



Mohegan
Tribe

———— *Press Kit*

Honoring the past,
building for the future.



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The Mohegan Tribal Government

The Mohegan Tribe is a sovereign, federally recognized Indian nation. Its reservation is located on the Thames River in Uncasville, CT. The Mohegan Nation exercises full civil jurisdiction and concurrent criminal jurisdiction over its lands.

The Tribe is governed by a Tribal Constitution, which empowers a Tribal Council to serve as both the legislative and executive branch and the Council of Elders which is responsible for judicial oversight and cultural integrity. The Tribal Council and Council of Elders serve four-year, staggered terms. A Tribal Court system exists to adjudicate constitutional as well as civil issues.

Other Tribal leaders include Chief Many Hearts, Doctor Lynn Malerba, Pipe Carriers (Bruce Bozsum and Christopher Harris), Firekeepers (Anthony Darling, Jay Ihloff, Chuck Cramer, Corrie Meehan, Charles Strickland Jr., and Dylan Russell [Firekeeper-in-Training]), and Lodgekeeper Charlie Strickland.

The Tribal Government has numerous administrative departments, including Cultural and Community Programs, Education, Library and Archives, Gaming Commission, Health and Human Services, Housing Authority, Public Safety, Utility Authority, Land Preservation and Planning, and Environmental Protection.

Quick Facts:

- **Federal Recognition:** The Mohegan Tribe received formal recognition in March 1994.
- **Membership:** The Tribe currently includes over 2,400 members, most of whom reside in Connecticut near ancestral Tribal lands.

Tribal Leadership

Chief



Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts) Marilynn "Lynn" Malerba

Tribal Council



- James Gessner Jr., Chairman
- Sarah E. Harris, Vice Chairwoman
- Kim M. Baker, Recording Secretary
- Chuck Harris, Corresponding Secretary
- Thayne D. Hutchins Jr., Treasurer
- Mark F. Brown, Ambassador
- John G. Harris, Councilor
- Terry Hammel, Councilor

Council of Elders



- Beth Regan, Chairwoman
- Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel, Vice Chair
- Susan Meehan, Secretary
- Marie Pineault, Treasurer
- Bruce Bozsum, Elder
- Joe Smith, Elder
- Linda Cholewa McCarthy, Elder

Executive Staff

- Charles F. Bunnell, Chief of Staff
- Larry Roberts, Attorney General

The Mohegan Chief

Chief Marilynn “Lynn” Malerba

Lifetime Chief, The Mohegan Tribe



A Mohegan Chief is a Tribal member who, as a result of outstanding character, diplomacy, and leadership of the Tribe, has earned great veneration within the Tribe and has become pre-eminently qualified to represent the Tribe as its honorary Sachem. Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts) Lynn Malerba became the 18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe on August 15, 2010, and is the first female Chief in the Tribe's modern history.

Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts) Marilynn “Lynn” Malerba became the 18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe on August 15, 2010, and is the first female Chief in the Tribe's modern history. The position is a lifetime appointment made by the Tribe's Council of Elders. Lynn follows in the footsteps of many strong female role models in the Mohegan Tribe, including her mother, Loretta Roberge, who was a member of the Tribal Council that achieved Federal Recognition for the Tribe and held the position of Tribal Nonner (an elder female of respect) as well as her great-grandfather Chief Matagha (Burrill Fielding).

Prior to becoming Chief, she served as Chairwoman of the Tribal Council and served in Tribal Government as Executive Director of Health and Human Services. Preceding her work for the Mohegan Tribe, Lynn had a lengthy career as a registered nurse ultimately as the Director of Cardiology and Pulmonary Services at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital. She earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Yale University, named a Jonas Scholar. She was awarded an honorary Doctoral Degree in Humane Letters from the University of Connecticut, an honorary Doctoral Degree in law from the University of North Carolina Pembroke, an honorary Doctoral degree in Science from Eastern Connecticut State University, and an honorary Doctoral Degree in Humane Letters from the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, CT. She earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Connecticut, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the College of St. Joseph, and her diploma in nursing from Hartford Hospital School of Nursing.

