

Kenneth Kahn, Business Committee Re-Elected to Chumash Leadership Team



L-R: Gary Pace, Maxine Littlejohn, Mike Lopez, Kenneth Kahn and Raul Armenta.

Kenneth Kahn was re-elected to Tribal Chairman of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians in a recent vote that was held to appoint the tribe's governing body. Also re-elected were all four members of the tribe's Business Committee: Raul Armenta, Maxine Littlejohn, Mike Lopez, and Gary Pace.

Kahn was elected to the tribe's Business Committee in 2003 and served for seven consecutive terms as Secretary/Treasurer and Vice Chairman. Kahn was appointed to Tribal Chairman in a special election in 2016. He is currently serving his second term as Chairman. Under his Chairmanship, the tribe completed its casino expansion project, and Camp 4 was placed into federal trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Armenta serves as Vice-Chairman, having been elected in a special election in 2016. Prior to his appointment to the Business Committee, he served almost two decades on the Santa Ynez Gaming Commission where he, along with four other members, were responsible for providing regulatory oversight of the Chumash Casino Resort.

Littlejohn was first elected to the Business Committee in 2000 and became Secretary-Treasurer in 2003 until she temporarily left the committee to serve on the Gaming Commission from 2005 to 2009. Littlejohn returned to the Business Committee in 2015 and has been re-elected as a member every year since. She currently serves as the Committee's Secretary-Treasurer.

Pace was first elected in 2004 and has been re-elected to the tribe's Business Committee in eight consecutive elections. During his time on the Business Committee, Pace has worked diligently on the tribe's behalf through many important tribal milestones including the purchase of Camp 4, the acquisition of Hotel Corque, Hadsten House, and Root 246, and the launch of Kitá Wines.

After serving for almost a decade as the Gaming Commission Chairman, Lopez joined the Business Committee in 2015. The recent election serves as his third consecutive term

on the tribe's leadership team. In addition to his role as Committee Member, Lopez also serves as a representative for the tribe's Education Committee and is currently a board member for the United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County.

The tribe's Chairman and Business Committee members each serve two-year terms and are responsible for establishing policies and overseeing the legal and business affairs of the tribe while providing for the economic well being of its members.

San Manuel Names Loren Gill as New CEO



Loren Gill

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians recently announced it has named Loren Gill as Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Jerry Peresa who was named CEO Emeritus in September 2018. Since joining San Manuel Casino as General Manager in 2015, Gill has led the casino through unprecedented, sustained growth. In his new role, he will be responsible for overall leadership and strategic operations for

San Manuel Tribal Government Operations as well as San Manuel Casino.

"Loren exemplifies the tribe's vision, mission and values and is committed to further unifying San Manuel across the enterprise," said Lynn Valbuena, Chairwoman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. "While his long career in the gaming industry speaks to his expertise in casino management, it is his passion for and commitment to the tribe that make him the right person to lead our Tribal Government Operations and Casino enterprises."

Gill has played a key leadership role both for San Manuel Casino and in the transition of the Tribal Government Operations as a member of the Interim Office of the CEO. In both roles, Gill was the key lead of the Yaamava' expansion project, which will ultimately usher the tribe toward a brighter future and extend San Manuel Casino's position as one of the top entertainment destinations in Southern California.

"I am honored to serve in this important role and for the opportunity to work even closer with the tribe to create a brighter future for San Manuel," said Loren Gill, Chief Executive Officer of San Manuel. "The tribe is very special to me, and I am grateful to contribute in my new role to an organization that has done so much to help others."

With Gill's appointment, Peter Arceo has been named Interim General Manager of San Manuel Casino until the role is filled, with an internal and external talent search currently underway. As the Casino's Chief Operating Officer since August 2018, and, prior to that, Chief Marketing Officer since 2015, Arceo has been instrumental to the casino's success.

Lac du Flambeau Mourn the Passing of Tribal Leader Henry “Butch” St. Germaine, Sr.



Henry “Butch” St. Germaine, Sr.

The Lac du Flambeau Community is mourning the loss of one of their cherished leaders, Henry “Butch” St. Germaine, Sr., who served his community in several aspects, including Tribal President, Vice President, Tribal Council Member, and Natural Resources Fish Hatchery Manager. His lifetime of dedication and self-sacrifice serve as a tribute to the exemplary man he was. His humbleness, integrity, and hard work continue to inspire those who knew him, and the example he set will

carry on for generations.

Throughout his life of service, he was instrumental in forming programs that benefit the community, one of those being the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Police Department. “He was the Judicial Committee Chairman and was a strong supporter of the police department. We owe a lot to him for where we are today,” said Bob Brandenburg, Lac du Flambeau Chief of Police.

Butch’s daughter Veronica shared, “He was a wonderful father and taught us everything. His family was his pride, and he loved everyone.” Encouraging his grandson to take classes in automotive repair, teaching his daughter Tracy to solder, and passing down his mechanical and welding knowledge to his sons was a way that Butch included his family in his love of making things work. If Butch couldn’t fix it, it couldn’t be fixed.

