



Voices For Oneida

TO: All Oneida Management  
FROM: Paul Ninham, Oneida Business Committee  
DATE: November 1, 2013  
RE: Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin Political Conduit Membership Drive

As you are hopefully aware, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin operates Voices For Oneida, a political conduit fund dedicated to raising money for state and local political candidates. The conduit exists to send a message to candidates throughout Wisconsin that we as a Tribe are not bystanders, but active and engaged participants in the political process.

The success of the Voices For Oneida conduit depends not only on tribal employees' willingness to contribute to the fund, but on the support of tribal leaders like you.

During the month of November, Voices For Oneida will be holding a membership drive, concluding with a Member Appreciation Luncheon on Dec. 4. If you are not already a member of the Voices For Oneida conduit, we invite you to join. In addition, we ask that you help us spread the word among your division or department employees about Voices For Oneida. We have attached information about Voices For Oneida that we ask that you share with your employees.

I think you'll agree that these are crucial times, politically speaking, and there is much at stake. We are in the midst of the legislative session at the state Capitol, and the next gubernatorial election is right around the corner. Decisions are being made that affect us - we can't afford to sit on the sidelines and be politically inactive. But we can afford to take a few minutes to talk to our employees and explain the importance of having our voice heard together through the Voices For Oneida conduit fund. By combining our resources, we can make a difference in state politics.

We hope you will join us in promoting the Voices For Oneida conduit fund. And if you are not currently a Voices For Oneida member, we encourage you to join our conduit program. Remember, it only takes as little as \$2/week to enroll in Voices For Oneida, and when added together with contributions from other members, your political donations to candidates *can* make a difference.

We have attached more information about Voices For Oneida, which also contains an enrollment form. If you have questions about how the conduit fund operates, please feel free to contact me at (920) 869-2214, or conduit administrator Ann Gryphan at (608) 255-0029, [vfo@jimtenuta.com](mailto:vfo@jimtenuta.com). Or visit the new website, [www.voicesforoneida.yolasite.com](http://www.voicesforoneida.yolasite.com) to download the enrollment information.

**SPECIAL OFFER:**

- PEOPLE WHO JOIN VFO DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PRIZE DRAWING OF ONE OF TWO \$25 ONEIDA RETAIL GIFT CARDS.
- THE CURRENT VFO MEMBER WHO ENROLLS THE MOST NEW MEMBERS DURING NOVEMBER WILL WIN A \$50 ONEIDA RETAIL GIFT CARD.

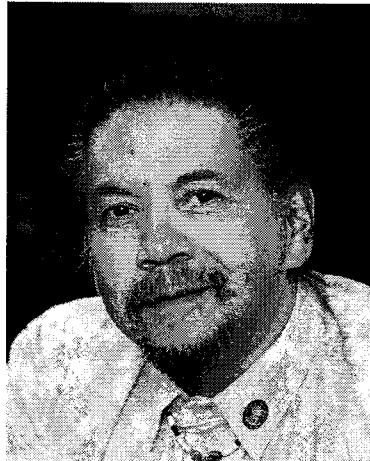
# VFO

Voices For Oneida

## ***A Message from the Chairman:***

Dear Oneida employees:

I am writing to express my support for Voices For Oneida, our political conduit. During the current political climate, it is important to send a message to candidates throughout Wisconsin that we as a Tribe are not bystanders, but active and engaged participants in the political process.



I know you have heard this before, but it's worth repeating. Voices For Oneida will be stronger and we will be stronger as a Tribe if you join us in becoming a member and help us spread the word among your co-workers.

We often receive phone calls, letters or emails from candidates and legislative leaders who have in the past shown their support for issues important to us.

Providing our friends the help they need only makes good sense. It helps us strengthen our relationships and increases the odds that they will listen when we need to be heard.

That's why I am asking you now to help the Oneida Business Committee spread the word about Voices For Oneida – or to consider joining VFO if you are not currently enrolled.

