

Following the Hunt

Great Council of Indiana—Improved Order of Red Men

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From Great Sachem Warren Cunningham

March 31, 2026

Greeting brothers.

To all Red Men in the state of Indiana, it is my privilege to be your Great Sachem for the term ending November 8, 2026. That said, I only have eight months left to visit each of the six tribes throughout the state of Indiana.

We all know that our biggest challenge is how do we grow membership over the next seven months and in future years. It should not be that hard-to-find someone we know who would like to become a brother of your tribe. However, I truly believe that that will happen when each of us gets to know the existing members of our own tribe. I myself have found it hard to get with the members of my tribe on a one-on-one conversation and I plan to do a lot better at each meeting by sitting down with a different brother at each meeting.

I wonder how many of our brother Red Men know that there is a Red Men's Day at Arlington where we are allowed to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns or a Faith of Our Fathers Chapel at Valley Forge or a Red Men's week which was December 14-20 in 2025. We definitely cannot celebrate these great events if we do not know when they occur and, unless we read what is sent out to us, we will never know when these important events are happening. I definitely am lacking in knowing these important dates.

I will do my best to visit each of the Indiana tribes and hopefully a few tribes that are in our surrounding states. I also will work hard in bringing in at least one new brother into my tribe. It is amazing that if each brother brought in a new person we would double in size in just eight months.

See you all sometime this year.

Yours in Freedom, Friendship, & Charity,
Warren Cunningham
Great Sachem, Great Council of Indiana



Trailing to the Ohio Reservation

Malcolm Greene, Ken Toler and Larry Helmsing attended the installation of officers for 2026 of the Tonquas Tribe No. 222 and Chinquilla Tribe No. 130 of Troy, Ohio.



Trailing to the Ohio Reservation



Brookville Red Men and What We Do

[Your editor trailed to Brookville to attend the January Oshwaunee No. 220 council fire. I heard about all of the great work they are doing in their community, so I asked Don Lohey of their tribe to write something up for the newspapers – to give some history, but also to toot their own horn. If you have the opportunity, trail to Brookville (and enjoy the chicken dinner). Read on!!]

The Improved Order of Red Men is the oldest Fraternal Organization of American origin. They started as the Sons of Liberty in 1765 and in 1813 became The Red Men Society. Later in 1847, Red Men Societies formed the Great Council of the United States.

The Brookville Red Men got their charter in 1896, under the legal name Oshawanee Tribe #220, Improved Order of Red Men. The state of Indiana had hundreds of tribes at one time, but now we have five statewide: Indianapolis, Anderson, Monticello, Richmond and Brookville. With only five members remaining, the Brookville Tribe had to sell their building on Main Street in 1978. Not wanting to lose their charter, member Don Russel gave free dues and free meals at each meeting to attract new members. He paid for this out of the interest from the building they sold.

Fred Rosenberger and I joined in 1981; we had 15 members at that time. Things were going well and we were gaining new members. Don Russel died in 1985, which slowed our tribe for a while. Fred Rosenberger became Treasurer and I became Secretary. Membership increased, but we had to charge \$10 dues but we still had free meals! Our membership now is 52 and strong, thanks to all of our members.

We have always been a philanthropic organization. The Tribe started an endowment with the Franklin County Foundation in 2020 with \$5000. The endowment is called the Brookville Red Men Endowment for Maple Grove Cemetery and has a value of over \$41,000 (thanks to extra donations). This January, we were pleased to donate another \$2000 for the cemetery.

Member Gary Dorrel helped start Wreaths Across America—Franklin County with the help of the Foundation. This year they distributed wreaths in 21 Franklin County cemeteries. The goal is to hang a wreath on every headstone of all deceased veterans in Franklin County. Our donation for the project was over \$2500.

The Tribe has donated \$5000 over a three-year period to the Franklin County 4-H Exhibit Building. For the last 15 years, we have donated to Association to help purchase annual awards for their members. Member Dennis Kolb started an annual raffle five years ago and we have a 50-50 drawing at every meeting to help raise money for charity.

As you can see, we try to keep our donations local, and we are ready to help student and patriotic causes.

This is a great men's organization and we need new members to keep up the good work. The dues are only \$25 per year, and we still give members a free dinner (usually chicken) at each meeting. Keep an eye out for our Euchre Tournament scheduled for later this year.

We meet at the Eagles Hall on Main St. in Brookville every third Saturday at 6:00 p.m. Anyone wants information on becoming a member can call Don Lohrey at 765-207-2130.

Tribal News

Euchre Tournament and Membership Drive: April 18

Every Oshawanee Tribe 220 will have a euchre tournament / membership drive at 10 W. 4th St. Brookville (private building behind the Chinese Restaurant). Eat at 5:00 p.m. and start playing cards at 6:00 p.m. Everyone who participates will get a free dinner. Rules same as last year: No buy in, No entry fee, and No gambling. A chance to win cash: \$50 for most points, \$25 for second most points, and \$25 for most loaners. Bring a friend for a card partner and sign him up to be a member.

