

# Ahtna Kanas

WINTER 2022



**2021 AHTNA LAND DEPARTMENT  
SHAREHOLDER PHOTO CONTEST  
WINNERS - P. 6**



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**ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO:**

Edward Greybear's photo of a rainbow over the Copper River, which won first place in the 2021 Ahtna Land Department shareholder photo contest.

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

Michelle Anderson  
President, AIKathryn Martin  
Senior VP, AITom Maloney  
CEO, ANRoy J. Tansy Jr.  
COO, ANMatt Tisher  
CFO & VP of Finance, AIJoe Bovee  
VP of Land &  
Resources, AIDouglas Miller  
VP of Human  
Resources, AINicholas Ostrovsky  
General Counsel, AIEric McLaurin  
VP of Business  
Development, AN

## Ahtna Subsidiary Presidents

Craig O'Rourke  
President, AGSC, ADB &  
AMCCBrenda Rebne  
President, AFSL, APSI, AIMI,  
AISL, AKHI & ATSLTim Finnigan  
President, AES, AEI, AGL,  
AEI, AITL & ACSDavid O'Donnell  
President, AC&PPC &  
AAA Valley GravelJason McCart  
Interim President, ASTS  
& ALL



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY GOOD HEALTH, HAPPINESS, AND PROSPERITY

Dear fellow shareholders,

Happy New Year from all of us here at Ahtna! We wish you and your family good health, happiness, and prosperity in 2022. The past year continued to present challenges, but we reached significant milestones and made meaningful contributions despite the difficulties.

The administration and distribution of the CARES Act funds Ahtna received was no small feat. From the conceptualization of the online COVID Reimbursement Program application process to the distribution of the funds, I am extremely proud of how staff pulled together from across the organization to make the program a top priority. After the reimbursement applications had been processed, we regrouped with our regional non-profits to see how the remaining funds could best be utilized to benefit our shareholders and villages. Copper River Native Association (CRNA) used the CARES Act money Ahtna provided to purchase an ambulance, which will increase its ability to respond to the ongoing pandemic and provide care effectively and comfortably to local residents.



Thanks in large part to the administration of Ahtna's CARES Act applications via the shareholder portal, we have seen MyAhtna registrations double over the past year. MyAhtna is a free, online resource that provides shareholders easy access to a wealth of information and allows shareholders to update certain record

information. We've also seen an increase in direct deposit sign-ups which is wonderful, as it's the fastest and most secure way to receive funds from Ahtna. You can easily sign up by visiting the shareholder forms section of the Ahtna website.

The Board of Directors and the Trustees of Ahtna Hwt'aene (People's) Trust declared two shareholder dividends and two Elder distributions in 2021, totaling over \$9 million in distributions. 2021 continued to be a year of tremendous challenges due to the pandemic, and it's our hope that the distributions helped to relieve some of the financial burden shareholders have experienced.

We are embarking this year on a new 5-year strategic plan for Ahtna. The plan puts focus on increasing profits; diversifying our portfolio; providing benefits to shareholders; protecting our land, our customary and traditional hunting and fishing rights, and natural resources; and preparing shareholders for the next generation of leadership and management within the company. Ahtna uses a strategic-management framework called the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) to align business activities to the vision and strategy of the Corporation, improve internal and external communications, and monitor performance against strategic goals. Ahtna has used the BSC to successfully link long-term strategy with short-term actions.

The Alaska Redistricting Board members took the final legal steps to adopt a legislative map in November which organizes all of our villages in one district. Objections, lawsuits, and appeals of the Board's decision could last months, if not years, but this first step was a major win for our region. I credit the victory to the testimony that our Board members provided at various public comment meetings in a very short amount of time.

(Continued on page 2)



Congratulations to our 2021 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.

ANCSA Regional Association (ARA) premiered "ANCSA: Our People. Our Land. Our Future." statewide last month. The film offers a look at the first 50 years of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and a glimpse of what's yet to come. Prominent ANCSA leaders are featured in the film, including Ahtna, Inc. Chairman Ken Johns, Christine Craig, and the late Ruby Tansy John. The film can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/658030548>.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Ahtna, Incorporated. When ANCSA was being debated on the floor of Congress, we were represented by our Elders. They fought for our status as villages, for the lands that we own today, and for the preservation of our culture going forward. It is through our past leaders' efforts that this company has persevered and prospered over the past five decades. Reflecting back allows us to learn and provides a model for conducting ourselves as future generations of Ahtna people. Our business is built on listening to the people we serve, and we thank you for your guidance, loyalty and support.

Tsin'aen,



Michelle Anderson, President  
Ahtna, Incorporated

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Ahtna, Incorporated was incorporated on June 23, 1972, by Lillian Boston, Hector Ewan, Norman Ewan, Roy Ewan, George Hobson, and Christine Craig.

The initial Board of Directors consisted of Robert Marshall, Harry Johns, Nick Jackson, Henry Bell, Roy Ewan, Hector Ewan, Dorothy Shinn, Lillian Boston, Christine Craig, and Judy Marshall.



# CEO'S MESSAGE

## REMAINING LASER-FOCUSED ON SHAREHOLDERS, SAFETY AND PROFITS

Greetings shareholders,

As we welcome the new year, we remain laser-focused on shareholders, safety and profits. We were blessed in 2021 to continue our multi-year trend of financial success, which in turn created shareholder value in the form of wages, benefits and dividend distributions. I look forward to sharing specifics on *One Team, One Ahtna's* achievements in the Annual Report to Shareholders which will come out in April.

