

# Ahtna Kanas

- WINTER 2023 -



HAPPY TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN:  
2022 SHAREHOLDER CHRISTMAS  
GATHERINGS - P. 16



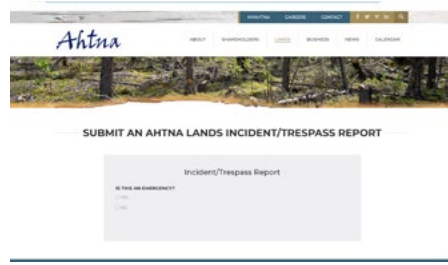


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### Ahtna, Inc. Senior Management Team



**Michelle Anderson**  
President



**Kathryn Martin**  
Senior VP



**Matt Tisher**  
CFO & VP of Finance



**Joe Bovee**  
VP of Land & Resources

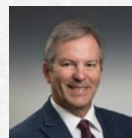


**Douglas Miller**  
VP of Human Resources



**Nicholas Ostrovsky**  
General Counsel

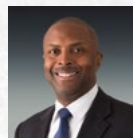
### Ahtna Netiyee' Senior Management Team



**Tom Maloney**  
CEO



**Roy J. Tansy Jr.**  
COO

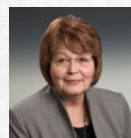


**Eric McLaurin**  
VP of Business Development

### Ahtna Subsidiary Presidents



**Craig O'Rourke**  
President, AGSC, ADB & AMCC



**Brenda Rebne**  
President, AFSI, APSI, AIMI, AISL, AKHI & ATSL



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



**David O'Donnell**  
President, AC&PPC & AAA Valley Gravel



**Jason McCart**  
Interim President, ASTS & ALL



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### TAKING A LOOK BACK TO BE THANKFUL FOR OUR BLESSINGS

Dear fellow shareholders,

Happy New Year from all of us here at Ahtna! This is a fitting time to look ahead and prepare for what this New Year may bring, but I would also like to take a look back and be thankful for our blessings.

The Board of Directors and the Trustees of Ahtna Hwt'aene (People's) Trust declared two regular and Elder dividend distributions in 2022. In addition, a special dividend was declared in the fall to help offset the effects of rising prices on essentials such as fuel and heating oil. Over \$3 million in dividends were distributed in 2022.

Ahtna's 5-year strategic plan continues to put 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 protection of the lands surrounding the villages for Customary and Traditional (C&T) purposes was another common theme at the meetings. We are working to compile the feedback we received and look forward to hosting more land planning discussions with the villages in January.

We appreciate each and every shareholder who participated in the 2022 Ahtna shareholder survey. Our business is built on listening to the people we serve, and we thank you for your guidance, feedback, loyalty, and support. The results of the survey have been shared with Ahtna leadership and will be used to drive action plans to help improve shareholder satisfaction. You can view the survey results on page 14.

Congratulations to our 2022 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.

We wished long-time C&T Coordinator Gloria Stickwan farewell last year as she embarked on retirement. Gloria instructed by example with her diligence and passion for fighting for our traditional hunting and fishing rights. She worked hard for our people, and I am thankful for her know-how, her hours and hours of research, and her diligent tracking of local, state and federal processes in order to respond and prepare our C&T users and leaders to protect our traditional hunting and fishing rights. We are thankful to Gloria and wish her great success and happiness in her retirement!

You can read about Ahtna's new C&T Coordinator, shareholder Edward GreyBear, on page 11. Edward has worked for Ahtna off and on since college and has experience with Alaska's hunting permit system through his previous position as a park ranger with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Please join us in congratulating Edward on his new role!



I had the pleasure of attending last November's village planning meetings which provided an opportunity to meet with villages in the region and gather shareholder input on future village growth plans. Some of the consistent feedback we heard from the villages included: the need for more land for village growth, requests for Ahtna to consider investing in small businesses within or adjacent to the villages, the need for Ahtna to provide technical assistance to villages for economic development, erosion concerns and the need for mitigation, and requests for data specific to identifying land for village growth and water sources.

Last year was extremely busy and fulfilling with the return of in-person events, and 2023 is shaping up to be even better with more opportunities to connect face-to-face and virtually. Check out page 18 to see some upcoming shareholder events for this year. Our Shareholder Enrichment staff will be hosting regular Facebook live events, many of which will highlight the Helping Our People Excel (HOPE) programs that were launched in 2019 to help train and employ shareholders. You can learn more about the HOPE programs and recent success stories by visiting [www.ahntna.com/HOPE](http://www.ahntna.com/HOPE).



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – Continued from page 1

We are excited to announce the return of the Ahtna Special Forces summer internship program! The program gives college students an insider’s view into the Corporate departments and subsidiary operations. We are always trying to prepare for the future, and as part of our succession planning, we are training our young men and women on good work habits, relationship building, public speaking and presentation skills. The program offers students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience that can make a real impact. Past participants have had the chance to get out of the office on field projects and trips to the region to learn about Ahtna lands, history and culture. You can visit [www.ahtna.com/ASF](http://www.ahtna.com/ASF) to learn more and apply.

The past year revealed what we can accomplish when we work together to best serve you, our shareholders. May the new year bless you with happiness and good health!

Tsin’gen,  
*Michelle Anderson*  
Michelle Anderson, President  
Ahtna, Incorporated



CEO’S MESSAGE  
REMAINING RESILIENT TO MEET EVER-CHANGING DEMANDS

I wish a very happy new year to all of our shareholders in this first month of 2023! The past year continued to present many unknowns between the pandemic, the challenges of supply and labor shortages, inflation reaching a 40-year high, rising interest rates, the impacts of natural disasters, unprecedented cybersecurity threats, and so much more. However, our Ahtna team remained resilient, evolved and innovated to meet ever-changing demands, and rose to meet the challenges. Construction cost increases seem to be levelling off, but we expect supply chain and labor shortages to continue to be challenges over the course of 2023.

We were fortunate to close out the federal fiscal year-end with multiple large contract awards, which will be important for driving our volume this year. As the end of the fiscal year approaches, the Department of Defense (DoD) and other federal agencies rush to spend the remainder of their budgets due to “use-it-or-lose-it” budget rules. Failure to use these budgets before the September 30 federal fiscal year-end could cause Congress to decrease these budgets drastically for the following years.

Ahtna has seen dramatic growth in construction over the last seven years. In just 45 days, we were awarded \$100M in bonded jobs – three times as much as the total bonded jobs awarded in 2015. These awards included projects within Alaska as well as the lower 48.

I made a site visit last fall to one of our most geographically distant construction projects, our Las Olas project in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The \$7.5M project involved the demolition of existing dock structures, a pump station and



AN Executives, AMCC Principals, and Bonding/Surety Company Representatives meeting at Las Olas Marina Development Project next to new AMCC haul truck in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. From left: Tim Finnigan, President, AGL, AEI, AES, ATI; Tom Maloney, AN CEO; Jennifer Bistygga, AMCC Program Manager; Roy Tansy, AN COO; Craig O’Rourke, President AMCC, ADB, AGSC, AUSA; Bill Hartnett, Great American Insurance & Surety; Ted Baran, Hub International; and Chris Orendorff, Great American Insurance & Surety.

buildings, and installation of a new seawall and docks. Our team excavated 160,000 cubic yards of material by hydraulic dredging and hauled for disposal using our newly acquired 45-ton dump truck.

Closer to home, Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Company (AC&PPC) won the Palmer Airport Improvement Project for \$8M to construct 3,400 linear feet of taxiway and 72,400 cubic-foot subgrade infiltration system for improved drainage. This project includes the construction of Taxiway N and extension of Taxiway J, while removing Taxiways B and L. An additional 2.5-acre aircraft parking apron will also be constructed.

The ADB/Southwest Concrete and Paving (SWCP) Joint Venture (JV) was recently awarded the Redding Airport Fire Retardant Pit and Taxiway Renovations contract from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Sacramento for \$20.1M. The Government has indicated that they would like to add \$4.4M more to the project this year to complete mission-vital objectives for the U.S. Forest Service. The ADB/SWCP JV was able to secure key subcontractors and greatly reduced the competition as the subcontractors signed on exclusively to our team for this bid.

