



September 2007

We have been asked many times in the last few months, “So, what’s going on with the casino proposal? Are you still fighting it?” The answer is YES but mainly on the federal level to prevent a reservation/casino from coming into our neighborhood by sidestepping Illinois jurisdiction.

Locally, the executive committee of C4C continues to meet on a regular basis. We did hire a recommended ethno-historian, expert in Native American history, to research the HoChunk tribe’s claim that they have aboriginal rights to their Lynwood property. After extensive research, we received his completed report of 75 pages plus its two reference exhibits of maps, documents, diagrams, etc. totaling over 160 pages. The report was very favorable and shows that not only were the HoChunk never settled here, but also no other tribe can claim aboriginal rights to “the shoreline Quadaghe region within lower Cook County Illinois south of the city of Chicago”. We are thankful for the work done and for the outcome of the report.

On the state level, we have seen the budget wars get ugly, the unity of the state Democrats falling apart, and the governor playing vindictive politics. And amongst it all, there was a clamoring, at one point, to expand gambling (literally, cause a gambling explosion) to fill the gap between expected income and budgeted expenses. Thankfully, the expansion did not come this time because so many called the governor and state officials demanding that this not be done. We know that gambling is not only wrong, but also is bad economic policy. What is disturbing is that, even though gambling has not lived up to any of its economic promises, politicians want to increase it even more instead of cutting spending and promoting true economic development. Politicians in Illinois wish to increase taxes on everything from our income to our purchases, but have substantially reduced taxes on casinos. We would like to see gambling eliminated in Illinois, but until it happens, the casino owner should be taxed heavily to pay for their promises and the social costs gambling incurs to each citizen of Illinois.

On the federal level, members of the executive committee and other concerned citizens will be traveling to Washington, DC in October to take part in a nationwide anti-gambling conference where we’ll network with other organizations like C4C and meet with elected officials concerning our local fight. We plan to meet with officials from the Department of the Interior regarding the HoChunk’s application to have the land in Lynwood put into sovereign trust for the purpose of gambling. We ask that you pray for safety in travel for those who go, that the Lord will open doors and open ears, and that we may have success in our meetings with those in power.

Your outstanding response to our previous letter enabled us to pay about one third of the total cost for this research. Presently, our estimated costs to pay the balance due, plus costs for meeting in DC with the BIA and the conference, this newsletter, etc., will exceed \$10,000. So yes we are depending on your continued support and have confidence that you will not let us down! Especially, continue to pray that the Lord will be glorified through this all and that He will grant victory in this fight.

In closing, the executive committee expresses our sincere sympathy to two of our charter members, Lynn DeJong and Deb Van Drunen in the passing of their father. We pray that the Lord will comfort those who mourn.

The C4C Executive Committee