

ENROLLMENT

Dear Fellow Tribal Members and Friends;

Our Tribal membership now totals 1953. Congratulations to our new members! I was happy to meet some of the new members at the Grand Ronde Pow-Wow on August 23, 1986. Many had traveled a long distance to visit Grand Ronde. I hope that they, and many others continue in attending Tribal gatherings.

I would like to explain the procedure for determining Indian blood quantum. The blood degree of an applicant who is descended from a Grand Ronde member listed on the base roll is determined by the degree listed on the 1954 membership roll. If both parents are listed, their combined Indian blood is used to determine the applicants' degree. The applicant will possess 1/2 the degree listed, if only one parent is on the 1954 membership roll.

If one of the parents is a member of another Federally recognized Indian Tribe, the Indian blood quantum of that parent may be included to determine the applicants total Indian blood degree. The applicant must provide documentation of the parents Indian blood. I have addresses available on request for other Indian Tribal offices.

If an applicant was eligible for enrollment prior to the publication of the 1954 membership roll, but for some reason was omitted, they are still eligible for enrollment. Their Indian blood quantum will be based on the documentation provided by the applicant. Records from the B.I.A. or any U.S. Department of the Interior records are used as proof of Indian blood. If documentation differs on the degree of blood, the most evidence that shows the same blood degree, will be regarded as the correct blood degree.

If the blood degree listed on the 1954 membership roll is incorrect, due to mathematical error, the Tribal Council has the power to correct it. The member or applicant who wishes to challenge the listing on the 1954 roll, must submit a written request to the Enrollment office for correction. The burden of proof is on the challenger.

Some of the listing are incorrect, but in favor of the member listed. In other words, some members are listed as possessing more Indian blood than they are entitled to. In this case, the burden of proof is on the Enrollment Staff. Supporting evidence that proves that the member listed possesses less Indian blood must be submitted to the Enrollment Committee. The Enrollment Committee reviews the evidence and makes a recommendation to the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council then acts on the recommendation, in favor or against. All decisions are subject to appeal.

If you have any questions on the subject of blood degree's or enrollment in general, please contact me. I am available at the Depot Tribal office, Monday through Friday. I am currently serving jury duty through November. If you wish to see me in person, please call ahead to be sure that I am in.

Sincerely,
Margo George, Enrollment Clerk