

# ONEIDA

QUARTERLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER

**Nation Honors  
Member and  
Local Veterans**  
pgs. 4-5

## In This Issue:

Message from the  
Nation Representative ... pg. **2**

Members Celebrate Career Milestones  
with Nation ... pg. **3**

Member's Daughter Accepted  
to Airforce Academy ... pg. **6**

Scholarship Program  
to Launch Online Application ... pg. **7**

American Indian Craft Fair ... pgs. **8-9**

Language Program Publishes  
Fourth Children's Book ... pgs. **10-11**

Reminders ... pg. **12**



Winter 2022





## A Message *from the* Nation Representative

**S**hekolih. As we embark on a new year, the Oneida Indian Nation remains vigilant in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our People have taken each potential setback in stride and continue to move forward, as we've done so many times in the past.

In that tradition of perseverance, the Oneida Indian Nation has positioned itself for success in a post-pandemic world. Among many priorities, we've made more strides to streamline internal processes to become a more efficient and responsive government, including launching our Nation

Member mobile app to deliver pertinent news right to Members' fingertips.

Now, we are getting ready to launch an online application for our popular Scholarship Program so Members can easily submit and connect

with the Scholarship Program Coordinator. There are many opportunities for Native youth to access scholarship funding and we encourage all Members to continue their educational pursuits to become skilled in whatever field they choose.

In November, we also welcomed over 400 local veterans and their families and friends for our annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony and Breakfast. Two special guests – Nation Members Kathy Kuhl and David Ernenwein – were honored for the sacrifices they and their families made in service to our country and community.

To close out 2021, the Nation celebrated our employees' milestone career anniversaries at the Service Awards Gala. Several Members were there to celebrate 10-25 years of working at the Nation. Thank you again for your commitment and hard work.

We are in the process of digitizing more of our operations so programs and services are more easily accessible. Remember to check the Member App for updates and turn on notifications to get the most out of the app. You can also submit questions for leadership by clicking on the 'Council Corner' banner at the top of the Newsfeed.

We hope to get on the other side of this pandemic soon, but we thank you for your patience and perseverance as we navigate these times together. There are many exciting developments to come in 2022. We will continue our work to ensure the next generations have everything they need to succeed.

Naki' wa,  
Ray Halbritter  
Nation Representative

### ONYOTA'A:KÁ:

This newsletter is an official publication of the Oneida Indian Nation, published under the authority of the Oneida Indian Nation Representative(s). Ray Halbritter. Any reproduction without the express authority of the Oneida Indian Nation is strictly prohibited.

### TOLL-FREE MEMBER PHONE: 1.800.685.6115

**NOTE:** Council meetings are not being held at this time for health and safety concerns for our Members during the Covid-19 pandemic. Contact: The Oneida Indian Nation, P.O. Box 1, Vernon, NY 13476 or use the Member App.

## Members Celebrate Career Milestones with Nation at Service Awards Gala

Several Nation Members and their guests attended Oneida Nation Enterprises' Service Awards Gala and dinner that celebrates employees with milestone anniversaries (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years) working at the Nation.

Norma Bartlett (Turtle Clan) was among those Members that attended. Currently, Norma is a courier at the Nation delivering internal and external mail to the corresponding departments at Dream Catcher Plaza, Turning Stone Resort Casino and all other ONE properties. She was celebrating 20 years of service, and was happy to attend the event and visit with friends.



*"It was great to see everybody and come together. It was a good time, and fun to hear from others about what working here has meant to them."*

- Norma Bartlett

For each milestone category, the Nation has a list of gifts that employees can choose from. Norma chose the TS gift card.

"With winter coming and gas going up, it really came at the perfect time," she said. "I can go right to SavOn and fill up."

Among the other Members recognized were:

- Sharlene Lascelles (Bear Clan) 25 years
- Charisse Gibson (Wolf Clan) 20 years
- Christopher Scott (Turtle Clan) 15 years
- Heather Homer (Turtle Clan) 15 years
- Robert Feeley (Wolf Clan) 10 years
- Jessica Jackson (Bear Clan) 10 years
- Verna McKenzie (Turtle Clan) 10 years
- Tammy Patterson (Wolf Clan) 10 years



Above: Jessica Jackson and her husband Cory.