Ahtna Marine & Construction Company (AMCC) and Ahtna Design-Build (ADB) have been working with the government on some sole source opportunities in lock and dam construction repairs along the Mississippi River for the USACE. The largest of these projects was the \$14.9M Lock 27 concrete repair and damaged gates replacement. We are in negotiations now for another \$38M in potential awards on this project. Our major subcontractor will be J.F. Brennan Company, with whom we have a mentor/protégé JV under AMCC.

The Sacramento USACE awarded the Ahtna Government Services Corporation (AGSC)-Great Lakes Environmental & Infrastructure (GLEI) JV a \$38M modification award on our Natomas Reach A Levee reconstruction contract, which takes that contract up to \$113M. This will be a 2-year project that involves extensive repairs along approximately 3.5 miles of levee along the Sacramento River just north of Old Town Sacramento, which is very close to Ahtna’s Sacramento Office.

As you can see, we have projects located all over the country and are always looking to recruit qualified shareholders for positions. Our latest job openings are available on the Ahtna website at [www.ahtna.com/careers](http://www.ahtna.com/careers) and you can contact our Shareholder Enrichment department at [shenrichment@ahntna.net](mailto:shenrichment@ahntna.net) to be connected with training and development programs. They hosted some fabulous Facebook live events last year on union apprenticeship and laborers training programs and have more great career development events planned for this year.

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. For the fifth year in a row, Ahtna worked with the Copper River Native Association (CRNA) to sponsor a Children’s Angel Tree for 25 foster children. Arrangements were made with Spark’s Grocery – 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 Spark’s 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, Spark’s Grocery 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.

I hope you enjoyed a special holiday season and wish you health, happiness, and resilience in this New Year!

Thank you,  
*Tom Maloney*  
Tom Maloney, Chief Executive Officer  
Ahtna Netiyé’



The Ahtna group attended the Small Business Conference in November. Back row from left: David Frenzel, Michala Iverson, Dave Bennett, Tim Finnigan, Greg Jarrell, Patrick Harris, Craig O’Rourke, and Doug Henry. Front row from left: Mallory Cunningham, Bernie Wong, and Eric McLaurin.





## AHTNA USES INNOVATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO HELP SAVE THE NAPAKIAK SCHOOL



Napakiak, a Yup'ik village tucked in a bend of one of the longest free-flowing rivers in the United States, was threatened by the encroaching Kuskokwim River. According to the 2019 Denali Commission Statewide Threat Assessment, Napakiak is one of 73 remote Alaska communities facing the

highest level of threat due to erosion, flooding, and permafrost degradation.

Ahtna Infrastructure & Technologies, LLC (AIT) was awarded the project of constructing a new pad and installing pilings for a replacement school. However, the project was put on hold because the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) was still negotiating a lease agreement with the Napakiak Corporation for the use of the land where the new school was to be located. This delay required demobilization of all materials and containers to Bethel to be staged on LKSD property. During this time the school faculty—and the students—watched the beaches where they once played being washed away.

The project resumed after Governor Dunleavy reprioritized Alaska's school construction projects. Napakiak's school now ranked at the top of the list. Napakiak residents and Elders expected the existing school to be under water within a year. Once the Governor fast-tracked the project, AIT completed its contract with the LKSD and quickly deployed to expedite and finish the project ahead of schedule. Having the pad in place allows the new school construction project to progress through design completion and be put out for bid in 2022, with construction in 2023.

The timing and moving of materials were a critical factor in the success of the project. AIT used state-of-the-art technology such as advanced sonar equipment to sound the changing areas along the Kuskokwim River to measure the safest access point for the barge to offload freight. Freight included 30,000 tons of gravel, 173 12-inch-by-60-foot pilings, and four 50,000-pound fuel tanks. Much like the shores of Napakiak, the shoreline for the barge landing was also eroding and over time had become too small to handle a barge of this size.

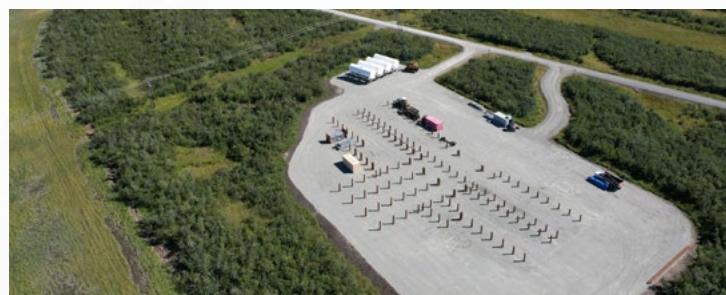


AIT expanded the barge landing area to accommodate offloading and stockpiling of the materials and gravel for the project. AIT also needed to be innovative in determining how to move the 50,000-pound fuel tanks through town. The team engineered and fabricated a unique dolly to successfully do the job.



AIT's Project Manager was a seasoned professional who grew up near Napakiak and has strong connections to the community, Native leaders, and Elders, as well as the available subcontractors and local workforce. Our Project Manager and team continually coordinated with the LKSD and all affected users, including Napakiak Corporation and the City of Napakiak, for housing, equipment rental, and local laborers. This benefited everyone by bringing needed revenue to the residents of this remote community. Although this was a challenging project with extremely technical and dangerous work due to the changing water and land conditions, AIT maintained a perfect safety record with zero incidents.

As an Alaska Native-owned firm, Ahtna understands and honors the cultural significance of this facility to the City of Napakiak. Schools become the center for most community activities. The community embraced our presence because they knew Ahtna was there to save their school. The client extended kudos to the entire team for working through all the challenges, including the work stoppage, while still completing the project ahead of schedule, within budget, and with zero safety issues. In addition, AIT provided value-added items such as using geogrid for additional reinforcement in addition to the required geofabric and repurposing suitable excavated materials by creating five foundation pads throughout the City. This was at no additional cost to the LKSD or the City and ensured that the soils did not waste space in the local landfill. From all accounts, this project was a prime example of Excellence in Construction, from the use of innovative technology, excellent project management applications, and thoughtful and caring community outreach.



## AIT AWARDED EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION & EXCELLENCE IN SAFETY AWARDS



Ahtna Infrastructure & Technologies, LLC (AIT) was recently awarded the Excellence in Construction Award in the Specialty Contractor: Transportation, Marine, Heavy Earthmoving division by the

Association of General Contractors (ACC), Alaska for its work on the Napakiak School project.

Time was critical as Napakiak watched the Kuskokwim River inch closer towards engulfing their school. Despite numerous challenges including a stop work order, AIT met the schedule and logistical complexities head-on to complete the first stage of relocating the school—the foundation, pilings, and installation of 50,000-pound fuel tanks. Ahtna used state-of-the-art technology to identify the safest location to offload freight and innovated a customized dolly to move the tanks. Ahtna provided five foundation pads at no cost by repurposing excavated material that would have overwhelmed the landfill. The project was completed ahead of schedule, within budget, and with zero safety incidents.

AIT has a top-to-bottom commitment to running safe jobs for our employees, clients, and the public. In recognition of this commitment, AIT was also recently awarded the Excellence in Safety Award by the ACC.

Safety is a core value at AIT. It starts at the very top, with AIT's President Tim Finnigan and Vice President of Construction Ronald DesGranges. They encourage all field representatives, managers, and supervisors to start every meeting with a safety moment. Our managers, supervisors and field representatives must be engaged and set the example for workplace safety. All AIT employees (management, administrative, corporate, and field crews) are expected to participate in corporate-sponsored safety programs, which encourages proactive safety involvement. Corporate-wide, Ahtna asks employees to take ownership of their own safety within the framework of the Safety, Health, and Environmental Program. Additionally, Ahtna has not one but two certified Industrial Hygienists as well as a certified Safety Professional on staff. We are particularly proud of this award, as safety is at the forefront of our minds in the execution of our projects.

