots and envelopes out. We open the envelopes of absentee voters and put their envelopes aside then we will unfold all ballots and put them all together. We will tear off the identifying mark that we have placed on the corner of each ballot and discard it. This causes all the ballots to be indistinguishable as to who cast the ballots. Then the committee begins the task of counting each ballot’s vote which will be a large task this year due to large amount of candidates. **Exciting!**

If you should have any concerns or comments regarding the process feel to send us a note @ Benton Paiute Election

Committee Utu Utu Gwaitu Benton Paiute Tribe C/O Postmaster Benton CA 93513 or you can leave your name and number on the temporary voicemail.

Lastly...the **April 8, 2008 Special Election called by the Tribal Council was invalid.** There were not enough ballots cast to be counted as 30% of the voters. Election Committee was unable to count three ballots due to lack of signatures on the outside of the envelope. **Please remember to sign your absentee ballot envelopes if you choose to vote via absentee ballots in the upcoming Election.**

**The Election Committee hopes all eligible voters attend the Annual General Council Meeting on May 25, 2008 8am-6pm open polls. 12pm Potluck Lunch**

