

HOPE SHAREHOLDER PROGRAM: P. 12

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# Ahtna Kanas Winter 2021

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#### Ahtna, Inc. and Ahtna Netiye' Senior Management Team



President, AI



Kathryn Martin Senior VP, AI





Matt Tisher Roy J. Tansy Jr. CFO & VP of Finance, AI COO, AN

Joe Bovee VP of Land &

Resources, Al



Resources, Al



**Eric McLaurin** 

VP of Business Development, AN



Craig O'Rourke President, AGSC, ADB & AMCC



**Brenda Rebne** President, AFSI, APSI, AIMI, AISI AKHI & ATSI



Vicky Dunlap President, ASTS & ALL



**Tim Finnigan** President, AGL, AEI & AITL



Timothy F. Gould, PE President, AES & ASL





President, AC&PPC & AAA Valley Gravel

Shareholders are invited to submit articles for the next issue of the Kanas. The submission deadline is Feb. 19, 2021.

For questions or more information about the Kanas, please contact the media and communications office at news@ahtna.net



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

#### LOOKING FORWARD WITH GRATITUDE AND HOPE FOR BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

Dear fellow shareholders,

Happy new year! 2020 was unlike anything we could have expected, but as we closed out the year we had much to be thankful for. We enter 2021 with gratitude and hope for brighter days ahead.

At the top of our gratitude list is being able to assist our shareholders during a challenging economic time. The diversification of our business operations and dedication of our Board of Directors and staff allowed us to weather 2020's unforeseen impacts. Three dividend distributions were made in 2020, and the Elder distribution was increased by \$500 for each eligible Elder. The regular distribution paid out in November was the second highest per share in the history of Ahtna.

Each Ahtna department and subsidiary company has been busy the last several months finalizing their strategic plans and budgets, all of which fit into the greater picture of sustaining our corporate success and growth while providing value to shareholders. It is always an intense and time-consuming process, but these efforts ensure we are prepared for what lies ahead.

Ahtna was a sponsor of the virtual Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention. The annual event draws thousands of official delegates and participants from member organizations across the state. We weren't able to have an exhibit space or reception at the conference, but we did share a glimpse into the beauty of the Ahtna region, people and culture through a video that debuted at the event. We worked with the Copper River Native Association, Copper Basin Regional Housing Authority and Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium to produce the regional focus video which can be viewed at <u>www.vimeo.com/467422750</u>.

The regional video touches on the forced removal of Ahtna people from Dry Creek and Gulkana Village during Alaska's development. After nearly 50 years, the Gulkana Village Council reached resolution with the State of Alaska on the return of their former Village lands and sacred burial grounds. Alaska Governor Dunleavy visited Gulkana on October 13th for the deed signing and groundbreaking ceremony for a new parking lot. Over many decades, people have trespassed through the Village's sacred burial grounds to gain access to the Gulkana River, desecrating grave sites. The State of Alaska is committed to working with the Gulkana Village Council to protect the grave sites and install appropriate educational signage, so visitors understand the cultural significance of the area. Thank you to Governor Dunleavy and his staff for helping to close a very painful chapter for the Ahtna people.



Gulkana Village Council Members (from left to right): Brenda Tyone, Felicia Ewan, Robyn George, Frances Jackson Johnny L. Dye, Eileen Ewan, and Nicholas Jackson with Governor Dunleavy.

Our Land Department worked hard to complete seasonal projects in 2020, and things are not slowing down this winter. They have taken on new initiatives to responsibly manage and sustain Ahtna's wildlife and forest resources and are increasing shareholder access to Ahtna lands for traditional and recreational use. See page 8 for more details.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Continued from page 1



We are excited to share some of the success stories of Ahtna's HOPE (Helping Our People Excel) Program. The program was launched in 2019 to train and employ shareholders. The investment in our people and their ability to secure full-time employment is a priority. Thanks to the vision of our Board of Directors, support from our leadership team, enthusiasm of our Shareholder Enrichment department, and drive of the program participants, we have many success stories to share. It is inspiring to read the personal experiences of program participants beginning on page 12. If you are looking for employment assistance, please reach out to our Shareholder Advocates, Tracy Parent (Anchorage) or Starr Knighten (Glennallen). Congratulations to our 2020 Ahtna Employees of the Year! These employees were nominated by their leadership teams for this special recognition. Along with my deepest appreciation to the entire Ahtna team, I want to especially recognize these Ahtna employees who stand out for their hard work, commitment to the Ahtna mission, and dedication to our shareholders.

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). ANCSA was the largest land claims settlement in United States history. Many of Ahtna's leaders were instrumental in advancing ANCSA, and we will be celebrating the milestone and their contributions throughout the year.

Thank you to the over 475 shareholders who took the time to complete our 2020 Ahtna Shareholder Survey. We appreciate the valuable input we received and will continue to offer opportunities for shareholder involvement and feedback.

Please stay safe & healthy, and best wishes in 2021!

Tsin'aen,

Mikelle Anderson

Michelle Anderson, President Ahtna, Incorporated



The Native Village of Tazlina restored this fishwheel originally made by the late Johnny Goodlataw. The fishwheel was restored with assistance from Ahtna shareholders through the Village-based shareholder hire program.



### **CEO'S MESSAGE**

### WISHING EVERYONE GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR

Greetings shareholders, Welcoming in this New Year, I wish

you all good health and happiness. The Ahtna family of companies has seen remarkable growth over the past five years. Since 2015, we have seen a sevenfold increase in our stockholder equity, an eleven-fold increase in our working capital, and a six-fold increase in our bonding capacity. Our revenues are expected to increase by 50% over 2015. One Team, One Ahtna makes these accomplishments possible. Thank you to all of our employees who have constantly pivoted to the COVID challenges in our offices, on projects and with our customers.

As shared in the article on page 6, we have been working hard to keep our employees, their families and the communities that we work in safe. Shareholder employee Jamie Ginn helped to implement stringent COVID-19 safety protocol programs for two of our subsidiary companies that provide essential services. The majority of staff in our Corporate offices have been working remotely since last March, but some of our project staff must go out in the field to multiple sites to provide services that are vital to the health, safety and security of our state and country. These projects required staff to travel during the summer field season to far reaches of the state that are not accessible by road. I appreciate everyone who was involved in making sure we were well prepared to safeguard these employees and those they interacted with.

Congratulations to Ahtna Environmental, Inc. (AEI) on being selected as a 2020 Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Small Business Awardee, and to Ahtna Global, LLC for their 2020 Association of General Contractors' safety award win! These are momentous honors and a testament to our outstanding service to our clients, our safety excellence and the commitment to the professional development of our employees. AEI has been a tremendous contributor to Ahtna with strong shareholder hire, safety emphasis, and revenues of approximately \$347 million over the past nine years. You can read more about these wins on page 5.

The year ended on a high note for our subsidiaries with a flurry of new contract announcements. Bonded construction and environmental work continue to be areas with the most growth. AES will be performing environmental remediation for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Omaha District with Joint Venture (JV) partner Bay West, a nationally recognized environmental consulting and remediation company. The 5-year \$176 million contract will be shared with 8 other firms. The contract represents our second environmental Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract win with the Omaha District and will help to build momentum to expand our work in the Great Plains. Ahtna Marine & Construction Company, LLC (AMCC) recently received their 8(a) certification and will soon begin work on a new \$3 million USACE Okeechobee Waterway Dredging project. The Jacksonville, Florida project is very close to AMCC's yard, which created a competitive bidding advantage as our mobilization costs were much lower than other bidders.

