

# Ahtna Kansas

SUMMER 2017



**GETTING SHAREHOLDERS  
PREPARED FOR SUCCESS P. 12**

**CHITINA: HOME TO THE AHTNA  
FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS P. 8**

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## Ahtna, Inc. and Ahtna Netiyē' senior management team



**Michelle Anderson**  
President, AI



**Kathryn Martin**  
Senior VP, AI



**Tom Maloney**  
CEO, AN



**Roy J. Tansy Jr.**  
Executive VP, AN



**Matt Tisher**  
CFO & VP of Finance, AI



**Joe Bovee**  
VP of Land and Resources, AI



**Douglas Miller**  
VP of Human Resources, AI



**Matt Block**  
VP of Legal Affairs & General Counsel

## Ahtna Subsidiary Presidents



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



**Brenda Rebne**  
President, AFSI & APSI



**Vicky Dunlap**  
President, ASTS & ALL



**Susan Taylor**  
President, KEC, AKHI & ATSI



**Tim Finnigan**  
President, AES & AEI



**David O'Donnell**  
President, AC&PPC

If shareholder-owners would like to submit articles for [the Kanas](#), please email [sblue@ahntna.net](mailto:sblue@ahntna.net) or call 907.485.4300. For questions or more information about the Kanas, please call 907.485.4300.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### WE CLOSE THE YEAR ON A GREAT 2016 AND LOOK FORWARD TO AN EVEN BETTER 2017

Wow, it's been a busy quarter since I last reported to you. I hope you are enjoying summer.

Thank you for your patience with our delayed annual meeting. This is prime time to stock our freezers and pantries, and we at Ahtna appreciate you taking time to participate in this important event.

The meeting was rescheduled out of respect for beloved Ahtna shareholder and Elder Ina Lincoln. In her 96 years on this Earth, Ina and her husband, Nick, raised a large family and took in students from the Copper Valley High School. It would not be an understatement to say everyone loved Ina. She was a born teacher and cultural advisor. Ina knew the Ahtna clans so well that she became the one others would come to for advice when planning a potlatch or questions about genealogies. Ina's sense of humor, her willingness to share her cultural knowledge and her kind and fun way of being will be missed by all who loved her.

#### ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

We are happy to welcome newly elected directors Ken Johns and Albert Fleury to the Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors.

A special shout-out to Karen Linnell, Ahtna Board Member of the Year. Karen has dedicated her life to making our communities better places to live. We greatly value her wildlife management expertise and commitment to cultural revitalization. She is a thoughtful leader with a unique ability to foster collaboration among diverse groups, which is a talent we have put to great use. We are especially thankful for the wisdom she has brought to the Board over the past decade.

The primary goal of Shareholder Development is to maximize the potential of our shareholder-owners by developing and engaging them as they pursue meaningful career and life goals. We also work diligently with Ahtna subsidiaries and management to provide opportunities for our shareholder-owners, increase shareholder-owners hire and develop programs to advance shareholders in their careers. We spotlight these efforts in this newsletter – and introduce you to several young shareholder-owners firmly on the path to success.

Speaking of Shareholder Development, please join me in welcoming shareholder-owner Tracy Parent as our new Shareholder Development Coordinator. Tracy comes to us with over 17 years' experience working in human resources,

during which time she implemented and developed work readiness programs for K-12 students. In taking this position, Tracy is returning to Anchorage after living in the Lower 48 for many years.

We also want to wish the Class of 2017 congratulations, the best of luck – and encourage each of you to follow your passion.

This issue visits Chitina, home to the Ahtna for thousands of years. The Chitina Native Corporation and Ahtna have enjoyed a special relationship for generations, and that connection was recently strengthened with Chitina signing a Declaration of Friendship. It was an honor to be invited to speak at Chitina's annual meeting, where I had the opportunity to welcome Ed Herndon, Chitina's new CEO, to our region.

Our lands sustain us and we have been hard at work to make sure that our lands endure for generations to come.