## AHTNA 2022 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



**Ve'dra Trantham-Bechtol**  
Ahtna, Inc.



**Shannon Blue**  
Ahtna, Inc.



**Wade Dodson**  
Ahtna Support and Training Services, LLC (ASTS)

**Antonio Gonzalez**  
ASTS PIDC

**Daniel Martinez**  
Ahtna Logistics, LLC



**Mike Sanford**  
Ahtna Design-Build, Inc.



**Jasmine Rodriguez**  
Ahtna Government Services Corporation



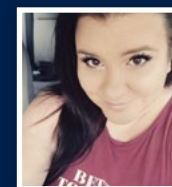
**Tina Kleintop**  
Ahtna Marine & Construction Company, LLC



**Shannon Savage**  
AKHI, LLC



**Natasha Randolph**  
Ahtna Facility Services, Incorporated



**Ashley Wilson**  
Ahtna Professional Services, Inc.

**Donald Downs**  
A.A.A. Valley Gravel, LLC

**Michael Himler**  
Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Company, LLC



**Derek Lieberman**  
Ahtna Global, LLC



**Andrew Weller**  
Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC



**Shelby McClure**  
Ahtna Infrastructure & Technologies, LLC



**Andy DuComb**  
Ahtna Environmental, Inc.





## SITE CLOSURE SUCCESS AT FORMER FORT ORD SPURS ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

On about 28,000 acres of scenic coastal Central California, the site of former Fort Ord is tucked between the beachside cities of Marina, Seaside, Sand City and Monterey and the farmland of Salinas. It was arguably one of the most beautiful places to go through boot camp in the United States—and thousands did, between 1947 and 1975.

The Fort was established in 1917 as Camp Gigling, a military training base for infantry troops. It went on to become a permanent Army command installation, providing command, administration and logistical support for the Fort and its nearby sub-installations.

But a new day has come, and the former Fort Ord has been on a path to be turned over to community use. Military use of the property mostly ceased in 1994 with the post closure, and since then much of the property has been repurposed for residential, commercial, educational, and recreational use.

Transferring ownership can be difficult when the land is a Superfund site—a place where hazardous waste was dumped or otherwise improperly managed. Fort Ord has several instances of hazardous waste mismanagement in its history. Contaminants at Fort Ord reside both in the soil and the groundwater, and another portion of the property contains a high density of ordnance and explosives, such as rockets, projectiles, rifle and hand grenades, pyrotechnics, demolition materials, and more.

Site transfer documentation includes certain restrictions: don't install a well; don't use groundwater for drinking water; and warnings that munitions may still be present on site. Drinking water is brought to the site from outside the potentially affected areas.

Ahtna Environmental, Inc. and its sister companies, Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC and Ahtna Global, LLC, have collectively worked at the site for more than 20 years and took part in the cleanup. Ahtna started out operating groundwater treatment systems to clean up detected volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and was tasked with operating and maintaining unengineered landfills on the site. The list of chemicals to be treated included trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride and many other known contaminants.

"The landfills at Fort Ord, some of which date back to the 1950s, were simply holes dug in the ground where trash was dumped, not like the landfills of today that include liners and engineered cover systems," said Derek Lieberman, senior program manager for Ahtna. Lieberman has been working on site reclamation at Fort Ord for nearly 30 years.

"Contamination in that trash migrated down into the groundwater. That's what triggered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to add Fort Ord to the National Priorities List. Most contaminants are from used solvents: degreasers and things used for cleaning metal parts and equipment," he said.

In a firefighter training area at the former Fort Ord, waste oil and off-specification jet fuel was dumped into an unlined pit, lit on fire and firefighters practiced putting the fire out, often using aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a fire suppressant used to extinguish fires from flammable liquids. The chemicals that make up AFFF—known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—are potentially harmful to humans and the surrounding environment. While recognized as a potential contaminant, federal standards still require the foam to be used at airports and military installations.

Ahtna was tasked in 2019 with doing a limited investigation for PFAS that may have originated from the Fort Ord landfills. PFAS were found and documented, and the Army began a more rigorous investigation per the Superfund process, which Ahtna has played an active role in.

"We've been putting in monitoring wells and collecting soil samples and those are being analyzed for PFAS. We'll make recommendation to the Army as to what to do next. It's still very much in process," Lieberman said.



### Cleaning Toxic Water

When contaminants are found in a groundwater system, the process of cleaning the aquifer is slow and methodical. It's a job Ahtna has been doing at Fort Ord since the early 2000s. Treatment involves extracting groundwater—there are 31 extraction wells throughout Fort Ord—and running the extracted water through carbon filtration systems. They're similar to household water treatment filters found on grocery store shelves but on a much larger scale, using between 10,000 and 120,000 pounds of activated carbon at each groundwater treatment facility. The treated water is reinjected to recharge the aquifers, and contaminant levels are tested quarterly at nearly 150 wells around the site. A significant program upgrade about 15 years ago resulted in treatment systems that can be fully monitored from a single location with two full-time operators.

The groundwater treatment program has shown marked success. The former firefighter training area is considered fully treated for VOCs. Two other sites, home to former automotive and other equipment repair facilities, are nearing completion. Some sites, such as the landfill area, will continue to be monitored and treated for at least another 15 years.

Other contaminants take more work to treat. A carbon tetrachloride plume that formed below an area where communication equipment was frequently cleaned between 1940 and 1950 contaminated three aquifers. Cleanup in this area was three-pronged: remove contaminated soil vapor; pump and treat groundwater; and add enhanced in-situ bioremediation, where a compound is injected that feeds naturally occurring microbes in the groundwater, stimulating growth and "appetite". The compound is then removed, so the hungry microbes turn to the carbon tetrachloride as a food source.

Lieberman said the injected compound – sodium lactate – is similar to sour milk and would not be very appetizing to people, but is an excellent energy source for the microbes. It wasn't easy; the substance is very viscous and required workers to frequently pull the injection equipment apart and clean it out. But it was effective.

### PFAS Treatment Requires Rigor

With success treating VOCs in groundwater, Ahtna is supporting the Army's efforts to test for PFAS at the site. Because screening levels for PFAS contamination are so low, Lieberman said testing teams must be exceptionally rigorous about not bringing in contaminants. For example, a stray fiber from a fleece jacket, molecules from makeup worn at the site, or even boots treated with waterproofing chemicals such as Gore-Tex could be enough to register contamination.

"It's a group of emerging contaminants and it's extremely challenging because the concentrations that we're looking at having potential negative health impacts are very, very, very low, and PFAS are used in many different products," Lieberman said. "It takes a single molecule coming off them to cross-contaminate a sample and get a positive hit."

### A New Life for Fort Ord

While testing goes on, new uses have begun. In April 2020, the EPA recognized the former Fort Ord Army Base with a National Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse award, citing innovative thinking and cooperation among federal agencies, states, tribes, local partners and developers that has resulted in marked restoration and reuse of the site.

"For the past three years, we've shown how federal facility Superfund sites can be transformed into community assets," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler at an April 2020 recognition event. "I'm proud of the work to address and redevelop these sites."

"This national recognition is thanks to many professionals who have worked tirelessly to ensure the cleanup protects human health and the environment and supports the reuse identified by the local communities," said Bill Collins, Fort Ord Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Coordinator for the U.S. Army.

EPA Regional Administrator John Busterud said the cleanup effort allowed community use to begin earlier than expected.

"We are pleased to recognize the dynamic cooperation among the U.S. Army and local partners to clean up this federal facility and return it to productive use," Busterud said. "This is a unique Superfund cleanup in that the Army early-on in the process transferred approximately 3,340 acres of the former base to the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) to complete the cleanup on behalf of the Army."

The site is now home to a variety of users. California State University operates its Monterey Bay campus there, and many enjoy the trails at the Fort Ord National Monument and Fort Ord Dunes State Park. It's also home to the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, a developing retail center, residential developments, and a Veterans Administration outpatient clinic.

"The progress at Fort Ord has allowed new institutions and community benefitting assets to take shape and set the stage for a bright future on the Monterey Bay," said FORA Executive Officer Josh Metz.





## LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES KICK OFF

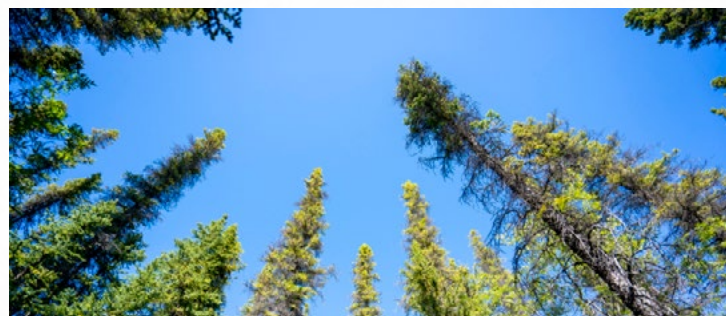
In preparation for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) construction, Ahtna prepared The Ahtna Region – Background for Regional and Community Planning document in 1973. The 1973 Plan was intended to assist local tribes, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Village Corporations and Ahtna, Inc. with regional growth plans. In 2014, the Land Department completed a revised version of the 1973 Plan, emphasizing customary and traditional uses across the landscape and, specifically, the Ahtna land ownership.

The 2014 Comprehensive Land and Resource Management Plan included and identified resource allocations such as forestry, minerals, tourism, recreation, and future village development, to name a few. However, the 2014 Plan did not include forest carbon sequestration, contaminated lands, cultural sites, or environmental factors such as climate change in much detail.

A full review of the 2014 Plan kicked off in October, 2022. Meetings were held with villages to identify specific areas to be considered for future development such as housing, clinics, recreation centers, and fire and rescue buildings. The revised plan

will also emphasize protection of the entire ecosystem – from the tops of mountains to the river estuaries, and everything in between – including the plants, wildlife and human inhabitants.

As former Ahtna, Inc. President Robert Marshall declared in the 1973 Plan introduction, “This report (plan) was prepared with your input, and it is my hope that it will guide you and other residents of the region in developing the next phase, which will be directed to the development of regional and village growth plans and to the regulations needed to insure the full protection of the land.”



## SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING NEW ONLINE AHTNA LANDS INCIDENT AND TRESPASS REPORTING

Monitoring and curtailing trespass and illegal activities on Ahtna lands continues to be a high priority for the Ahtna Board and Land Department. Often shareholders or Tribal members who observe an illegal activity are reluctant to report it to the Alaska State Troopers, federal law enforcement or Ahtna staff. Or if they do report it, they can share only limited information, making it difficult to press criminal charges and obtain a conviction through the court system.

Our Land and Corporate Communications departments have collaborated to develop an online reporting system to afford shareholders an easier way to report illegal activities. Illegal activities may include, but are not limited to, general trespass, firewood cutting, fish theft, and non-permitted hunting or camping. Reports can be filed online at [www.ahtna.com/IncidentReport](http://www.ahtna.com/IncidentReport). It's important to note the date, location, number of persons in the party, and the make, model and year of vehicles involved. Photographs are also extremely helpful and can be shared via the form!

Each illegal activity report will be processed immediately and can be submitted anonymously. All illegal activity reports resulting in a conviction will be entered in a quarterly drawing for a \$250 door prize.

**Tsin'aen for your assistance in making Ahtna lands safe for all!**

## JOINT SVO MEETING

The Successor Village Organization directors for the 7 merged Ahtna villages met with Ahtna management on October 8, 2022 at the Buster Gene Memorial Hall in Gakona, Alaska. Alaska State Senator Clark C. “Click” Bishop and State Representative Mike Cronk visited with the Joint SVO to discuss Ahtna’s legislative priorities.



## AI NEWS & DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### GOLDIE JOKELA'S LONG-TIME SERVICE HONORED WITH DRUM

Goldie began her career with Ahtna in early 2000 when she was hired as an Accounts Payable Technician. Twenty-two years later, she now serves as Ahtna’s Accounts Payable Manager. To celebrate her long-time service, Goldie was gifted a beautiful drum made by Doyon shareholder Harold Northway and hand-painted by Ahtna shareholder descendant Annette Levenberger.





## NATHANIEL (SAADUUTS) MITCHELL RECEIVES AFN MILITARY SERVICE AWARD



We are proud to announce that Ahtna shareholder Nathaniel (Saaduuts) Mitchell was awarded the Gin'tith (Richard Frank) Military Service award at the 2022 Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention. The award is bestowed upon an Alaska Native who demonstrates a strong commitment and willingness to serve in the U. S. Armed Forces in the defense of the United States of America.

Nathan has served our country in the U.S. Navy for 24 years and is currently a Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL). Nathan joined the Navy in 1997 and volunteered in boot camp for Naval Special Warfare. After completing boot camp, he received orders to Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training (BUD/S). Six months later he graduated with class 220 and received orders to SEAL Team 3. After two deployments with SEAL Team 3, Nathan volunteered again. He was assigned to a unit where he spent the majority of his time training and deploying to various locations – 14 scheduled deployments in total.

Nathan is Yahkw 'Láanaas (Raven/Shark) Clan and his Haida name is Saaduuts. He was born in Anchorage and his family is from Hyaburg, Klawock, and Chistochina. He is the son of Sandra Demmert (Haida/Tlingit) and Kenneth Johnson (Ahtna) and grandson of Frances and Franklin Demmert, and Irene Johnson. His sister is Barbara Blake ('Wáahlaal Giidaak) and he has three children.

***"Don't give up. Your ancestor's strength will guide you through any difficulty."***  
- Nathaniel (Saaduuts) Mitchell

Nathan graduated from Chugiak High School, where he placed in statewide and national level cross-country skiing. He is an avid practitioner of his Haida, Tlingit, and Ahtna culture. Nathan has a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Charleston and is in his final year for a master's degree in Business Administration from the College of William & Mary.

Nathan's impressive list of awards and commendations includes:

- Silver Star
- 4x Bronze Star with Valor
- 2x Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- 5x Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor
- Navy Commendation Medal with Valor
- 2x Navy Achievement Medal
- 3x Combat Action Ribbon
- 5x Presidential Unit Citation (unit award)
- 2x Joint Meritorious Unit Award
- Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation
- 6x Navy Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 4x campaign stars
- Iraq Campaign Medal with 2x campaign stars
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with 13 stars
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Medal
- Expert Rifle Navy Marksmanship Medal
- Expert Navy Pistol Marksmanship Medal

Please join us in congratulating Nathan on this honor and extending our gratitude for your exemplary and selfless service!

## AFN CONVENTION 2022



Chairman Johns served on the "Alaska's Self-Determination – Opportunities and Successes" panel.

## SHAREHOLDER EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Gloria Stickwan Retires After 20 Years of Service

After more than twenty years of service, Gloria Stickwan has retired from her role as Ahtna's Customary and Traditional (C&T) Coordinator. When reflecting on her career, she recalled a memory from 1993 where she was struggling with doubt. She confided in Ken Johns, who was the President at the time, that she didn't know

if she could do the job. He said, "Just try it for three weeks." Those words of encouragement turned into a two-decades-long career with Ahtna.

Gloria's early career with Ahtna began in high school and set a foundation for her future role. After school hours and during summer breaks, she worked as a Youth CORE Worker, performing administrative duties at the Ahtna office.

She later worked as a receptionist for Ahtna, Inc. and Assistant to the Office Manager at AC&PPC. Gloria remembers how small the Ahtna headquarters office was in those early days compared to now: just two office rooms in a building shared with Copper River Native Association (CRNA) and Alaska Legal Aid.

Gloria grew up in Tazlina and credits her parents for inspiring her C&T passions by taking her out hunting, trapping and fishing, and speaking to her about Ahtna history and lands. She takes great joy from being at fish camp, cutting salmon with help from her family.

Gloria is a wealth of information, and sought to expand her knowledge through Elder interviews and research. From coordinating Ahtna's Community Subsistence Hunt program to giving public testimony at regulatory meetings, Gloria has been a strong and steady voice for our peoples' C&T rights. We would like to thank Gloria for her leadership, and wish her all the best in her new chapter!