#### A satisfied customer is our best advertisement!

"The contractor's performance and quality of work exceeded United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) expectations, during the time period that the U.S. Army instituted a "Stay at Home" policy to combat the COVID-19 pandemic."

-Ft. Bragg Combat Training Centers (CTC) Contract: Contractor Performance Assessment Report (CPAR)

"You folks have always been great partners through the many years we've worked together. The growth in terms of capability and capacity attained through durable relationships with ANCs like Ahtna is one of the things I am most proud of as it means jobs and improved conditions for your shareholders and Alaskans in general.

I hope many more years of partnership remain ahead of us."

-Christopher A. Tew Chief, Contracting Division U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District, Pacific Ocean Division

Ahtna's IT Department is working on a self-assessment of our cybersecurity hygiene. With many Ahtna employees now working remotely, our IT team has had to rapidly evolve to a completely different business environment to meet access, security and equipment needs. Threats have increased exponentially for companies with the shift to employees working outside the office. Much like an individual engages in certain personal hygiene practices to maintain good health and well-being, cyber hygiene practices can ensure data is kept safe and well-protected from theft and outside attacks. This assessment is a step towards obtaining Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification which will be required as a qualifier for Department of Defense (DoD) contracts by 2026.

(Continued on page 4)

#### CEO'S MESSAGE - Continued from page 3

We are working with the Ahtna Land Department and our partner Stantec to explore rural energy project opportunities with the Department of Energy (DOE). Stantec is an engineering and consulting firm with over 20,000 employees worldwide. They bring a wealth of knowledge and sustainable energy experts to the table. We are looking into grant opportunities with the DOE and Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct studies of wind power potential at Willow Mountain and the feasibility of retrofitting the headquarters building to Liquified Natural Gas (LNG). We will also be learning more about DOE's Energy Technology on Tribal Lands and Energy Infrastructure on Tribal Lands programs, which are aimed at reducing high energy costs in rural America.

Navigating the new business world will continue to be a challenge in 2021, but we will maintain our outstanding safety focus and shareholder engagement while fulfilling contracts at full force. The strategic partnerships we formed in 2020 have opened new doors and will expand our work globally. Our subsidiary companies and Ahtna, Inc. personnel are really performing and are truly committed to "One Team, One Ahtna." This is the team that delivers.

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and wish you continued health and safety in the new year.

Thank you,

Gom Maloney

Tom Maloney, Chief Executive Officer Ahtna Netiye'



# SUBSIDIARY NEWS AHTNA 2020 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Ashley Wilson Ahtna Professional Services, Inc.



**Baley Lenhart** Ahtna Environmental, Inc.

Josh Stoveken AKHI, LLC



**Chad Faverty** Ahtna Environmental, Inc



Daniel Ross Ahtna Support and Training Services, LLC (ASTS)



**Maria Torres** 



Erika Traen Ahtna Government Services Corporation



**Morgan Bruno** Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC



Ivelisse Sabon Ahtna Marine & Construction Company, LLC



Natasha Randolph Ahtna Facility Services, Incorporated



**Jamie Price** Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Company, LLC



Tamera Ginn Ahtna Construction & P Products Company, LLC



**Tim Martin** Ahtna Design-Build, Inc.



**Lindsay Ford** Ahtna Environ ental, Inc



**Todd Wiley** Ahtna Logistics, LLC



**Trenton Culp** 



### **AHTNA ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. WINS THE 2020 SAME SMALL BUSINESS AWARD**

BY LORI KROPIDLOWSKI, AHTNA ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

Alaska-based Ahtna Environmental, Inc. is honored to announce it is the recipient of the 2020 Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Small Business Award. The award was celebrated at the SAME Small Business Conference for the Architecture/Engineering/ Construction (A/E/C) industry which was held virtually in November. 2020 marks SAME's centennial year of existence.

The Small Business Award recognizes SAME sustaining member firms that "achieve outstanding results in support of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, and Navy as well as company support for the professional development of its employees through participation in SAME education and activities."

Ahtna Environmental received its first U.S. military contract in 2010 - and joined SAME the same year (although its management and sister subsidiaries had already been involved for many years). Ahtna Environmental's affiliation with SAME has been unwavering. Ahtna Environmental and its sister subsidiaries (Ahtna Engineering Services, Ahtna Global, Ahtna Solutions, and Ahtna Infrastructure & Technologies) are sustaining members of the Albuquerque, Anchorage, Denver, Kansas City, Omaha, Sacramento, San Antonio, San Francisco, and Seattle Posts.

Ahtna fully supports the many employees who volunteer, serve on committees, and hold board positions at these SAME Posts as well as SAME National. This is exemplified by Ahtna's senior management including Tim Finnigan, M.SAME, (President), who is active in supporting the Anchorage Post, and Timothy F. Gould, PE, F.SAME (Executive Vice President), who is past President of the Anchorage Post and was recently inducted into the SAME 2020 Class of Fellows.

Tim Finnigan states, "For 100 years, SAME has been a collaboration among government and industry to develop multidisciplined solutions to national security infrastructure challenges. Ahtna Environmental is proud to be recognized by SAME for our efforts and will continue to foster this collaboration."

Timothy Gould added, "Ahtna Environmental's selection as the SAME 2020 Small Business of the Year is an incredible honor. Above all, the true prize is the professional and leadership development, as well as the volunteer opportunities, afforded our staff. SAME continues to provide great value to our management and staff, both professionally and personally."

Through SAME, Ahtna Environmental networks with other small and large business partners and clients; shares best practices; learns about the latest industry trends; hires new employees; is frequently published in The Military Engineer magazine; attends Post meetings and conferences; and forms long-term business relationships - all with the common goal of serving the project needs of U.S. military clients.

# AHTNA RANKS #15 ON TOP 49

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all our employees, Ahtna, Inc. and the Ahtna family of companies ranked #15 on the List of Top 49 Alaska Businesses of 2020, according to business publication Alaska Business. Congrats One Team, One Ahtna!

Alaska Business counted down the Top 49ers at a virtual event in October. Ahtna, Inc. President Michelle Anderson joined the top executives' panel during the Q&A.

Read more about Ahtna's operations in the October and November issues of Alaska Business available online at www.akbizmag.com/.

- How Alaska's construction crews expedite critical projects
- Combatting Contamination: Engineering a pristine environment one contaminant at a time
- Business Profile on Ahtna Infrastructure & Technologies, LLC
- Waste Management in Rural Alaska



#### AHTNA, INC

Construction, engineering, environmental, fa Construction, engineering, environmental, raciaties managem surveying, security, military training, janitorial, healthcare and medical records management, government contracting, land management, resource development, and oil and gas pipeline

EAR ESTABLISHED IN ALASKA: 1972 MILOYLES 1,320 Worldwide/381 in Alaska

#### RECENT EVENTS

Our employee performance enabled the company to issue two special dividend distributions to our shareholders during 2020 to assist them during this time of economic hardship.