Right: Heather Homer (Turtle Clan), Jackie Old-Coyote, Jessica Farmer and Belva Hill.



### Member Outreach & Advocacy Coordinator Can Assist with Your ONE Job Search

Members who are interested in a career at the Oneida Indian Nation can contact Derek Montroy (Turtle Clan), the Nation's Member Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator, to discuss opportunities at the Nation's enterprises as well as its government programs and services. The position serves as the direct liaison to the Human Resources department in an effort to streamline the application and onboarding processes for Members. All Members are given first preference to open jobs if they meet the general requirements set by the Nation.

If you are interested in a job opening, contact Derek at [dmontroy@oneida-nation.org](mailto:dmontroy@oneida-nation.org) or at (315) 366-9327. You can view current job openings by clicking on 'Careers' in the top right corner at [OneidaIndianNation.com](http://OneidaIndianNation.com). ♦





Fort Drum Garrison Commander Colonel James J. Zacchino Jr., Nation Representative Ray Halbritter, Kathy Kuhl, Assembly member Pamela Hunter and David Ernenwein at the annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony and Breakfast in November.

## Oneida Indian Nation Honors Member and Local Veterans *Event Returns After Covid Pause, Welcomes More Than 400 Guests*

On Wednesday, November 3, 2021 the Oneida Indian Nation welcomed more than 400 local veterans along with family members and elected officials to its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony and Breakfast at Turning Stone Resort Casino. Guests were thanked for their service, including Nation Members and Oneida Nation Enterprises employees.

Fort Drum Garrison Commander Colonel James J. Zacchino Jr. offered remarks, highlighting the Oneidas' role as America's First Allies and the need to share veterans' stories of service. Assembly member Pamela Hunter also spoke on some of the most pressing issues facing area veterans. Nation Representative and Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO Ray Halbritter shared opening remarks

and recognized Air Force veteran, ONE employee and Nation Member David Ernenwein (Turtle Clan) and Nation Member and mother of three Armed Forces veterans Kathy Kuhl (Wolf Clan) during the event.



Kathy (Center) attended the event with her daughter Amanda (Wolf Clan) and son-in-law Chris Hjort (Turtle Clan).



*“The Oneida Indian Nation remains deeply committed to honoring and supporting our veterans. An equally important part of that commitment is working to ensure the accurate preservation of history and recognizing the people that came before us by acknowledging and recognizing their sacrifice in creating this country.”*

- Ray Halbritter

David was stationed at Upper Heyford in the United Kingdom for two years and then spent his last two years of service at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire. His father, John Ernenwein, is a Navy veteran who played a role in the response to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

David is currently the Operations Manager at YBR Casino & Sports Book with more than 28 years at Oneida Nation Enterprises. He worked his way up from table games and continued his education as an employee, earning his Associate's and Bachelor's degrees from SUNY Morrisville and a Master's degree in Service Leadership from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 2010.

Kathy is the mother of five children, three of whom served in the American Armed Forces. Her daughter, Heather, served 12 years in the Air Force. Her son, Will, served 6 years in the Army, including a deployment to Afghanistan, while her eldest son, Ron, served 3 years in the Marines.



Vietnam veteran Chip Isaacs (Turtle Clan) served two tours in the war from 1966-1969 as a long-range reconnaissance patrol specialist with the Army Rangers. He is a regular at the Veterans Breakfast.



Oneida Language Instructor Mary Blau (Turtle Clan) recited the Thanksgiving Address at the opening of the annual Veterans Ceremony in November.

In 2019, Kathy graduated with her doctoral degree from Swansea University and defended her dissertation entitled “Invisible Legacies: Exploring the political, social, cultural and economic consequences for the Oneida Indians of their involvement in the American Revolution up to the present day.”

