

# Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

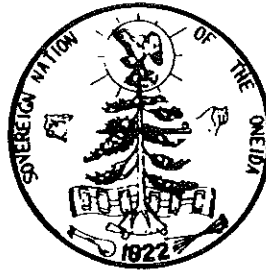
Post Office Box 365

Oneida, WI 54155

Phone: 869-1260



Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them



UGWA DEMOLUM YATEHE  
Because of the help of this Oneida Chief in cementing a friendship between the six nations and the Colony of Pennsylvania, a new nation: the United States, was made possible

March 4, 1986

Dear Representative:

The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin is troubled by apparent determination of Congress to place new, stringent restrictions on Indian Bingo. We recognize there is good reason for Congressional concern, because in some cases unscrupulous non-Indian operators are profiteering at the expense of Indian Tribes.

On the Oneida Reservation, that is not the case. Oneida Bingo is operated by Tribal members. It has been from the beginning. In fact, policy dictates that ONLY tribal members may work in our Bingo operations. We feel that because of this policy, and because of good management, Oneida Bingo is something to be cherished and nurtured. It has given the Tribe the wherewithal to provide jobs, health care and services for our people to a degree never before possible.

Further, Oneida Bingo is having a substantial economic impact on the non-Indian economy of Northeast Wisconsin. Dr. James M. Murray, Professor of Regional Analysis and Economics at UW-Green Bay, calculates the Oneida Tribe's economic impact on the area at no less than \$100-million, and perhaps as high as \$170-million in 1986. This economic impact would not be possible without the Tribe's income from Oneida Bingo.

In an effort to support some reasonable legislation in this area, the Oneida Tribe has joined the National Indian Gaming Association, a newly formed voluntary Indian group. The Association is supporting HR-1920 in the House and S-902 in the Senate. While, neither of these bills are ideal in the minds of Association members, they do come closer to being reasonable and fair than any other measure now proposed.

Our major concern with HR-1920 is the investiture of complete regulatory, investigative, revocation and subpoena powers of the Secretary of the Interior in the proposed Commission Chairman. Such an investiture, we feel, further lessens the sovereignty of Indians. It would also cause Tribes to deal with two entities of equal power and doubles the red tape.

Representative  
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It is the position of the Association that any appointment of the Commission Chairman should be subject to Senate confirmation. Otherwise, Tribes would have no input in the process. At least Senate confirmation would afford Tribes a voice through their duly elected representatives in the Senate.

The Association is also concerned about a stipulation in the Bill which would make Indian Bingo subject to state public policy. That provision would make Indian Bingo a hodge-podge across the country. In Wisconsin, for example, public policy limits the number of games per month to two (2). It limits the size of the pots to \$1,000 and stipulates that only church or non-profit organizations may have Bingo games. Such rules would destroy the economic impact of Oneida Bingo on the Tribe and the surrounding communities.

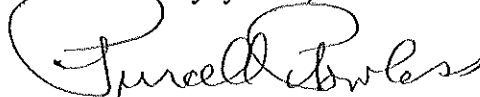
The Oneidas are as are all Tribes in the National Indian Gaming Association, concerned about the mention of cultural Indian gaming in the Bill. While it would be exempt under HR-1920, we take the position that it is an Indian tradition and therefore should not even be mentioned in the measure.

The Association also has some concerns about the Bill's definition of Indian Tribes. Under the definition, Oklahoma's Tribe(s?) would not qualify, because it (they) do not have a reservation. Changing the wording to Indian Country would be acceptable.

The Oneida Tribe, and the National Indian Gaming Association, is very interested in reaching a reasonable solution to this issue and stands ready to assist you and your staff in forming a suitable, acceptable measure to deal with Indian Bingo. The Oneida's representatives will assist you and your staff in whatever way we can. Please feel free to use us and our knowledge of the problem in reaching a solution.

The stakes involved are very high. We are fearful that our first chance in 200 years to become self-sufficient will be snatched away from us without even an opportunity to have a say in the decision.

Sincerely yours,



Purcell Powless, Chairman  
ONEIDA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF WISCONSIN

PP:CL:pk

ONEIDA BINGO

FACT SHEET

ONEIDA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF WISCONSIN - March 1986

NAME OF OPERATION: Oneida Bingo

LOCATION: 2110 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI 54303 (Across from Green Bay's  
Austin Straubel Airport)

PHONE NUMBER: (414) 497-8118, WI Watts 1-800-472-4263

ONEIDA BINGO MANAGERS: Sandra Ninham, Alma Webster

MANAGEMENT & EMPLOYEES: All Oneida Tribal Members

DATE OF ORIGINATION: October 1976

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 10

FIRST YEAR'S ATTENDANCE: 8,000

1985 ATTENDANCE: 396,866

1985 ESTIMATE OF BINGO'S ECONOMIC IMPACT ON TRIBE: \$8,000,000

1986 BINGO EMPLOYMENT: 122 TOTAL SALARIES: \$1,427,356

RECIPIENT OF BINGO INCOME: Oneida Tribal Programs

1976 TRIBAL BUDGET: \$2,400,000

1986 TRIBAL BUDGET: \$34,000,000

1976 TRIBAL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON AREA: \$7,200,000

1986 TRIBAL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON AREA: \$100-Million - \$170-Million

1976 TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT: 150 1976 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 40.1

1986 TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT: 464 1986 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 28.8

1976 TRIBAL RESERVATION POPULATION: 1,802 BROWN/OUTAGAMIE CO. 2,472

1986 TRIBAL RESERVATION POPULATION: 2,033 BROWN/OUTAGAMIE CO. 4,481

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN INITIATED AND ARE PRESENTLY FUNCTIONING  
BECAUSE OF BINGO REVENUES NOT AVAILABLE IN 1976 (all are at least partially  
funded by Bingo revenues:

Oneida 50 Bed Nursing Home (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)

Oneida Health Care Center & Pharmacy (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)

Oneida Day Care Center (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)  
Oneida Head Start Program  
Oneida Tribal School  
Norbert Hill Center (houses Day Care, Head Start, Tribal School, Business Committee, Accounting, Job Training, Planning, Economic Development, Enrollment, Higher Education Program, Law Offices, Public Relations, Cannery, Conservation, Public Safety, Law Library, Computer Center  
Oneida Nation Museum  
Oneida Printing Enterprise  
Oneida One-Stop (Grocery/Gas Station)  
Oneida Industrial Park  
Oneida Transit Authority  
Oneida Maintenance Garage  
Redstone Center & Other Elderly Housing  
Oneida Civic (Recreation) Center (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)  
Oneida Senior (Recreation) Center (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)  
Oneida Housing Authority (264 units) (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)  
Oneida Rodeway Inn (\$10.5 Million 202 rooms, Hotel opening in June)  
Domestic Abuse (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)  
Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Prevention & Treatment (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)  
Home Improvement Coordinator  
TRAILS Youth Program (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)  
USDA - Food Distribution (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)  
Income Maintenance (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)  
Indian Child Welfare  
Community Library (Serving Indian & Non-Indian)

EXPENDITURES: Money earned by Tribal members is almost entirely spent off of the reservation. Only gasoline, cigarettes, and quick stop grocery items are available on the Reservation.