MICHELLE ANDERSON, PRES PO Box 649 Glennallen, AK 99588



# AHTNA GLOBAL, LLC WINS THE 2020 ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL CONTRACTORS' "EXCELLENCE IN SAFETY – HEAVY DIVISION" AWARD!

#### BY DENISE YANCEY, AHTNA ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

Ahtna Global, LLC (AGL) was awarded the Association of General Contractors' (AGC's) annual "Excellence in Safety – Heavy Division" award at this year's annual statewide ceremony on November 11, 2020. This award promotes and recognizes excellence in safety throughout the construction industry in Alaska. There was plenty of competition.

The "Heavy Division" is awarded to companies who completed projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), U.S. Air Force, General Services Administration, and other federal agencies; any type of marine construction or dredging projects for ports and inland waterways; flood control and prevention projects for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation; and any industrial plant construction.

The applications were reviewed by an independent panel of safety professionals with special attention to upper management commitment, worker training, active participation of the entire company, and special innovations.

Darin Moberg, with the AGL Construction Group, receiving the 2020 AGC Safety Award on behalf of AGL.



An example of a quantitative measure of AGL's record: over the past year AGL's 47 employees logged 37,068 work hours, with:

- O Total Lost Workday Cases of Injuries/Illnesses
- O Lost Workday Incidence Rate (# of lost workday cases X 200,000 ÷ total employee hours worked)
- O Total Recordable Injuries/Illnesses
- O Recordable Incident Rate (# of total recordable cases X 200,000 ÷ total employee hours worked)
- O Days Away, Restrictions, Transfers (DART) Rate (# of total workday cases + total restricted workday cases X 200,000 ÷ total employee hours worked.)

**Note:** AGL's DART rate has been "0" every year since 2016, showing that safety has always been a priority at Ahtna.

AGL will now be able to cite this prestigious award as concrete evidence of its safety record in its marketing campaigns and responses to requests for proposals, differentiating us from our competitors. We also can rest easy knowing we work for a company that makes a point of protecting its employees from onthe-job harm.

Special thanks to our upper management, Tim Finnigan and Timothy F. Gould, for their top-down commitment to safety; our safety officers Acery Garcia and Aaron Miller for their training efforts; Director of Construction Ronald DesGranges and the Construction Project Managers for solid implementation of our values; all of our field team members for ensuring safety measures keep our employees safe on a daily basis; and Lori Kropidlowski of the Marketing Team for submitting a solid entry for AGL's Award!

### KEEPING A SAFE WORKPLACE – REMOTE WORK GUIDELINES DURING COVID-19

#### JAMIE GINN, PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR, AHTNA ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

It is no secret that 2020 has been a difficult year for the country, Alaska, our community, and of course Ahtna. In response, the Ahtna subsidiary companies managed by Tim Finnigan and Tim Gould have been working hard to keep our employees, their families, and the communities that we work in safe. Ahtna Engineering Services (AES) employee Matt White and Ahtna Environmental, Inc. (AEI) employee Kathy Streveler developed a COVID-19 protocol and program to help maintain employee safety while traveling for work. AEI shareholder employee Jamie Ginn has been helping to implement the program.

The current protocol requires all staff who are travelling to a community that is off the road system to track COVID symptoms and temperatures daily on a program called Discovery Health MD. Any employee who is traveling off the road system also must take a PCR (nasal swab) test and have negative results in hand before their flight. According to AES President Tim Gould, "The program allows us to ensure all staff traveling for field work are tracking their own symptoms related to COVID infection. The goal is to minimize potential spreading of COVID-19 as a result of our field work and avoid disruption to our projects."

The program is stringent and meets and exceeds any local or State mandates. It does take time to get tested, take temperatures, and track results; but Ahtna takes safety seriously and continues to make it a priority. Though the program has taken some extra effort, it has been a worthwhile endeavor that we are extremely proud of, and we truly appreciate all of our employees' compliance and dedication to safety.

### LANDS SPOTLIGHT AITRC ORPHANED MOOSE PROGRAM BY DUSTIN CARL, WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, AHTNA INTERTRIBAL RESOURCE COMMISSION

Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC) was contacted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to participate in their Orphaned Moose Program. AITRC's team of wildlife biologists, interns, and dedicated volunteers took on the responsibility



to rehabilitate and release orphaned moose calves back into the wild. We received one orphaned moose calf from Homer, Alaska on June 18, 2020. The calf was raised according to ADF&G protocols.

When AITRC received the moose calf, she was estimated to be 4-6 weeks old and weighed 64 pounds (29 kg). The moose calf was first placed in a small 10' X 20' pen with bundles of willow and a container of water to monitor her health and behavior before being allowed to roam around in the larger pen. Stocks of willow browse were collected and delivered to the inside of the pen twice per day. Willow collection increased throughout the season from armfuls to truckloads. The calf preferred browsing on the vegetation growing in the pen before settling on the browse delivered to her. Daily activity logs were kept on browse collection, watering, pen cleanings and weekly weight measurements.

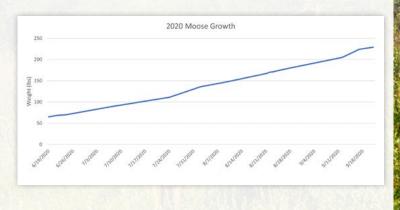
The moose calf consistently gained weight throughout the summer and reached a weight of 229 pounds (104 kg). The calf was given an extensive workup by trained veterinary personnel to ensure she was healthy and free of any disease. She was then equipped with a VHF transmitter ear tag and released at one of the Ahtna, Inc. moose browse enhancement sites on September 22, 2020. Radio tracking will occur throughout the winter to monitor range, habitat selection, and survival.

This program is a great opportunity for tribal citizens, shareholders, and local residents to gain insight into careers within



natural resource and wildlife management. The payoff for everyone involved was watching the moose calf walk off into the forest to start her life in the wild.

Future plans include building a larger facility with bigger pens to accommodate more moose and an area to transition calves using a soft release system. The facility will allow calves to browse naturally without human interaction, better preparing them for release into the wild. In addition, the facility will increase the amount of moose released into local populations that will supplement subsistence hunting.



# **GAKONA ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP**

BY JOE BOVEE, VP OF LAND AND RESOURCES, AHTNA, INCORPORATED

In 2010, Ahtna filed a trespass lawsuit in federal court against a local Gakona resident. Since the mid-1960s the Gakona resident had trespassed on former Gakona and Ahtna lands amassing junk vehicles, snow machines, scrap metal, metal barrels, dilapidated building structures, and vast amounts of unidentified materials. Ahtna prevailed in court a year later, but was not granted any monetary consideration to clean up the property.

In 2017, the Native Village of Gakona identified potentially hazardous waste and requested funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through their Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP) Environmental Coordinator. Over the previous three years, the Gakona Village staff had worked tirelessly to conduct hazardous waste assessments to eventually cleanup the property, including the subsurface contaminates. During 2019 and 2020, the Gakona crew and Ahtna Land Department made numerous trips to the local landfill with over 300 tires and contracted removal of 198 vehicles, 58 snow machines and numerous scrap metal parts and pieces.

Ahtna's environmental cleanup efforts are scheduled to continue in 2021 at Bear Valley and Suslota access near Mentasta.





