

# **2024 Voter's Guide**

# **Brothertown Indian Nation**



## 2024 Tribal Election Saturday, May 18, 2024 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM In-person voting at Brothertown Cultural Center

N1866 Hwy 151 in Brothertown (GPS directions: N1866 Hwy 151, Chilton, WI 53014)

While not everyone is able to serve as an officer, be a council member, or serve on a committee, there is something every adult member 18 years or older can do so your voice is heard: exercising your right to **VOTE** at our annual Brothertown election. By voting, we confirm 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, April James, and Shaun Nadolny.

- <u>elections@brothertownindians.org</u>
- Shaun Nadolny (414-403-3339) <u>shaunnadolny@hotmail.com</u>



## **2024 Seats Up for Election:**

Vice-Chair, Councilmember (two open positions), and Peacemaker

### **Council Vice-Chair**

#### (Three-year Term) – One Open Position / Vote for One

Candidate: for Vice Chairperson (Incumbent)





Jessica Ryan – Bio for Elections for Vice Chair

My ancestors include: Skeesuck; Fowler; Johnson; Dick; Potter; and more.

As Vice Chair, I participate in monthly tribal council meetings and events throughout the year in Fond du Lac. I represented our Tribe in our Easten homelands; Minnesota Meetings; Pacific Northwest; and meeting with BIA; tribal; local and state governments.

As Cultural Division chair, I bring people together to make baskets, dance outfits, quahog, beadwork, quillwork, create museum exhibits and more. Securing and caring for our two land parcels is important to me. I enjoy coordinating Powwows, Water Walks, Homecomings, Snow Snake, Diversity and tabling events; and presenting our history.

To protect Water and Wild Rice, I helped write and implement two grants to collaborate with UW-Madison, tribal, federal, state and local governments, blending traditional ecological knowledge and western science to restore Wild Rice.

As a daughter, niece, Auntie and Mom to two amazing children, I'm reminded of the good life when we: engage in our culture in a robust and meaningful way; continue to learn and share our history in a good way; and embrace our Brothertown pride.

To honor my ancestors' legacy to restore our status to a federally recognized tribe, I went to law school and have been a tribal attorney for 25 years; served as Chief Judge and Court of Appeals Judge for two tribes; and served on our Restoration team. I am committed to achieving our collective restoration goal. I am grateful for your continued support and humbly request your vote to continue as Vice Chair.



Candidate: For Vice Chairperson

Wiqomun Brothertown Members: My name is Craig Cottrell, Brothertown Nation Elder, and I am running for Vice Chairperson.

I have served the Eeyamquittoowauconnuck Nation for over 30 years in several capacities including Grant Fiscal Agent, Treasurer, Vice Chair and Council Member. My service dates to the early 1990's. My Elders, and yours, speak to me always. June, Phylis, Ted, Cy, Platt, George, Phil, Jerry, and many more who fought long for our Identity. My Daughter, Dr. Courtney Cottrell Gerzetich is the Brothertown Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

It is an honor to serve the Brothertown Nation. The "Restoration of Federal Tribal Status" has always been my Number 1 priority for our People.

I shall endeavor too politic for you on:

- Restoration of our Govt to Govt relationship
- Following the Brothertown Constitution as Written and Ratified
- Opening of Enrollment
- Reinstating PeaceMakers to Rightful Constitutional Status and Responsibilities
- Making sure Members have a voice in the administration of the Nation.
- Establishing our parent Tribes as our guidance on language and culture

As we progress to our eventual Congressional Restoration Bill, it is vital push our Federal and State Representatives forward to that end. "Live in Peace, Care for Peace, Plant It, Fertilize It and Hold it with Gentleness near your Heart." Samson Occum

Ta'put ne

### Councilmember

(three-year Term) One open position / Vote for Two





Candidate: For Council (Incumbent)

Dawn Kraintz

Potter/Fowler line.

I am the mother of 3 boys, Chad, Jory, and Adam: Mimi to 3 grandsons, Jack, Seth, and Kane. My grandmother never talked about being native nor my mother until I was much older therefore these are the reasons I do all that I can for my people. I never want them to have to explain who they are, or be ashamed they are native, or who are the Brothertown Indian Nation.

I have been involved with the Nation since 1978 helping my mother with the picnic raffles and playing games with children during the meetings. Almost 30 years ago I was asked to fill the secretary position and since then I have made the Nation one of my top priorities. I have filled the position as Secretary and Council Member for many years.

