

Following the Hunt



Great Council of Indiana—Improved Order of Red Men
Office: 164 Key Rd., Lafayette, TN 37083 / (615) 688-4311

Number 2 / Corn Moon G. S. D. 533 / September A. D. 2024

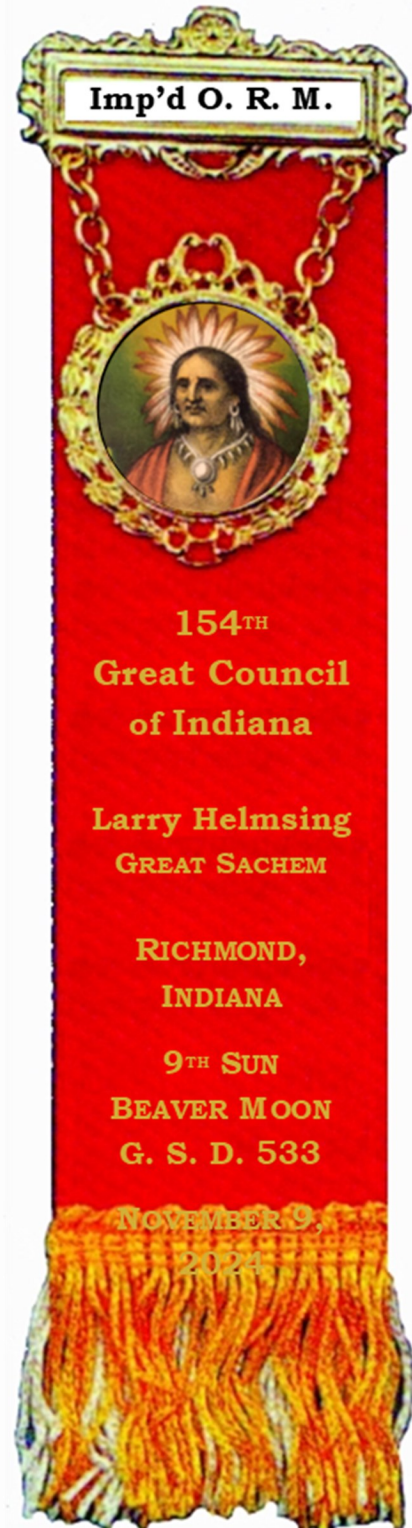
From Great Sachem Larry Helmsing

Greetings Chiefs and Brothers and welcome to our 2nd Indiana Improved Order Of Redmen newsletter. I hope that it finds you all in good health and are able to “Follow The Hunt”. If you have access to the internet and have not sent your e-mail to Brother Hunnewell I encourage you to please do so. If you do not have internet access ask a fellow tribe member who has access to print you out a copy. Again, thank you Brother Hunnewell for an excellent job on preparing our newsletter. Our newsletter will be released quarterly, so to get more current news and events of our tribes activities be sure to check out our Indiana Redmen Web Page. Remember to send your e-mail, pictures, and event news of your tribes to hildifonstook@prodigy.net.

Our newsletter needs the help of all tribe members to make it as informative as possible. Continue to promote our great organization to friends and family to grow our tribes for future generations. As your Great Sachem I am looking forward to seeing as many of you that can attend at our 154th Great Sun Council of Indiana on November 9th 2024 at our meeting here in Richmond, Indiana....This year again thanks to Brother Hunnewell, each Brother that attends our State meeting will receive a beautiful ribbon to commemorate the event...As I said in our first newsletter it is an honor to serve as your Great Sachem and looking forward to seeing everyone in November...

Yours in Freedom, Friendship, & Charity
Larry Helmsing
Great Sachem

Mock up of our 154th Great Council badge.
It will be produced by the George Lauterer Corporation
of Chicago, Illinois



Tribal News



Gun and Cash Raffle

Oshawanee Tribe No. 220 is pleased to announce their annual Ed Kolb Memorial Raffle.

