



The Lumbee Tribe names first 4 VISTA volunteers

By Bruce Barton

PEMBROKE-The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina recently received notification that the organization has been chosen to administer an AmeriCorps VISTA Program. The program will allow the tribe to sponsor 15 AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers. VISTA stands for "Volunteers In Service To America."

The first four VISTA volunteers have been chosen and they are Bruce Barton, Carnell Locklear, Roxanne Lippard and Sallie Hunt. Barton, now 64, and the former editor and founder of the Carolina Indian Voice newspaper, and retired as an educator, is excited about his new adventure. "I love working with grassroots people, and like the fact that the tribal VISTA program is focusing on helping our elders and youth help themselves."

Carnell Locklear, 64, a long time resident of the Red Banks community is well known as a community activist and local performer. He is fondly remembered for his role as "Boss Strong" in **Strike at the Wind!**, the outdoor drama about Lumbee hero Henry Berry Lowrie and his friends and foes for many seasons. Locklear is enthusiastic about his new role as a VISTA volunteer. "I look forward to helping as many of our people as I can, especially the elders."

Roxane Lippard, a proud grandmother, and a descendant of the Lonnie Locklear family from the Mt. Airy Community, loves helping people. She was especially happy to help plan the recent dedication of the Judge Dexter Brooks Memorial Room at the Pembroke Public Library. "I like being able to help honor those in our community who deserve recognition." Ms. Lippard, who recently lost a son in a tragic automobile



Vista Volunteers with Rob Winston, State Director of Community Services (center)

accident, is also very sensitive to the needs of the Lumbee youth. Ms. Lippard noted, "our young people are faced with many problems and we need to be as open and honest with them as we can possibly be."

Ms. Sallie Hunt, from the South Robeson High School area, loves the fact that her duties specifically call for her to help the elders and youth in Lumbee land. "I have always been involved in my community, and look forward to doing more. It is a pleasure to get up each day and figure out who I can help today." Ms. Hunt and her husband, Gilbert, have always been active in their community.

The VISTA volunteers will be responsible for working with the tribe to help build community support in the service areas of Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson and Scotland Counties by informing and improving access to available services to tribal members. The VISTA volunteers will focus on helping tribal families receive services primarily geared to young people and senior citizens.

Leon Jacobs, tribal administrator, expressed special thanks to Mr. Robert L. Winston, the state director for the Corporation for National and Community Service, and his staff in Raleigh, for their assistance. In a telephone interview, Mr. Winston noted that this is the 40th year of service for AmeriCorps VISTA Program. Approximately 6,000 AmeriCorps VISTA members serve in more than 1,100 local programs throughout the United States.

To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit www.americorps.org or call 800-942-2677 or TTY 800-833-3722.

For more information contact Bruce Barton at bbarton@lumbee-tribe.com or call 521-7861.

Lumbee Tribe Receives Development Grant

The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina has been notified that the North Carolina Department of Commerce through the Community Development Block Grant for Housing Development funds has awarded a \$250,000 grant through the Town of Pembroke to support the Tribe's development of the Arrowpoint Subdivision located within the town's limits.

The tribal subdivision is adjacent to the intersection of Chicken Road and highway 711 and is tribal land that members who are eligible for single-family housing opportunities through the Tribe can purchase lots. These funds will be utilized by the Tribe to assist 14 low-income members develop their lot in the areas of sewer and water improvements. The grant will also assist the Tribe to develop and improve the street infrastructure of the division.

"The good thing about this program is as soon as we fulfill our conditions of this grant we can turn around and apply again. It's a non-competitive grant, first come first serve, and as new construction manager, I plan to utilize this opportunity to continue to assist our low-income members." states Leon Revels, staff member of the Lumbee Tribe.

The Tribe has identified the lots and the 14 members to be served by this grant will be drawn from the current homeownership waiting list. The purpose of the homeownership program is to provide low-income tribal members with housing opportunities that are safe decent, sanitary and affordable. The homebuyer in return must fulfill their obligations to make monthly payments based on income, to pay for the cost of utilities and to provide all maintenance on the home.

Bosco Locklear, Interim Housing Director, said, "I would like to give a special thanks to Congressman McIntyre's Office, the town of Pembroke, and Senator's Burr and Dole, on behalf of those 14 households and families who will receive this service."

Further information concerning the Lumbee Tribe's Homeownership Program can be obtained by contacting the Tribal Housing Department at 910-521-7861.