# AHTNA LAND PROJECTS REVOLVE AROUND THE HEALTH OF THE WILDLIFE AND FORESTS

BY JOHN LEONHART AND TRENTON CULP, AHTNA LAND DEPARTMENT

The Ahtna Land Department and its employees conduct a variety of forestry and wildlife projects across the Ahtna Region's landscape. For example, the Carnivore Stewardship Program and wolf population studies focus on understanding the predator populations in the region to help balance the ecological relationship between moose and their predators. Moose browse projects, moose population studies, fuel breaks, log landing restoration, and nutritional studies focus on improving the habitat quality and winter range of moose on Ahtna land. Monitoring spruce bark beetles helps gauge the overall health of the forests. The knowledge gained from wildlife and forestry projects assists the Land Department in making decisions on how to best manage the flora and fauna on Ahtna's lands.

Track counts are a simple and inexpensive method for collecting population density information. The goal of this project is to help determine moose density in winter habitat on Ahtna lands. Analysis of this data will help determine areas of habitat requiring improvement to assist moose with winter survival. Density information also informs decisions on how the moose population is fluctuating over time. Moose track counts are typically conducted in February and March; however, when snow conditions and temperatures cooperate, counts can be conducted as early as November or December. Under ideal circumstances, track counts would be conducted annually to maintain a knowledge base of the moose population within the region.

Aerial surveys are used to determine population estimates for species, such as wolves, that have large home ranges and are difficult to assess from the ground. Aerial surveys are conducted in the late winter when there is adequate snow cover, and the best results are from surveys flown immediately after a snowfall large enough to cover up existing tracks. Surveys also need to be scheduled prior to snow becoming too compact for tracks to be visible. During an aerial survey, a pilot and an observer fly transects in habitats above the tree line and look for fresh wolf tracks. Upon discovery of wolf tracks, survey crews follow the tracks until the wolf or wolves are located. Wolves are then counted and the survey crew resumes searching for additional tracks. The goal of these surveys is to help determine the population structure of wolves in Game Management Unit 11 (GMU 11). Survey attempts will be made annually to determine population stability of the wolves.

In addition to aerial surveys, tracking collars equipped with Global Positioning Systems (GPS) have been used in other areas of Alaska to help offset the costs of flight time required to locate wolves and help determine pack territories. The Ahtna Land Department is currently collaborating with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park to secure 12 GPS collars for the wolves in GMU 11. Each pack located would receive 2 GPS collars; one collar would be fitted to an alpha male or female while the other collar would be reserved for the non-breeding wolves. There is little knowledge of the wolves and their pack sizes within GMU 11. This project would help Ahtna and the National Park Service increase the efficiency of winter aerial

surveys and determine wolf populations with more accuracy, including the number of wolf packs and pack territories.

In addition to the wildlife and forestry projects conducted on Ahtna land, hunting cabins and trails are being constructed to encourage and assist shareholders with harvesting animals on traditional lands. The ultimate goals of the Land Department projects revolve around the health of the wildlife and forests on Ahtna land and management of the land for subsistence and recreational use by Ahtna shareholders.



Interested in working on Ahtna's lands for the Land Department? We have seasonal positions. Do you need to do some field work for your degree? We have internships. Stay tuned for more information on openings for the 2021 summer season which starts in mid-April.



# KOTSINA ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP

It was a simple phone call. One that would bring such positive energy in a more challenging year surrounding Covid-19. Dave Cruz, CEO and owner of Cruz Construction, had reached out to the Wrangell Institute for Science and the Environment and Copper River Watershed Project to offer his services. Dave is a Kenny Lake resident and fishwheel user on the Kotsina River delta and he wanted the area cleaned up. Numerous old abandoned fishwheels, cars and even RVs contaminated the area. He was willing to donate his services of equipment and labor to make it happen. I recall vividly the first time I called him confirming that this offer was actually true.

While this call set in motion a quick two month preparation for the big clean-up effort, the project started years ago, when my predecessor Kristin Carpenter put in a huge effort to convene partners to garner support to submit a lengthy grant proposal to clean up the Kotsina delta, the exact area Dave expressed interest in tackling. It can be challenging to get funding for these kinds of activities, so of course when I spoke to Dave and it was true that his offer still stood to donate his services, I was ecstatic. I knew just how incredible this offer was and it didn't take long to reach out to those supportive partners that were behind this project idea from the beginning to plan our next steps.



Five dump-truck loads of metal, debris, old car and RV parts, nasty foam and a few freezers later, we thank the watershed community that made this possible. Your contributions took those huge piles of garbage and got them to the recycler or landfill. You also helped facilitate a volunteer cleanup day where 20 participants hiked on foot or drove on ATVs to clean up any remaining trash on state, Ahtna and Chitina lands in the area. In addition to individual contributions, we received financial support from Chitina Village Corp., Ahtna, Inc., Chitina Native Corp., Alyeska and A/C Value Center (Cordova).



Our next step is to connect with the State to discuss how we can prevent this from happening again. The Kotsina delta is an everchanging landscape and one that can be ruthless and even lethal. I witnessed old car parts, including gas tanks, come right out of the water this year. Gas tanks and vehicle parts that no doubt had oil, gasoline and other contaminants in them when they were taken by the river. Fishwheels contain floats made from Styrofoam which break apart and form microplastics. These assets are not lost on purpose – no one wants to have their car adopted into the delta! But we can all proceed cautiously with activities, understand the risks and try to avoid accidents. So, support salmon and support future fishing in these beloved areas by taking extra measures to be safe.

We all wish for safe and fruitful future fishing throughout the Copper River and I hope we can help to ensure that keeps happening! I would love to hear thoughts from those that know and use this area on how we can work together to improve safety measures. Reach out to me at <u>info@copperriver.org</u> and I'll work to keep this momentum going!



Lisa Docken and Dave Cruz at the Kotsina cleanup site. Photo by Robin Mayo



## **AHTNA PLANTS: KON'K'AY' SITKA ALDER**



Alder is part of the birch family, commonly found in open woods, along rivers and creeks. You will know you are near water when around these plants. Their root system thrives in wet habitat.

Harvest Catkins in the Spring, leaves in Spring to late Summer, bark in Spring or Fall.

Alder can get hot enough for welding. One of the root words in Ahtna for Alder is kon' which means fire or hot. In literal terms meaning "fire willow" kon'k'ay'.

Alder can be called "red willow" because of its red sap which is high in tannic acid.

Catkins are high in protein and can be used in soups and stews.

Leaves and bark can be used in tea for a medicinal tonic to aid digestion.

Medicinal preparations can be any of the following: bath, compress, oil infusion, poultice, salve, tea, or wash. Alder leaves are a good addition to a bath to soothe an achy body. Use for arthritis, sore muscles and general pain.

Alder chips are a preferred fuel for smoking and flavoring of salmon and other fish.

The bark can be boiled in water to produce a red dye that can be used to color hair or clothing items.

- beniic (CLW), meniic (M), loanword from Russian venik 'broom, whisk' steambath switch made of alder or birch leaves
- c'ekac (M) alder stick for spreading fish; red alder

CAUTION: Fresh inner bark can induce vomiting. Dry the inner bark before using.

