

KARUK TRIBE

LETTER OF INTENT FOR CANDIDACY

Name of Candidate: Russell A Hebery

Tribal Roll #: 587

Candidate for: Karuk Tribal Chairperson or Secretary/Treasurer  
(Circle One)

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

see attached

Signature: Russell A. Hebery

Date: 5-14-15

## **Buster Attebery**

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To the Karuk Tribal Membership:

Ayukii huut kich nanithvuy uum Russell "Buster" Attebery and I am declaring myself eligible for the position of Tribal Chairperson. I was born in Yreka and raised in Happy Camp, Ca. After graduating from Happy Camp High School I attended Sacramento State University and graduated in 1974. From there I pursued a professional baseball career until 1980, then I went back to college at Humboldt State University. I graduated from Humboldt State with a clear lifetime teaching credential through the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP). I was a teacher, coach and athletic director at Happy Camp High School from 2008 until November of 2011 and have been the Karuk Chairman since then.

When I was elected as Chairman I took an oath to help protect and preserve the Karuk Tribe's ceremonies, traditions, customs and the "Karuk way of Life". My open door policy has worked very well and it has been a real honor to represent The Karuk Tribe for the past four years. I have and will continue to advocate for healthy rivers, forests and continue to take action to protect our local ecosystems. I will continue to help maintain our sovereignty and right to self-governance. We need to keep fighting for our hunting and fishing rights and our right to manage our own forests. Nobody knows Indian Country like the people who live there. I will continue to advocate for education for our children and a healthy lifestyle for our Elders. Reservation status or reinstating our original territories so we can provide more housing, medical and dental facilities, this is a trust obligation that must be honored. In order to accomplish these goals I have been speaking loudly and proudly to the National Congress of American Indians, Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, California Association of Tribal Government, Tribal-Interior Budget Committee and more.

There have been many accomplishments in the past four years:

- The Karuk casino project is scheduled to begin construction in the summer of 2015. This will be a huge economic development for the Karuk Tribe for generations to come.
- More educational opportunities are on the horizon. The Cobell Settlement will put 60 million dollars into funding for Indian Education. President Obama has asked for a set-aside of one billion dollars for Indian Education in 2016. Tutors are available for all Karuk Tribal students. Scholarships are available for Tribal students going away to college.
- The Karuk Tribal Housing is near completion of the new "Wellness Center". This will provide a gymnasium for our youth activities and promote healthy activities for our Elders. I will keep advocating for more activities for our youth. The new "Wellness Center" will provide more opportunities for sports clinics and leagues. We already have a new flag football league in Happy Camp and hope to expand to Yreka. We are now offering basketball, softball and baseball clinics. All these leagues and clinics will serve as anti-drug campaigns.
- The Karuk Tribal Council has been actively consulting with other government agencies. The result has been great, we settled litigation with the Montague Water District. We agreed to seek grant funding to line a canal which will potentially allow for more water to be released for the salmon and other river habitat. The Council agreed to help Montague maintain clean drinking water last summer. Not only did this help our Tribal Members living in Montague but also allowed the excess cool water to go into Shasta River also helping the fish run.
- The TIBC (Tribal/Interior Budget) committee announced that there will be increases in funding for Indian Country programs almost across the board and we are looking to get reinstated for the sequester cuts from 2013 and 2014.
- Funding is being put in place to open a new Tribal College in California. Possibly Sacramento or Redding.

. I am currently a member in good standing with the following associations:

- Northern California Tribal Chairman's Association (NCTCA)
- California Association of Tribal Government (CATG), committee member
- Tribal-Interior representative (TIBC), Pacific Region representative
- California Native American Heritage Commissioner (NAHC), Governor of California appointed position
- California Tribal College, member of the Board of Regents