She has returned full-time to Connecticut after serving as the Treasurer of the United States. When she was appointed by President Biden in June of 2022, she was the first Native American to serve in that role. She proudly represented Mohegans and Indigenous communities nationwide through 2024. She formerly served as the United South and Eastern Tribes Board of Directors Secretary, Chairwoman of the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee of the Federal Indian Health Service (IHS), a member of the Justice Department's Tribal Nations Leadership Council, a member of the Tribal Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Health, a member of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee and a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Center for Indian Country Development Leadership Council.

Locally she served as a Trustee for Chelsea Groton Bank, Board Chair for the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, and on the Provost's Advisory Committee Member for the Harvard University Native American Program.

She published “The Effects of Sequestration on Indian Health Funding” in the Hastings Center Report, Nov-Dec. 2013 and authored two chapters in “American Indian Health and Nursing” Ed. Margaret P. Moss, Springer Publishing Company.

She lives in Niantic with her husband Paul. They are the parents of two adult daughters, Elizabeth and Angela, and grandparents of granddaughters Taylor and Charlotte and grandson Connor.

Leadership Profiles

The Mohegan Tribal Council



The Tribal Council, elected for four-year staggered terms, has all executive and legislative responsibilities of the Tribe not granted to the Council of Elders pursuant to the Tribe's Constitution. The Chair serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Tribe. The Tribal Council enacts Tribal laws. Each member of the Tribal Council also serves as a member of the Management Board of Mohegan (corporate).

James Gessner Jr.

Chairman, Mohegan Tribal Council



As Chairman, James Gessner Jr. is responsible for maintaining the sovereignty that the Mohegan Tribe fought hundreds of years for, overseeing its numerous business entities and ensuring the well-being of its more than 2,400 Tribal citizens. In his role, Gessner also serves as Chairman of the Mohegan Management Board which oversees gaming entities across the country, as well as our WNBA professional sports team, the Connecticut Sun. Gessner was first elected to the Tribal Council in 2005 and served as Vice Chairman before becoming Chairman. Gessner holds a bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, and prior to his terms on the Council, he held executive positions at Mohegan Sun in the Marketing and Player Development divisions. He resides in Waterford, CT with his wife, Carol, and daughter, Nola. He also has an adult son, Nicholas; daughter-in-law, Cristina; and grandson, Carter.

Leadership Profiles

Sarah E. Harris

Vice Chairwoman, Mohegan Tribal Council



Sarah Harris has served on the Tribal Council since 2017. Previously, she was an attorney in the Washington D.C. area representing Native American Tribes, Tribal entities, and Tribal organizations. In 2010, she was named Special Assistant to the Solicitor of the Department of Interior, working closely with the US DOJ to defend agency determinations and advance proactive litigation for Tribal Nations. In 2013, she received a presidential appointment to Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs. In this role, she supported and pursued policies that respect and support Tribal sovereignty, restore Tribal homelands, and strengthen Tribal communities. Harris currently serves as Secretary of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)/USET Sovereignty Protection Fund and is a member of the Native American Visiting Committee, advising the Dartmouth College President on Native American issues at the college. She was a 2016 recipient of the National Center for American Enterprise Development's "Native American 40 Under 40" award. Harris has a J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law and a B.A. in Native American Studies from Dartmouth College.

Kim M. Baker

Recording Secretary, Mohegan Tribal Council



Kim M. Baker has served on the Tribal Council since 2023. Prior to her term, Baker worked for the Tribe for more than 27 years in a variety of roles, most recently working in the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Commission for over 20 years. She also dually served on the Tribe's Athletic Regulations department for over 16 years. Over the years, Baker has volunteered to serve on multiple boards and committees including the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, as a Board of Directors member at the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, among others. Baker currently resides in Oakdale, CT with her husband and is the mother of two adult children.