Ahtna Global LLC (AGL) was awarded a 5-year Multiple Award Construction Contract (MACC) on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) for \$150M. This is great news and will provide new job opportunities in the Anchorage area for our shareholders. The scope of work includes facility upgrades, utility work, airfield pavement, roads, roofs and other assorted repair and alteration projects. Various trades will be required, such as carpentry, hazardous materials abatement/removal, demolition, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, concrete masonry, welding, and paving and design. Shareholders can check the Ahtna website for the latest job openings and reach out to our Shareholder Enrichment staff for more information on opportunities related to this work and other projects.

We recently visited our \$3M Winnapaug Pond Dredging project for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New England District in Westerly, Rhode Island. The project consisted of two dredge barges pumping sand out of the pond to the beach. The pond is used by the locals to raise clams and is an important bird nesting area. This project was the first award to our Ahtna – J.F. Brennan JV, and we were able to meet with J.F. Brennan's leadership while there.

Ahtna employees give back to their communities throughout the year by volunteering their time and making donations to local charities. These efforts ramp up during the holiday season, and I am proud to be able to share two recent stories of caring with you.

Foster children in the Copper River area had a little merrier Christmas this year because of a combined effort of giving. For the fourth year in a row, Ahtna worked with the Copper River Native Association (CRNA) to sponsor a Children's Angel Tree for 35 foster children. Arrangements were made with Sparks General Store – a small local business in Glennallen with a variety of goods and gifts – to accept donations from Ahtna employees. Foster parents were able to bring the children to Sparks to pick out their own Christmas present. The foster parents got to see the children's joy, CRNA was able to bring some unexpected happiness to local children, Sparks had extra business during a time that has been tough on small businesses, and our Ahtna employees had a beautiful opportunity to share with others during the holiday season.

Thousands of miles away, Ahtna Environmental, Inc. employees in Hawaii shared some true Aloha with a family facing difficult circumstances. Ahtna performs operations and maintenance work at the Inouye Regional Center (IRC) in Honolulu, Hawaii for the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). IRC Project Manager John Halbach's wife runs a small fleet of cars that she rents on the Turo car-share app. When they contacted a last-minute renter to coordinate a pick-up time, they had no idea the sequence of events that would be set into motion. As they were speaking the renter Sean shared, "Not that this really matters, but I am dying of cancer and have less than 3 months to live. This vacation is a 'last hoorah' so my family can have some really great memories before I die." John was completely taken aback and said, "I am so sorry to hear that," and asked what they would be doing during their visit. Sean stated that they had a group of 14 family members and with such a large group and the COVID restrictions, it was going to be nearly impossible for them to experience any of the events that Hawaii has to offer. During their discussion, John also learned that Sean was a police officer, volunteered countless hours in the community, and was a mentor for at-risk youth.

The following morning John met with his leadership team and told them the story and said that he and his wife wanted to do something nice for the family. It became apparent that "something nice" could turn into something outstanding. John's team came to his office a short time later to tell him that they had made all the arrangements to have a true, traditional Hawaiian luau delivered right to the landscaped grass at the home Sean's family was staying at. Sean's wife Holly was brought to tears when John called her to coordinate the surprise. She couldn't believe that a group of people that she had never met would go to such lengths to celebrate her husband and family.

On December 3rd, the entire IRC team arrived at the home where Sean's family was staying to begin setting up. When the family came out, they were



welcomed by traditional Hawaiian music and a spread of amazing food. Honolulu PD showed up later in the evening with lights and sirens going on 22 cars for a "Code 3 Drive by Salute." Officers exited their vehicles and proceeded to present Sean and his family with leis and gifts. After the officers departed, everyone went back to the table to enjoy more music, hula dancers, and the grand finale...Samoa fire knife dancers. At the conclusion of the event, John gathered everyone together to express his sincerest gratitude to all who helped pull it together, including those who had so generously donated money to cover all the expenses.

I hope these stories warm your heart as much as they did mine. May we all find gratitude, hope, and ways to give back this year.

Thank you,

Tom Maloney, Chief Executive Officer  
Ahtna Netiye'



## WINNAPAUG POND DREDGING PROJECT

BY CRAIG O'ROURKE, PRESIDENT, AHTNA GOVERNMENT SERVICES CORPORATION, AHTNA DESIGN-BUILD, INC., AND AHTNA MARINE & CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, LLC, AND DAVID FRENZEL, VICE PRESIDENT, AGSC

In January, 2021, Ahtna Marine & Construction Company, LLC (AMCC) and J.F. Brennan, Inc., based in La Crosse, WI, formed the Ahtna – J.F. Brennan Joint Venture (JV). J.F. Brennan is a 100-year-old family-owned company that performs marine construction throughout the Midwest and Northeast for various Districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and commercial clients. Based on multiple meetings and discussions throughout 2019 and 2020, it was clear that J.F. Brennan would make an excellent mentor for AMCC, and the two entities applied to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for a mentor-protégé certification, which was obtained in January, 2021. The intent of the JV is to pursue marine construction and dredging opportunities across the U.S.

In July 2021, USACE New England District awarded the JV a \$3M contract for dredging and habitat restoration in Westerly, Rhode Island. This project involves dredging 70,900 cubic yards of material in four separate dredging areas out of the Winnapaug Pond to create eel grass habitat and pumping the material via pipeline to Misquamicut State Beach approximately one half-mile away. The Winnapaug Pond is connected to the Atlantic Ocean via a canal that residents can access with boats from their homes around the Pond. The four specific dredging areas consist of two sediment basins and two restoration areas to enhance habitat for fish and wildlife.