DISCLAIMER: This article is for educational and informational purposes only, and is not intended as medical advice. Please consult with a qualified health care professional before acting on any information presented here.

# **ELP TAZLINA RECOVER ITS HOMELANDS**

The Native Village of Tazlina has a historic opportunity to purchase its ancestral lands and bring the story of its homelands back full circle. Where the current owner, the Archdiocese of Anchorage, operated the Copper Valley School for two decades, the Tazlina Village has a vision for the land that includes honoring the tradition of education by establishing a tribal college. Also on the land, along the shoreline of the Copper River, the Village will add a conservation easement to ensure in perpetuity that family and community fish wheels can continue to harvest salmon for the Ahtna people.

Donna Renard, member of the Tazlina village, remembers, "It wasn't just fishing at fish camp, we learned our life lessons down there. That ground is where generations of my family walked, so everywhere I walk at fishcamp I'm walking in their footprints."

How will the Village of Tazlina make this important purchase? With lots of help! We have identified sources of funding to help purchase these 462 acres, but we need to raise \$250,000 to help leverage nearly \$1,500,000. Please consider making a charitable contribution to support the Village. A gift of appreciated stock or other property can also be made.

Please visit our page at charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/ tazlina-a-home-for-education-and-tradition (or look us up at tazlina.org) to see the status of our campaign - we have made great progress!

Our story isn't unique, but this opportunity is. We can be more self-reliant if we can develop a tribal college for interior Alaska. Native lands have been sold by deed for land grant colleges, for homesteaders, for boarding schools, and this is a chance for us to buy the land back, to preserve our culture.

# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT SHAREHOLDER EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS





#### Darin Moberg, Ahtna Global

Ahtna shareholder Darin Moberg started with Ahtna Global, LLC at the end of July 2020 as a project manager. Darin previously worked with Ahtna as a quality manager, project engineer and project manager in 2010 and 2011. He is the son of Arline Moberg, who is the daughter of Adena Kindgren. Darin is the youngest of four siblings and has lived in Anchorage, Alaska since the age of ten.

After obtaining a degree in civil engineering from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Darin began his career as a structural engineer in the oil and gas field. While working, Darin obtained his master's degree in engineering and science management and moved on from engineering to quality management and project management. Most recently Darin was executing multi-million-dollar engineering efforts for clients such as ExxonMobil and Alyeska. One aspect Darin enjoys most about management is mentoring and fostering a team to see individual goals align with collective goals. Managing a safe project holds a great importance to Darin since his father passed due to an on-the-job construction accident.

Most of Darin's free time is spent with his busy family. His wife Marjorie is currently attending college in the evenings to join the medical field. His 14-year-old Olivia is an accomplished gymnast, attending 4 hours a day of gymnastics while earning straight A's in school. Aleah is 11, in her last year of elementary school, and enjoys sewing. Petra is 4 and Bryton is 2, and both require 24-hour-a-day attention. When he can, Darin also enjoys time with friends, camping, biking, skateboarding and snowboarding. Darin is looking forward to an engaging future here at Ahtna, with no shortcuts.



#### Tamera Ginn, AC&PPC

Ahtna shareholder employee Tamera Ginn has achieved another milestone in her career development. She attended and successfully passed an OSHA 510 training course. Completing this first of two required courses allows her to conduct both OSHA 10 and 30 hour Construction Industry Outreach classes. This is a huge accomplishment on her part and a tremendous value to Ahtna!

Tamera will be transitioning from her field Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Specialist position to the Shareholder Enrichment Program, urban position, where she will continue to gain administrative, safety program development and management skills.

# SHAREHOLDER-OWNED BUSINESSES

There are many challenges and rewards to starting a business. We are interested in sharing shareholder business owners' experiences starting their business and lessons they have learned along the way. Our hope is that the knowledge will help other shareholder entrepreneurs. If you are interested in sharing your experience, please email <u>news@ahtna.net</u>.

We encourage support of Ahtna shareholder-owned businesses by highlighting their products and services in the Kanas. Shareholders can take advantage of this free promotion for their business by completing a short online form at <u>www.ahtna.com/shareholders/shareholderbusinesses</u>.



Ahtna shareholder Cheyenne Ewan poses for a photo with Bruce Cain after visiting the polls.

### **FIRST TIME VOTER**

Cheyenne Ewan voted for the first time in the 2020 election. Voter turnout was up across the nation for the 2020 presidential election, and part of that increase is in first-time voters. Cheyenne's parents are Donna Ewan and the late Harding Ewan and her maternal grandmother is Mary George. Her paternal grandparents are Frank and Alexandria Ewan. Cheyenne has spent most of her life in Copper Center and is a member of the Udzisyu (Caribou) clan. When asked why she thought voting is important, Cheyenne replied, "Because it's part of our freedom and should be used. It would make a change to our nation and we should exercise our right to vote." She says that voting for the first time made her feel, "excited and empowered."

"My advice for future voters is to find your polling place and research on all sides of the party to make sure you're choosing something you're well informed about."

# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT HOPE SHAREHOLDER PROGRAM

In 2019, the Ahtna Board of Directors launched the HOPE (Helping Our People Excel) Shareholder Program with a primary goal of getting more shareholders employed and gaining work experience. The Board had specific changes they wanted to see, including changing the intern program to a higher-level program that was eventually named the Ahtna Special Forces. Included in the HOPE program is funding village-based shareholder hire, the Career Assistance Program, Ahtna Vocational Scholarships, resume writing and interview tips and coaching.

To learn more about these programs, please visit the Shareholder Enrichment section of the Ahtna website.

#### **Career Assistance Program**

Provides Ahtna shareholders with funding to assist with pre-employment preparation, job improvement and training. The program is open to voting shareholders (Original, Inherited, Gifted, Class L) that are 18 years of age or older. Shareholders must submit an online application to request funding that will improve their career opportunities. Enrollment is open all year round.

#### **Ahtna Vocational Scholarships**

Provides Ahtna shareholders with funding to meet their educational goals in the trades or vocational schools. Enrollment is open all year round. Amount expended YTD 2020: \$30,000.

#### **Resume & Interview Coaching**

Ahtna utilized a contractor to assist with interview coaching and professional resume assistance. 23 resumes were created in 2020.

#### Village-based Shareholder Hire Programs and Village Assistance with Land Projects

Ahtna is providing financial assistance to Tribes which support and promote village-based shareholder employment. For 2020, Ahtna Inc. funded approximately \$80,000 in Shareholder Hire for community-based programs in the Ahtna villages. Some of the projects completed in 2020:

Native Village of Kluti-Kaah worked on Bible Conference renovations, Headstart building renovation, CLRC Emergency shelter, and Kluti-Kaah Greenhouses.

Native Village of Tazlina worked on fishwheel renovation and maintenance, community garden and greenhouse, assistance with other projects and painting of all buildings.

Ahtna's Shareholder Enrichment Department is here to support you wherever your career goals may take you. The following pages include profiles on a few of the shareholders we've assisted.

If you are interested in any of the programs highlighted, or are looking for educational, training or career assistance, please email <u>shenrichment@ahtna.net</u> or contact Tracy Parent in Anchorage at (907) 868-8250 or Starr Knighten in Glennallen at (907) 822-3476.