Leadership Profiles

Chuck Harris

Corresponding Secretary, Mohegan Tribal Council



Chuck Harris has served on the Tribal Council since 2025. Prior to his role on Tribal Council, Harris served in senior management roles at Mohegan Sun, Mohegan (corporate), and the Mohegan Tribe. He also has 18 years of senior management experience at a Fortune 75 company and served for 20 years in the Army National Guard. Most recently, he was Director of Information Technology at Mohegan. As director, he managed the daily IT operations of Mohegan Sun, reporting directly to the President and General Manager of Mohegan Sun. Additionally, Harris previously served as Chair of the Mohegan Tribal Housing Authority, and continues to serve as a member of the Mohegan Tribe's Veterans' Association. Harris lives with his wife, Kathleen, and has two adult sons, Matthew and Michael.

Thayne D. Hutchins Jr.

Treasurer, Mohegan Tribal Council



Thayne D. Hutchins Jr. has served on the Tribal Council since 2007. He is well prepared for his position as Treasurer, having worked for six years in the finance department of the Mohegan Tribe. As a staff accountant, Hutchins' business skills were employed in a variety of responsibilities, including the analysis and monitoring of the Tribe's many financial concerns. Hutchins graduated Magna Cum Laude from Eastern Connecticut State University, holding a B.A. in Economics with a concentration in Accounting. He is Chair of the Mohegan Audit Committee (corporate), Vice President of the Eastern Workforce Innovation Board (EWIB), and a board member of Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (SECTER) and the CT Business and Industry Association (CBIA). Hutchins resides in Hampton, CT, with his wife Angela. He also has two adult children, Madeleine and Thayne.

Leadership Profiles

Mark F. Brown

Ambassador, Mohegan Tribal Council



Mark F. Brown was first elected to the first Tribal Council in 1995. He was actively involved in the Tribe's efforts to achieve Federal Recognition which allowed the Tribe to provide benefits to its members and launch its business ventures. A direct descendant of the renowned Mohegan Chief Matagha and the son of the late Tribal Nonner Pauline Brown, he left his career in Law Enforcement to devote himself full-time to the Tribe. Brown was Chairman of the Tribal Council from 2000-2005. During this time, the Tribe built a casino in Pennsylvania and began the process for the Cowlitz Tribe to develop a resort casino in Washington State. Additionally, he and the Council at the time oversaw the completion of Mohegan Sun's one-billion-dollar Project Sunburst expansion. He has been involved in almost every major decision that has affected the Tribe for the last 25+ years. Brown is the proud father of three sons and resides in Lisbon, CT with his wife, Mary.

John G. Harris

Councilor, Mohegan Tribal Council



John G. Harris has served on the Tribal Council since 2019. Harris began his career as a contractor and small business owner. Later, Harris worked for Pfizer, serving in a wide variety of managerial operational roles in his over 30-year career there. In 2013, he began working for Mohegan Sun as the Engineering Grounds Supervisor, where he oversaw the daily operations of the grounds team. Harris has been active for many years with both his local and Tribal community. He has held the role of Chairman of the Mohegan Tribal Housing Authority for over two decades, and he currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy, on the Board of Directors of the Norwich Community Development Corporation (NCDC). From 2009-2019, he was a Site Operations Director for the Preston Redevelopment Agency and was Chairman of the Preston Housing Authority from 2007 to 2017. He resides in Preston, CT with his wife, Cindy, and is the proud father to one daughter, two step-children, and grandfather to two grandchildren.

Leadership Profiles

Terry Hammel

Councilor, Mohegan Tribal Council



Terry Hammel has served on the Tribal Council since 2025. Hammel has decades of varied experience working for the Mohegan Tribe, including as a Resident Services Manager, Social Services Specialist, Cultural & Community Program Coordinator, and Education Programs Coordinator. Hammel also served on several Tribal committees and boards, including the Burial Committee, Board of Education, Youth Financial Planning Team, Election Committee, and Wigwam Festival Committee, in addition to volunteering as a Peacekeeper. She is passionate about ensuring the future of the Mohegan Tribe for generations to come. Hammel lives with her husband, Dave, and has an adult daughter, Leah, and an adult son, Alec.