*"Ahtna, Inc. and AITRC should continue to work with the Tribes to protect Ahtna's way of life. Our ancestors would want that to be, now and forever."*



### Edward GreyBear (AI, C&T Coordinator)

Edward GreyBear has joined Ahtna, Inc. as the new Customary and Traditional (C&T) Coordinator based out of Ahtna's Glennallen headquarters office. Edward is of the Naltsiine (Sky) Clan. His mother is the late Ava GreyBear, his grandparents are Vivian and the late Abraham GreyBear Sr., and his great-grandparents are the late Ina and Nick Lincoln.

An internship with Ahtna's Land and Resources Department after his freshmen year of college kicked off Edward's experience in the natural resources field. He continued to hold various positions with Ahtna during the summers in on-call and seasonal positions, and the remainder of the year he attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), where he'll start up online classes again this spring. In 2020, Edward worked as a park ranger at the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, expanding his knowledge in dealing with hunting permits and understanding how the system works.

In his new role, Edward is responsible for providing written comments on hunting and fishing regulations and attending state and federal meetings that pertain to the Ahtna Region. He also coordinates the Ahtna Community Subsistence Hunt program and will assist the Land Department with various C&T-related projects such as wildlife enhancement, fisheries monitoring, and habitat improvement across the Ahtna region.

"Growing up in this area, I spent a lot of my time at the Glennallen office. My mom worked in the Land Department, so that allowed me to see what Ahtna does. I always knew I wanted to work for Ahtna since a young age, and what really initiated that spark was seeing how much Ahtna cares for its shareholders, traditional values, the youth and Elders, our land and how much growth and opportunities it offers to everyone," shared Edward.

Edward serves on the R.O.A.R (Recycling Our Areas Resources) Board and spends a lot of his free time outdoors, especially in the winter. He likes to hike, rock/ice climb, snowboard/ski, hunt and fish, and travel.

We invite you to check out the following Copper River Basin carbon stock research papers that Edward co-authored:

Long-term Recovery of Soil Carbon Stocks and Permafrost Depth Lags Recovery of Organic Layer Thickness Following Fire in Black Spruce Forests of the Copper River Basin, Alaska: <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2020-0194>

Cryoturbation and Carbon Stocks in Gelisols Under Late-Successional Black Spruce Forests of the Copper River Basin, Alaska: <https://doi.org/10.2136/sssaj2019.07.0212>

*"I am looking forward to a long and successful career with Ahtna. I will continue to grow and expand further in this position."*



## 2023 CALENDAR YOUTH ARTWORK CONTEST

We have some very talented youth artists and are happy to feature their creative talents in the 2023 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! We are happy to share photos below of some of this year’s winners.



Chase Soule



Evangelia Tice



Gizel Valka



Jude McConkey



Lena Layland



Micah and Marquel Butler



Scarlet Cronin



Elli Tansy



SPEND YOUR  
SUMMER WORKING  
WITH

*Ahtna*

# Ahtna Special Forces Internship Program

Summer 2023



### Internship areas:

- Engineering
- Environmental
- Land (Carbon Credits)
- Administrative
- Construction
- Many others...

### Why work forAhtna?

- 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

# SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

## 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:

- \$500: Coral Benson
- \$300: Aurora Rojas
- \$200: John Lonch
- \$200: Tamra Kindgren
- \$200: Kayla E. Taylor

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

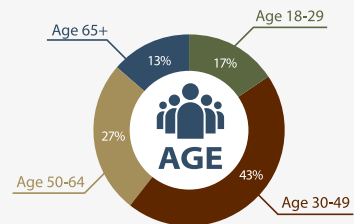


Visit [www.ahtna.com/asf](http://www.ahtna.com/asf) to learn more.

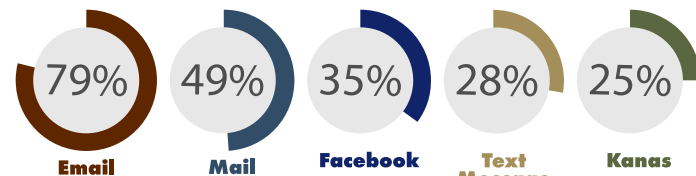


# 2022 SHAREHOLDER SURVEY RESULTS

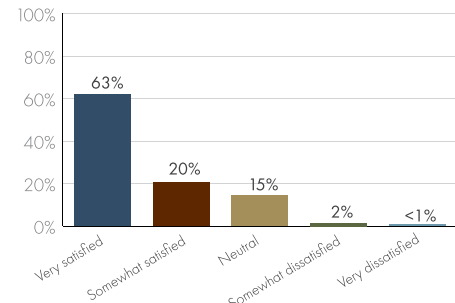
ABOUT THE SURVEY:  
**473**  
Total Responses



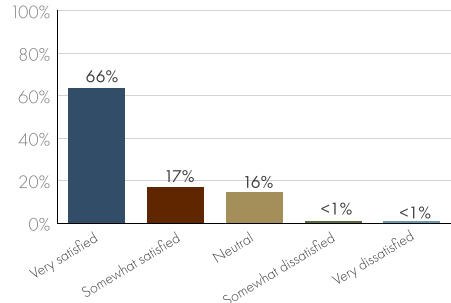
HOW DO YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE INFORMATION AND UPDATES FROM AHTNA? (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)



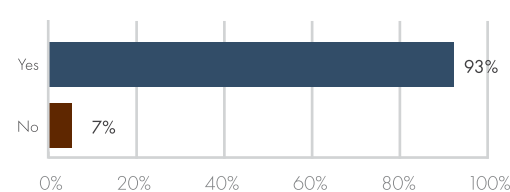
ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE VARIETY OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO SHAREHOLDERS?



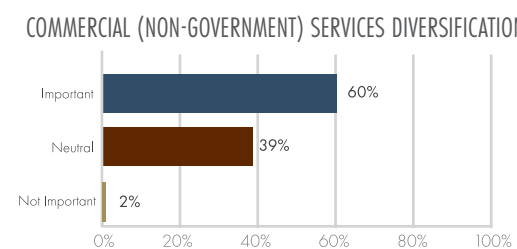
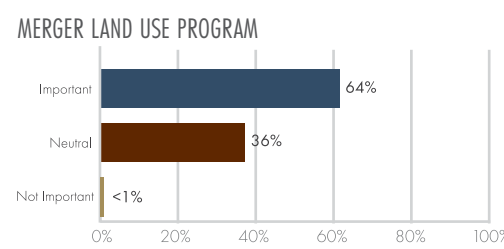
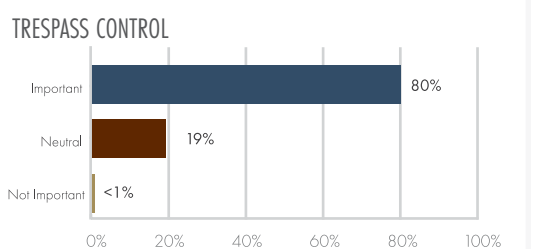
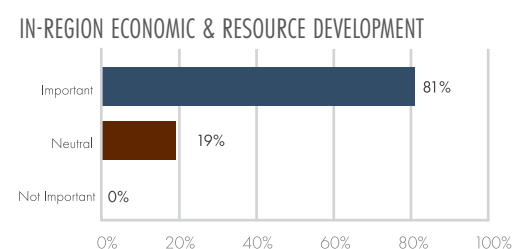
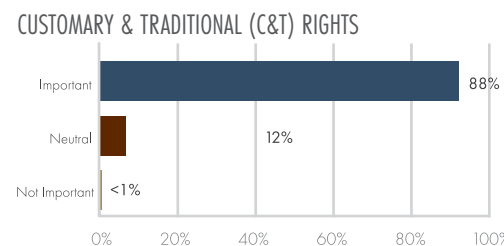
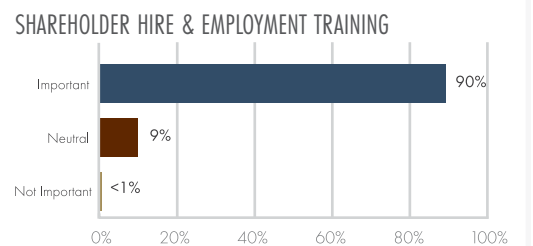
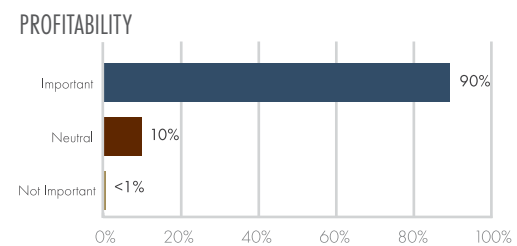
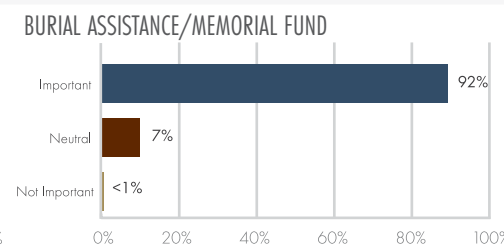
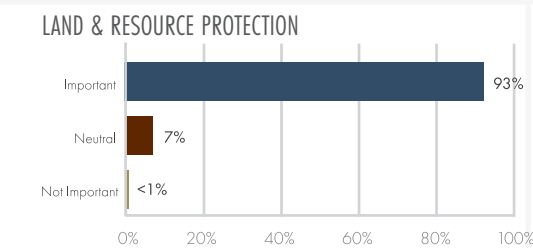
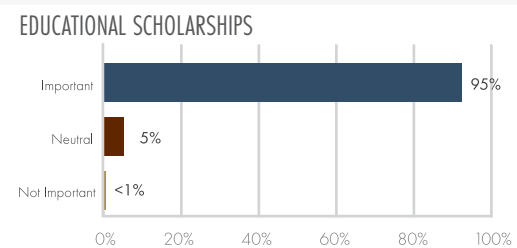
HOW WOULD YOU RATE AHTNA'S CUSTOMER SERVICE?



