

September 15, 2019

To my fellow Native Village of Napaimute Members,

I write this letter to thank you and also to prompt and encourage you.

Thank you for electing me to serve on the Napaimute Traditional Council. I have served the membership for well over 20 years as members continued to re-elect me. My tenure has included holding the seats of Secretary and President on the Council. In addition, during this time I was also employed as the tribe's first *official* Grant writer; prior to that Mark Leary had grant writing duties as part of his position.

Mark Leary and I had tremendous success accessing funds that enabled Napaimute to grow and flourish.

I am retiring from the Council this year. I tried to retire three years ago, but the Tribe said it needed me for one more election cycle. At the 2018 Napaimute Annual Meeting I clearly informed the gathered members that I would serve one more year. I am holding to my word.

With my husband's retirement three years ago we find ourselves traveling regularly to China to teach STEM classes to gifted elementary students. Four months ago I retired from working as a House Manager II at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts (PAC) in Anchorage and serving as an Usher Captain. I worked as a House Manager for 9.5 years and served as a volunteer Usher for over 12 years. All good things end to make way for new beginnings.

During my tenure I have worked to mentor and guide; I have been the Tribe's voice of reason when conversations became volatile at the subregional and regional levels of tribal politics. While I have not always taken popular stands, I am respected and viewed as a worthy opponent. This is what I take away from my years of service.

I encourage all members to run for a seat on the Council. If you've served in the past, please consider running again, the Tribe needs your time, perspective, unique experience and expertise to move forward. You serve for three years before the next election cycle. Remember, I always say that, "**You run for an open seat, you are not running against anyone.**"

The Native Village of Napaimute Annual Meeting will be on October 12, 2019 in Anchorage, Alaska. Please let us know if you would like to run for the Council.

Respectfully Yours,

Devron Hellings, President