



# **VOTE ON OUR LAND!**

**May 16th, 2026 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Brothertown Cultural Center**

**N1866 Hwy 151, Chilton, WI 53014**



# JOIN US AT OUR CULTURAL CENTER FOR:

FREE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (9:00)

GET YOUR PHOTO TAKEN WITH THIS SIGN!



We continue to exercise our sovereignty using traditional foods and medicines. For two decades, we've shared seeds and teachings for a 3-Sisters' Garden. This year, we're giving away traditional plants again!





## **2026 Voter's Guide**

Brothertown Indian Nation



2026 Tribal Election

Saturday, May 16, 2026

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

In-person voting at:

Brothertown Cultural Center  
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'd like to run for a position in a future election, please contact the Election Committee: Ann Walters, Jackie Wilson and Dave Hankowitz, at [elections@brothertownindians.org](mailto:elections@brothertownindians.org).

# Council: Vote for 2



## Jim Matthews

Hello, my name is Jim Matthews and I'm running for tribal Council.

As a small boy I was raised by my grandmother and grew up in Menasha Wisconsin. After high school I went on to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh earning degrees in both Psychology and Social Welfare. I am a member of Psi Chi National Honor Society and Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity.

While studying for a masters degree in Experimental Psychology I managed the psychology departments aquatic lab. My studies of water quality affecting survival of young hatchling fish and species identification are published in Developmental Psychobiology 1974. My studies in the area of Industrial Safety earned me a Masters degree in Industrial Psychology 1977.

1981 due to an interest in helping drivers who had lost their driver's licenses have their driving privileges restored, I started Jim Matthews insurance. From one client and one insurance company my business grew to be one of the largest nonstandard auto insurance agencies in the state of Wisconsin.

Before my mother died I was given my grandmother's old Bible and made to promise that I would protect it for all time. It was filled with the information of the lives of dozens of people; when they were born to when they died. There are also dozens of things placed between its pages; old flowers, feathers, bits of hair, and cloth neatly spread out, as well as newspaper clippings.

At my mother's funeral I met a cousin who told me her great-grandmother was an Indian. I argued that this could not be so because my grandmother and her great-grandmother were sisters and in fact I knew all four of the old ants. To my knowledge none of them were Indians. She prompted me to call the Brothertown Indian tribe and talk with Caroline Andler.

Caroline carefully paged through that old Bible looking at the dozens of entries. When I asked her who in grandma's history were Indians she smiled and said" all of them". She went on to tell me that my great-grandfather and great-grandmother were Lyman Fowler and Orrey Dick

Fowler. Orrey was the daughter of Asa and Nancy Dick and Lyman the grandson of David Fowler. Both prominent Brothertown families. Grandmother was an Indian.

Since then I have worked with the BIN gathering petition signatures and donations. For over a year I worked on a special task force updating the information on the tribal roles.

In order to keep my promise to preserve family history I need the BIN to be strong. I believe we need more member participation and financial support. Only then will we have the power to achieve national recognition as a tribe and restore our tribal rights.

I will work toward these goals. Vote for me, Jim Matthews for tribal Council

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### Skip Blanc (Incumbent)

Good day to all Tribal members!

My name is Walter (Skip) Blanc. I am a descendant of Hannah Brushel. I have been on the Tribal Council for the last 15 years and would appreciate your vote to continue with restoring the Brothertown Nation to a federally recognized Tribe. I have been involved with helping to put on our annual Powwow; the Water Walk and helping to teach crafts. Some of the crafts

that I particularly enjoy are carving – wood and pipestone. I also enjoy creating a wide variety of beadwork for dance outfits, jewelry and decoration. I participate in our Homecoming each year and help with Fond du Lac's United for Diversity event each year. There are many other events that I enjoy throughout the year as well. I enjoy attending our meetings in Fond du Lac every month and within the larger community, I really enjoy making sure that our Brothertown flag is at as many Native functions as possible, such as powwows throughout the region. I ask for your support to continue efforts toward restoration of the tribe. This has been a dream for many of us for a long time. I am hopeful that, with the help of all of you, we can get a bill introduced and passed in my next term on the Tribal Council!

# Secretary: Vote for 1



**Melissa Kavonius** (Incumbent)

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 Krintz. 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 ask you to vote.



**Peacemaker:** There will be no vote for a Peacemaker at this time.



# Candidate Forum

**Saturday April 18, 2026, 1:00 PM Central Time**

PLEASE JOIN US TO MEET CANDIDATES & LEARN MORE ABOUT CANDIDATES' EXPERIENCES, CONNECTIONS WITH THE TRIBE, AND HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR TRIBE!

## **IN PERSON:**

Brothertown Community  
Center  
311 Winnebago Dr.  
Fond du Lac, WI 54936

## **ZOOM:**

Meeting ID: 851 6316 8416

Passcode: 504304

Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85163168416?pwd=Vm6XhF5e9nSHMwPIGM5mBcSoKa5NRi.1>

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(Chicago)

Click [Join instructions](#) for more help.