All the dredged materials from these areas are being pumped through 10" and 12" pipelines to a floating booster pump station that pumps it through a 16" pipe a half-mile to the beach area for beach nourishment and restoration. Most of the dredged material will be used for fill on the Misquamicut State Beach area.

If additional beach area is required for fill material, it will be placed on two other beach areas, Wuskenau and Westerly Town Beach. The project is due to finish in December of 2021. For the majority of the project duration, AMCC and J.F. Brennan had 21 staff on site working double shifts six days a week.

This is the first contract awarded to the JV and it has gone extremely well, confirming that there is a very close cultural fit in the manner in which the two entities conduct business. Based on this experience, we plan to pursue many other opportunities with various USACE Districts, including Nashville, New England, Rock Island, St. Paul, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville and possibly the Portland and Seattle Districts, too.



Craig O'Rourke, AMCC President (on the right), and employee Keith Korbin at the Westerly Beach

## STAR AWARDS

Recent STAR Level 1 Award recipient:



Left to Right: Jim Fowler / ACPPC Site Supervisor, Doug Wigand / Laborer Foreman, James Howard / Operator, Rico Salinas-Johns / Operator Foreman  
Not pictured: Michael McCart / Field HSE Specialist

### ACPPC PLMP 781 Crew

ACPPC PLMP 781 crew members took the initiative and did the right thing. They identified unsafe conditions in a trench that a utility company had excavated on our project site to complete repairs to their fiber optic cable. The utility company crew had excavated and left an open trench along the Trans Alaska Pipeline System right-of-way, with straight walls (not sloped), in rainy conditions, with the spoils pile immediately adjacent to the trench, and without any barricades, warning signs, etc. The ACPPC PLMP 781 crew mitigated the hazards by sloping the trench walls, moving the spoils pile back to at least 2' from the edge, and installing candlesticks and caution tape.

Implementing these safety processes resulted in compliant and safe work conditions; reduced the potential for serious injury; increased employee awareness; and provided safety assistance to the utility contractor, the public recreating in the area, and our client, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. For proactively responding to these hazardous site conditions, the PLMP 781 crew members received a STAR Level 1 Award.



# AHTNA 2021 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



**Mia Watanabe**  
Ahtna, Inc.



**Sue Tyree**  
Ahtna, Inc.



**Bruce Kling**  
Ahtna Support and Training  
Services, LLC (ASTS)



**Eric Saldivar**  
ASTS PIDC



**Jeremy Reams**  
Ahtna Logistics, LLC



**Keith Korbin**  
Ahtna Design-Build, Inc.



**Jeff Menacho**  
Ahtna Government Services  
Corporation



**Anthony Budhu**  
Ahtna Marine & Construction  
Company, LLC



**Lawrence Moberg**  
AKHI, LLC



**Juliet Ramotar**  
Ahtna Facility Services,  
Incorporated



**Theresa Morris**  
Ahtna Professional Services, Inc.



**Wayne McDaniels**  
Ahtna Construction & Primary  
Products Company, LLC



**Scott McGhie**  
A.A.A. Valley Gravel, LLC



**Jeremy Blei**  
Ahtna Solutions, LLC



**Maggie Huffer**  
Ahtna Global, LLC



**Megan Hand**  
Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC



**James "JJ" Christy**  
Ahtna Infrastructure &  
Technologies, LLC



**Sommer Carter**  
Ahtna Environmental, Inc.



## TAZLINA LAKE

BY TANA FINNESAND, CULTURAL RESOURCE TECHNICIAN, AI LAND DEPARTMENT

Nowadays, Tazlina Lake is a little off the beaten path. Once upon a time, though, it was a hub for the area. It had two salmon-spawning streams, a rarity in western Ahtna country. Anyone with rights to fish there congregated in summer to harvest salmon. Adam Sanford, who lived for a time at Tazlina Lake, said "We fish there all the time, all year round." In the fall, hunters and their families came to hunt and put away sheep and caribou. Tazlina Lake lay along an important travel and trade corridor to Cook Inlet, and enterprising Ahtna denaas, such as Chief Tyone, traded with the Dena'ina, and later with the Russians and Americans.

There were several important settlements on Tazlina Lake, and some of today's families have strong ancestral ties to them. Bendilden, 'Where Stream Flows Into Lake', was an old and very large village, possibly the most important village in western Ahtna country. It was home to the chief called Bendil Denen, 'Person of Where Stream Flows into Lake'. Mrs. Morrie Secondchief lived there as a child. She recalled it was visited by families living at Tyone Lake, Old Man Lake, Susitna Lake, Lake Louise and Nicolai Lake. "People come way, all the way up. Come down, past Tyone Lake and past Lake Louise, past Old Man Lake and up here. You can see four trail about this steep yet. You can walk down, you never get lost...From Tyone, all come down." She said Bendilden was abandoned because of disease early in the twentieth century. The survivors moved to the mouth of the Tazlina River but returned seasonally to hunt and trap.

Across the lake, the settlement of K'aay Na', 'Sharp Ridge Creek,' was where the chief called K'aay Denen resided. According to Jim McKinley, Bendilden and K'aay Na' were the first places to be inhabited "when people came into the region." Mrs. Secondchief said

the area near K'aay Na' was used "for a long, long time, many years before my time" by her people for the spring and fall sheep harvest. Later, she said, during the 1920s, the Joe brothers used a cabin there as part of their trapline circuit.