I think you'll agree that what happens at the state level affects us all. We can't afford to sit on the sidelines. But we can afford to take a few minutes to join VFO and talk to a co-worker and explain the importance of having our voice heard together.

Attached is information about the conduit and a sign-up sheet. We hope you will assist us in our effort to strengthen and grow VFO.

Best of luck to you,

***Chairman Ed Delgado***

## ***VFO: Make Your Voice Heard! Here's How It Works***

A conduit is a way to transmit funds from individuals through an organization to political candidates. When individuals contribute to candidates through VFO, the Oneida Nation receives recognition from not only those candidates but also from legislative leaders in Madison. Here's how it works:



### ***What is Voices For Oneida (VFO)?***

VFO is a group of Oneida citizens who maintain a savings/bank account that they use for political contributions. To join, you must agree to have a small amount of money automatically deducted from your weekly paycheck. That money is automatically deposited into the VFO account at Bay Bank. VFO keeps track of how much you as an individual contribute to the account.

### ***How and when do I make contributions to a candidate?***

As a member of VFO, only you can decide whether or not to make a contribution. When the Legislative Affairs Department receives a request for a contribution from a candidate, the VFO administrator will contact you by e-mail with background information on the candidate so you can make an informed decision about whether or not to contribute. Again, the decision to contribute is yours.

### ***What happens after I authorize a contribution?***

Your contribution will be combined with contributions made by other members of VFO and a single check will be written to the candidate from the VFO bank account. For instance, if ten members of VFO each authorize a \$10

contribution to one candidate, a check for \$100 will be sent to that candidate. A letter listing all the individuals contributing must be sent to the candidate along with the check.

### ***Is my contribution tax-deductible?***

No, political contributions are not tax-deductible.

### ***How can my minimal weekly payroll deduction make a difference?***

Even though you may have only a small amount taken out of your paycheck each week, the amount will accumulate and grow over time. And when your contributions are combined with the contributions made by other members, the total dollar amount can become significant.

### ***Can I withdraw funds from my account?***

Yes, you can withdraw funds from your account for personal reasons at any time.

## ***Why is my participation in VFO important?***

The Wisconsin State Legislature and the Executive Branch of State Government regularly deal with issues of importance to the Oneida Nation and Wisconsin's 10 other Tribal Nations. Below are a few examples of recent legislation that Oneida helped develop and successfully supported. As a member of VFO, you will be called on from time to time to assist us in our lobbying efforts by calling your state legislators and urging them to take an Oneida-friendly position on state legislation.

### **Indian Child Welfare**

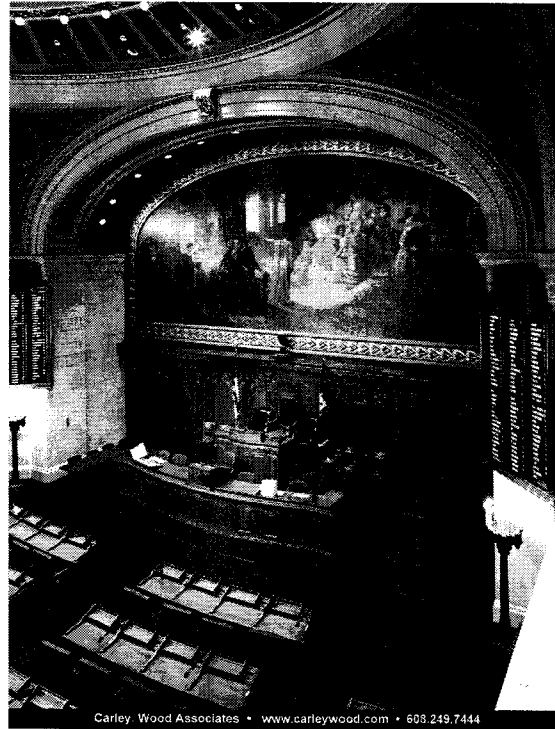
— State law was brought up to date to accurately reflect federal law in the area of Indian Child Welfare. This change is intended to prevent the separation of Indian children from their families and communities. Work continues to make state law consistent with federal law.

