

Chairperson

Reports To: Tribal Membership through the Tribal Council

Location: Happy Camp Administration Office

Supervises: Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, Self-Governance Director, Enrollment Officer, Director of Administrative Programs and Compliance, TERO/Childcare Director, Chief Finance Officer, Executive Director of Health and Human Services, Human Resources Manager, People's Center Coordinator, Construction/Maintenance Director, TANF Executive Director, Tribal Court Administrator, Director of Land and Transportation Planning

Salary: \$60,000 to \$70,000, Depending on Experience

1) What are your typical job responsibilities?

Daily operations with all departments and entities of the Karuk Tribe; Daily correspondence via email; Review and correspondence of incoming and outgoing mail; Consultation, Development, direction and decision making with Tribal Directors and Supervisors; Report of Tribal operations with Vice Chairman and Tribal Council.

2) How do you *really* spend your day?

Routinely my day is steady and busy with the above mentioned duties. Many times during my day, I have many discussions with staff on ideas, planning, department issues and personnel.

3) How do you organize your day to ensure you get everything done?

I do a weekly schedule to staff and Tribal Council. Daily routine steers my daily work. Tons of papers and correspondence pass through my office. My computer, email, messages left on my phone, incoming and outgoing mail, and business trips are organized and prioritized each week and each day.

4) What education/career paths lead you to this position? Were there any life changes that guided your way to this position (ex; closing of the mill, desire not to leave area, family)?

I graduated from Yreka High School, 1978 and in my work career; I have taken college classes with College of the Siskiyous. I have worked full time in a variety of jobs beginning in 1979. In my early years in high school I had decided to work in business management as an accountant. As time passed, I got more interested in counseling. In 1993 I worked for the Karuk Tribal Housing Authority as a Tenant Relations Officer. That was the beginning of me working with and for the Karuk Tribe. I served as a Board of Commissioner for the Housing Authority from 1996 – 1998; I was elected to Tribal Council in 1997 and served for one year; I was employed by the Karuk Tribe Housing Authority as a Resident Service Coordinator/Tenant Relations Officer from 1998 – 2003; then elected as Tribal Chairman, November 2003. 1993 was the start of my interest in becoming involved with the Karuk Tribe. 1996 was the year that I started to become involved with Tribal politics. I have always been and advocate and my desire to work with our people and our government led me to this position.

5) Uppers; what is the thing that you love most about your job?

I honor the opportunity to work with and for the people of the Karuk Tribe. Being open minded and having an open door policy allows a sense of accomplishment.

6) Downers; what is the thing that you love least about your job?

It is very hard to communicate with individuals when they don't want to hear the reason for rules, regulation, and policies. My theory is that guidelines have been set up to help direct our services and decisions. Just because a rule has been made, doesn't mean that it cannot be changed. Sometimes we do make rules that don't work and we have to go back and analyze and sometimes change. When an individual doesn't have time to reason and they get upset, angry and sometimes hateful, that's the hardest part of my job.

7) What inspires, excites, and/or motivates you in your job?

Challenges and opportunities for the Karuk Tribe excite me. Working with my support staff with the same ambitions and goals excites me as well.

8) What does your average work week schedule look like (ex; hours worked, meetings, appointments, traveling, etc.)?

Monday through Thursday, 7am – 5pm (we leave Yreka at 5:30am); Fridays I usually work in Yreka, it is a light day, but open for meetings and seeing staff and members in the Yreka area; we usually have from three to five meetings per average week (ICWA, Education, Council luncheon, Yav Paa Anav, projects, etc); I have an open door policy, so appointments are continuous; I travel one to two times per month.

9) How do you relieve stress?

Tension relief would be, drink a lot of water and breathe; weekly massages help; tennis and volleyball (my two favorites) and other sports are good; energy and support from family and friends is probably number one.

10) Does your job include a lot of traveling? Do you enjoy it?

My job does include a lot of traveling. I travel about three or four times during a given month. I do enjoy travel. With the training, conferences, and consultation, there is always a lot of work to do. It's nice to get away and see other places, Tribes and other views of city and country living.

11) What advice would you give to someone interested in this line of work?

I encourage any and all tribal members to consider being a tribal leader. I believe if you have the ambition and desire to be a representative and leader for the Karuk people, you should speak to your family, friends and tribal members to support and elect you into office. Number one rule is to remember who you are and the reason one chooses to run for office.

12) What does a typical day in your world look like?

A typical day is knowing that your work week is always busy; looking forward to some rest and relaxation; hoping you have time to take care of yourself; hoping time in your schedule will allow you to be organized in your home life; and hoping time allows you to be blessed by your family and friends; then applying your standards of life as mentioned.