Leadership Profiles

The Mohegan Council of Elders



A seven-member Council of Elders is responsible for overseeing judicial matters and the Tribe's cultural integrity and possesses legislative powers specifically granted to this body pursuant to the Tribe's Constitution. The Council of Elders provides traditional Mohegan names to members and appoints, defines, and supervises all religious and ceremonial positions such as Medicine Person, Chief or Sachem, Pipe Carrier, Tribal Historian, Sagamores, Nonners, Fire Keepers, etc. They advise on Tribal cultural matters and enforce rules of Tribal custom.

Beth (Elizabeth) Regan, “Morning Deer”

Chairwoman and Justice, Mohegan Council of Elders



Beth Regan was elected to the Council of Elders in 2014, appointed to Secretary in 2016, Vice-Chairwoman in 2020, and Chairwoman in 2024. She brings an extensive background in education and athletics to the Council of Elders. She was a teacher at Tolland High School for over 35 years, specializing in both Native American studies and Russian history. Beth has created curriculum and lessons on Mohegan history and culture for teachers of all grade levels to incorporate. Outside the classroom, she has coached at the high school and collegiate levels, and has spent over 30 years as a coach and volunteer for Special Olympics. She has earned many citations as both Teacher of the Year and Coach of the Year, and is a member of the athletic Halls of Fame at Eastern Connecticut State University, New Britain High School, and the Connecticut Girls Soccer Association. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in History and Education and a Master's degree in Human Relations, both from Eastern Connecticut State University. She was a longtime member of the Mohegan Board of Education and is a current member of the Mohegan Tribe Language Committee. Beth and her spouse, Geri White, are longtime residents of Hampton, CT where they both serve on various civic committees.

Leadership Profiles

Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel

Vice Chair and Justice, Mohegan Council of Elders



Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel was sworn into the Council of Elders in 2024. Her Tribal service began as a child mentee of former Medicine Woman Gladys Tantaquidgeon and Chief Harold Tantaquidgeon. In the 1970s and 1980s, she worked part-time as a tour guide at the Tantaquidgeon Museum. She has supported four Mohegan chiefs—Tantaquidgeon, Fowler, Sturges, and Malerba—collaborating on the Mohegan Constitution, federal recognition, and the reinstatement of Reservation land. She also helped incorporate cultural design elements into the Tribe’s properties including Mohegan Sun and Mohegan INSPIRE in South Korea. Over four decades, she has served as Tribal Council Vice Chair, Tribal Historian, Medicine Woman, Federal Recognition Coordinator, Director of the Cultural Department, and cultural-adjacent entities. Most recently, Melissa was the Tribe’s Creative Media Liaison, creating various media for the Mohegan Tribe including films, plays, and authoring books on Mohegan history and culture.

Susan Meehan, “Golden Wolf”

Secretary and Justice, Mohegan Council of Elders



Susan Meehan was sworn into the office of the Council of Elders in 2024. She was an Outreach and Traditions Specialist with the Tribe from 2007-2013. While employed in the Mohegan Tribe’s Cultural Department, her Master’s degree pursuit became an in-depth study of Mohegan culture through many academic lenses focused on sustaining communities and their culture. Her capstone was a project detailing Mohegan agricultural food-ways. Following her work as an Outreach and Traditions Specialist, she was a Legislative Consultant with various advocacy groups in the Maine legislature. She was also a Member & Administrative Assistant for the Mohegan Tribe’s Constitutional Revision Commission from 2003-2009. These experiences have informed her understanding of the legislative process.