- 1st place: Beretta A300 Ultima 12ga.
- 2nd place: Diamondback AR-15 in 5.56
- 3rd place: Glock 43x Mos in 9mm
- 4th place: Savage Axis XP in 6.5 Creedmoor w/weaver scope
- 5th place: \$500 Cash

You must be 21 and an Indiana resident to claim a handgun.

*Cost is \$20 per ticket.
Drawing is to be held on November 15.
Only 300 tickets will be sold!*

Contact Don Lohrey (donlohrey1@gmail.com) for tickets.

Program Suggestion?

If you are looking for a program for your meeting, consider poking around Indiana's "Indiana Memory" at digital.library.in.gov and search on "red men" or "red men."

There's even a 28-page newsletter from 1910 to read. It was called *The Indiana Redman*. There you'll read some encouraging notes:

"We believe that persistent and earnest work, during the few remaining suns of this moon will place Indiana in the second position in the Great Reservation in point of membership.

Work for it."

and

"Impress lukewarm members with the importance of keeping their standing good. It is a duty they owe to themselves as well as to the Tribe."

Past Great Sachem Ferriell meets with Governor Holcomb



On August 16, Past Great Sachem and Keeper of Records of Miami Tribe #633, George Ferriell, met with Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb. As Chairman of the Board of the Bath State Bank, George met and talked with the Governor after accepting the Century Award for the bank, which has been in business for 100 years.



The Miami Tribe Continues to Light the Council Fire

The Miami Tribe No. 633 meets for a fellowship meal before their monthly meetings in Richmond. The next meeting is on September 19, dinner starting at 5:00 p.m. at Applebee's. The Council Fire will be lit at 6:45 p.m. in the Richmond Masonic Center.

Tribal News

Miami Tribe No. 633 Election

On July 18, Miami Tribe No. 633 held its Ladies Dinner and Installation of Officers. Families met at The Old Richmond Inn in Richmond for dinner.

PGI Malcolm Greene and PGS George Ferriell installed officers at 7 p.m. at the Richmond Masonic Center.

Those who were not present will be installed during the August meeting.

Names of Elected Chiefs for New Terms

Sachem	Bruce Sebasten
Sr. Sagamore	Tom Kuss
Jr. Sagamore	Fred Stoeckel
Prophet	James Hodge
Keeper of Records	George W. Ferriell
Keeper of Wampum	Kenneth Toler
Collector of Wampum	Malcolm Greene
Trustee 1 Year	Bruce Sebasten
Trustee 2 Year	Larry Helmsing
Trustee 3 Year	Warren Cunningham

Snapshots
from the
dinner and
officer
installation



Miami
Tribe
No. 633



Tribal News

154th Great Sun Council of Great Council of Indian

Great Council of Indiana - Improved Order of Red Men
Schedule for Entertainment & Buffet

Holiday Inn
6000 National Road E.
Richmond, Indiana 47374
Ph# 765-488-1975

Friday November 8, 2024

(Family and friends are invited to the banquet)

6:30pm Banquet- Buffet & Registration \$50.00
To be held at Olde Richmond Inn
Restaurant 138 S. 5th Street, Richmond

7:30pm Introduction of the Great Chiefs & Past
Great Chiefs

Saturday November 9, 2024:

8:00am Registration
9:00am Red Men Meeting
11:00am Joint Memorial
1:30pm Redmen Meeting Reconvened
3:00pm Public Joint Installation of Great Chiefs

Please make your room reservations directly to Holiday Inn in
Richmond In. Phone #765-488-1975 Before: **October 1, 2024**
Please order your Banquet Tickets from:

Gary McElwaine G.C.R.
164 Key Rd
Lafayette, Tn. 37083
615-688-4311

The Full Call for the meeting can be found on our website under [More > Downloads](#).

Tribal News

Past Sachem Froman Presented Certificate



At the Oshawane Tribe's August Meeting, P.G.I. Malcolm Greene presented Sachem Michael Froman with a Past Sachem's Certificate. Michael is a 40-year member of Oshawane Tribe #220 of Brookville.

