



Meet the Peacegivers for the Coquille, Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw: Jesse Beers, Stephanie McNutt, Laura Beth Barton, Carolyn Slater, Edgar Bowen, Denise Hunter, Dottie Garcia, Tom Younker, and Sharon Parrish. Also pictured: Judge Owen Costello.

Peacegiving Court seminar introduces Advisory Board and swears in new Peacegivers

The recent Peacegiving Court seminar arranged by the court staff of the Coquille Indian Tribe and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians included the swearing-in ceremony for Peacegivers, acknowledgement of several retiring Peacegivers and discussion concerning the formation of a Peacegiving Court Advisory Board. Several videos about the history of Peacegiving Court and its operation were presented. These included one documenting a young tribal member whose case was transferred from State Court to Peacegiving Court and the subsequent positive outcome.

The Advisory Board will focus on assuring the long-term sustainability of the Peacegiving Court through offering ideas on program refinement and outreach to courts, law enforcement, human service agencies, and tribal members in the Tribes combined service areas. Advisory Board members will include both tribal and non-tribal community representatives whose experience, employment and knowledge qualify them to assist in this manner.

The Peacegiving Court is a cooperative project operating through the court systems of both tribal entities. It is an alternative means of addressing conflict and requires that all parties to a dispute or offense agree to referral of a matter to Peacegiving efforts. Offenders eligible for Peacegiving admit their guilt, accept accountability, and are willing to work with the tribal court system and trained Peacegivers to make amends to the community and individuals affected by their actions as well as to improve their own lives. Disputes between community members are also accepted by the Peacegiving Court.

Cases may be referred to Peacegiving Court through court personnel listed below, the attorneys or the prosecutor of the tribes, by the Human Services Division of each, or in some cases, by letter addressed to the court. Additional information concerning Peacegiving Court is available from:

Susan Thornton at The Coquille Indian Tribe – 541/756-0904 or
Andy Osborn at The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians at 541/888-1307.