



2023 Voter's Guide

Brothertown Indian Nation



2023 Tribal Election

Saturday, May 20, 2023

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Brothertown Community Center

While not everyone is able to serve as an officer, be a council member or on a committee, there is something each and every adult member 18 years or older in our Brothertown tribe can do, and that is to **VOTE** at our annual election. By voting, it shows that we care enough about our tribe to take the time to vote for those members who will help our tribe move forward.

If you would like to run for a position in a future election, please contact one of the Election Committee members listed below.

The election committee is made up of members **Mary Huberty, Barb Roloff** and **Shaun Nadolny**.

- elections@brothertownindians.org
- **Shaun Nadolny (414-403-3339)** shaunnadolny@hotmail.com



2023 Seats Up for election:

Councilmember (two positions), Secretary and Peacemaker

Councilmember

(Three Year Term) 2 open Positions

Position: Council



Aquy, Brothertown nation. My name is Faith Ottery. I descend from Clark Sampson, as well as through the Fowler, Pharoah, Waucus, Adams, and Occom lines, and from the Mohegan, Pequot, Montaukett, and Tunxis tribes. My parents are Rudi and Will Ottery.

Like my family, I have been involved with our Tribe for decades. As an Elder, I have served as Brothertown Council member (2012-15), on our Tribe's Recognition/Restoration Committees, assisted with obtaining and overseeing the 2014 Brothertown Indian Information Infrastructure and Technology Upgrade Project grant to support and prepare us for Federal Restoration, and actively supported and continue to support Brothertown land development.

I also work with Native American education and health issues, as a member of the UW-Madison [The Native American Center for Health Professions Advisory Council](#) and the Dean's Alumni of Color Advisory Council, UW College of Letters and Sciences, and have endowed funds at UW-Madison for medical, allied health, undergraduate, and graduate students.

Professionally, formerly a cancer surgeon and now in nutrition and pharma, I have years of experience in public speaking, communications, planning, advocacy, and working with government agencies and staff, skills that could be critical to our Restoration efforts, and beyond.

I find life often leads us to the place we need to be. Now that I live in Illinois, rather than in Philadelphia, I am literally at a place to again work more closely with the Tribe—something I have deeply missed.

Councilmember

(Three Year Term) 2 open Positions

Position: Council



Renee Patterson

847-708-5193

Rebee_99@yahoo.com

Hello fellow Brothertown family members:

My name is Renee Patterson, and I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Brothertown Council.

I am descended of Lucy Skeesuck and her daughter Catherine Welch Johnson. I share the passion of moving our tribe and members forward as several of my relatives. Craig Cottrell (vice chair/council member/Tresurer), Greg Wilson (Councilman/Peacemaker). In addition to volunteer roles, I have also had the opportunity to help plan virtual meetings/events, Involvement with the "Order of the Arrow", where we introduced Brothertown and our history.

My Background: I am a I.T. Sr. Project Manager working for a global contacting company with a primary focus on Mergers and Acquisitions as it relates to infrastructure. Working with cross-functional, international teams has taught me the importance of building trusted relationships and inspiring a shared project vision. I hope this ability assists our council in our ongoing pursuit of Restoration.

I enjoy several hobbies: Gardening, herbs, Natural healing, beading jewelry making and quilting. I Currently volunteer for quilt for "Quilts of Honor ". Our group presented 291 quilts to our veterans and donated 20 quilts to Children's Hospital in 2022.

I am motivated to continue to be an active part of our Brothertown family. I believe passion for our people and my professional experience will be a significant asset for current and future Brothertown endeavors.

I look forward to serving you as a member of the Brothertown Tribal council.

Thank you,

Renee Patterson

Councilmember

(Three Year Term) 2 open Positions

Position: Council



Hector Marroquin II

I respectfully and earnestly request your vote as a prospective council member. I have previously been involved with the tribe, when I was younger, in a more modest role along with my mother Christine Tousey, tending to our cemetery, participating in road cleanup projects, processing ID cards, helping with genealogy research, and other office tasks. More recently I have been attending meetings at the office, where I have identified and resolved many technological advancements that have encouraged growth and learning among our community. I also had the opportunity to be able to sit in with the Communications Committee and aid in providing possible options for better communication.

Having a solid background in technology through both personal and professional avenues, I believe I can help to provide many ideas that will continue to help our communication and outreach goals. To help make these changes, I believe that a more invested approach will assist not only myself but the community in discovering where technology can assist our main goal of restoration. I will continue to serve our community whether or not I am elected, however being elected to council does allow more means to drive change and move our tribe forward.