Last summer, Gov. Bill Walker visited Gulkana and walked some of Ahtna's most sacred land and burial sites that were taken by the federal government nearly seven decades ago. I am happy to announce that Ahtna, Inc. has reached a proposed settlement with the State of Alaska regarding Klutina Lake Road, which also includes lands near the Historic Gulkana Village. You can find all the details on page 6 and, if you're able, I encourage you to attend one of the upcoming settlement public meetings. Another outstanding land-use issue involves lands in the Klutina Lake area off the Richardson Highway. We sued the state in 2008 over public access to lands we own. While we believe the public should be allowed to access recreational areas, we think it incumbent that we ensure the desires for convenient access are not superior to our rights as property owners.

It is rewarding to see that so many of our land issues are nearing completion. We had a great 2016 and are well on our way to an even better 2017. Thank you for your continuing support.

Tsin'aen,

Michelle Anderson, President  
Ahtna, Incorporated



## CEO'S MESSAGE

### AHTNA GROWS REVENUES AMID CHALLENGING ECONOMIC TIMES

Dear shareholder-owners,

Let me start by saying what an honor it was for the management team to meet so many shareholder-owners and Elders at the annual meeting in Copper Center. It was an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

Ahtna, Inc. and its subsidiaries remain strong despite the economic headwinds facing Alaska. Thousands of jobs were lost last year in Alaska and that trend continues in 2017. Revenues for the 12 Alaska regional Native corporations declined by 7 percent in 2016 and net profits before taxes fell by 70 percent. Fortunately, Ahtna's 2016 revenues increased by 15 percent.

The decline in oil and commodity prices has hurt the bottom line for all Native corporations. Ahtna is no exception. Our resource revenues received through 7i related to oil and mining were down significantly in 2016, but we also have many bright spots in our business portfolio. Government contracting, work for Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., civil construction and our own development projects have resulted in 19 percent higher shareholder-owner wages and dividends in 2016, compared to the previous year.

Ahtna is blessed to be bucking the downward economic trends. We are even expanding our Anchorage office to satisfy growing customer demand. The strategic priorities established by our Board of Directors keep us competitive in today's challenging economy.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). The pipeline has safely transported 735 billion gallons of oil across 55 miles of Ahtna land.

Many of our Board members and Elders played an integral role in the creation of the pipeline and they deserve our appreciation and respect for forging a successful business partnership and protecting the land.

Ahtna continues to provide services to Alyeska, and we are proud to be part of the team that was named Project of the Year for Environmental Stewardship and Innovation at the Alaska Oil and Gas Association's May conference. Ahtna Construction participated in a challenging erosion-control project in the TAPS right-of-way near the Sagavanirktok River.

Ahtna continues to be extremely interested in a liquefied natural gas project or an in-state gas pipeline project that monetizes Alaska's vast natural gas reserves. A gas pipeline would impact Cantwell, so we need to make sure Ahtna has a meaningful voice at the table that minimizes any risk to our lands and maximizes the benefits for our shareholder-owners.

Safety continues to be our number-one priority in everything we do. We value our employees and recognize we have people working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in some of the most challenging conditions and locales in the world. We are so proud of each and every one of our Ahtna employees. It is important that everyone goes home to their families safe and sound at the end of every workday.

Alaska is the Last Frontier, and we all enjoy participating in the great outdoors. Please be safe in all activities. For example, when hiking, have bear spray or other protective gear to keep the family safe.

Thank you to all our employees whom we do not always get to see often, being dispersed across the country, but are an integral part of the Ahtna family.

Thank you,

Tom Maloney  
Chief Executive Officer

Crystal Ewan representing Ahtna, Inc. at the Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA) conference.



# SUBSIDIARY SPOTLIGHT

## AHTNASTS BEGINS WORK ON SIMULATION CONTRACT

Ahtna Support and Training Services, LLC (AhtnaSTS) began work on an Artillery Chemical Trainer (ACT) contract June 1 and is now providing service to the Army at seven different installations, including locations in Germany and the Republic of Korea.

The U.S. Army's Program Executive Office Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) is valued at just over \$2 million per year, with a service period of approximately 4.5 years.

The ACT contract, which was held by Ahtna Development Corporation (ADC) from 2000-2008, focuses on supporting the training needs of America's military personnel by operating, maintaining and providing logistics support to various simulator systems. This is done by our team of highly-qualified technicians, who perform a range of technical work on equipment by completing diagnostic checks, component replacements

and extensive maintenance. These simulators represent a variety of military systems and vehicles. Using the simulators saves money by preserving equipment, weapons and vehicles from excessive wear and tear and helps to prepare our nation's military for whatever task they may be asked to perform.