### **SHAREHOLDER OPPORTUNITY:**





| LABORERS               |
|------------------------|
| Accepting Applications |
| CAREER                 |
| Starting wage:         |

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



Application Deadlines: Anchorage March 15, 2021 Fairbanks March 29, 2021

#### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS ARE**

Must be at least 18 years of age Must be an Alaska Resident of at least 1 full year Must have a Valid Alaska Driver's License Must have a High School Diploma/GED 100% DRUG FREE PROGRAM \*prescreen drug testing required\* Be physically able to perform all duties of a Construction Craft Laborer Have reliable transportation to get to and from work.



The Alaska Laborets Training School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of the sducoinan plotices, admissions policies, student assistance programs, or any other school-administered programs.

#### Jared Virgin, Ahtna Vocational Scholarship Recipient

Jared Virgin is a member of the Udzisyu (Caribou) Clan and lives in Tazlina. His parents are Teri Nutter and Joey Virgin. His maternal grandparents are Larry Nutter and the late Louise (Ewan) Nutter and his paternal grandparents are Margaret Virgin and the late Joseph C. Virgin.

Jared is currently attending the West Coast Heavy Equipment Training Center in Woodland, Washington. He plans to obtain full-time employment as an Operator in the oil and gas construction field after he completes his training.

When asked why he decided to pursue this career path, Jared replied, "I have raced motorcycles most of my childhood. My parents and grandparents were super supportive of my passion to race and my parents agreed to build a racetrack around our house. My Grandpa (Nutter) bought equipment and agreed to let me operate his equipment to change and modify the technical difficulty of my racetrack with the scaling of jumps, table-tops, corners and whoops. It was probably through this opportunity and experience that I decided to pursue my education and career as a Heavy Equipment Operator."

Jared's vocational training was fully paid for by a combination of scholarships through Ahtna's Shareholder Enrichment Program and Copper River Native Association's Tribal Services Program. "It is an honor to be a shareholder of Ahtna, Inc. where my corporation is committed to investing in my future through meaningful and purposeful opportunities such as scholarships, employment and training and providing other financial support through annual dividends," says Jared.

His advice to fellow shareholders is, "Don't let yourself hold YOU back from pursuing your education or career goals. It is terrifying to step outside of your comfort zone, but the personal gratification of accomplishments and success of bettering yourself is well worth it!"

"I am blessed to have a super awesome and supportive family. My parents, grandparents, siblings, aunties and uncles have provided encouragement, prayers, and most of all their unconditional love and support."





#### **Olaf Lord, Union Apprentice Graduate**

Olaf Lord is a member of the Udzisyu (Caribou) clan and is from the village of Gakona. His parents are Gladys and Olaf Lord. His grandmother is the late Florence Tyone and his grandfather is the late Fred Sinyon. His great grandfather is the late Jack Tyone and his great grandmother is the late Elsie Tyone.

Olaf has been a member of Teamsters Local 959 for nine years and currently

works at the Glennallen Response Base. His main duty is oil spill response, but he also performs maintenance on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). This includes flying in a helicopter to inspect the 800-mile-long pipeline.

Good pay and benefits such as healthcare and a retirement plan played a huge part in Olaf deciding to become a Teamster, but he enjoys the added perks of meeting new people and seeing the world. "You are given per diem for travel and the pay can allow you to build your savings so you can afford to buy that new home or car you've been wanting." He adds that you are always learning new things and if you work hard there are opportunities for growth such as moving into a supervisor role or higher paying position. Another reason he recommends a trade is because, "You should

thtua

have something to fall back on. This year many people were laid off because of COVID, but construction has remained steady."

"You're investing in yourself for you and your family. Working in a union brings a feeling of stability. It affords you the ability to fund your own hunting trips. In order to have it all you need a good job, and one of the ways to find that is to join an apprenticeship program."

Olaf's advice to shareholders interested in an apprenticeship program is, "Stop doubting yourself. Whatever you think you can't do, physically or whatever, change your life and remove those barricades you have that are keeping you from applying. Just apply and get your foot in the door. You will gain independence by having a trade. Our Elders want to see us succeed and prosper. I've seen people down and out and rise to succeed. Make yourself proud."

Other helpful tips Olaf shared include:

- Don't be afraid to go out and work away from home.
- Spend wisely while in the apprenticeship, be smart and save.
- Get experience while you are trying to become an apprentice, recommendations will go far in an apprenticeship program.
- Show up to work on time, show that you can steadily work before applying for an apprenticeship.
- Call your fellow shareholders who have been through the process. We are happy to give advice to show you, you can do it.

(Continued on page 14)

# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

(Continued from page 13)



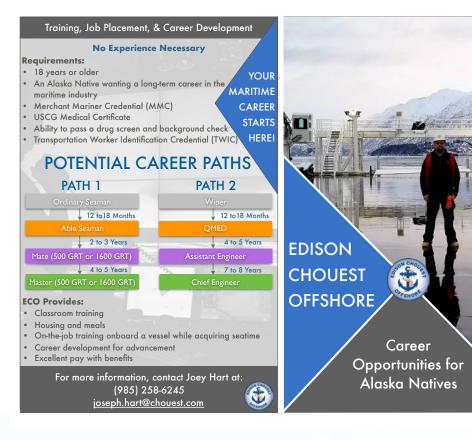
#### Joey Hart Jr., Mariner

Joseph Hart Jr. grew up around the Copper Valley and moved to Valdez in 2002. His father is Joseph Hart Sr. and his mother is Cena Rhodes. His paternal grandparents are the late John and Velma Hart and his maternal grandparents are the late William Poplin and Judy Yates. hard, and it all helped me to where I am today. Find your passion, seek your opportunities and make the most of every chance you have to seize them."

If working in the maritime field interests you, please contact Shareholder Enrichment about a future with Edison Chouest Offshore! No experience is necessary.

Joey is an Operations Coordinator with Edison Chouest Offshore. He is responsible for recruitment and career development for their Alaska Native Program. The program's goal is to provide entry-level opportunities for Alaska Natives in the maritime industry, along with career advancement using specialized development plans catered to each mariner. Edison Chouest Offshore works alongside Alaska Native leadership to provide career opportunities and build their workforce in Alaska.

Joey says that Ahtna was crucial in connecting him with Edison Chouest Offshore and supported him through all that was needed to get started with them. He offers this advice to shareholders looking to build a lifelong career like he has, "Make the most of any opportunity and learn from others. I never thought of working in the maritime industry before this. Surrounded by a great team, I worked



#### More tips from Shareholder Enrichment:

- Build your work experience. Even if you work at home or for a friend, add those skills to your resume. Shareholder Enrichment can assist with creating or updating your resume.
- Applications must be filled out in full, any blank spaces will be rejected or flagged.
- Get ready for a Fit Test Fitness testing includes checking your blood pressure and heart rate and ensuring you are fit for duty by doing exercises such as running up stairs.
- Expect a drug screening They all do them, and they vary depending on the apprenticeship.
- Get ready for the interview process Need coaching? Shareholder Enrichment can help.

Tired of staying at a job and being stuck at one wage? As an apprentice you keep growing in salary. Has an apprenticeship program piqued your interest? Contact Shareholder Enrichment to help you get started. This link will help you keep informed of upcoming application deadlines for each program: www.alaskaworks.org/apprenticeship-openings.