Imp'd. O.R.M. or I.O.R.M.?

“In my trailing over the reservation, I find many tribes using the letters I.O.R.M. as an abbreviation for Improved Order of Redmen. This is incorrect. When you desire to use the abbreviation it should be Imp'd. O.R.M. When the order was to be incorporated the instructions given to the lawyer or whoever it was that was to do this work, were that the name should be Order of Improved Redmen. But through mistake or perverseness of the individual, it was made Improved Order of Redmen. As I understand, the letters I.O.R.M. stand for the Independent Order of Redmen which was organized by some persons who had become aggrieved at the actions of some tribe regarding benefits. Our organization has no affiliation with the Independent Order of Redmen and our members are forbidden to become members of that Order. So I would suggest that in the future you use the official abbreviation in your signs and on your stationery.”

— “Long Talk of Great Sachem O. W. Coxen,”
*Records of the Sixty-fifth Great Council of Indiana
Improved Order of Red Men* (1934), 30.

Knights of Pythias and the Imp'd. O. R. M.



“Justus H. Rathbone and six other government clerks founded the Knights of Pythias in Washington, D.C., on February 15, 1864. Rathbone had once directed a school play by the Irish poet and dramatist John Banim which told the story of Damon and Pythias. These two natives of Syracuse who lived some 400 years before Christ exemplified the highest ideals of human friendship.

“The founder of the new lodge drew on this story for his ritual and borrowed elements also from some of the other lodges to which he belonged including the Masons and Red Men.”

William J. Whalen, *Handbook of Secret Organizations* (Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing, 1966), 85.

Our History: Side Degrees

The order has had a number of side degrees in its history. Only one still survives.



National Haymakers' Association (1879)

The NHA was considered the 'fun' side of the Order. Tribes would create haylofts numbered with $\frac{1}{2}$. (For example, Tribe 99's associated Hayloft was numbered 99 $\frac{1}{2}$.) To be a member, you had to have been initiated into Chief's degree of the Imp'd. O. R. M. The organization survived into the 1990s, having 10,000 members in 1980. Indiana had active haylofts. Gary McElwaine was a Past National Chief Hay Maker as some of you might have known. Surprisingly popular as it was, it is not mentioned in the 1897, 1964, or 1989 official histories of the Order.



NHA's Past Straw Collector jewel



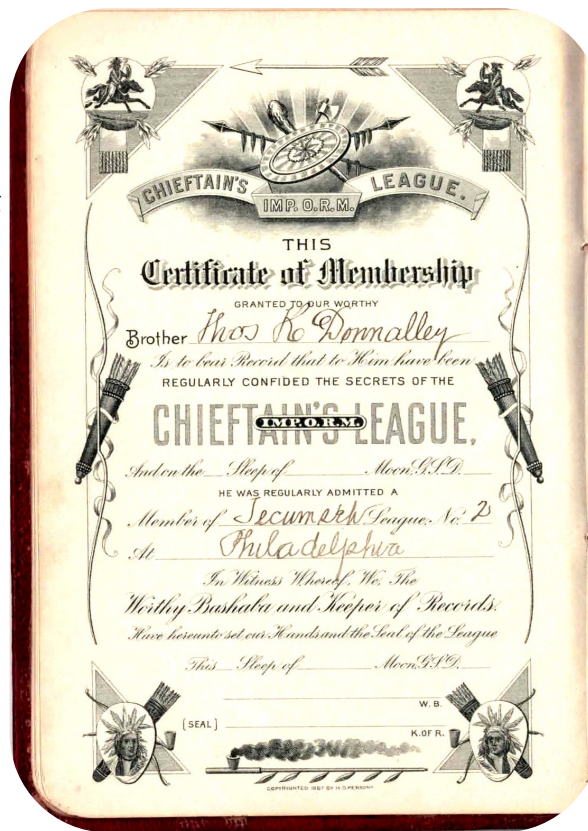
Chieftain's League (1885) / Red Men's League (1898)

No doubt in the wake of the Centennial, the Great Council of Indiana requested in 1877 a side degree using "the Continental (1776) Soldiers' uniform as the distinguishing badge or emblem of the...degree." This was rejected by G. C. U. S. Evidently by 1885, the idea has gathered steam, perhaps too much steam. The League was approved but because it was taking too much time during the G. C. U. S. meeting, it was cut loose as its own National Chieftains' League of the United States. It became popular and, by 1890, the national organization's

Uniform of General and Field Officers, Chieftain's League

meeting at New York City had 132 leagues represented across 17 states. Searching newspapers.com, the last active event noted was 1897.