The Fire Support Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (FSCATT) system is used to train artillery crew members on the M109 Paladin Howitzer. Photo courtesy Barry Kerness



## APSI BEGINS NEW CONTRACT AT CAPE CANAVERAL

Ahtna Professional Services, Inc. (APSI) began a subcontract April 3 to provide Fire, Rescue, Medical and Emergency Management Services at Cape Canaveral on Florida's "Space Coast," adjacent to Kennedy Space Center.

Under a prime contract for the U.S. Air Force at the Cape Canaveral 45th Space Wing, Centerra and APSI provide specialized fire and rescue services, including exotic-fuel-and-material firefighting, high-angle rescue, pilot/ astronaut rescue, paramedic and emergency-medical services, as well as a highly-trained team of emergency-management specialists.

The Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management work also includes aircraft-crash firefighting; confined-space rescue; pre-launch, launch and post-launch support; hazardous-materials-technician response; water-borne spills; shipboard firefighting; pre-incident planning; natural-disaster response; fire prevention, inspection and education; patient transport at the basic and advance life-support levels; wildland firefighting; fire investigation and all related support functions.

APSI's new staff include the deputy and assistant fire chiefs, the director of emergency management and analysts.

# AHTNA AND THE STATE REACH AGREEMENT ON HISTORIC GULKANA VILLAGE SITE

Ahtna and the State of Alaska reached an agreement on a proposed settlement regarding lands along Klutina Lake Road and near the Historic Gulkana Village off the Richardson Highway. The parties have worked for the past five months to settle the details of a proposed agreement. The agreement would resolve a legal dispute that dates back to 2007 regarding property interests and use of Klutina Lake Road. The settlement would also resolve long-standing impacts to the Gulkana historic cemetery and townsite.

In 1943, the federal government bisected what was a thriving village on the Gulkana River to realign the highway and build a new bridge. Families were forced to resettle across the Gulkana River, leaving the historic village cemetery behind, where it has experienced decades of grave desecration. The Native Village of Gulkana, with the assistance of Ahtna and other compassionate organizations, has been working to clear up the title to land in the area ever since.

The settlement also resolves a long-running dispute over land near the Klutina River and Lake. Klutina Lake Road is a narrow, dirt path that follows the bluff of the Klutina River from the Richardson Highway to Klutina Lake, a distance of about 25 miles. It sits within a 60-foot-wide federal 17(b) easement across Ahtna's land. In 2007, the State cleared certain portions alongside the western part of Klutina Lake Road, removing Ahtna signs and a fee station in the process. Ahtna sued the State for exceeding the scope of the easement, both in terms of its width and the uses it permits. The parties have been working to resolve this dispute since it was filed, with little success until this year.