### YOUNG SHAREHOLDER LEARNS FAMILY HUNTING TRADITIONS AND VALUE OF SHARING



Twelve-year-old Elli Tansy began hunting when most children are just learning to tie their shoes. She was only five years old when she shot a ptarmigan with a .410 shotgun. By six she was ready to carry her own .22 rifle and got a porcupine. At seven she started hunting for caribou,

and right after she

Elli with her mother Martha.

turned eight she harvested her first caribou near Eureka. The next year she returned and got her first moose. She's also successfully hunted for deer, elk, turkey and Alaska's other unofficial state bird, the mosquito.

Elli learned her hunting skills from her mother Martha. When Elli was a toddler, her mother would put her in a carrier on her back and take her out hunting with her. Through careful observation, Elli learned to skin an animal at age three and by seven she was skinning an entire animal on her own.

When asked what she enjoys most about hunting, Elli replied, "Seeing new places, the traditions of hunting with my family, harvesting food for my community and camping in the woods." Elli finds great joy in sharing over 80 percent of the game meat she and her family harvest and giving glory to the Lord for successful hunts. Elli says that hunting has taught her many lessons: how to be resourceful; how to understand animals before you hunt them, observing them and learning their habits; traditions of sharing; how to skin, field dress, butcher, and brain tan an animal's hide; creating clothing and crafts from the skins; tanning salmon skins to use as waterproof material; and how to use a firearm properly and safely.

When Elli isn't hunting, she enjoys doing traditional arts and crafts, learning from and caring for Elders, picking blueberries, fishing, gardening, playing volleyball, swimming, playing with Legos and playing Minecraft. When Elli grows up, she wants to be an architect for Ahtna and get her pilot's license so she can be a bush pilot. She also wants to have a homestead where she can raise her family. Elli's life goal is to be completely selfsufficient in the wilderness. Her mother has taught her how to weld and work on vehicles, which comes in handy when making her own repairs as well as helping others. Elli is homeschooled, which allows flexibility in her schedule for hunting and attending workshops with Elders where she learns life skills and traditional ways.

Elli is the daughter of Roy Tansy Jr. and Martha Tansy. Her paternal grandparents are Roy and the late Irene Tansy and her maternal grandparents are Steve and Leanne Quirk. She is a member of the Naltsiine (Sky Clan) and is also Tlingit, Choctaw and Rosebud Sioux. She was born in Anchorage and currently lives in Chugiak and Wasilla.





This is Elli's most recent native craft creation. She made these mittens as a special gift to honor an Alaskan Native Elder this winter. They were made from salmon skins that she naturally tanned with alders and dyed with red beets, deer hide (from her first deer) that she tanned with caribou brains, moose fur cuff from a moose that she and her mom harvested many years ago, and beautiful white and salmon colored seed beads.

# **2021 CALENDARS YOUTH ARTWORK CONTEST**

We have some very talented youth artists! We are happy to feature their creative talents in the 2021 Ahtna Calendar. Each month of the calendar features art by a shareholder or shareholder descendant youth artist. Thank you to all this year's entrants and congrats to the winners! Included are photos of three of this year's winners.



Michael Jordan, age 15



Olivia Jones, age 7



Rene' Rock-Albert, age 11

# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT GLENNALLEN TRICK-OR-TREAT



































To maintain safe social distancing - the treats were delivered by dropping them down the pipe attached to the stair rail.

# **SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES**

### FALL ISSUE CORRECTIONS

We apologize for two inaccuracies that were printed in the Fall issue.

- There was a misprint in graduate Keith Johns' family information. He is the son of Michael and Rose Johns. His paternal grandparents are the late Norman Johns and Karen Johns and his maternal grandparents are Phillip and Rosalie Edwards.
- Avery Tucker is a member of the Udzisyu (Caribou) clan, not the Dik'aagiyu (Fireweed) clan.

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES AHTNA SHAREHOLDER CLASSES:



#### (a/k/a Class A, Series1)

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in both the Ahtna Region and in one of the Village Corporations in the Region.

Class A-1 shares are inheritable and may be gifted.



#### (a/k/a Class A, Series 2)

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in the Ahtna Region but not enrolled in one of the Village Corporations in the Region. Holders of Class A-2 shares are also referred to as "at-large" shareholders.

Class A-2 shares are inheritable and may be gifted.



100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Cantwell Yedatene Na Corporation. Shares of Cantwell Yedatene Na Corporation were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class C shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class C shares are inheritable and may be gifted. CLASS D SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Cheesh-Na, Incorporated. Shares of Cheesh-Na, Incorporated were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class D shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class D shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

**CLASS** 

**SHARES** 

SHARES 100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18

CLASS

or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Gakona Corporation. Shares of Gakona Corporation were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class F shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class F shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

CLASS

SHARES

CLASS G SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Kluti-Kaah Corporation. Shares of Kluti-Kaah Corporation were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class G shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class G shares are inheritable and may be gifted. CLASS H SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Mentasta, Incorporated. Shares of Mentasta, Incorporated were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class H shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class H shares are inheritable and may be gifted. CLASS SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Sta-Keh Corporation. Shares of Sta-Keh Corporation were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class I shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class I shares are inheritable and may be gifted. 100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Tazlina, Incorporated. Shares of Tazlina, Incorporated were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class J shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class J shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

100 shares to each Alaska Native born after December 18, 1971, who is one-quarter or more Alaska Native, a U.S. citizen, and a descendant of an original Ahtna shareholder. 30 shares are issued at birth and an additional 70 shares are issued when the shareholder reaches 18 years of age and graduates from high school, or reaches 21 years of age without graduating.

Class L shares are life estate and may not be inherited or gifted.

# **2021 AHTNA ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### Scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2021

Nominations for the Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors will open January 1, 2021 and close February 26, 2021. Annual Meeting packets will be sent out in April. Shareholders eligible to vote will receive individual proxy information, but each shareholder household will only receive one packet with the 2020 Annual Report, Annual Meeting Agenda, Proxy Statement, etc. Shareholders also have the option to receive materials electronically and can sign up by logging into the MyAhtna portal. If you wish to receive your own individual Annual Meeting packet, please contact Shareholder Services at (907) 822-3476 or <u>shservices@ahtna.net</u> no later than March 26, 2021.



### **2020 SHAREHOLDER SURVEY**

Ahtna would like to thank the over 475 shareholders who participated in this year's survey. The thoughts, opinions, recommendations, and feedback of our shareholders are very important to us, and we will use what we've been given to help make this corporation a better company. We are very grateful indeed!

Congratulations to the following winners of the \$200 Visa Gift Card drawing.

Robert Alan Sequak Alysha Tannahill Clarence Smelcer Sr. Valda Tyone Akpik Tiffany Alonzo Samantha Herald Rick Wilson Nelly Ewan Daisy M. Hart Rose M. Tyone

## CALLING ALL AHTNA SHAREHOLDER COLLEGE GRADUATES

Ahtna Shareholder Enrichment has created a new database to record Ahtna shareholder college graduate degrees. We need your help to make sure we have updated information in the system. Please email <u>shenrichment@ahtna.net</u> with your degree level, degree name and year graduated. This information will assist us with supporting you in your educational and career pursuits. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

### Become a member of Ahtna Special Forces SUMMER 2021



#### **Special Forces areas:**

- Engineering
- EnvironmentalLand (Carbon
- Credits)
- Business
  Development
  Construction
- Many others...

