

Hau mitakuyepi,

Anpetu waste yelo! Well I wrote a speech in regards to this appointment as filling the seat for remainder of chairman's term. I'd like to say I'd wish this would've been in different circumstances. I'd like to pay my respects to the chairman and his tiwahe. My hats off to the late Micheal b. Jandreau on his 30 plus years in running this tribe and getting this tribe to where it is. Like with all leadership there is good and bad decisions that reflect a person's leadership. Today let's remember his leadership and move forward to another generation of leadership. As a lakota ikce wicasa accepting this leadership is an honor and a blessing. I know some look at this appointment as an end of an Era and to others a beginning of a new era. I look at it as a continuation of leading our people to a realization that we are all one underneath tunkasila. We are the creator's children and giving us all a vision to move forward as one. Not as divided people but to come together for the oyate and wakanjeya.

Upon this appointment I take a lot on shoulders as our oyate are in dismay and under the illusion of grandure. Due to the current opposition of two factions struggling for what is right or wrong. No matter right or wrong. Our people have been suffering and giving their daily sacrifices for their survival. There has been much death within our community and alot of negativity. Through this negativity we don't see each other as equals. As some believe they live in England and it's a monarchy. Where you have to be of nobility and everyone else is the minority. It's time to truly change this perception and see that we are an egalitarian society. We are all equal to each other and no one is higher than anyone. I say this because even a chief is equal to his people. With that being said I'd do my best to bring this oyate back together. Right now there are issues coming to the indigenous nations that will effect us all. I heard some talk of blood quantum and push blame on the grassroots people on the issue. Well as a lakota and through the teachings of many wise men. I come to understand that as lakota we never had blood quantum within our nation. If your lakota then be lakota. As a treaty person I heard many stories of a time that's coming and it's fearful. We say fearful in treaty because this time is here and sadness will be fall our people everywhere.

Most don't understand when we tell this to the oyate. They look at the treaty people as radical and disillusioned people. They've been giving us warnings for a long time now. My lala naca Garfield GrassRope would warn us of these times coming. He foretold that their will be a time where money is the only thing and our lands will be taken due to money. Taxation and much more will come. At that time I was reckless in my youth not caring or believing. I forgot these because of my own ignorance and selfishness. Or how I'd say my colonization and

assimilation to a society that was never the lakota way. It's time to put all in differences to the side and prepare for these things coming. Yet we all are in tunnel vision believing this world here is ours and we can save it anytime. Well sorry to say it's time to awaken and be lakota once again for the sake of our generations to come. So as your appointed chairman I humbly ask all the oyate to come together and let's make our oyate flourish for many years to come. Prosperity will only come when we look pass our own selfishness. I heard this woman tell the oyate that their is no poverty here within this Reservation. Well I beg to differ on that statement. There is poverty here and if you don't see it, then you are truly blind. People say it's choices but I'll tell you it's not. Yes the power of choice is there for everyone. But some they only have two choices either leave on own accord or provide for the family. As most lakota people it's built in us not to leave and provide for our families. It's in our genetics. We were raised by good humble people and they showed us the compassion, along with many other values, to go forward in our daily endeavors. I tell you this because as an ikce wicasa it's hard to be lakota. Lakota follow the seven natural laws and live their life following them along with the cannupa.

I stand here only as an equal and because I carry this title does not make me higher than any creation. So for the remainder of this appointment I'll be your chairman. Through this process there will be changes. As with any new administration there is change. So bear with me for this one year appointment and let's bring a new Era to our people where we are all one under the creator. Where we all are a family and not just one tiospaye prospers. All tiospayes prosper but in order to do that we need to be one for more positive prosperity and future.

Lewis GrassRope