The Nation also presented a \$1,000 donation to Feed Our Vets New York Mills pantry, which provides food distributions for veterans and their families.

The Oneida Indian Nation's support for the U.S. military remains as steadfast today as it was during the American Revolution. With Members enlisted in the Armed Forces during every conflict since, the Nation seeks to honor veterans in many ways, including a partnership with PGA HOPE and a commitment to recruiting area veterans within its enterprises. ♦



## Nation Member Robert Pawlikowski Proud of Daughter's Acceptance at Air Force Academy

"It was always the Air Force for me," Naomie Pawlikowski said unequivocally during a Veterans Day phone interview. She was getting ready to return home for the Thanksgiving break – the first time she'll be back home since she first arrived at the academy in June.

The daughter of Robert Pawlikowski (Turtle Clan) and Jennifer Evans, Naomie is almost done with her first semester at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. She graduated from Oneida High School this past June after a grueling application process that just concluded in March. Robert believes attending the academy is a great opportunity for her to chase her dreams.

"It means the world to me and I'm so proud of what she's been able to accomplish already," Robert said. "She's had her heart set on this for years and she's worked so hard to make it happen."

Acceptance to the academy was the culmination of a lot of hard work, which included fitness tests, interviews, tons of paperwork and a Congressional nomination. Out of 10,000+ applications, Naomie was among the 1,100 selected.

"You have to reach out to your Congressman personally," she said. "Then I had to interview with this whole panel of people, and later on, Congressman Brindisi called me himself in November last year to tell me that I received one of the nominations. It was really exciting!"

It was all worth it for Naomie. As a member of the exclusive group that is awarded acceptance to one of the United States' military academies, she is well aware of the opportunities that await once she graduates. When that day comes, Naomie says she ultimately wants to be a physician assistant. But for now, she's still deciding whether to study biology, or study history and then pursue a graduate degree later on.



Robert Pawlikowski (Turtle Clan) and his daughter Naomie.

When Naomie was younger, she remembers visiting her uncle (her mother's brother) at various Air Force bases across the country. She quickly became enamored.

"Visiting my uncle was a huge inspiration," Naomie said. "It was always cool to see the bases and get pictures taken with him, especially as a kid."



Naomie Pawlikowski

"He is actually active duty in the Air Force right now," she added. "And my great-grandfathers on both sides of my family were in the military."