### **Thornberry Creek –**

Oneida is fighting legislation in Madison that would make it more difficult for the Thornberry Creek golf course to obtain and keep a liquor license.

**Education** – Tribal schools are now afforded the same rights and protections in Wisconsin law that are accorded to private schools, due to legislation developed by the State-Tribal Relations Committee.

**Law Enforcement** – Tribal police officers are now better able to enforce state law due to legislation addressing liability issues.



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Legislation now makes it easier for cooperation between Tribal law enforcement and municipal law enforcement.

**Roads** – Local municipal governments will find it easier to transfer jurisdiction over local roads to Tribal Governments to take advantage of federal funding due to a law developed and pushed by Oneida.

**Children** – Counties and Tribes will receive additional funding for unusually high-cost out-of-home placements of Indian juveniles adjudicated by

Tribal Courts due to legislation passed in 2010.

**School Mascots** – State law now creates a process by which a resident of a school district may object to the use of a race-based nickname, logo, mascot or team name by filing a complaint with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

# Voices For Oneida

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

1. **What is Voices For Oneida?** Voices For Oneida is a group of Oneida citizens who maintain a savings/bank account that they use for political contributions. You make deposits into the account via weekly payroll deductions, and you maintain control of your own money in the account.
2. **Why is my participation in Voices For Oneida important?** The political contributions you make, along with those of other members, help to strengthen relationships between the Oneida and state and local elected officials. Because you make contributions to candidates of your choice, you can support those candidates who support the interests of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.
3. **How can my minimal weekly payroll deduction make a difference?** Even though you might have only a small amount taken out of your paycheck each week, the amount will accumulate and grow over time. And when your contribution is added to the contributions made by other members, the total dollar amount becomes significant.
4. **Is my contribution tax deductible?** No, political contributions are not tax deductible
5. **How and when do I make contributions to campaign committees?** The Voices For Oneida Administrator, Ann Gryphan, will inform you of fundraisers & candidate requests for donations. She will contact you by e-mail and provide background information on the candidate so you can make an informed decision. You make the final decision whether you want to support the candidate or not. When you decide to support an individual, the amount is taken out of your account and sent to the candidate on your behalf.
6. **Can I withdraw funds from my account?** You can withdraw funds from your account for personal reasons at any time, or you can completely discontinue your payroll deduction and receive a full refund. You maintain complete control of your account.

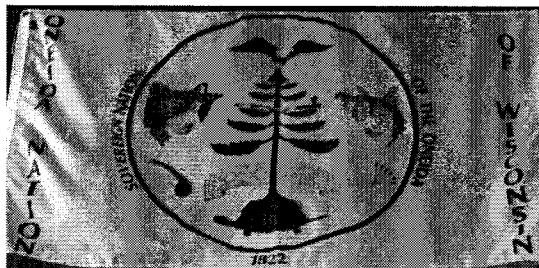
**For More Information Please Contact:**

**Ann Gryphan**  
**Voices For Oneida Administrator**  
**608-255-0029**  
**[vfo@jimtenuta.com](mailto:vfo@jimtenuta.com)**

## ***What is a "political conduit"?***

A conduit is a way to transmit funds from individuals through an organization to political candidates. When you as an individual make contributions to candidates through Voices For Oneida, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin receives recognition from not only those candidates but also from legislative leaders in Madison. There are several ways to participate in the political process:

- You can express your support for a candidate by voting on Election Day.
- You can study the issues to help you make informed choices when you do vote.



➤ And you can support a candidate you agree with by making a contribution to his or her re-election effort.

VFO can help with all three. We give you information about candidates to help you make informed decisions on Election Day. We keep you informed about developments in Madison that have an impact on Oneida as a Nation and your employer. And, finally, VFO provides you, as an individual, a conduit for making contributions to candidates who understand and agree with you on issues important to you and the Nation.