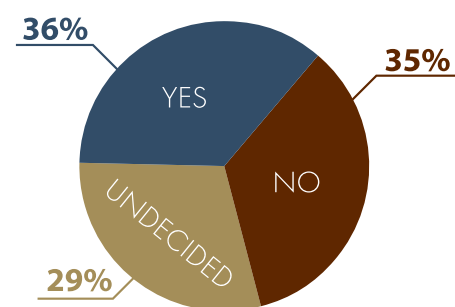
ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE OVERALL LEVEL OF OUTREACH FROM AHTNA'S SHAREHOLDER SERVICES DEPARTMENT?



HOW WOULD YOU RATE THESE AHTNA PRIORITIES?



SHOULD THE BLOOD QUANTUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR CLASS I (DESCENDANT) STOCK ENROLLMENT BE ELIMINATED? 1/4 OR MORE ALASKA NATIVE BLOOD QUANTUM IS THE CURRENT REQUIREMENT.



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

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

### SHAREHOLDER ENRICHMENT UPDATES: AHTNA CAREER AND TRAINING SUPPORT

Ahtna offers supplemental financial assistance for career and training support items and fees such as childcare, union dues, licenses, haircuts, glasses, housing, and transportation. Shareholders should first check with CRNA/CITC/MSTC/Village Councils as the funding is meant to supplement their programs. 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).

To qualify for rental assistance from the Ahtna Career Assistance Program, the qualified\* applicant must have new permanent employment (new employment is verified with employer by Shareholder Enrichment). Once approved, we will request a W-9 from your rental agent to mail your rent check. Please note, rent requests are processed as quickly as we can, but we also recommend reaching out to other agencies for rental assistance as well if needed.

#### Other Assistance Resources

Shareholder Services often receives inquiries from shareholders about assistance sources for housing, clothing, food, and finances that Ahtna does not cover. Here is a list of local assistance for these items:

**Housing:** Alaska Housing Finance Corporation [www.ahfc.us/publichousing/rental-programs/low-income-alaskans-renting-private-individuals](http://www.ahfc.us/publichousing/rental-programs/low-income-alaskans-renting-private-individuals)

**Clothing:** CITC [www.citci.org](http://www.citci.org) and CRNA [www.crnative.org](http://www.crnative.org)

**Food:** CITC and CRNA have programs in addition to local food banks.

**Alaska Department of Health:** Division of Public Assistance

Visit <https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/features/org/applications.aspx> for applications to assist with childcare, food, heat, and women and senior assistance.

**Finances:** Free training on personal finances is offered at Alaska Federal Credit Union and Wells Fargo bank (opening of a checking account may be required).

**Homeless Outreach and Support:** RurAL CAP provides outreach and services to homeless individuals and families. Community volunteers assist homeless people in obtaining food boxes, hot meals, showers and haircuts, onsite childcare, substance abuse and mental health screenings, wheelchair repairs, housing applications, employment support and health screenings. <https://ruralcap.org/client-services/housing/homeless-outreach/>

### OVER HALF A MILLION IN WALTER CHARLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 2022

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

A total of 137 scholarships were awarded in 2022, with funding totaling over a half million dollars.

Some of the fields of study for our shareholders in 2022 included:

- Accounting
- Addictions Counseling
- Aerospace
- Alaska Native Studies
- Astronomy
- Commercial Aviation
- Medical
- Business
- Molecular Biology
- Child Development
- Communication Design
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Dental
- Doctor of Medicine
- Education
- English
- Geology
- History
- Architecture
- Kinesiology
- Juris Doctorate (Law)
- Marketing
- Math
- Natural Resource Management
- Nursing
- Occupational Safety and Health
- Ministry
- Physical Therapy
- Rural Development
- Social Science

Check the website for the latest WCMS information. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Parent, Shareholder Enrichment Advocate, at (907) 868-8250 or [scholarship@ahtna.net](mailto:scholarship@ahtna.net).



# 2022 SHAREHOLDER CHRISTMAS GATHERINGS





IMPORTANT DATES  
UPCOMING SHAREHOLDER DEADLINES AND DATES

Jan 1, 2023	AI Board & SVO Nominations Open
Jan 27, 2023	Class L, Gifting, Inheritance & Diploma Deadline
Feb 28, 2023	Deadline for Board & SVO Nominations
Mar 27, 2023	SVO Ballots Deadline
Apr 5, 2023	Record Date for Annual Shareholders Meeting
Apr 14, 2023	Class L, Gifting, Inheritance & Diploma Deadline
Apr 21, 2023	Proxy Mailout
Apr 28, 2023	Voting Opens

COMING SOON!  
WASHINGTON AND  
CALIFORNIA OPEN HOUSES

Ahtna Shareholder Enrichment will be hosting open house events at our Washington and California offices in 2023. Stay tuned for more information coming out on these events in the spring.



SHAREHOLDER ENRICHMENT  
FACEBOOK LIVE EVENTS

Shareholder Enrichment is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a series of Facebook Friday live events this year! Shareholders will be invited to join us on Facebook to learn about our various shareholder programs, including the Helping Our People Excel (HOPE) program. Two live sessions were held last year highlighting our Vocational Scholarship Program and local Union Apprenticeship opportunities. Please visit the Ahtna Facebook page for more information on upcoming live events and to check out the recordings from past events..



2023 AHTNA ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2023

The Annual Meeting of the Ahtna shareholders will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2023. Nominations for the Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors will open January 1, 2023, and close February 28, 2023. 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 2022 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@ahtna.net](mailto:shservices@ahtna.net) no later than March 24, 2023.

For the latest information on the 2023 Ahtna Annual Meeting visit [www.ahtna.com/shareholders/annual-meeting-of-shareholders](http://www.ahtna.com/shareholders/annual-meeting-of-shareholders).



COMING SOON!  
TESTAMENTARY DISPOSITION WORKSHOPS

Ahtna’s Shareholder Services Department will be hosting Testamentary Disposition Workshops this year in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Cantwell, Cheesh’na, Chitina, Kluti-Kaah, Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta, and Tazlina. Meeting dates and times will be announced in the spring Kanas.