A third settlement was at Tazlina Lake's outlet, called Tezdlan Na' Uyidadinilen de - 'Where It Flows Into Swift Current River', or K'estsiik'e, 'Outlet'. The village is at least 150 years old, but oral history suggests much longer. This is possibly the settlement visited by Russians, who in 1848 witnessed the spearing of four swimming caribou by Ahtna people living on the lake, and quickly traded beads for meat for their starving party. K'estsiik'e was occupied until around 1940.

In 1987 Secondchief, along with Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) staff, returned for a visit. She recalled with nostalgia her days fishing on Tazlina Lake, and the old-time house she remembered: "Back and forth we camp here I remember. We don't stay one place. It's so beautiful, they keep it clean that and up with the fish camp too. They keep it clean right there too. I remember they had spruce bark house. You know, they skin the spruce, big spruce...And make frame and they had little building in the middle, it's home in there and can build a fire and smoke can go through, way up. It was there long time, it must have been hundred fifty years ago...And when I was kid, it's still there. But it rotten down...where that fish camp they had."

### Sources:

Adam Sanford via FDL unpublished notes; Jim McKinley via Holly Reckord Where Raven Stood; Morrie Secondchief, transcript of interview by BIA 8/30/1987, T14H1-0010-01MSecondchief; Ahtna Place Names Lists, version 3.3 by James Kari.



## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to our 2021 Ahtna Land Department shareholder photo contest winners! Thank you to everyone who contributed photos to the contest. Our judging committee's task was not an easy one. Our winners did a phenomenal job of capturing the beauty of the Ahtna region, culture and people.



**1st Place: Edward GreyBear**  
Rainbow over Copper River



**3rd Place: Kathryn Martin**  
Moose hunting



**2nd Place: Dell Wilson**  
45 below with open water,  
Trapline up on Tonsina Lake



**Honorable Mention: Windy Thorn**  
Summer loving  
Olivia, 5 years, hiked to the top of Wolf Point in  
Yedatene'Na with her mom



# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

## AHTNA VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

Ahtna Vocational Scholarships are available to shareholders with 10 or more voting shares (Original, Inherited, Gifted, Class L). If you are interested in pursuing Vocational Training, below are a few programs to look into! Upon approval, the Ahtna Vocational Scholarship offers up to \$12,000 for tuition to be paid directly to the training program. If your program costs more than \$12,000, Ahtna Shareholder Enrichment can recommend other financial aid programs.

### Alaska Driving Academy: CDL, Heavy Equipment Training

[www.alaskadrivingacademy.com/entryleveldrivertraining](http://www.alaskadrivingacademy.com/entryleveldrivertraining)

This program is recognized by the Professional Truck Driver Institute (PTDI) and is based on the standards set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for Entry Level Driver Training requirements. PTDI is a nationally recognized and highly respected standard in the trucking industry. Training consists of classroom instruction, demonstrations, hands-on basic maintenance, off road maneuvers, and on-the-road driving.

### Charter College: Welding

[www.chartercollege.edu/programs/tradesvocational/welding](http://www.chartercollege.edu/programs/tradesvocational/welding)

[www.chartercollege.edu/online-programs](http://www.chartercollege.edu/online-programs)

The Charter College Welding Certificate program includes hands-on cutting, welding, layout, and fitting skills that are used and practiced in today's welding workforce. The welding certificate program covers how the welding processes work and why certain welding processes are used. Graduates are prepared to seek entry-level employment in fabrication shops and the construction field.

### To Apply

To apply for an Ahtna Vocational Scholarship, please visit [www.ahtna.com/vocational](http://www.ahtna.com/vocational). Supplemental documents must be provided prior to the start date of the training.

For associate, bachelor and master level degree programs, please apply for our Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship at [www.ahtna.com/scholarship](http://www.ahtna.com/scholarship).

### Contact Shareholder Enrichment

To learn more, contact Shareholder Enrichment at (907) 868-8250 (Tracy Parent – Anchorage), (907) 822-3476 (Starr Knighten – Glennallen) or email [shenrichment@ahtna.net](mailto:shenrichment@ahtna.net). We look forward to assisting you with your career goals!

### Northern Industrial Training: Heavy Equipment Training

<https://nitalaska.com/construction-equipment>

<https://nitalaska.com/training-courses>

Construction Equipment is a lucrative and seasonal field in Alaska. Northern Industrial Training (NIT) has developed programs to provide experience and certifications necessary for entry-level employment in the Construction Equipment Industry.

### University of Alaska Anchorage

[www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/community-and-technical-college](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/community-and-technical-college)

UAA offers technical courses such as welding, CDL, Aviation Technology, Culinary Arts, and more.

### Alaska Works Training

[www.alaskaworks.org/training-schedules](http://www.alaskaworks.org/training-schedules)

Alaska Works offers free construction training.

## 2021 AHTNA VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ATTENDED THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS

Name of School	Certificate Type
Academy of Cosmetology	Cosmetology
Alaska Driving Academy	CDL
Animal Behavior College	Vet Tech
Associated Training Services	Heavy Equipment
Charter College	CMA
Charter College	HVAC Refrigeration
Northern Industrial Training	CDL
Northern Industrial Training	Heavy Equipment
Pima Medical Institute	Vet Tech
Shear Fire Design	Cosmetology
Skin Science Institute	Cosmetology
UAF Community and Technical College	Heavy Equipment
West Coast Training	Heavy Equipment





# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

## CITC EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Ahtna Shareholder Enrichment works in partnership with the Copper River Native Association (CRNA) and Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) to connect shareholders to high-demand occupations through education and job opportunity. CITC Education and Training Program Manager Charlene Miles shared details with us about their program.

