

Report on the Meeting of July 2, 2005

By: Earl Denver

Before getting into the main topic presented at the meeting, I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank those plaintiff of Felter-vs-Norton who took the time to attend the meeting on such short notice. I especial want to acknowledge Naturich (Kolb) Nielsen and those members of her family who were able to be there with her, what a lovely Lady. Grandma Nielsen just celebrated her 90th birthday on May 30th of this year and is the eldest plaintiff in Felter-vs-Norton. Grandma Nielsen is the Daughter of Ethel (Daniels) Kolb and the Granddaughter of Grandma Rose Daniels.

The meeting got underway with the pledge of allegiance, by Ellis Denver with Julian Reed Jr delivered the opening invocation on our behalf. The podium was then given over to our attorney Dennis Chappabitty who start the meeting and present his report and update on the events that has transpired since the last meeting was held.

Dennis started the meeting by stating that until there is a ruling from Judge (Richard W.) Roberts he has made a decision that no person will be removed from the case for not paying the full fee agreed upon when they signed the agreement to join the case at this time. Although He did say that this doe's not mean that some may be dropped in the future for not keeping with the agreement. Dennis also said he encourages those who still own to make an effort to pay some amount. That he has no desire to drop anyone from the case but may be forced to when the Judge renders a decision.

The latest development was notifying the federal judge over the case that the 90-day period to rule on the government's motion to dismiss the case has long passed. The government's motion to dismiss was filed in November 2003. "No one can go down into the judge's chambers and pound on his desk and demand that he render his decision right now, that's just not the way it works," he said. "The notice that has been filed is proof that we are doing our best to remind Judge (Richard W.) Roberts that we believe his decision is long overdue.

To date there are a total of 650 individuals who have made a commitment to become plaintiffs in Felter-vs-Norton. That's 400 individual who desire to join this case sense the amended complaint was file in November of 2002. Dennis said he will be filing an amendment with the court in Washington D.C; in the near future, adding the additional 400 individual name's as plaintiffs to Felter-vs-Norton.

At around 1pm Dennis finished his presentation at which time Julian Reed perform the tradition blessing of the food and we all took part in a delicious potluck lunch. I would like to thank each and every one of you who provide a side dish, each one was delicious and there was enough for everyone to have a second helping. The food that was brought to the meeting only reaffirmed the fact that the Uinta's are excellent cooks!

After the break the donation raffle was held with quite a few very excellent hand crafted gifts given away. LeAnna Thurnhorst worked very hard gathering the donated items to be given away and with the help of her husband John they both made the donation raffle a huge success. THANK YOU LEANNA and JOHN!

The next session of the meeting was devoted to the honoring of all our member on Felter-vs-Norton who has passed on sense the case was filed and in whose memory we are united together in this cause. They never lost hope that one day the injustices they suffered would be corrected. A pray was offered up to the creator God that we will never waver and that we will be given the faith, courage, strength and perseverance in their memory to carry through to the end. Each deceased Uinta's name was read from a list with the acknowledgement of their termination roll number or was a descendant of an original terminated Uinta. Then the Eaglewing singers preformed the traditional songs on the drum especially made for the terminated Mixed-Blood Uinta's of Utah, those singing were Julian Reed, Kila Woods and Clint Grunwold. Any mixed-blood interested in joining the drum group can contact Julian. Oranna who can tell you how get in touch with Julian.

After honoring those who have gone on we held a special ceremony honoring Naturitch (Kolb) Nielsen our eldest member on the case, or if I may say, the Matriarch of the Terminated Mixed-Blood Uinta's of Utah and I honor Her by calling Her "Grandmother." We also honored Dennis and Linda Chappabitty and ask a special blessing be on Dennis that the Creator God will be with and guide him though the litigation process, and that he will come out successful in this battle he is fighting for us.

The meeting ended with Naturitch and Yours truly talking on the effects that termination has had on them and their family's. Grandma Nielsen spoke first reading from a prepared script written by her before the meeting. Grandma Nielsen's presentation painted a vivid and heart-moving story of the effect termination has had on her and her family and what she wanted for her family through this case.

I won't go into all the details of what I said while in front of the podium but will only summarize. My first statement to the members was that there is nothing I could say on the effect that termination has had on me personally because each member has suffered though the effects of termination only worse. I was too young to understand what had happened at that time. It wasn't until years later that I came to understand the effect it had on my family especially my Father and Brother. In the last portion of my talk I spoke of what I wanted from the repeal of Termination. All I want is an identity for myself and for those who lost property that it be restored back to them along with their identity as American Indian.

At the beginning of the meeting Dennis invited Allen Reyos to the podium where Allen gave a presentation on a documentary he is working on. Allen invited everyone out to Bottle Hollow on Monday July 4 at 9.00am to be video taped in order to put a face on the struggles that we're facing. He also had tee shirts screen-printed protesting a statement made by U.S. Attorney John Mangum who said, "The Constitution doe's not apply to Indians."

A big Thanks to all who attended the meeting and thanks to Oranna, her family and all the other's who work hard putting this meeting together and making it a success.

May God our Creator bless each and every one of you, may we be united in this struggle to undo the injustice that we are suffering through.

All my Relatives.