A Testamentary Disposition form provides clear and concise instructions to Ahtna for determining the heirs of your Ahtna shares. This process is different from gifting shares when a shareholder is still living. A Testamentary Disposition is not a complete personal will, but directs us on your wishes for your Ahtna shares. It is extremely important for shareholders to prepare and have a valid Testamentary Disposition on file with Ahtna. Without it, when you pass, your shares may go to someone other than your choosing as we must follow Alaska intestate law. The Testamentary Disposition form also allows you to appoint a representative to handle any potlatch fund donations you are eligible for from Ahtna after your passing.

When a shareholder passes on and they do not have a Testamentary Disposition on file with Ahtna, the transfer of shares becomes more complicated and could take months, or even years, delaying what could be a relatively quick and simple process. We know it isn’t easy thinking about these things, however a Testamentary Disposition allows you to determine who will inherit your shares if something were to happen to you. Preparing for this makes the process much smoother and faster for your family.

The Testamentary Disposition form is available online at [www.ahtna.com/TD](http://www.ahtna.com/TD). You may also call Shareholder Services at (907) 822-3476 to have one mailed to you from the Glennallen headquarters office. Shareholder Relations is available to answer questions or assist you in filling out the form correctly. The form must be completely filled out, notarized, and returned to Shareholder Relations to be considered valid. Custodians, guardians or agents under a power of attorney cannot complete the form – it must be signed by the individual adult shareholder and notarized. You can update your Testamentary Disposition at any time and only the most recent dated form will be considered valid. You should also make a copy of the completed form for yourself and keep it in a safe place.

A TESTAMENTARY DISPOSITION ALLOWS YOU TO  
DETERMINE WHO WILL INHERIT YOUR SHARES IF  
SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU.





## A VISIT TO THE AHTNA CULTURAL CENTER

BY ALLISON SAYER, COPPER RIVER RECORD

*This article has been reprinted with permission from the Copper River Record.*

The Ahtna Cultural Center, now closed for the season, reopened for the first time since the COVID pandemic last summer. Situated on the campus of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park administrative office and visitor center, the Cultural Center offers the opportunity to learn about Ahtna language, history, and contemporary culture.

I was fortunate to visit the Center on a relatively quiet day in late August. Supervisor Edward GreyBear gave me a tour. He and two interns, Damien Shank and Ryan George, walked hundreds of people through the center throughout the busy summer.

By the time I visited the Center, the interns were back to high school. "It's kind of quiet here without them," said GreyBear.

Within the small space, there are photos, displays, and tools from throughout Ahtna history and the modern day.

After a brief introduction to where Ahtna people live and to Ahtna clan structure, a series of displays walks visitors through time that starts with the story of the beginning of the world and goes on to the modern day.



A timeline on one wall also shows major events in Ahtna history including battles, migrations, epidemics, and trade history. Contemporary archaeology that Ahtna, Inc. is involved in, in partnership with various universities, is also featured.

One wall is dedicated to potlatches. GreyBear talked about what is traditional and what is contemporary in potlatches, and shared his own experiences participating through his life. He said his favorite part, more than the food, gifts, or dancing, is the time dedicated for Elders' speech. He remembered that as a young boy he was told to "Be quiet, pay attention. If you're lucky enough you learn something."



GreyBear also noted that during a potlatch, when giving gifts it is important to recite the family lines of the gifts' recipients. He said he strives to do it from memory, although he acknowledged that in contemporary times some people use written notes to make sure they get it right. Gift-giving traditions at memorial potlatches are very specific and are in accordance with the bereaved's obligations to the potlatch hosts.

According to GreyBear, in contemporary times, many potlatches are for memorial purposes. However, both traditionally and in the modern day they can occur to mark a variety of occasions.

The center of the Cultural Center is dedicated mainly to subsistence: its many seasons and techniques in addition to the relationship that subsistence requires between the people and the natural world.

Tools include a pair of snowshoes made by the late Joe Bell of Chistochina and, outside, a fish wheel built by the late Johnny Goodlataw of Chitina and Tazlina. Details in people's work tell about where they came from. For example, Bell's snowshoes feature red decorations signifying where he was from.

Photos include portraits of many area residents past and present, taken all over Ahtna country. There are also surprising historical pictures such as that of a group of Ahtna women with sledgehammers acting as local "Rosie the Riveters" on a railroad track during World War II.



Jewelry, clothing, and regalia are on display as well. It was notable that some of the highly valued jewelry was made from marine organisms, which the landlocked Ahtna would have had to trade for in the past. Some of the "long beads" used today, which can be made from a variety of materials including plastic, look similar to those marine shells.

Local materials such as fur, leather, and porcupine quills also feature in traditional and contemporary designs.

All the displays contain Ahtna vocabulary. GreyBear quickly gave both the English and Ahtna words for the topics he discussed. He credits his grandmother Ina Lincoln for ensuring that he listened to enough Ahtna language to learn it.



More than the physical displays, the Cultural Center offers an opportunity to hear stories. Each person who visits brings their own knowledge, cultural background, personal experience, and interest. Because of that they will ask different questions and hear different stories.

If you didn't have a chance to visit the Cultural Center last summer, you can find some of the photographs and stories shown there in the book Ahtna: The People and Their History, which is available through Ahtna, Inc. at [www.ahtna.com/book](http://www.ahtna.com/book).







## HEATHER YATES SELECTED AS CHIEF RANGER FOR WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE



Please join us in congratulating Heather Yates on being selected as Chief Ranger for Wrangell -St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST)! Heather is the daughter of Roy and the late Judy Yates and granddaughter of the late Robert and Mae Marshall. She is a proud recipient of the Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship Program and credits “the program for contributing to my successful career!”

From the NPS release ([www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/news/heather-yates-selected-as-chief-ranger.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/news/heather-yates-selected-as-chief-ranger.htm)):

Heather was born and raised in Glennallen, AK and graduated from Glennallen High School, where she played basketball and volleyball for the Panthers. After high school she attended, and graduated from, Southern Oregon University with degrees in Criminology and Communications. Her career with the National Park Service began in 1998 when she served as the Subsistence

Specialist at WRST for two years. Eventually, Heather was hired into a Protection Ranger position at WRST (primarily stationed in the Slana/Nabesna area) where she remained for an additional two years.

In 2002, after 27 years in Alaska, Heather made the decision to move to the Lower 48 where she worked as a field protection ranger at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Saguaro National Park, and Yosemite National Park. In 2010, Heather returned to Lake Mead National Recreation Area as a Supervisory Protection Ranger and in 2015, she accepted a position as Chief Ranger at Petrified Forest National Park.

Since moving to the Lower 48, Heather has returned to Alaska annually to visit family. She has enjoyed spending summers halibut fishing out of Valdez and Homer and winters downhill skiing at Alyeska.

“I look forward to being back in Alaska to serve as the senior law enforcement officer at the park where I began my NPS career 24 years ago!” said Heather.

## JACKIE ENGBRETSON NAMED ANTHC DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Jacquelynn “Jackie” Engbretson has accepted the position of Director of Behavioral Health for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC).

Jackie is a member of the Udziyu (Caribou) clan. Her family is from Gulkana, but she grew up in both Copper Center and Valdez.

As shared by ANTHC, Jackie has been with the company for nearly four years and most recently served as a Senior Program Manager in the Behavioral Health Department.

She has more than 10 years of experience in Tribal health, with an emphasis on historical trauma, substance use, and mental health. Her career highlights include working on the team that developed the National Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda and building the Alaska Blanket Exercise (ABE) from a grassroots effort to a robust program. Jackie previously worked with the YMCA of Snohomish County, Tulalip Tribes of Washington, and the National Indian Health Board. She graduated from the University of Washington with a Master of Social Work degree in Community-Centered Integrative Practice. She is currently enrolled in Alaska Pacific University’s Alaska Native Executive Leadership Program and MBA Program.

In her free time, Jackie enjoys making overly complicated recipes, reading mysteries, and putting clothes on the family Yorkie, Yoshi.

## AHTNA PLACE NAME CHANGES

NATIVE VILLAGE OF CHITINA RELEASE

About the new place name changes to replace the word “squaw”:

Obviously, the impetus for the name changes is the recent and ongoing national effort to replace offensive placenames, such as those with the word “squaw”, with better ones.