### 1. What does CITC's program offer?

CITC's Education and Training Programs provide a wide variety of educational opportunities, including GED Services, Workforce Readiness Certification, Micro Credentialing and Vocational Training. Grant funding is available to assist eligible individuals.

### 2. Who is eligible for the program?

CITC's Education and Training Programs serve Alaska Natives/American Indians and eligible family members.

### 3. What are some examples of expenses that are covered under the program?

Tuition, testing fees, books, training gear, tools, work/interview clothing, housing, and transportation costs can be covered for eligible individuals.

### 4. When and how can shareholders apply?

Trainings are recurring, therefore shareholders may apply at any time. Shareholders can apply online at [citci.org/employment-training/vocational-training](http://citci.org/employment-training/vocational-training) or pick up an application from the CITC Employment and Training Services Department on the second floor of 3600 San Jeronimo Drive in Anchorage.

### 5. What advice do you have for shareholders interested in applying for a trade/vocational scholarship?

My best advice is to stay committed to your goal and keep in touch! We are here for you and can help guide you through the application process!



CITC Education and Training Program Manager Charlene Miles

## SHAREHOLDER EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENT

Please join us in welcoming shareholders Marissa Morlock, receptionist, and Charissa O'Connor, administrative assistant, to Ahtna's Anchorage office. Marissa and Charissa agreed that they were motivated to work for the company by their desire to help shareholders by fulfilling Ahtna's mission, vision and values.



Charissa is a member of the Dik'aagiyu (Fireweed) Clan on her grandmother Mary Bell (John) of Northway's side. Her mother is Valda Tyone Akpik, and her father is Kenneth Walker Sr. Her grandparents are the late Andrew and Mary Tyone and James and Irene Walker. Charissa is a familiar face around the Anchorage office as she has worked for Ahtna, Inc. as an on-call clerical for five years. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in business at the

University of Alaska Anchorage. Charissa enjoys hunting, fishing, berry picking, hiking, beading, cooking, cleaning, gardening, reading and watching movies. She has three wonderful children: Selena, William and Andrea Walker.



Marissa is the daughter of Audrey Morlock and the granddaughter of Arnold and Lucille Lincoln of Kluti-Kaah. She has eight years of customer service experience and is excited to help Ahtna grow. Marissa enjoys getting outside in the sunshine with her two children, Elim and Lawanna.

**Management recommends getting on Ahtna's on-call list to get your foot in the door for the front desk and other positions, as opportunities come up throughout the year. To be added to the on-call list, simply email or call our Shareholder Enrichment staff: 907-822-3476 (Glennallen), 907-868-8250 (Anchorage) or [shenrichment@ahntna.net](mailto:shenrichment@ahntna.net).**



# SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

## 2022 ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2022**

Nominations for the Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors open January 1, 2022, and close February 28, 2022. 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 2021 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 [shservices@ahnta.net](mailto:shservices@ahnta.net) no later than March 25, 2022.

For the latest information on the 2022 Ahtna Annual Meeting visit [www.ahnta.com/shareholders/annual-meeting-of-shareholders](http://www.ahnta.com/shareholders/annual-meeting-of-shareholders).



### DIRECT DEPOSIT DRIVE

Ahtna hosted a direct deposit drive last year and would like to congratulate the winners of the cash prize drawings! Thank you for going green and signing up for the fast, secure and convenient method of receiving funds from Ahtna.

Congratulations to the following winners of the direct deposit drive:

\$200: Adalberto Lopez  
\$200: Sephora G. David  
\$200: Cory A. Jones  
\$300: Sophia J. Christoffersen  
\$500: Ada M. Wilson



Sign up for direct deposit today at [www.ahnta.com/directdeposit](http://www.ahnta.com/directdeposit).

### WALTER CHARLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship program assists Ahtna shareholders in meeting their educational goals by funding full and part-time enrollment.

Check the website at [www.ahnta.com/scholarship](http://www.ahnta.com/scholarship) for the latest information. Any questions can be directed to Tracy Parent, Shareholder Enrichment Coordinator, at (907) 868-8250 or [scholarship@ahnta.net](mailto:scholarship@ahnta.net).

## 2022 CALENDAR YOUTH ARTWORK CONTEST

We have some very talented youth artists and are happy to feature their creative talents in the 2022 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! Here are four of this year's winners.



Elli Tansy, age 13



Ayiana Smelcer, age 11



Jezelle Eskilida, age 12



Katie Walker, age 10



# SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

## MyAhtna Portal: Communication Options

We are always looking for ways to communicate and stay in touch with our shareholders. We are excited to offer electronic delivery options with sign-up via the MyAhtna portal. There are eDelivery options for Annual Meeting materials and the Kanas newsletter. In order to help lessen our environmental impact, only one copy of the Kanas is sent to each shareholder household. Signing up to receive the eKanas is a great way to make sure you don't miss out on Ahtna news, events and announcements.

There's also an option that allows us to communicate with you via text messages. Note: the system will not allow you to save this option unless you have a cellular phone number on file in MyAhtna. Signing up is easy. In MyAhtna, click on My Contact Info>Mailing Preferences to view options and change your delivery preferences.

**MyAhtna.com**

## AHTNA STOCK OWNERSHIP COMES WITH IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES

### Keeping stock-record information current

Ahtna maintains complete stock records for all Ahtna shareholders. Because the Ahtna stock records are the basis for determining who is entitled to receive dividends and to vote at meetings of shareholders, it is extremely important that the records are accurate. Shareholders may have only one address of record, and it is essential that the address is kept up-to-date at all times. Shareholders cannot receive correspondence, reports, newsletters and distributions if their address is not current.