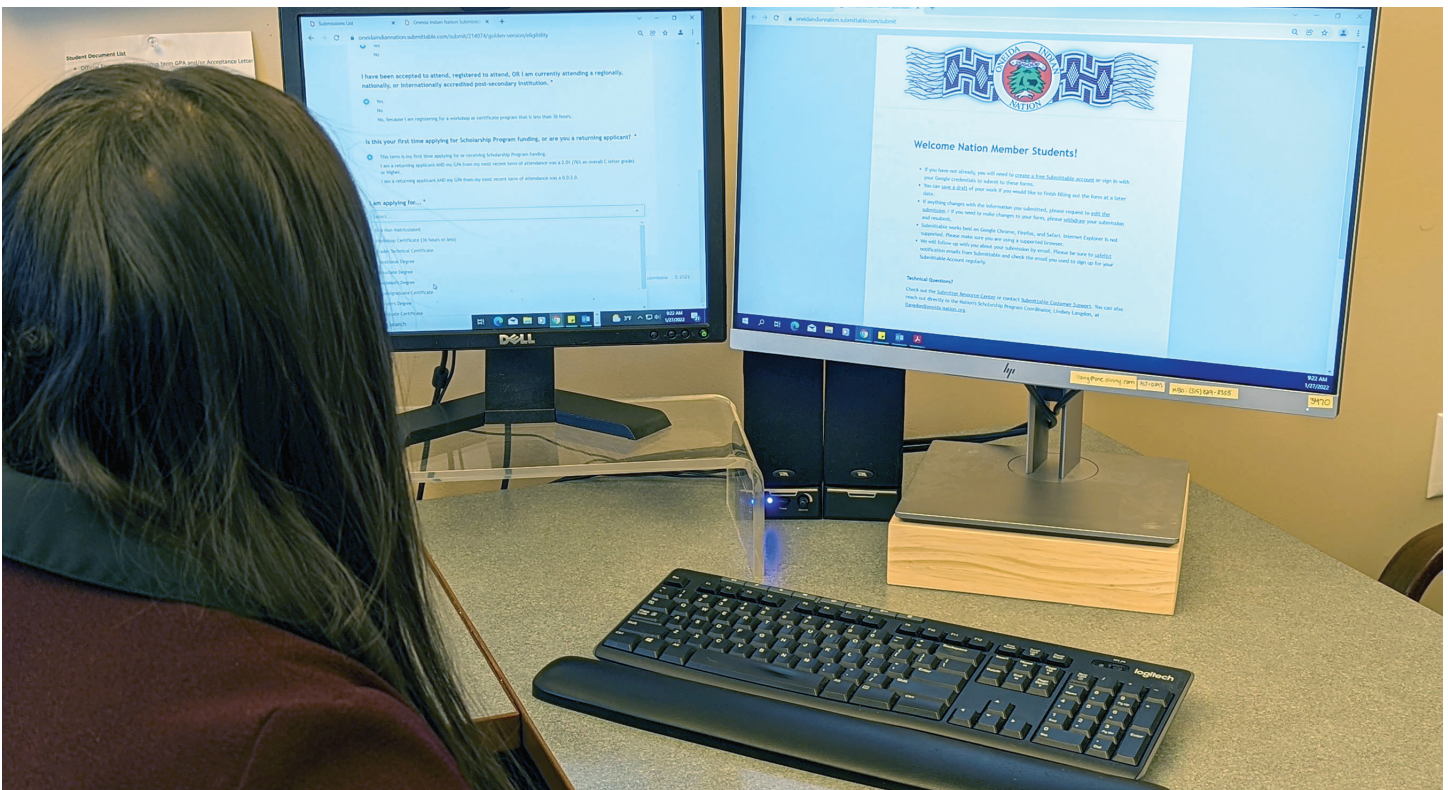
Naomie's great-grandfather, Robert Paradowski, the husband of Betty Phillips (Turtle Clan) and her dad's grandfather, served in the military as well. That legacy of service is something that dates back to the founding of the country for the Oneida Indian Nation.

Oneida Members have served in every armed conflict since the Revolutionary War. While not a Nation Member herself, Naomie's family embraces that heritage.

"I know there are a lot of Native Americans that come here, too," she said. "We have a Heritage Club and they hold events all the time. It's definitely something I want to be a part of."

*Read the full story about life at the Air Force Academy at [OneidaIndianNation.com](http://OneidaIndianNation.com) and on the Nation Member App. ❖*





## Scholarship Program to Launch Online Application

### *The Oneida Indian Nation's Scholarship Program is going digital*

In an effort to streamline the application process for Members seeking to further their education, the Scholarship Program has developed an online application powered by Submittable, a company that specializes in making complex applications easier for backend users as well as potential applicants.

The new system will be available on the Nation's website and will be in place for students enrolling in Summer 2022 classes. Currently, forms and applications are available for download on the Nation's website. Scholarship Program Coordinator, Lindsey Langdon, is excited for the students who will now be able to upload all required forms in one location, and hopefully at one time.

"This is an exciting development for the Scholarship Program and the Nation's Education Department," Lindsey said. "The process

of applying for financial aid will be easier than ever and we'll be able to focus more time on the academic development of students if they choose to use our services."

To coincide with the new online application, the Scholarship Program is also developing a new policies and procedures booklet with a fresh design that students can utilize as they consider the next steps in their educational journey. The new booklet is a comprehensive document that aims to answer any questions students may have about the scholarship process.



The Scholarship Program is available to all Nation Members to fund educational pursuits. These can include vocational or trade programs to doctoral or professional practice degrees. The program continues to have strong enrollment numbers, consistently building in participation since its inception over three decades ago. Nation Member students have also taken advantage of the academic achievement incentives, which have enabled students to get the most out of their programs.