Leadership Profiles

Marie Pineault

Treasurer and Justice of the Peace, Mohegan Council of Elders



Marie Pineault was first elected to the Council of Elders in 2004. She has devoted many years of service to the Mohegan Tribe, and in 2012 was appointed to the position of Treasurer, with previous experience acting as the Elders' Secretary. Before being elected to the Council of Elders, she held several administrative posts at the Tribe. Marie has also volunteered at many events sponsored by the Tribe and served on various Tribal committees. She has been a part of the Indigenous Games Committee and Constitution Review Committee. Prior to her experience with the Mohegan Tribe she worked for Norwich Public Schools, responsible for the planning, coordination, and supervision of food management programs. Marie has a strong interest in the youth of the Tribe and has committed herself to passing on Tribal knowledge and traditional Mohegan values.

Bruce Bozsum, "Two Dogs"

Elder and Justice, Mohegan Council of Elders



Bruce "Two Dogs" Bozsum was first elected to the Council of Elders in 2018. Bozsum's work experience includes roles within the Tribal Cultural Department, developing educational outreach programs, helping produce the annual Wigwam Festival as well as Cultural Week. He also served for many years on the Tribal Council, spending eight years in the role of Chairman. During his years as Chairman, he helped secure re-financing for Mohegan (corporate), and was also involved in the expansion of the Mohegan Sun brand with Mohegan Pennsylvania and Resorts Atlantic City. Bozsum is also an appointed ceremonial Pipe Carrier, and has played a vital part in significant life events for many members of the Mohegan Tribe.

Leadership Profiles

Joe Smith

Elder and Justice, Mohegan Council of Elders



Joe Smith was sworn into the Council of Elders in 2019 following a four-year term on the Tribal Council. He has a wide range of experience within the Mohegan organization, working for Mohegan Gaming in the fields of Communications and Public Relations before working directly for the Mohegan Tribe in 2007. At the Tribe, he has held posts as Manager of Public Affairs and editor of *Wuskuso*, the weekly newsletter for Tribal members, and has also served as a tour guide at the Tantaquidgeon Museum. A native of Uncasville, he returned home in 2003 after a twenty-year career in the media industry in New York and Los Angeles. In support of the arts and history, he serves on the boards of The Katharine Hepburn Performing Arts Center, Goodspeed Musicals, and The Norwich Historical Society. He makes his home in Old Lyme, CT with his spouse, John.

Linda Cholewa McCarthy

Elder and Justice, Mohegan Council of Elders



Linda Cholewa McCarthy was sworn into the office of the Council of Elders in 2024. Prior, she worked as a Cultural Curriculum Specialist in the Curriculum and Instruction Department from 2023-2024. Under the direction of the Council of Elders, the department is tasked with managing the Educators Project to provide resources to facilitate educators with culturally responsive learning about Indigenous and Native American people in K-12 Connecticut schools. They also collaborate with other departments for guided tours of the Tantaquidgeon Museum and Mohegan Church for school groups. Before her role in the Curriculum and Instruction Department, she had a 15-year career in Purchased/Referred Care for the Tribe. She also previously served on the Ethics Committee, worked diligently with Health Support Services on the Diabetes Committee, and assisted in the creation of the Guide to Family Health History booklet and program.

Spirit of Aquai

The Spirit of Aquai is a centuries-old guiding philosophy that infuses the Mohegan people's everyday lives with our four key principles that truly define who we are and how we treat each other. The philosophy guides how the Tribe governs and treats their Tribal members, neighbors, team members, and visitors. It inspires how the Tribe engages in business, in partnerships, and in the communities in which they live, work and operate.

The Four Key Principles

Welcoming • Cooperation • Mutual Respect • Building Relationships



The Tribe's Journey



The story of the Mohegan Tribe mirrors that of many other Native Tribes. Pre-colonization, Sachem (Chief) Uncas led his Tribe to Fort Shantok and the hills of Mohegan. Believing cooperation with the English would ensure his people's survival, Uncas fostered a historic relationship between Mohegans and settlers.

Two years after forming the Connecticut Colony, the English formally recognized the Mohegan Tribe's sovereignty. For over 350 years, treaties and laws have emphasized the Tribe's independent status. At the federal level, the Constitution of the United States further recognized and defined the unique rights of Native American Tribes.