## Public meetings will be held in:

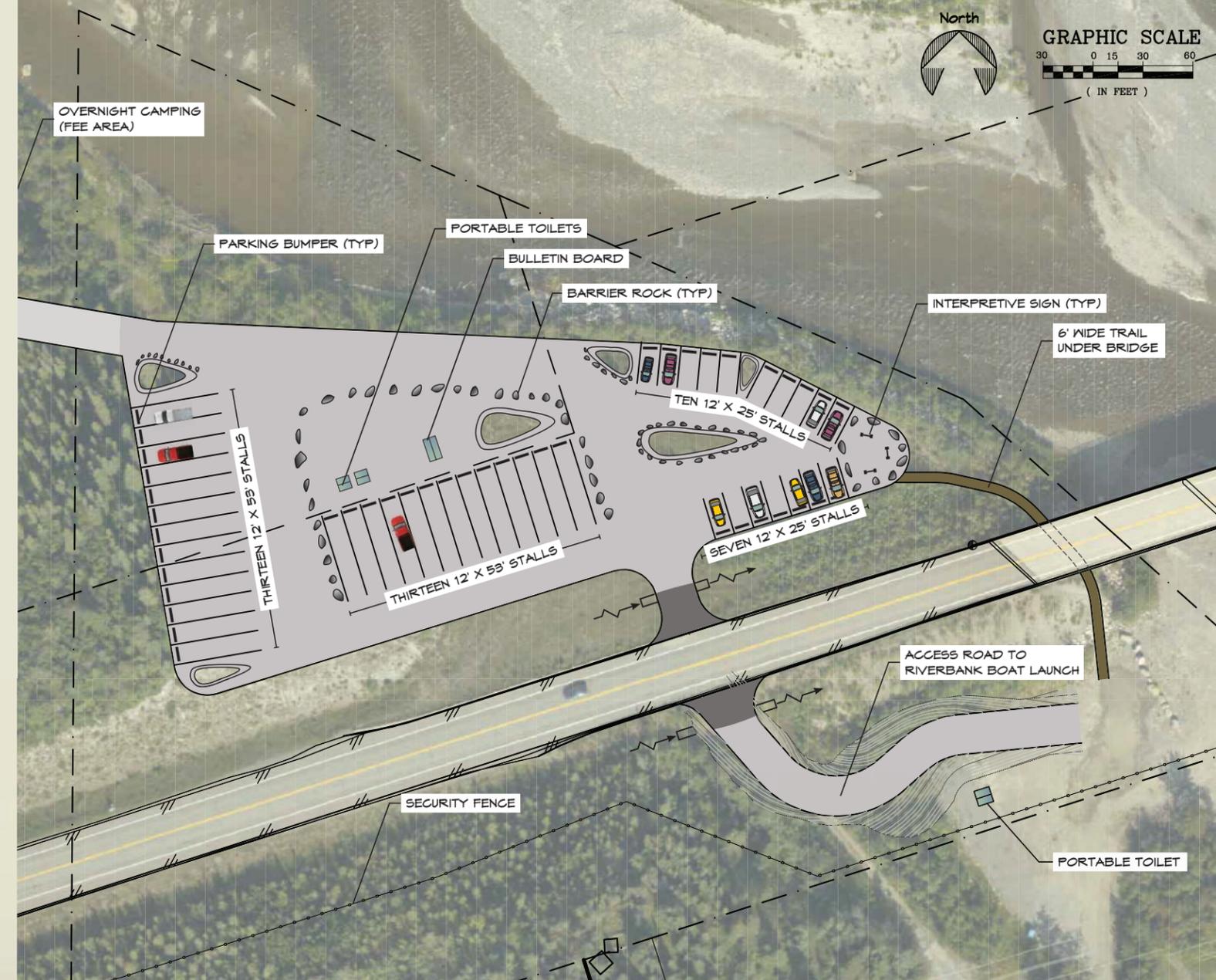
- **Gulkana** - Tuesday, August 1, from 3 – 5 p.m. at the Gulkana Hall (traveling north on Richardson Highway, turn right at the sign for the village after the Gulkana River bridge)
- **Glennallen** - Tuesday, August 1, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Alaska Bible College-Murdock Campus Center at 200 College Road
- **Anchorage** - Wednesday, August 2, from 6 – 8 p.m. in Room 104 of the Atwood Building, 550 West 7th Avenue
- **Wasilla** - Thursday, August 3, from 6 – 8 p.m. in Meeting Room 1-3, Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, at 1001 S. Clapp Street

- **Fairbanks** - Monday, August 7, from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Noel Wien Library auditorium, located at 1215 Cowles Street

Each meeting will consist of an informational session in which details of the proposed settlement will be explained, followed by an opportunity for the public to provide comments. Written comments can be sent to [klutina.settlement@alaska.gov](mailto:klutina.settlement@alaska.gov) or mailed to Department of Law, c/o Natural Resources Section – Klutina/Gulkana Comments, 1031 W. 4th Ave., Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501-1994. Written comments must be received by August 30.

