

Position #4 Statement:

shin dai sla! Hello everyone!

For those of you who don't know me, I am Tyler Slyter. My father was Chief Donald "Doc" Slyter, my grandmother was Carolyn Slyter, and my brother is Scott. I am also the proud father of my son, Reece Slyter.

As a young child, I spent my days playing at the old Compass Building office in Coos Bay while our ancestral families worked relentlessly on the documents for our Restoration. While I was too young then to understand the weight of their efforts, I now carry a deep sense of gratitude for the future they secured for us.



My Journey Home

After graduating from Marshfield High School, I left the Oregon Coast to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Engineering and a Master's in Business. My career took me across numerous states and around the world, but in January 2023, I returned to Coos Bay to be with my father during his illness. Following his passing in November of that year, I chose to stay and serve the community that raised me.

Currently, I serve the Tribe as the Director of Forest Management, a board member of Blue Earth Federal Corp, and a member of the Housing Committee. Whether I am participating in the Hanis Language class—which is fulfilling and very challenging—or cooking frybread at events with my brother, I have been happy to re-engage in the life of our Tribe. I also enjoy Hunting and visiting the Sand Dunes. There is much to do on the Oregon Coast, and I am glad to be back.

Acknowledging the Challenge

In these past three years, my eyes have been opened to the complexity of leading our Tribe. Every success in our 41 years since Restoration has been the result of hard work and commitment. However, Restoration is not a finished task; it is an ongoing healing process that requires us to work together.

I feel that one of my biggest strengths is "making things happen" and "getting things done". Accomplishment drives me. But I also realize that when something is broken, you must take the time to fix it. I believe in being practical and I admit that what we are doing now is not working. To move forward, we must build a better system—one rooted in transparency and collaboration, working towards consensus on setting priorities. Then achieving those goals together.

My Commitment: An Invitation to Participate

I am running for **Tribal Council** to implement a system that supports communication and collective accountability. I **invite** every member to join me in these specific goals:

- **Empowering Committees:** I will work to better define our committees, giving them a dedicated space to address the Council and the General Membership directly.
- **Honoring Our Elders:** We must move beyond emails and prioritize personal interaction, including home visits, to ensure our Elders are truly heard.
- **Investing in Youth:** I support creating internships and job-shadowing opportunities to prepare the next generation for leadership.
- **Healing Through Culture:** I advocate for using Peace Giving and Talking Circles to resolve conflicts and build consensus. Wonderful work is occurring in this area and this resource will soon be available as a tool to help all aspects of the Tribe.
- **Inter-Tribal Diplomacy:** I am committed to mending and strengthening our relationships with other Tribes to ensure our regional sovereignty.
- **Strategic Vision:** I support the work of the Vision Committee to identify the actual needs of our members and set clear, achievable goals.

The Work Ahead

Nothing has ever been easy for our Tribe; we have fought for everything we have. To survive and thrive, we must hold ourselves to the highest standards. I am fueled by a desire to achieve goals, but I recognize that true progress requires being humble and the willingness to try new things. We must be open to change and make adjustments along the way.

I ask for your support as we work to control our own fate and provide for the generations to come.

With humility and respect.



Tyler Slyter