If you have questions about the Scholarship Program, contact Lindsey at [llangdon@oneida-nation.org](mailto:llangdon@oneida-nation.org) or (315) 829-8150. The Scholarship Program office is located in the Ray Elm Children and Elders Center. ❖



## Annual American Indian Holiday Craft Fair Returns

The popular American Indian Holiday Craft Fair returned in 2021 to Turning Stone Resort Casino, featuring dozens of Oneida crafters and artisans proudly displaying and selling thier work. The event also offered Members an opportunity to reconnect in-person and to showcase Oneida skills and craftsmanship. ❖



Right:  
Melissa McCann  
(Turtle Clan)



Above:  
Debra Ninham (Turtle Clan).  
Below, left:  
Heather Homer (Turtle Clan).







Above:  
Clairese Patterson  
(Wolf Clan).

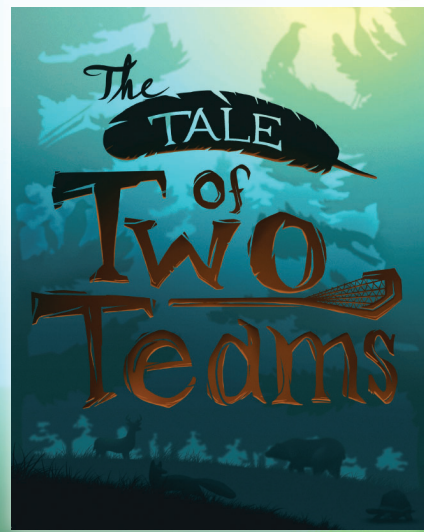
Left:  
Tammy Patterson  
(Wolf Clan)

*"It's lovely to be here in person with friends. The Zoom activities for Elders have been wonderful too, but it's always better when we can get together."*

- Linda Williams (Turtle Clan)







## Language Program Publishes Fourth Children's Book with Stunning Illustrations

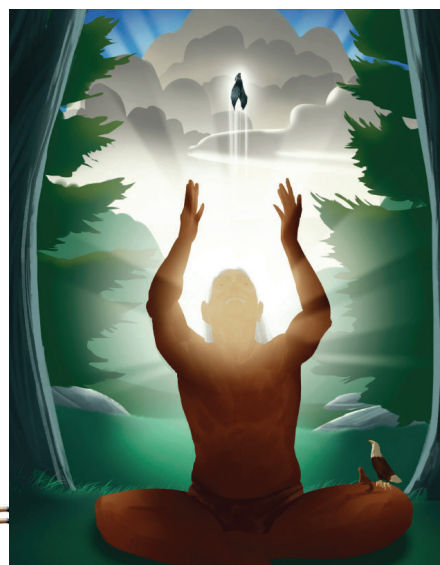
At the beginning of the year, the Oneida Indian Nation published its fourth language-learning children's book, *The Tale of Two Teams*, based on the popular Haudenosaunee legend that has been told for generations.

The book is illustrated by William Burns (Lakota-Sioux), a graphic media artist working in the Nation's communications department. The elaborate and colorful illustrations were created in Photoshop using several layers to give the images a textured look.

The Nation worked with Madison-Oneida BOCES to produce the book as an educational tool. All of the books utilize a rebus format, which allows any person to pick up the book and learn specific Onyota' a:ká: words by the end of the story using pictures, color, and phonetics right in the middle of the sentences. The books feature both the Oneida text and the full English translation.

"Preserving our language is a top priority and continuing this book series allows us to introduce the Oneida language to new generations of Members and their families, as well as to the broader community," Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter said.

The Nation's Language Program is committed to promoting and reinvigorating the Onyota' a:ká: language. *The Tale of Two Teams*, as well as the *Legend of How the Bear Lost His Tail*, were recorded by Nation Member Brooke Thomas (Wolf Clan) in English and by Language Instructor



ONYOTA' A:KÁ:





## Onyota' a:ká: Language Keyboard, Font Bundle Available for Download

Oneida Indian Nation Members are now able to download and install a brand-new Onyota' a:ká: language keyboard on their personal computers for use with the Onyota' a:ká: alphabet in documents, emails and social media.