Some of the settlement terms Ahtna and the State have agreed to include:

- Relocation of public parking and other facilities at the Gulkana River boat launch to protect the historic townsite and cemetery
- Transfer of state-owned land in Gulkana to the Native Village of Gulkana and vacation of the Old Richardson Highway right-of-way in exchange for land on the other side of the highway that the State will use for a parking lot
- An easement from the state's new parking lot to support additional fee parking, camping and river access on Ahtna land
- A 100-foot-wide state highway right-of-way along Klutina Lake Road
- Where the right-of-way intersects with state land under the Klutina River, fishing, daytime parking and boating access (without a trailer) from the Klutina Lake Road right-of-way
- Three locations along Klutina Lake Road where the public can launch boats using trailers
- Camping and overnight parking for at least 50 public users per night in locations along the Klutina Lake Road right-of-way, including at Boys' Camp
- A new 50-foot-wide state right-of-way to connect Klutina Lake Road to state land on Klutina Lake, replacing the existing trail along the Klutina Lake shore



Public area improvements planned for access to Gulkana River would include:

- A new parking area upstream of the Richardson Highway Bridge, which is planned to be constructed between 2018 and 2020. The public will be able to continue using the existing access until the new one is built to minimize any disruption to river access
- Secure fencing to protect the Gulkana Village gravesite area with signage recognizing the cultural and historical significance of the area
- Restroom facilities during the summer season at both the parking and boat-landing areas

- Highway-safety signs and measures to protect pedestrians, including a foot trail under the bridge to connect the parking area and boat landing

# Chitina home to the Ahtna for thousands of years



For 5,000 to 7,000 years, the Chitina area was home to the Ahtna, whose numbers were slowly decimated by the influx of people, disease and conflict.

Archaeological sites are located to the south and east of Chitina, which is located on the west bank of the Copper River, at mile 34 of the Edgerton Highway, 53 miles southeast of Copper Center.

It was the Ahtna who first directed miners to the incredibly rich deposit of copper ore that became the Kennecott mines. To get the ore to tidewater at Cordova, a syndicate of Eastern financiers, which included the Guggenheim brothers and the House of Morgan, built the Copper River Northwestern Railroad. The town of Chitina was established as a construction camp for the railroad. It later became a stop on the railroad and commercial center for the region.

"In 1920 a school was built for the local Native population, prompting the final abandonment of villages such as Taral and Tonsina because Ahtna children were supposed to attend school during the winter months," Ahtna historian Bill Simeone writes. "The school operated sporadically until 1927 when it became permanent.

"Both the Native and non-Native population of Chitina increased until 1938 when Kennecott closed the mine and the railroad was shut down. The Alaska Road Commission closed its offices in Chitina in 1942, adding to the decline in population and in 1956 both the infirmary and the school closed and the remaining population dispersed to other places where jobs and health care were available."



The second to the last train leaves the Chitina Trail Depot. Photo courtesy of Alaska State Archives.

Out of the population of 110, 48.8 percent are Alaska Native or Native Americans. Most of the Native residents are involved in subsistence activities year-round, such as fishing, gardening, picking berries and herb gathering. The Native Village of Chitina is the local, federally recognized tribe.

Chitina Native Corporation is a wholly owned Native corporation in the Ahtna Region, with 260 shareholders who live statewide and in the Lower 48 states.

Today, Chitina is the prime jumping-off point to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the largest national park in the country.

## Stories from Chitina

The Ahtna History Book, written by Bill Simeone, which is scheduled to be published later this year, contains several Chitina stories. Here's one Marilyn Eskalida's mother, Maggie Eskalida, told Marilyn about different Ahtna clans who came into the Chitina area:

*My mother told me the Tlingit Eagle Clan was first to come up the canyon from Eyak Lake and named Tsedi-na (Chitina) and were called "canyon people or Dits'i'ltsiine."*

*As my mother explained, the Dits'i'ltsiine were the first to discover Tsedi Na' and Tsisyu clan came along and settled at Taral Village. She told the story of Naltsiine having to go north to Paxson Lake to harvest caribou, and that was when a man was found running after the herd and Sourdough Gene and Paxson John named the man and his starving families Udzisyu and allowed them to marry into the Naltsiine clan.*

*My mother told me we came from Eyak Lake and the first to come up the canyon and named "Tsdie Na'." Then one of the groups came and wanted their own sub-clan. They were denied and "went away mad" and were finally called Naltsiine "Sky Clan," but remain temperamental to this day. After influenza [epidemic of 1918], the Naltsiine became the bigger populated and powerful clan since so many Dits'i'ltsiine died.*

# CHITINA TO ANTARCTICA



## Jamie adds bottom of world to her global travels

Antarctica is frequently called the most desolate place on Earth. Cold and stark, it is a landscape that in many ways is frozen in time. For Jamie Ginn, Ahtna shareholder-owner and seasoned world traveler, visiting the bottom of the world was the opportunity to complete a personal quest.