The placenames in this region are located in the traditional territory of the lower Ahtna people, for whom the Native Village of Chitina (NVC) is the tribal authority. NVC solicited ideas for new place names from Chitina Native Corporation and Ahtna, Incorporated, then circulated the resulting suggestions for feedback. NVC then sent the recommendations to The Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force. Ahtna, Inc. also sent a letter supporting those recommendations.

The first name change is for an island at the mouth of the Chitistone River. The word Chitistone is derived from the much older Ahtna name Tsedi Ts’ese’, which means ‘copper stone’. The island is now called Tsedi Ts’ese’ Island. It is entirely appropriate that this island has been re-named to pay homage to copper. Ahtna Athabascan people collected, used, and traded copper for thousands of years. Many of our traditional copper sources came from the nearby mountains. Non-Natives later mined it from what became known as the Kennicott Copper Mine. Copper is iconic in the history of the Native and non-Native people of this area. Tsedi Ts’ese’ Island is a place name which reflects this rich cultural heritage.

The second name change was for a creek which enters the Kuskulana River. Many of Ahtna’s traditional names have been lost, and we could not discover the original name of that creek. Instead, we came up with Kuy’aa Creek. Kuy’aa is an Ahtna Athabascan word for a highly respected woman. Kuy’aa Creek translates as Respected Woman Creek. A name that respects and honors indigenous women--kuy’aa--thus replaces the insulting, denigrating word ‘squaw’.

The third place name change was for a creek near Mile 59 of the Richardson Highway. Again, there is no recorded Ahtna name for this creek, so we proposed Ts’akae Creek. Ts’akae is the Ahtna word meaning ‘woman’. It replaces a demeaning place name with a word that simply means woman, minus the insult.

We are encouraged by the decision to replace these offensive placenames--names that are so low in their spirit and intent--with names that are reflective of the rich history, culture, and achievements of our Native people, especially Ahtna women. That would go some way in repairing the historic wrong of these long held, hateful names.

Tsin’aen (Thank you),  
Corina Ewan, President

## AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

### Helping Households Connect

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) benefit program. This \$14 billion investment in broadband affordability will help people get the internet connections they need for work, school, health care, and much more.

The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers that contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

Visit [www.fcc.gov/acp](http://www.fcc.gov/acp) to learn more about the eligibility requirements and apply.



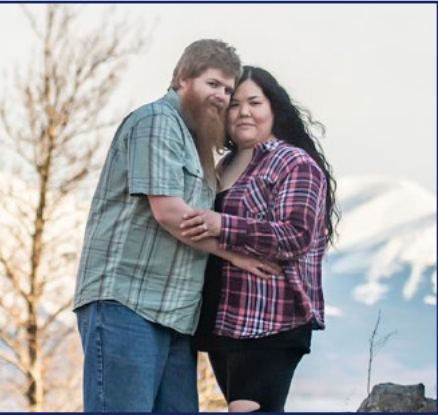
MyAhtna Portal: Shareholder Submission

MyAhtna.com

One of the many perks and benefits of registering with the MyAhtna portal is you can submit news for the Kanas. Visit MyAhtna.com.



**Army Basic Training Graduate – Trinity Graves**  
*Submitted by Grandmother Debra Hoehne*  
Trinity Graves is the daughter of Sherry and Christopher Graves, granddaughter of Debra Hoehne and Paul Davis, and great granddaughter of the late Marian (Neeley) Olinghouse. Trinity graduated from Capital High School in Charleston, West Virginia in May 2022. In September 2022, Trinity graduated from Army Basic Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. She is currently in Oklahoma training to be a Fire Support Specialist. After completion of training in December, she plans to attend the University of Kentucky in the spring semester of 2023. She plans to serve in the Kentucky National Guard for the next four years.



**James and Jennifer Buckley Wedding**  
*Submitted by Jennifer Buckley*  
Congratulations to James and Jennifer Buckley who were married on November 11, 2022 in Anchorage at God’s Church. Jennifer is the daughter of Sharon Stickivan and Chester Mack. James and Jennifer share three children – boys Marshall and Ryker, and a little girl named River Fawn. Jennifer is a shareholder and works at Ahtna’s Anchorage office.

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!

<b>JANUARY</b> Geraldine Fleury Virginia D. Wise Deborah A. Barlip Mary Lynn F. Barlip Doris E. Craig Martha E. Fletcher Stephen E. Pete Marsha M. Armstrong Karen A. Johns Henrietta Rankin Robert C Gene Albert L. Fleury Elmer Tyone Katherine K. Sanford Gerald A. Mahle Sr. Michael V.t Cantrell Dorothy M. Hancock Frederick G. Christoffersen Thelma O. Barnum Fred John Jr. Diane Cronin Shirley A. Miller	<b>FEBRUARY</b> Curtis J. Phillips Maxine H. Caywood Irene M. Gurtler Tina L. Jaynes Delia E. Renard Smitty H. Sanford John Sanford Julia M. Leeper Loretta Sanford Lena Charley Libby E. Chavez Larry A. Tyone Loretta E. Bryant Sharon Smithart Steven G. Nicholas Katherine M. Kindgren Ray R. Stickwan John H. Engebretson Gordon J. Carlson Barbara A. Bush Mary A. Bowman David M. Fier	<b>MARCH</b> Douglas D. MacArthur Sally A. Gosnell Lee Nicolie Margaret A. Olson Thomas W. Sanford Newell K. Anderson Jr. Marie J. Racelis Dorothy A. Espinosa Diane M. Williams Lee R. Adler Violet Robinson Stoney Nicklie Sarah A. Pence Louisa A. Yoshimoto Gary L. Monroe Joyce J. Huennekens Elsie V. Rieck Raymond D. Craig George G. Aguilon Rosemarie Lish Rebecca E. Swoboda	 Calvin J. Justin Bud J. Carlson Lynus Beattus Evelyn L. Dunlop Eleanor L. Emily Esther J. Robinson Arnold J. Engebretson Geraldine C. Empey Lonita M. Lohse Joseph M. Anderson Carolyn Riley Margie N. Ewan
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CONDOLENCES

In loving memory of our shareholders who have passed

**Andrew R. Leonard**  
**Edna Charley**  
**Irene Davis**  
**Shilah Love**

**Terry Dunlop**  
**Valerie Leonard**  
**Virginia Pete**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

📺 = video conference between Anchorage & Glennallen

The events below 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>	New Year’s Day (Ahtna offices closed in observance 1/2)	<b>Jan 5</b>	C&T Committee, 9 am
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FEBRUARY

<b>Feb 2</b>	Audit & Finance Committee, 9 am	<b>Feb 4</b>	AI Board Meeting, 1 pm	<b>Feb 20</b>	President’s Day (Ahtna offices closed)
<b>Feb 3</b>	Oversight & Improvement Committee, 9 am	<b>Feb 15</b>	Policy Committee, 9 am	<b>Feb 24</b>	C&T Committee, 9 am
<b>Feb 4</b>	AN Executive Committee Meeting, 9 am	<b>Feb 16</b>	Land Committee, 9 am		
		<b>Feb 16</b>	Shareholder Committee, 1 pm		

MARCH

<b>Mar 1</b>	Audit & Finance Committee, 9 am	<b>Mar 3</b>	C&T Committee, 9 am	<b>Mar 25</b>	AI Board Meeting, 9 am
<b>Mar 2</b>	Oversight & Improvement Committee, 1 pm	<b>Mar 24</b>	AN Executive Committee Meeting, 9 am		

APRIL

<b>Apr 1</b>	Tazlina SVO, 9:30 am	<b>Apr 9</b>	Easter	<b>Apr 22</b>	JSVO, 9 am, Tazlina
<b>Apr 7</b>	Good Friday	<b>Apr 15</b>	Cantwell SVO, 9:30 am		





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**RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**



### Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors



**Ken Johns**  
Chair



**Karen Linnell**  
Vice Chair



**Cecil Sanford**  
Secretary



**Linda Pete**  
Treasurer



**Nicholas Jackson**



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**John Dye**

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**FCS LOGO HERE**

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