I have earned the title Director of Economic Development as I have coordinated, organized, and recruited volunteers for the following fundraisers: craft showing, walkathons, picnics, Homecomings, motorcycle runs, pizza fundraisers, bean bag tossing tournaments, Walleye Weekend Parking and going to the Fond du Lac County Fair to do bingo, and any other fundraiser I can come up with.

In 2005 I created Brothertown Bingo. Managed bingo financial reporting. Passed State of Wisconsin Division of Gaming and Brothertown Nation Inc. audits 100% since inception of Bingo. Successfully maintained bingo operation for 24 years. Today, I manage the only bingo hall in Fond du Lac.

Because of my past experiences and knowledge, I know I will be present at all council meetings, I will continue to do my best with decision making for my people, and I vow to help the Nation move forward to regain our federal recognition.

Please participate by voting.





#### **Candidate:** Council

#### Hector Marroquin II

I have been heavily involved with the tribe my whole life, 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 and have been able to lead a couple technology improvement projects, exploring and purchasing the equipment to be able to facilitate virtual meetings for all our members, upgrading the bingo screens, and installing a security camera system. A non-technical project that I am also proud of, was my wife Reese and I being able to donate a new oven to the bingo kitchen.

I have had the opportunity to be able to sit in with the Communications Committee, as well, and assisted in providing possible options for better communication and outreach. 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.

Electing me to council allows me to drive change and move our tribe forward for the next generations.



Candidate: Council

Hello, Cousins. My name is Will Ottery. I descend directly from Clark Sampson, and my lineage includes the Mohegan, Pequot, Montauk, and Tunxis tribes.

My parents are Rudi and Will Ottery. I am retired and blessed to be married to Anikó Szokody, with whom I have two sons: Willis and Daniel. Professionally, I've worked in marketing/sales with large international corporations.

I began my Brothertown journey long before attending my first Council meetings in Gresham (1979). Thanks to the many research trips I took in the 1970s and '80s to visit our parent tribes with my mother and father, I'm passionate about my Brothertown ancestry and tribal history.

I'm on the Communications Committee to help support our restoration message and tell our full story. As a webmaster, I directed the new website and created and manage the Brothertown online store and YouTube channel. Over the past many years, I have been dedicated to attending every Council and Peacemaker meeting.

Our tribal bond is sacred: it is the fire that has fueled the Brothertown to continue for more than two centuries. Every single member is essential, which is why I am running for Council.

I support:

- Engaging in ways that allow all Tribal voices to be heard.
- Leveraging our tribe's strength and passion through equality and respect for all members, prioritizing the Council of Elders' return, focusing on building bridges between local Wisconsin and non-local members and across tribal projects, and re-establishing committee structure open to all Brothertown.
- Fostering transparency in tribal governance and communications so that two centuries hence, the tribe continues in the ways our founders would recognize and bless.

Eeyamquittoowauconnuck: One tribe; One family!

#### **Peacemaker** (Five-year Term) – One open Position / Vote for One





Aquy, my tribal brothers, sisters, and cousins!

Candidate: Peacemaker (Incumbent)

My name is Greg Elsen, and I'm running for re-election as one of your Tribal Peacemakers. My lineage to the Brothertown Indians is through Lucinda Brushel, who was on the 1839 Brothertown Tribal Rolls. Lucinda was married to Erastus Welch, Sr. My lineage is from both the Mohegan and Pequot tribes.

My parents were John and Renona Elsen. My mother, Renona, was one of our Tribal Council members when we first started on our journey for re-recognition back in the late 70's and early 80's. It was then when I first became interested in our tribe, my heritage, as well as our continuing fight for re-recognition by the Federal U.S. government. Although I lost touch with the Brothertown tribe in my early 20's and 30's, I never forgot my heritage.

I am a U.S. Army veteran, having served our country for 6 years. My education and experience has led me to my career to become an Electrical Engineer. My current occupation is as an Automation Engineer working with robotics.

It has been an honor to have served the past 5yrs. as one of your Peacemakers. I am proud of the fact that over these past 5 years, we have made the Peacemakers matter once again and have sworn to uphold our Tribal Constitution.

I would find it to both be an honor and a privilege to continue to serve our tribe in this position for another 5 years and humbly ask for your vote.