In 1898 at a G. C. U. S. meeting in Indianapolis, the degree's name was changed to the Red Men's League. The dress was military-style with ceremonial swords (see page 8). This degree seems to have evaporated in the late 1930's.



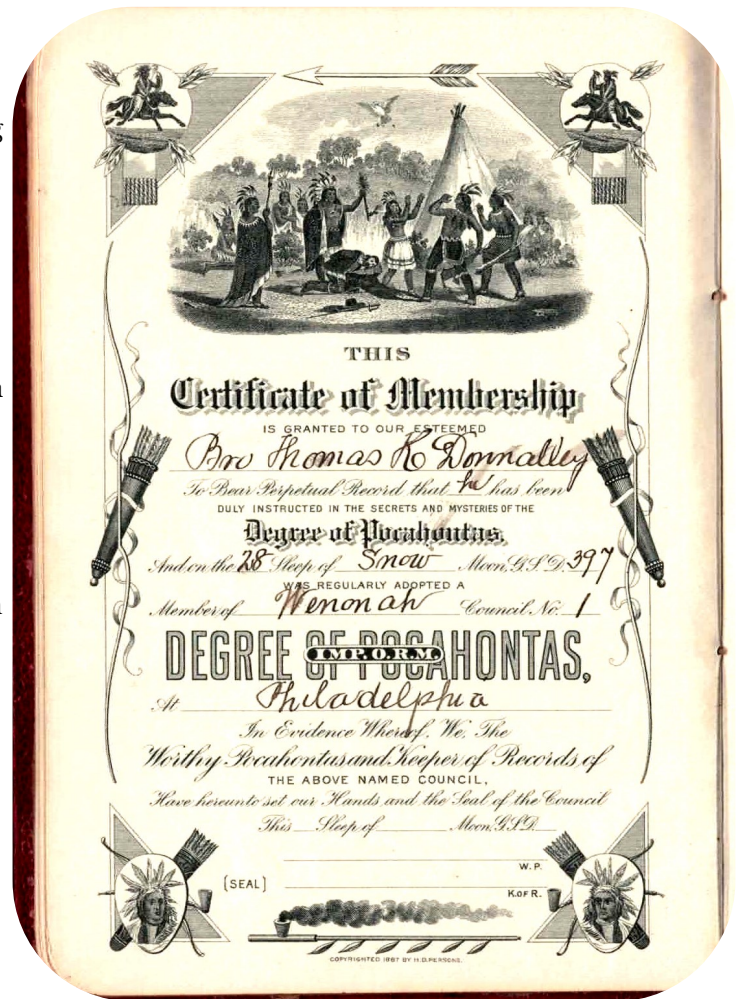
PGI Donnally's Fraternal Record and Companion
(Tecumseh League No. 2 of Philadelphia)

Degree of Pocahontas (1886)

In 1870, a new tribe from Jacksonville, Oregon, approached this G. C. U. S. with the idea of creating a side degree for wives and daughters of members. The request was laid on the table. It was attempted four years later by the Great Council of Michigan, which was referred to a special committee of the G. C. U. S. but not legislated. In 1885, the time was right when the Great Council of Massachusetts again requested a degree for female relatives. It was approved—to be established on January 1, 1886. Men were allowed to join the Degree, however in 1903 they were not eligible to hold office and in 1913, they were stripped of their right to vote. Much of this was caused by “...some meddlesome, male member[s]...” It is the only side degree to survive.