The software is made available through a cooperative partnership between the Oneida Indian Nation Language Program and The Language Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to revitalizing and preserving endangered indigenous languages through educational and technical programming support.

Oneida Indian Nation leadership is committed to taking critical steps to assist the Language Program in implementing teaching and communication methods to ensure the Onyota' a:ká: language will continue to be passed down to future generations. The launch of the Onyota' a:ká: Keyboard Layout is just one of many new projects undertaken with The Language Conservancy that will assist with the expansion of teaching resources available to the Nation. A new Onyota' a:ká: textbook, media player and audio CD have recently been developed and will be made available to Members in the future.

Mary Blau (Turtle Clan) in Onyota' a:ká:, and are accessible on the Nation's YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/c/TheOneidaIndianNationNY](http://www.youtube.com/c/TheOneidaIndianNationNY)). All of the books in the series are available at the Nation Library, which is located in the atrium of the Ray Elm Children and Elders Center.

The partnership with Madison-Oneida BOCES, now in its eighth year, has produced several new materials and resources for the Language Program. A 2022 calendar was just made available with several words and phrases in Onyota' a:ká: with audio samples on the Nation's website. Members can request and pick up a calendar at the C&E Center (limited quantity).

These new educational resources are a great introduction to the language and can be the building blocks to sustained language preservation. ❖

The free, easy-to-use Onyota' a:ká: Keyboard Layout and Fonts Bundle v1.0 can be downloaded at [www.oneidalanguage.org](http://www.oneidalanguage.org). Both a Windows and a Mac version are available. Double-click to open the version needed and continue through the installation process. Instructions on how to install and use the Oneida Keyboard Layout are also available on the website and the Oneida Member App.

Due to the uniqueness of the Onyota' a:ká: alphabet, the software also installs a number of different Onyota' a:ká: fonts on the computer for enhanced user graphics capabilities. Nation Members who need assistance in using the product may call 1(202) 640-2280 or email [customersupport@languageconservancy.org](mailto:customersupport@languageconservancy.org). ❖





## Get the ONEIDAMember App

Members can download the Nation Member App in the Apple App Store or Google Play to stay up to date with all Nation community news. This is the best resource for Members to get current information from the Nation Representative, discover new job opportunities, or get the latest updates on program activities.



### Have a Question for Council?

Members can use the Oneida Member App to connect with Nation leadership with just a few taps. Click the 'Council Corner' banner at the top of the screen to be directed to a question form. Type in your comments or questions and click submit. Member Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator Derek Montroy (Turtle Clan) will let you know when your question/comment/concern was received by leadership and will offer next steps to ensure you receive an answer as quickly as possible.

Take advantage of this great tool to connect you to your government. ❖



## Oneida Indian Nation Library is Open

The Oneida Indian Nation Library is open to Nation Members and features more than 18,000 cataloged holdings of books, DVDs, periodicals, music CDs and children's publications.

Scan this QR code with your smart phone or tablet to go to the Nation Library website to check out the large selection of books and dvds available.



Don't see what you want? No problem. You can also call (315) 829-8488 and staff will do their best to help you out.

Please call the library at (315) 829-8488 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. (Monday - Friday) for information on our current operating policies and pick-up. ❖



## Zoom Sessions for Elders

Participants in the Nation's Elders Program can still engage in several activities with Tammy Patterson (Wolf Clan) via Zoom. If you are interested in participating and have not signed up yet, contact Tammy at (315) 829-8135 ([tpatterson@oneida-nation.org](mailto:tpatterson@oneida-nation.org)) or Jeanne Dee at (315) 829-8330 ([jnorthington@oneida-nation.org](mailto:jnorthington@oneida-nation.org)).

The Nation's Elders Program is open to all American Indians age 55 and older. For more information or to enroll in the program, contact Tammy Patterson at (315) 829-8135. ❖