I have recently moved closer to the tribal offices, and as such I am more able to devote my time to providing assistance with meetings, events, and other projects.

I look forward to helping the tribe in any way possible.

Councilmember

(Three Year Term) 2 open Positions

Position: Council



Walter "Skip" Blanc

My name is Walter "Skip" Blanc and I am a descendant of Hannah Brussell. I have been honored to serve our Tribe on the Tribal Council for two terms. It has been good to get to know so many of you at our meetings and events. I have enjoyed visiting with you and hearing from you.

I attended meetings and participated in events for many years before I was asked to run for Council. Since being elected to the Council in 2017, I have attended all meetings in person that were scheduled in person and helped organize and participated in Picnics, Homecomings, Water Walks, our Spring Powwow; Fond du Lacs Diversity event, represented the Tribe in meeting with the Mohegan government recently, and more. I usually help with the roadside and cemetery cleanups and our crafting events.

I am retired from the U.S. Forest Service, after 42 years of fighting fires and taking care of the land and the trees.

I enjoy making crafts such as carving pipes, stems and walking sticks; working with leather; and beadwork. Many of you have seen my Dad and my crafts at Homecoming, Spring Powwow, Minnesota Meeting, and various events. I also enjoy bringing our flag to powwows so that the Brothertown Indian Nation continues to be represented.

If elected, I will honorably serve our Tribe by continuing to attend meetings in person; communicating with members; helping to host many cultural events and activities; and continuing our fight for Restoration as a federally recognized tribe. Please vote for me.

Secretary

(Three Year Term) 1 open Position

Position: Secretary



Melissa Kavonius
Potter Line

I remember from a very young age going to meetings, picnics, and homecomings with my mother Mabel Pownell. I also helped out with the activities for the kids at the picnics with my sister Dawn Kraintz.

Dawn has always asked if I would be interested in filling the secretary position and since then I have made the Nation one of my top priorities. I have participated in the following: Tribal crafts projects and sales, for the Mid-Winter Pow Wow, brat fry, Tribal Picnic, Tribal Homecoming, and Tribal Motorcycle Run. I also enjoy attending craft workshops, learning basket weaving and making ribbon skirts.

Since being at the Brothertown Indian Nation Community Center, I have volunteered at bingo, worked in the craft room, and help out wherever I'm needed.

I feel that I have provided outstanding customer service and gained customer loyalty. I also feel that I have earned respect and loyalty from my Brothertown family as well respecting those in return.

I will do what it takes to help with our restoration and to help the Nation move forward in the coming years, especially to regain our federal recognition. I just recently when to the 2023 State of the Tribes Address at the State Capital in Madison, WI along with Jessica Ryan and Dawn Kraintz.

I ask you to vote.

Peacemaker

(Five Year Term) 1 open Position

Position: Peacemaker



Tom Smith – Peacemaker

My Brothertown Ancestor of Record is Lucinda Brushel. I have been a tribal member since 1995 and have attended every Homecoming, Pow Wow and Picnic ever since. Being a Brothertown member has given me a deeper sense of pride in my heritage.

I began as a dancer shortly after joining the Tribe and have served as lead dancer at our Pow Wows on a couple of occasions. One time, it was at one of our big Homecoming Pow Wows at the Fond du Lac Fair Grounds. I first began to attend Tribal Council Meeting when they were held once a year in Gresham, Wisconsin. June Ezold was our Chairperson and we met in the tiny American Legion Clubhouse Post 390 on Main Street in Gresham. Those meetings filled the building to capacity. Gresham, Wisconsin is the hometown of my Brothertown Family. My uncle, Curly Robinson was an active member of the Tribe.

For over 34 years, I worked as a Stewardship Ecologist. Based on my professional experience in natural resources, I was chosen to represent Brothertown at the UW Native Nations Summit on Environment and Health in Madison on March 12-13, 2015. This also inspired me to attend every one of the in person and zoom meetings of the Intertribal Lake Winnebago Wild Rice Project. I enjoy helping represent Brothertown. I've participated at the Celebrate CommUNITY event at the Fond du Lac Fairgrounds and participated in our Water Walk in 2019.

I see the Brothertown Indian Nation as continuing to operate as a sovereign nation while pursuing Federal Recognition. I fully support Recognition. As your Peacemaker, I will advocate for Peace, Love and Harmony among our Brothers and Sisters.