Degree of Pocahontas
label pins



PGI Donnelly's *Fraternal Record and Companion*
(Wenonah Council No. 1 of Philadelphia)

Knights of Nem-Der (1921)

This may be the most obscure side degree. It might have been an attempt to create a fancier ceremonial unit than the Red Men's League. The individual groups were formed into “castles.” By 1922, Indiana castles were created in South Bend and Indianapolis, followed by Seymour (1925), and Connersville (1926). There may have been more. Searching newspapers.com, the last active event noted was 1952.

Anona (1952) and Hiawatha (1952)

The Degree of Anona was a juniors side degree requested by California. It was presented to the G. C. U. S. assembled in Indianapolis in 1950 and approved two years later. 1952 was also the year that the Degree of Hiawatha was created for male juniors. There were about 5,000 members in each of the degrees in 1979, but I cannot find much notice about either past the mid-1980s.

Great Council of Indiana
Imp'd ORM
Great Chiefs 2023-24

Great Sachem

LARRY HELMSING

Lmhelmsing@frontier.com

(765) 914-9538

Great Senior Sagamore

GARY W. MARMOUZE, SR.

Great Junior Sagamore

WARREN CUNNINGHAM

Great Prophet

GEORGE FERRIELL

Great Chief of Records

GARY M. MCELWAIN

Great Keeper of Wampum

ROY JOHNS

Great Trustees

MALCOLM GREENE, RALPH DICKS,

RICHARD HITCH

GCUS Representative

GEORGE KIMBLEY

Great Sannap

DON LOHREY

Great Mishinewa

RALPH DICKS

Great Guard of the Forest

KEN TOLER

Great Guard of the Wigwam

MIKE ALLEN

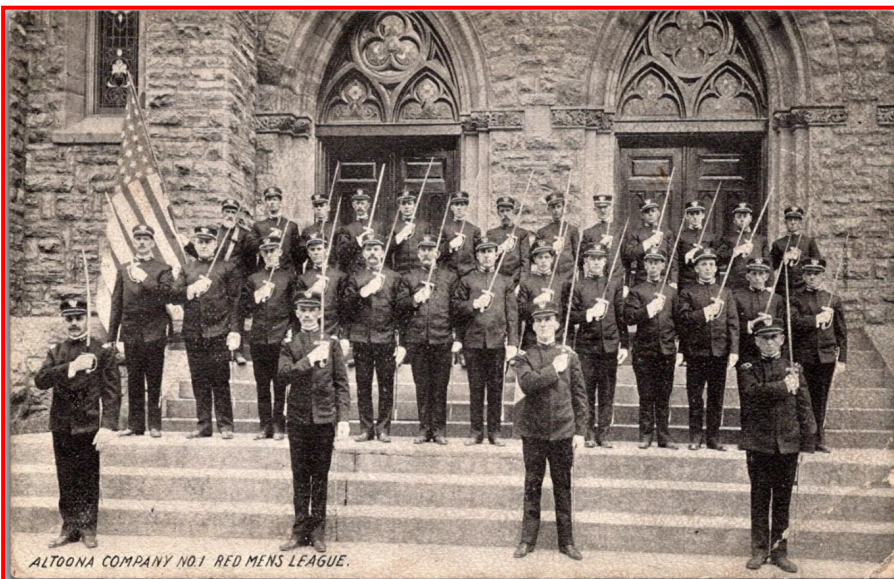
Updated Website

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-1970s 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!



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 317-536-6201

Conawaugh Tribe No. 518

(Monticello) - Call 574-583-5947

Miami Tribe No. 633

(Richmond) - Call 765-238-1464

Red Men Postcards

Various tribes and side degrees across the country were very proud of their outfits or the halls that they built in their communities.

An internet search on **red men's hall postcard** will show a goodly stack of Massachusetts, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, and even Rushville, Indiana, postcards!

The postcard above shows the Altoona, Pennsylvania, Company No. 1 of the Red Men's League. It was formed in 1906.