Ahtna also maintains copies of any legal documents filed with Ahtna for official record-change purposes and a copy of each shareholder's stock certificate(s) or testamentary disposition, which states the shareholder's wishes for inheritance of that stock. It is very important that each shareholder keep a current address and correct name on file with Ahtna.

Help us maintain complete and accurate shareholder records by promptly advising Ahtna of:

- Address changes
- Name changes
- Stock Will changes
- Direct deposit changes
- Power of attorney changes
- Guardian/conservator or custodian changes

Copies of the most frequently used forms can be found on the Ahtna website, and shareholders are able to make certain record changes online via their MyAhtna portal account.

## MEMORIAL ASSISTANCE

Ahtna maintains a Memorial Fund, providing shareholder families with funds to assist with expenses following the death of a loved one. Contact Shareholder Services at [shservices@ahtna.net](mailto:shservices@ahtna.net) or (907) 822-3476 for details.

Assistance is also available, upon request, for preparing a funeral or memorial program, including design, printing, and folding. The funeral/memorial pamphlet request form must be filled out completely and submitted to the Ahtna Shareholder Services Department to begin production of a program. This service requires 3 business days' notice and is dependent on staff availability.

The Funeral/Memorial Pamphlet Request Form can be accessed at [www.ahtna.com/memorial](http://www.ahtna.com/memorial).





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### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

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### WHO CAN APPLY?

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"Hector is the hardest working apprentice I've seen on a job. His willingness to learn to do better every day is awesome. Just this season Hector has proven himself as someone we would want back year after year."



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IN LOVING MEMORY  
**DOROTHY SHINN**

JANUARY 6, 1948 - DECEMBER 9, 2021

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Ahtna Board member Dorothy Shinn. Shinn was a member of the Udzisyu (Caribou) clan and the daughter of Ruth and Chief Harry Johns. She lived in the Copper River Valley nearly her

entire life, marrying the love of her life, Raymond Shinn, on May 18, 1968. They raised four children (Ruthie, Laurel, Scott and Jolene) in Tazlina, where Dorothy was an active member of the church and the community. She went to be with her Lord and Savior on December 9, 2021. Shinn was laid to rest at Fort Richardson with her beloved Raymond, who passed in 2002.

Shinn was a member of Ahtna's initial Board of Directors and continued to serve off and on throughout the years. She was reelected to the Board in 2020 and served until her passing. Shinn was passionate about Ahtna culture and education. She held an Associate of Applied Science in Human Services from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Kuskokwim Campus, and most of her work experience was in social work.

Shinn was the former Corporate Secretary for Ahtna Development Corporation and served as a Behavioral Health Aide for Copper River Native Association (CRNA) from 2010 to 2018. She had many years of experience serving on boards and foundations, including the Ahtna Heritage Foundation (AHF), CRNA, Native Village of Tazlina, Cross Road Medical Center and KCAM.

Shinn was generous, whether it be providing a ride or a meal or just her soothing presence. She was a mother to everyone, and her house was a second home to many friends and relatives. She had a way of putting people at ease with a story, a song, or a joke. We will dearly miss her warmth and strong leadership.

IN LOVING MEMORY  
**LEONARD F. JOHN**

FEBRUARY 1, 1954 - NOVEMBER 23, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ahtna shareholder Leonard Fred John. John was born to Ruth Hicks and Jake Butler Sr. on February 1, 1954, in Mentasta Lake, Alaska. He went to be with his Lord and Savior on November 23, 2021.

John was the first grandson of Fred and Katie John. He served the Ahtna people for many years on various Ahtna boards, the Mentasta Successor Village Organization (SVO) and as past president of Mentasta, Incorporated. He was passionate about education and shareholder training and employment.

In his younger years, John loved hunting, berry picking, and snaring rabbits. He took care of his younger brothers, Terry and Danny, and taught them how to trap and come home with rabbits. His mother raised him in traditional ways and from that he organized and planned the memorial tea party for her.

John graduated from Tok High School at the top of his class and spent a year in Japan as an exchange student. From there he went on

to Alaska Business College and earned a computerized accounting degree. He worked various positions, including bank manager for Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, office manager for Price Ahtna, and accounting technician III at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC).

John was extremely outgoing and loved to express his devotion to his family. In his later years John spent his time picking berries in the summer. "We want to remember our brother/uncle with fond memories of who he was. He was handsome and generous," said his family. They would like to express their gratitude for all the well wishes and memories shared about him.





## FAYE EWAN: THE IMPORTANCE OF SALMON

ARTICLE EXCERPT FROM THE ARCTIC ATHABASKAN COUNCIL. TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE VISIT:

[HTTPS://ARCTIC-COUNCIL.ORG/EXPLORE/TOPICS/ARCTIC-PEOPLES/OUR-CHANGING-HOME/SHIFTING-FOOD-STOCKS.](https://arctic-council.org/explore/topics/arctic-peoples/our-changing-home/shifting-food-stocks)

Faye Ewan comes from Kluti-Kaah village – a region of Alaska that her family has lived in since time memorial. She comes from the Caribou tribe, which is a clan and matriarch system. In an interview, Faye Ewan speaks about the importance of salmon for her people. The history of the Ahtna is closely linked to the history of salmon.

“We have so many different kinds of fish in Alaska, we have so many different kinds of animals, all has been affected in many, many ways through climate change. One thing I know about the salmon, too, it really has changed with the climate. The climate has really changed, the river temperature has changed.” – Faye Ewan

Thank you, Faye, for representing the Ahtna people on this important topic that is relevant today and for the future.

## ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES (AFN) PRESS RELEASE: AFN PROMOTES ALASKA NATIVE VOTING RIGHTS AT KEY U.S. SENATE HEARING

Alaska Federation of Natives Executive Vice President and General Counsel Nicole Borromeo testified on October 20, 2021, in a hearing on Native voting rights before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on The Constitution. The hearing, “Restoring the Voting Rights Act: Protecting the Native American and Alaska Native Vote,” provided nationally prominent Native leaders the opportunity to speak in support of safeguarding Native voting rights through the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021, or S.4 (VRAA).

Having worked to overcome the decades-long disenfranchisement of Alaska Native voters, and counting as members nearly 500 federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native corporations, AFN is well-positioned to help the Committee understand the continuing need to protect Alaska Native voting rights, including access to the electoral process. AFN stated that provisions in the VRAA, and Title III of that bill, The Frank Harrison, Elizabeth Peratrovich, and Miguel Trujillo Native American Voting Rights Act of 2021 (NAVRA), are essential to address the obstacles that continue to impede the political participation of Alaska Natives.

“NAVRA is an essential part of S.4 because it targets the unique barriers Alaska Native voters experience when we attempt to register to vote, cast a ballot, and have that ballot counted,” Borromeo testified. “Protecting the right to vote is not a partisan issue; it is a fundamental civil rights issue for Alaska Natives.”

To read AFN’s written testimony, visit <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kjmOc4lsRBP7aUqE4JMFxzQlv9CztBey/view>.

To watch Borromeo’s testimony, visit [www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/restoring-the-voting-rights-act-protecting-the-native-american-and-alaska-native-vote](http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/restoring-the-voting-rights-act-protecting-the-native-american-and-alaska-native-vote).



AFN Executive Vice President and General Counsel Nicole Borromeo testifying before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on The Constitution.





## BARBARA BLAKE JOINS JUNEAU ASSEMBLY

Please join us in congratulating Ahtna shareholder Barbara 'Wáahlaal Gíidaak Blake on her successful bid for a seat on the Juneau Assembly! Of Ahtna Athabascan, Haida and Tlingit descent, Barbara belongs to the Káat nay-st/Yahkw 'Láanaas (Shark House/Middle Town People) Clan.

Blake began her career with an Ahtna internship right out of high school, and Ahtna scholarships helped her through her undergraduate and graduate programs. Her Ahtna internship opened the world for her and helped her see that it wasn't as scary as she had thought. She learned that she could achieve anything as long as she was willing to take that first step. "My Ahtna family, culture, and values kept me connected to our region and to the teachings of our Ahtna ancestors. I keep that in my heart and mind when things get challenging or when I need a reminder of why I'm doing these things," Blake says.

When Blake decided to run, a large part of her motivation was the fact that there wasn't any Alaska Native representation on the assembly. "I knew there was a voice missing from the table and wanted to do what I could to ensure a voice for the Indigenous people of Džantik'i Heeni [Juneau]," she explained. Blake has always had a passion to shift systems that disproportionately impact Alaska Native people. She has years of political experience in federal, state, and tribal governance, but part of what makes her unique is her experience as an educator and parent, on top of the education she's received as an Alaska Native woman who was groomed into service for Native people and communities.

Part of that grooming has included leadership building. "Humility, speaking up when necessary, leading by example, not cowering when you know your people will be impacted, relationship building, bridging communities that otherwise might not connect, leading with love (quoting Valerie Davidson), kindness, ability to see things from other viewpoints, listening deeply before making a decision, and dedication," are just a few of the things that Blake feels make a good leader.

Blake's top goals while serving on the assembly include a deeper dive down the path of equity and inclusion – to ensure Juneau's government is a place of welcoming for Indigenous people and people of color. She also wants to foster greater housing access for all peoples and incomes. Finally, she would like to see the economy of Juneau grow and potentially expand to sectors that may not have been previously considered, such as support for cottage industries and seaweed/kelp farming.

Blake's advice to Ahtna youth interested in a future career in politics is, "Take advantage of every opportunity. Internships and fellowships will get you a foot in the door, but it will be up to you to push the door all the way open. Ensure you have someone to keep you rooted in the wisdom and values of our people. A former professor once shared a quote that I still think of today, 'Have I removed myself so far from my own people that my own grandmother wouldn't understand me?'"

*Blake credits many people with providing inspiration along her path: grandmother Irene Johnson, father Ken Johnson, mother Sandra Demmert, Ahtna, Inc. president Michelle Anderson, First Alaskans Institute president/CEO Liz La quen náay Medicine Crow, Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) cultural heritage & education manager Sarah Dybdahl, former lieutenant governor Valerie Davidson, Tlingit & Haida president Richard Peterson, general counsel for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Janie Hipp, former Alaska senator Albert Kookesh, former lieutenant governor Byron Mallott, Tlingit Elder and original Sealaska Native Corporation board member Clarence Jackson, former governor Bill Walker, and countless others.*

## MyAhtna Portal: Shareholder Submission

One of the many perks and benefits of registering with the MyAhtna portal is you can submit news for the Kanas. Visit [MyAhtna.com](http://MyAhtna.com).



### **Michael Blair-Wasson and Caitlyn Pickett-Bowell Wedding** *Submitted by Dawn Kuzik-Michal*

Michael Blair-Wasson and Caitlyn Pickett-Bowell were married in Anchorage, Alaska on August 14, 2021, in front of their friends and family. Michael is the son of Dawn Wasson-Michal and the late Kenneth L Wasson-Michal (Ahtna shareholder) and the grandson of the late Mona Joy (Sinyon) Michal and Joseph Michal. Michael met Caitlyn in Anchorage three years ago and they have a daughter, Aurelia, who is two. Caitlyn's mother is a Doyon shareholder, and her parents are Carol Hall and Ralph Bowell. Many blessings to Mike and Caity for many years to come.