#### Why become an Ahtna Special Forces Member?

- Paid internship
- Build your resume
- Extensive training in your field
- Extensive training about your company
- Create a network of professional contacts
- Learn about Ahtna heritage, history and culture

Visit www.ahtna.com/asf to apply and learn more.

# PASSIONATE ABOUT SUBSISTENCE & NATIVE LIFE, WALTER CHARLEY ALSO LOOKED TOWARD THE FUTURE



The Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship program assists Ahtna shareholders with meeting their educational goals by funding full and parttime students. Yet, who was Walter Charley? And why is Ahtna's scholarship program named after him?

Walter Charley was a self-made man who was born on February 28, 1908 at Wood Camp, four miles downriver from Copper Center. A well-known driving force in the Alaska

Native Claims Settlement Act, he died on October 22, 1992 – at the age of 84.

An incredible natural leader, he was brought up by his aunt and uncle after his family died from the 1918 Flu Epidemic. He came from a long line of leaders and chiefs that went back four or more generations.

A hard worker, Walter Charley was directly involved in all of Alaska's modern building projects. In his early years, he worked as a section hand on the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad at StreIna during the late 1920s and 1930s. Later, he was employed by the Alaska Road Commission during the surveying and construction of the Glenn Highway, beginning in 1941.

He worked as an equipment operator for the Department of Highways until his retirement in the 1970s. Then he worked as a lineman, joining Local 1547. In the mid-1970s he worked on the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

Walter Charley was heavily involved in many other organizations and projects. He was one of the first Ahtna Natives to join the Alaska Native Brotherhood in the early 1950s. He was a former commissioner of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. He served as president of Chitina Village Corporation and vice president of the Aboriginal Senior Citizens of Alaska. He was the honorary elder board member of the Copper River Native Association (CRNA).

And, he was former president of Ahtna Construction.

A strong and vocal supporter of Native subsistence rights, Walter Charley became a member of the Rural Alaska Resources Association (RARA) Board in 1979 and traveled to many parts of the state to support the subsistence lifestyle. He was also an official honorary elder on the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP) Village Participation Conference Planning Committee.

He was known throughout Alaska. A longtime and influential member of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), Walter Charley was named the AFN Citizen of the Year in 1988.

Yet, more than all those honors and all those manly occupations, he was someone who was unafraid to speak up. He was friendly and open – yet fearlessly passionate about righting wrongs when he saw something that shouldn't be happening.

Walter Charley moved easily between the Native and white cultures. He had a good sense of humor, high personal standards and a strong affection for his family.

A lucid speaker, Walter Charley often spoke forcefully on the same repeated themes: taking responsibility for yourself; working hard; overcoming the problems of prejudice – and living a sober life.

He frequently told anecdotes about his own past and the cultural history of the Ahtna people. Yet he was also especially concerned with encouraging young people to face the future squarely without fear.

It's hard to imagine a better person to name a scholarship after.



This story was published as part of an ongoing, original series of interviews and photographs from the Copper River Country Journal (<u>www.countryjournal2020.com</u>), celebrating Native Heritage Month, November 2020.

# **COMMUNITY NEWS**

# **ALASKA BOARD OF GAME 2021 MEETINGS AND COMMENTS**

The Alaska Board of Game is currently accepting comments for the **2020-2021 meeting cycle. Public comments must include first name, last name, community of residence, and proposal numbers** to which the comments pertain. Comments without this information will not be part of the board meeting workbook, indexed, or cross referenced with proposals, but they will be compiled and posted on the meeting information website. Comments having defamatory wording will be redacted or rejected. Written comments that are submitted are public records and are subject to public inspection.

To learn more and submit comments visit <u>www.adfg.alaska.gov</u>.

Note: During the November 18, 2020 Board of Game Meeting, the board postponed the January and March 2021 regulatory meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They will discuss rescheduling the meetings at the January 21, 2021 Work Session.

| Meeting Dates    | Торіс   | Location         | <b>Comment Deadline</b> |
|------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| January 21, 2021 | Work Session  | Web-Conference   | January 15, 2021        |
| Postponed        | Central & Southwest<br>Region<br>Game Management<br>Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A,<br>14B, 16 & 17 | To be determined | To be determined        |
| Postponed        | <b>Statewide Regulations</b><br>5 AAC Chapters 92 and<br>98                                   | To be determined | To be determined        |



### **CONDOLENCES**

In loving memory of our shareholders who have passed

| AMY R. GEORGE      | JONATHAN K. GEORGE       |  |  |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| CHARLES D. WASSON  | JOSEPH C. MICHAL SR.     |  |  |
| JAKE J. MILLER JR. | KATHERINE CHARLEY        |  |  |
| JOHN W. SMITHART   | <b>KATHERINE STEVENS</b> |  |  |

**KYLE J. MEAD** LYNN R. CRAIG **RICHARD J. MONROE** TANA M. PETE

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

= video conference between Anchorage & Glennallen

Due to COVID-19, the below events are subject to change or cancellation. Please check the website at <u>www.ahtna.com/events</u> for the most current information.

| JAN              |   |                  |   |                  |  |
|------------------|---|------------------|---|------------------|--|
| Jan 1            | Al Board Nominations<br>Open                                    | Jan 8            | Oversight & Improvement<br>Committee – 1 PM                         | Jan 29           | Class L Deadline   |
| FEB              |   |                  |   |                  |  |
| Feb 2            | Audit & Finance Committee<br>- 8:30 AM                          | Feb 15           | President's Day (Ahtna<br>offices closed)                           | Feb 19<br>Feb 26 | Policy Committee – 9 AM<br>Deadline for all Board<br>Nominations |
| Feb 6            | Al Board Meeting – 9<br>AM-1 PM                                 | Feb 18           | Shareholder Committee – 9<br>AM                                     |                  |  |
| Feb 6            | AN Executive Committee<br>Meeting – after Al Board<br>Meeting   | Feb 18           | Land Committee – 1 PM   |                  |  |
| MAR              |   |                  |   |                  |  |
| Mar 2<br>Mar 4-6 | Audit & Finance Committee<br>– 9 AM<br>AN & Subsidiary Meetings | Mar 26<br>Mar 26 | SVO Ballots Deadline<br>Oversight & Improvement<br>Committee – 1 PM | Mar 27           | Al Board Meeting – 9 AM  |
|                  | , .   |                  |   |                  |  |
| APR              |   |                  |   |                  |  |
| Apr 1            | Record Date for Annual<br>Shareholders Meeting                  | Apr 3            | Kluti-Kaah SVO – 9 AM /<br>Gulkana SVO – 1 PM                       | Apr 10<br>Apr 16 | Mentasta SVO – 11 AM<br>Class L Deadline                         |
| Apr 2            | Good Friday   | Apr 4            | Easter  |                  |  |



110 W 38TH Avenue, Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99503



#### **RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**



#### Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors



Ken Johns Chair



Margie Ewan Vice Chair





Linda Pete Secretary



**Grant Rebne** 









John Dye



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Genevieve John





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