A statement from the Lac du Flambeau Community said, “Although we are sad to say good-bye to a man who will be missed in this physical world, we were all privileged to know Butch, and his love for life made the lives of those who knew him that much more enriched. Butch was known as a very kind, loving man that had the best sense of humor. If you have never been teased by Butch, you haven’t had the pleasure of meeting him.”

He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Mrs. Mildred “Millie” St. Germaine and his loving children: Louis St. Germaine, Clancy St. Germaine, Paula St. Germaine, Tracy (St. Germaine) Daubon, Veronica St. Germaine, Ashley Isham and several grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his son Henry “Butch” St. Germaine, Jr. He walked on with his wife and family by his side. ♣



Peter Arceo

“As excited as I am to serve in a new role as San Manuel CEO, I know the casino will continue to flourish with the current leadership team,” said Gill. “Peter is a great leader who embodies our core values, and I am looking forward to continue working with him and the rest of our executive leadership team to build a greater future, together.”

Suquamish Tribe Elects Returning Leaders to Tribal Council

The Suquamish Tribe elected two council veterans to serve as Treasurer and Vice-Chairman of the Tribal Council at the tribe’s recent General Council meeting. The Suquamish Tribal membership elected incumbent Robin Sigo to the position of Treasurer. The tribe also elected Wayne George to the position of Vice-Chairman. George replaces Bardow Lewis in that position. George served on the council over several previous terms.

The Suquamish Tribal Council is the governing body of the Suquamish Tribe. There are seven council positions: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and three council members. Candidates voted to Tribal Council serve in three-year staggered terms. The Suquamish Tribe has approximately 1,200 citizens. Suquamish Tribal Members vote



L-R: Council Member Luther “Jay” Mills; Secretary Nigel Lawrence; Treasurer Robin Sigo; Chairman Leonard Forsman; Council Member Sammy Mabe; Council Member Rich Purser; Vice-Chairman Wayne George. Photo courtesy of the Suquamish Tribe

for Tribal Council positions during their General Council meeting held each year in the spring.

Chumash Business Committee Member Mike Lopez Appointed To CNIGA Board

Mike Lopez, a member of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians’ Business Committee, has been appointed to the California Nations Indian Gaming Association’s Executive Board. Lopez, 49, was unanimously elected by the Central District tribes to serve a two-year term as the Central District At-Large Member of the CNIGA Executive Committee. The position became vacant in December when James Siva from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians was elected Vice Chairman of the committee.



Mike Lopez

“It’s an honor to join the board of an organization that has made such a positive impact on California tribes,” Lopez said. “I’m looking forward to bringing my experience to the table and helping CNIGA in its mission to ensure Indian gaming continues to flourish and support tribes throughout the state.”

Lopez was elected to the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians’ Business Committee in 2015 after serving nearly a decade as Chairman of the Santa Ynez Gaming Commission. He was recently elected to his third two-year term on the Business Committee.

Lopez also serves as a representative for the tribe’s education board as well as a board member for the United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County.

Tony David Named SRMT Environment Division Director



Tony David

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) recently announced that Tony David has been selected as the new Director of the Tribe’s Environment Division. Tony’s selection follows the retirement of Ken Jock after 32 years of helping guide the development of the tribe’s environment program.

David previously served as the Environment Division’s Water Resources Program Manager, where for 15 years he oversaw efforts to protect and restore fisheries, wetlands and safeguarding the overall health of Akwesasne’s waterways. As the new Environment Director, he will expand the application of his knowledge and experience in directing the areas of air quality, land resources, solid waste, remediation and environmental regulations.

During his time as the tribe’s Water Resources Manager, David spearheaded the effort to remove the 330 ft. Hogansburg Dam in September 2016, which was the first impassable barrier to fish on the St. Regis River for over 85 years. The dam’s removal opened up 555 miles of upstream habitat – restoring natural flows and fish migration to critical spawning and nursery habitats. It represented the first decommission and removal of a federally licensed dam by a tribe, as well as the first removal of a hydroelectric dam in New York State.

David’s previous work experience included managing a number of significant environmental projects in collaboration with local, state, federal and international bodies. He has worked in coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, U.S. Geological Survey’s Tunison Laboratory of Aquatic Science and NYS Department of Environmental

Conservation to enhance Akwesasne’s fish species and natural habitats. For nearly ten years, the joint initiatives have been working to restore Atlantic salmon and lake sturgeon into Akwesasne’s waterways, which often include educational components for local students.

David was the recipient of the 2017 Environmental Champion Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for his dedication and commitment to protecting and enhancing environmental quality. He also recently completed a two-year term on the International Joint Commission’s (IJC) International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board.

“I am grateful for the broad support from our community and from friends and colleagues at the local, state and federal level,” said Incoming Environment Division Director Tony David. “I look forward to helping our tribe become more resilient to address evolving environmental challenges. We must enhance opportunities for cooperation and consultation to attain mutual environmental goals for the benefit of all who enjoy it – now and in the future.”

Gun Lake Casino Names Steve Sandack as New Director of Security



Steve Sandack

A new Director of Security has been announced at Gun Lake Casino. Steve Sandack has assumed the role, effective immediately.