Questions—contact Don Lohrey 765-207-2130.

A Look at the Past: Red Men Hall, Rushville

“The Presbyterian Church at Rushville was organized on January 25, 1825,...This little congregation worshiped for some years in a small brick building, which they caused to be erected, and which supplied their needs until in 1845, when under the pastorate of the Rev. D. M. Stewart a more commodious edifice was erected...This old building is still standing, and with remodeling is serving as the lodge hall of the local lodge of the Improved Order of Red Men, 211 West First Street.”

“Improved Order of Red Men – Tanpah Tribe, No. 102, Improved Order of Red Men, was organized at Rushville on April 21, 1890, the instituting chief being M. G. Mock, past grand sachem, who was assisted by members of the tribes at Muncie and Connersville....Of this tribe it has been written that ‘since its institution this tribe has made its influence felt in this and surrounding comities, having assisted in the formation and institution of several new tribes, and by their zeal and fidelity have won an enviable reputation among the membership of the state.’”

This building also housed Mahoning Council 36 (DoP). Tanpah Tribe No. 102 seems to have failed in the early 1960s. The building is gone.

Source: A.L. Gary and E.B. Thomas, eds.,
Centennial History of Rush County, Indiana
(1921), 1:442, 469-70.



Red Men Hall, Rushville, Ind.

Great Council of Indiana
Imp'd O.R.M.
Great Chiefs 2025-26

Great Sachem

WARREN CUNNINGHAM
(765) 966-4551

Great Senior Sagamore

JOE SELM

Great Junior Sagamore

SUMNER HUNNEWELL

Great Prophet

GARY W. MARMOUZE, SR.

Great Chief of Records

GARY M. McELWAIN

Great Keeper of Wampum

ROY JOHNS

Great Trustees

MALCOLM GREENE, RALPH DICKS,

RICHARD HITCH

GCUS Representative

MAT FISHER

Great Sannap

DON LOHREY

Great Mishinewa

RALPH DICKS

Great Guard of the Forest

KEN TOLER

Great Guard of the Wigwam

MIKE ALLEN

TRIBES

Chief Anderson Tribe No.2

(Anderson) - Call 765-617-2868

Oshawanee Tribe No. 220

(Brookville) - Call 765-647-6595

Red Cloud Tribe No. 18

(Indianapolis) - Call 317-693-4510

Conawaugh Tribe No. 518

(Monticello) - Call 574-583-5947

Miami Tribe No. 633

(Richmond) - Call 765-238-1464

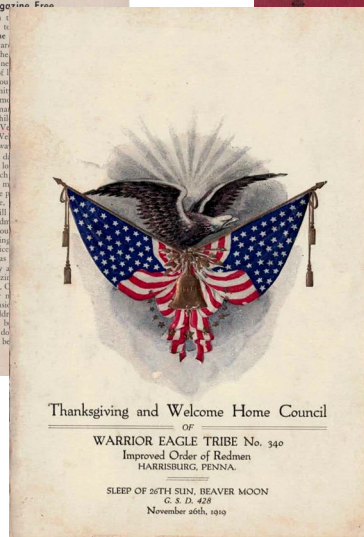
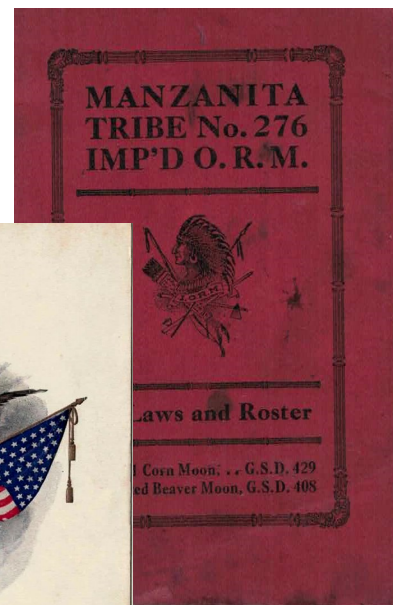
Updated Website

Our website IndianaRedMen.org has been brought up-to-date with additional features added. Check it out for...

- ⇒ Upcoming tribal and reservation meetings
- ⇒ News of upcoming and past tribal events
- ⇒ Charities our Order supports
- ⇒ An 1890s-present Red Men's library
- ⇒ Red Men and D. O. P. paraphernalia

Share and news, updates, and events with Summer Hunnewell (HildifonsTook@prodigy.net), who will make sure they are posted quickly.

Photographs are greatly appreciated!



Archive.org

Your editor has placed a lot of material on Archive.org (click [HERE TO SEE](#)). You will find magazines, pamphlet, and other printed material from the Order. Some items go back to the 1880s and more material is added monthly.