In 1978, the Mohegans filed for federal recognition. After reviewing over 20,000 pages of documentation, the federal government officially recognized the Mohegan Nation on March 7, 1994, ending a long battle for sovereignty. This day was a turning point for the Mohegan Tribe and is celebrated annually.

That same year, the Mohegan Tribe chose to pursue casino gaming to return the Tribe to economic self-sufficiency. In 1996, the Tribe opened Mohegan Sun on 185 acres of its reservation in Uncasville, CT. Throughout the property's history, it has grown into a leading entertainment and gaming facility with two casinos, award-winning entertainment venues, two hotels, an 18-hole championship golf course, a spa, and more. It is also the home court to the WNBA's Connecticut Sun.

Key Dates:

- **Jan. 2005:** To further its economic self-sufficiency, the Tribe, through Mohegan (corporate), acquired Pocono Downs Raceway in Pennsylvania. After a 1.5-year renovation, Mohegan

Pennsylvania reopened as the first casino in Pennsylvania to offer slot machines.

- **2014:** The Tribe diversifies its portfolio by creating Mohegan Holding Company, LLC. Focusing on non-gaming areas, such as sustainable energy, manufacturing, and franchised restaurants.
- **Feb. 2016:** Mohegan breaks international barriers and is awarded a license to operate a one-of-its-kind integrated resort destination at one of the world's busiest airports, Incheon International Airport in Seoul, South Korea.
- **Jun. 2019:** Mohegan further expands its footprint into international gaming markets by signing a Casino Operating and Services Agreement with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) for Casino Niagara and Fallsview Casino Resort in Niagara Falls, Canada.
- **Mar. 2021:** The Tribe becomes the first Native American Tribe to operate a casino in Las Vegas, Mohegan Sun Casino at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas.
- **Jun. 2021:** The Tribe launches Mohegan Digital, an iGaming division of the brand to provide cutting-edge online gaming solutions to Mohegan's loyal fan base and grow the business to meet the needs of new customers on a global scale.
- **Mar. 2022:** The Tribe partners with FanDuel Group to launch a retail sports betting location at Mohegan Sun and a fully integrated online gaming experience through MoheganSunCasino.com and the FanDuel Sportsbook app.

Business Portfolio

Mohegan (corporate) is the owner, developer, and manager of premier entertainment resorts in the United States, Canada, and Northern Asia. Mohegan's U.S. operations include resorts in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Nevada; and Canadian operations are based in Niagara Falls. Mohegan employs over 20,000 hardworking individuals across the United States and Canada.

Mohegan Sun is a premier entertainment, meeting, shopping, and gaming destination, with two casinos and a FanDuel Sportsbook; over 40 restaurants, bars and lounges; three entertainment venues including a 10,000-seat arena, a 350-seat Wolf Den, an upscale, edgy comedy club; and two luxury hotel towers with 1,563 rooms total. Mohegan Sun provides nearly 8,000 jobs directly and through its business partners in Uncasville, CT.

Mohegan Pennsylvania, a Pennsylvania property owned by the Mohegan Tribe and managed by Mohegan.

Niagara Casinos: In 2019, Mohegan signed a Casino Operating and Services Agreement with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) for Casino Niagara and Fallsview Casino Resort, assuming the day-to-day operations at both casinos.

Connecticut Sun: In 2003, the Mohegan Tribe became the first Native American Tribe to own a professional sports team with its purchase of the Orlando Miracle, a Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) franchise founded in 1988.

Preston Riverwalk Project: In 2016, we reached a historic agreement with the Preston Redevelopment Agency to purchase and develop this 393-acre riverfront site. The site will be a non-gaming destination. Plans include: outdoor and in-door attractions, hotel and retail space, restaurants, housing, a marina, RV park, and more.



Uncasville, Connecticut



Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania



Ontario, Canada



Mohegan Sun Arena



Preston, Connecticut