**MyAhtna.com**

## SHAREHOLDER-OWNED BUSINESSES

We encourage support of Ahtna shareholder-owned businesses by highlighting their products and services in the Kanas and on the Ahtna website. Shareholders can take advantage of this free promotion for their business by completing a short online form at [www.ahtna.com/shareholders/shareholder-businesses](http://www.ahtna.com/shareholders/shareholder-businesses).

### **Plans Granted LLC**

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**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/plansgranted](http://www.facebook.com/plansgranted)

**Phone:** (907) 952-1546

**Email:** [grant@plansgranted.com](mailto:grant@plansgranted.com)

**Mailing Address:**

3130 Brookridge Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99504





## ANCSA: OUR PEOPLE. OUR LAND. OUR FUTURE.

ANCSA Regional Association (ARA) premiered the video "ANCSA: Our People. Our Land. Our Future." statewide on December 19. The film offers a look at the first 50 years of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and a glimpse of what's yet to come. It includes interviews with ANCSA leaders, including former Ahtna, Inc. President and current Chairman Ken Johns and Christine Craig, who was Ahtna's first female President. You can view the video online at <https://vimeo.com/658030548>.



## ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Wishing all of our Elders a birthday filled with happiness and a year filled with joy. Happy Birthday from the Ahtna Board of Directors and staff!

### JANUARY

Albert Fleury  
Diane Cronin  
Donald Fancher  
Doris Craig  
Edna Charley  
Elmer Tyone  
Fred John Jr.  
Frederick G. Christoffersen  
Gerald Mahle Sr.  
Henrietta Rankin  
Karen Johns  
Marsha Armstrong  
Shirley Miller  
Thelma Barnum  
Virginia Pete

### FEBRUARY

Barbara Bush  
Curtis Phillips  
Delia Renard  
Douglas MacArthur  
Joanne Scroggins  
John Sanford  
John Engebretson  
Julia Leeper  
Larry Tyone  
Lee Nicolie  
Lena Charley  
Libby Chavez  
Loretta Bryant  
Lotha Wolf  
Margaret Olson  
Maxine Caywood  
Sally Gosnell  
Smitty Gene Jr.  
Smitty Sanford  
Steven Nicholas

### MARCH

Andrew Leonard  
Arnold Engebretson  
Bud Carlson  
Calvin Justin  
Carolyn Riley  
Eleanor Emily  
Esther Robinson  
Evelyn Dunlop  
Geraldine Empey  
Joyce Huennekens  
Louisa Yoshimoto  
Lynus Beattus  
Margie Ewan  
Newell K. Anderson Jr.  
Raymond D. Craig  
Rebecca Swoboda  
Rosemarie Lish  
Sarah Pence  
Stoney Nicklie  
Violet Robinson

# CONDOLENCES

In loving memory of our shareholders who have passed

**DOROTHY M. SHINN**  
**JOHN D. KINDGREN SR.**  
**JUANITA R. NORRIS**  
**LEONARD F. JOHN**  
**MARY GEORGE**

**MICHELLE ONOFRIO**  
**NICKY NICKOLI**  
**NOME STICKIVAN**  
**REBECCA C. HOBSON**  
**ROSE M. HAMILTON**

## 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 [www.ahtna.com/events](http://www.ahtna.com/events) for the most current information.*

### JANUARY

<b>Jan 1</b>	AI Board & SVO Nominations Open	<b>Jan 8</b>	Oversight & Improvement Committee, 9 am	<b>Jan 28</b>	Class L Deadline
		<b>Jan 8</b>	AI Board, 1 pm		

### FEBRUARY

<b>Feb 1</b>	Audit & Finance Committee, 9 am	<b>Feb 16</b>	Policy Committee, 9 am	<b>Feb 21</b>	President's Day (Ahtna offices closed)
<b>Feb 5</b>	AN Executive Committee, 9 am	<b>Feb 17</b>	Land Committee, 9 am	<b>Feb 28</b>	Deadline for Board & SVO Nominations
<b>Feb 5</b>	AI Board, 1 pm	<b>Feb 17</b>	Shareholder Committee, 1 pm		

### MARCH

<b>Mar 1</b>	Audit & Finance Committee, 9 am	<b>Mar 25</b>	Oversight & Improvement Committee, 1 pm	<b>Mar 28</b>	SVO Ballots Deadline
<b>Mar 4-5</b>	AN Executive Committee and Subsidiaries	<b>Mar 26</b>	AI Board, 9 am		

### APRIL

<b>Apr 2</b>	Gakona SVO, 9:30 am	<b>Apr 15</b>	Good Friday	<b>Apr 17</b>	Easter
<b>Apr 2</b>	Cheesh'na SVO, 1:30 pm	<b>Apr 15</b>	Class L Deadline		
<b>Apr 6</b>	Record Date for Annual Shareholders Meeting				





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**Ken Johns**  
Chair



**Karen Linnell**  
Vice Chair



**Cecil Sanford**  
Secretary



**Linda Pete**  
Treasurer



**Nicholas Jackson**



**Lucille Lincoln**



**John E. Craig**



**Genevieve John**



**Shawn Sanford**



**Grant Rebne**



**Jason Hart**



**John Dye**

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*Read more in the eKanas at [ahtna.com/kanas](http://ahtna.com/kanas)*