“We are thrilled to welcome Steve to the team,” said Sal Semola, President and Chief Operating Officer for Gun Lake Casino. “Gun Lake Casino is a premier employer in the region and we are proud to add Steve’s extensive depth of experience and knowledge to our executive team.”

Sandack comes with over 30 years of experience through various roles in gaming and law enforcement. He began as an auditor for the Mid-City National Bank. He then worked as an Illinois Gaming Board docksite supervisor for the Illinois State Police. Sandack also served as a compliance and security officer at Fair Share Gaming, LLC before continuing his gaming career at Majestic Star Casino as the Director of Compliance.

Sandack received the Award of Excellence in Law Enforcement in 2014, and has been a member of the Illinois Crisis Negotiation Association, served as a crisis negotiator team leader, and Illinois State Police Peer Support Counseling Advisor, and was a member of the City of Naperville Transportation Advisory Board.

Sandack will oversee all security officers, EMTs, and the safety of all Gun Lake Casino guests and team members.

New Executive Chef Kenneth Williams Joins Agua Caliente Rancho Mirage



Kenneth Williams

Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa Rancho Mirage has welcomed its new Executive Chef, Kenneth Williams, who brings his impressive experience in restaurants, resorts and entertainment catering around the country to the Coachella Valley.

An American Culinary Federation Certified Executive Chef and graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY, Chef Ken brings a wealth of professional expertise to overseeing Agua Caliente Rancho Mirage's diverse dining options. Early in his career, Chef Ken worked at the prestigious Four Seasons hotel corporation in Newport Beach and Beverly Hills, where he learned the essentials of five-star and five-diamond food service. He then worked with Wolfgang Puck Catering, assisting in ultra-high-end catering events that included the Academy Awards Governor's Ball. Chef Ken has served as a progressive professional chef for corporate gaming, food management companies, and tribal gaming from Las Vegas to the mid-south and throughout California. In Las Vegas he worked in culinary operations on a large scale at Mirage Resorts and was involved in the opening of the Bellagio. Prior to joining Agua Caliente Rancho Mirage in February of this year, Chef Ken was Executive Chef of theme park operations at Universal Studios Hollywood.

AGS Names Mark DeDeaux Senior Director, Slot Products

AGS recently announced gaming industry executive Mark DeDeaux has joined the company as Senior Director, Slot Products. DeDeaux will oversee games product management, gaming operations, and sales administration, with a focus on driving the company's games product strategy and roadmap and overseeing AGS' leased games business.

AGS Senior Vice President of Slot Products Andrew Burke said, "Mark brings exceptional experience to the customer journey. With 10 years working in casino operations in several different markets, he understands our customers' goals and challenges very well. He also possesses a deep technical knowledge of product and a strong understanding of the competitive marketplace. We look forward to leveraging his broad industry expertise to help our customers achieve new levels of product performance and ensure that AGS continues its strong momentum."

DeDeaux brings more than 20 years of gaming industry experience to AGS, including 13 years in gaming equipment sales and gaming operations, along with more than 10 years of experience in casino operations.



Mark DeDeaux

Immediately prior to joining AGS, he served as the Vice President of Business Development and Sales for Next Gaming, a developer of skill-based slot products, where he was responsible for game development, product management, strategic initiatives, business development, sales, and marketing. Prior to that, DeDeaux served four years as the Director of Sales at Scientific Games, with sales operations responsibility for a six-state territory in a role in which he consistently exceeded annual revenue, increased regional sales, and surpassed his annual forecasts. Before that, he served six years as the Director of Gaming Operations at Bally Technologies, with responsibility for global recurring gaming revenue of approximately \$400 million.

Pokagon Band Elders Council Honors Brian Antisdell



Brian Antisdell

The Elders Council of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians recently honored Brian Antisdell, a Pokagon citizen from Dowagiac, for his volunteer and humanitarian efforts. Tribal elders presented him with an eagle feather in a ceremony conducted by a spiritual elder and an Ojitchidaw veteran. This high honor is bestowed on individuals who demonstrate strength, bravery, or act in alignment with traditional teachings.

Antisdell is known in Dowagiac for his local activism. He has delivered food and water when called upon. He initiates kindness, such as when he paid for students' negative lunch balances at the middle school and distributed heaters to the community during the recent polar vortex.

He has also traveled to places experiencing crises like Flint, MI, where he delivered water to residents in need, and to the Standing Rock Sioux reservation, where he assisted with safety and management during the pipeline protest. His work in disaster zones in floods and hurricanes in Texas, Florida, and North Carolina, and wildfires in California have led him to join the Cajun Navy Foundation.

"Brian has voluntarily put his own safety at risk to come to the aid of others," said Judy Winchester, Elders Council Chair. "He has chosen a path consistent with the Seven Grandfather teachings of the Pokagon Band. We honor him as an example that only what is done for others will last."

"I see lots of things that break my heart," Antisdell said. "In California, I have never in my life witnessed such death, loss, being alone, searching night and day for anything alive. Being there with goods the community sent or a hug or a smile was the most amazing thing I had ever felt, that's when I knew what I was supposed to do." ♣