

2018 Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer

Brandon B. Benner



Dear Bois Forte Band Members:

I would like to thank all of you that took the time to vote for me in the Primary Election. It means the world to me and I appreciate your effort in making a Change for Bois Forte. Never before has it been this important to get a change in our Band's regression. We are at a critical time and turning point in our Band's History. Our Future depends on this Election of 2018.

Keep in mind that all of my correspondence to Band Membership is in my own words and writing. I feel that is the very first thing you can see clearly: how I write is how I speak.

Some of my ideas and solutions are:

-Keeping Employees hours and paychecks safe- We were on the brink of cutting employee hours. I forecasted during my first term in office- the path we were on and what it would mean to employees and the Band. I voted against the overspending in Budgets because I understand we needed to stop it. Just recently employees were on the verge of being sent home with 16 hours less on their check. They then understood the need for a salary freeze- which saved the band \$186,357.45. After all of this- the Council voted to "basically borrow" \$900,000 off of the next years Budget. (I voted against) Essentially they took what the employees saved with a 1 year Salary Freeze and spent it on a Building that was just recently renovated? To me, we can't make these kinds of mistakes anymore- in these critical Financial times.

-Secretary/Treasurer Report on the Council Meeting Agenda- I believe we should know where we are financially at any given time.

-Band Member Payments- despite my opponent's supporters saying this isn't an option, it can be a reality. All that is needed is a good solid plan filed with the BIA. We are a small market tribe but we could set aside money (\$100,000- \$200,000 year) until we can give out a small payment to everyone. It could've been accomplished very easily- when the Government was blowing through 58-68 million dollars in a 10-12 year span.

-OPEN GOVERNMENT- my stance and votes on this are well documented. All information should be available to Band Members without signing any consent forms.

-Referendums- having each Band Member vote, have a say, and approve/disapprove major expenditures of the Band: New Buildings, Business Adventures, Payments to Band Members.

-Protect and invest back in Fortune Bay- the only consistent source of revenue we have. We need to continue to make capital improvements to our property. We need to protect and take care of staff.

-Language- we need to find innovative ways to revive our Language, which will revive our Culture.

-WE NEED TO BE MORE VOCAL IN PROTECTING OUR WATER AND WILD RICE.

My stances and votes against the decisions that led us down this Financial Path are well documented. I ask for your Support in the upcoming Election on September 18, 2018.

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**Paid by Candidate*