## ***VFO: It's an opportunity to make your voice heard and more***

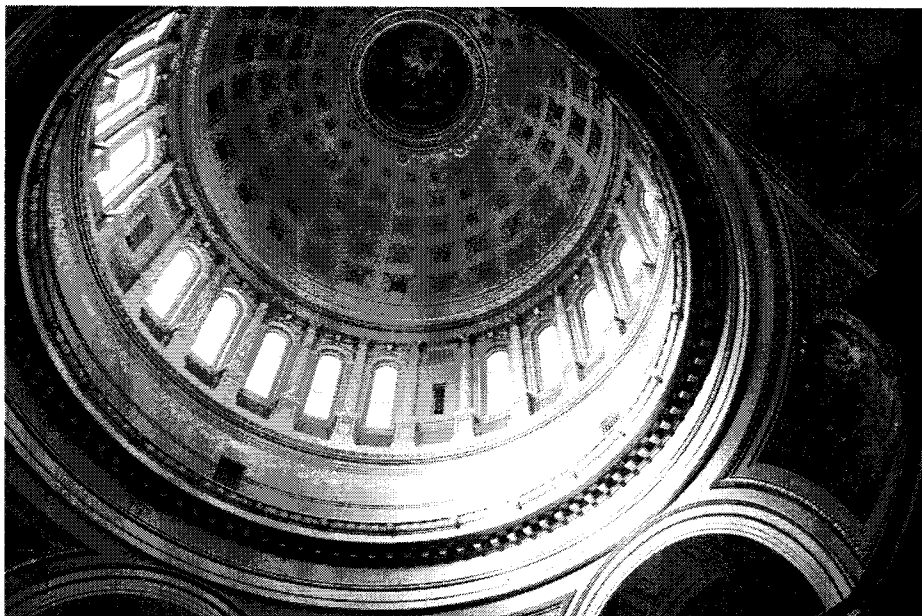
It's about education, too, and learning about the state policies that affect us as a Nation. And it's an opportunity to learn about those people in Madison who make those policies.

Throughout this election year VFO will be providing opportunities like these for all Oneida citizens to get involved:

- Briefings on issues from legislators
- Receptions for candidates running for the Wisconsin Legislature
- Monthly newsletters and periodic legislative updates.
- Candidate forums.



*VFO is endorsed by the Oneida Business Committee. The Oneida Law Office has determined that conduit activity does not violate the Oneida Personnel policies and procedures. That policy is meant to regulate Tribal political activity. Since Voices For Oneida offers information on state issues and campaigns, it is not only OK to participate, but it is recommended that you get involved.*



# DEC. 4, 2013

## VOICES FOR ONEIDA APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and Voices For Oneida Conduit invite all Voices For Oneida conduit members and new enrollees to a special appreciation event. Come have lunch on us, hear from our special guest speaker Patty Loew and socialize with others who are interested in learning more about the legislative process. Prizes will also be awarded from our membership drive contest.

(You will need to have your supervisor's approval to attend during a work shift.)

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013

Thornberry Creek Golf Course

4470 N. Pine Tree Road, Oneida, Wis.

RSVP to Ann Gryphan, [vfo@jimtenuta.com](mailto:vfo@jimtenuta.com) or (608) 255-0029

**SPECIAL  
GUEST SPEAKER**

**PATTY LOEW**

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UW MADISON PROFESSOR,  
FORMER JOURNALIST AND  
AUTHOR OF THE BOOK  
"INDIAN NATIONS OF  
WISCONSIN: HISTORIES OF  
ENDURANCE AND  
RENEWAL." LOEW IS ALSO  
AN ENROLLED MEMBER OF  
THE BAD RIVER BAND OF  
LAKE SUPERIOR OJIBWE.

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**PLEASE RSVP BY  
MONDAY, DEC. 2, TO:**

Ann Gryphan

(608) 255-0029

[vfo@jimtenuta.com](mailto:vfo@jimtenuta.com)