Jamie always liked to tell people she had been to all seven continents, except Antarctica, that is until she noticed an ad about traveling to the bottom of the world and decided she would cross Antarctica off her list before her 30th birthday.

Undeterred by the distance or logistics – and without reservations – she set out alone in late January for the southern tip of South America, the staging point for Antarctic travel. “I really didn’t have any plans when I got here. I literally just showed up,” she said.

After taking a 60-hour bus ride from Santiago, Chile, to southern Argentina, which included sleeping on the bus and in bus stations, Jamie then had to wait several days to find out if she could even get aboard a tour ship. Her patience and persistence were rewarded when a cancellation opened a spot and she was soon sailing to the bottom of the world.

More than a century after the first explorers stepped foot on Antarctica, the continent remains almost untouched by humans. When Jamie arrived, she learned it is that quality that makes Antarctica special. “It was nice to see a part of the world so protected and untouched. Animals flourish with no people around.”

She watched humpback whales surfacing just feet from the inflatable boat she was riding in and there were penguins by the thousands. There are strict rules to protect and preserve the unspoiled ecosystem and visitors are always escorted while on ground and absolutely nothing can be left behind.

Looking back on her adventure, Jamie learned that while different in many ways, Antarctica and southern Argentina reminded her of Alaska. Visiting all seven continents has only inspired Jamie to keep traveling and now she is still trying to decide where to go next. Possibly Japan or Egypt or maybe even Bulgaria.

Jamie is originally from Chitina, where her mom, Mary Finnesand, and her grandparents, Ed and Lori Dummler, still live, as does her aunt, Arleen Lenard. Jamie graduated from Kenny Lake School in 2005.

## CHITINA NATIVE CORPORATION SELECTS CEO



New CEO Ed Herndon

After a lengthy search, the Chitina Native Corporation Board of Directors chose Ed Herndon as its chief executive officer (CEO). Ed brings the experience and unique perspective needed to grow and improve the corporation for the benefit of its shareholders.

“Chitina Native Corporation has a long history of very conservative decisions, and establishing a CEO position was a decision we discussed on several occasions,” said President Anne Thomas. “We have limited resources, but the projects and potential on our horizon were too big to handle with our current staffing. We appreciate Jeff Doty’s work as business manager to get us where we are, and we look forward to the ventures Ed leads us through.”

Chitina was recently awarded government contracts that involve a sophisticated field of work, resulting in the need of an experienced executive with range of knowledge, skills and abilities.

Ed was born and raised in Cordova and earned a bachelor degree in marketing and management from the University of Alaska Anchorage. He has a long history of working with and for Alaska Native corporations, including 23 years of progressively more-senior positions as human-resources director, business-development manager and president and CEO of one of the largest

ANCSA corporations. Most recently, Ed was the director of a village corporation subsidiary that focused on 8(a) government contracting, as well as supporting acquisitions and business development.



## AHTNA, CHITINA SIGN DECLARATION OF FRIENDSHIP

After working collaboratively since 2012, Ahtna and the Chitina Native Corporation signed a Declaration of Friendship on May 9.

“The Ahtna and Chitina relationship has been a very special one for both Ahtna and Chitina,” the declaration states, “... two corporations (that) have a cultural and familial relationship that goes back thousands of years.”

The two corporations entered into a memorandum of agreement five years ago to work together in land planning and mapping, and to meet regularly and share information “for the benefit of our people.”

Chitina Native Corporation President Anne Thomas and Ahtna, Inc. Board Chairman Nicholas Jackson sign the agreement.



# THEIR MISSION: GETTING SHAREHOLDERS PREPARED FOR SUCCESS

Two hundred years ago, virtually everything the Ahtna people needed for survival came from the land, the rivers that score it and the plants and animals that share the environment. While subsistence still sustains many Ahtna people, most of us must get a job to earn our keep.

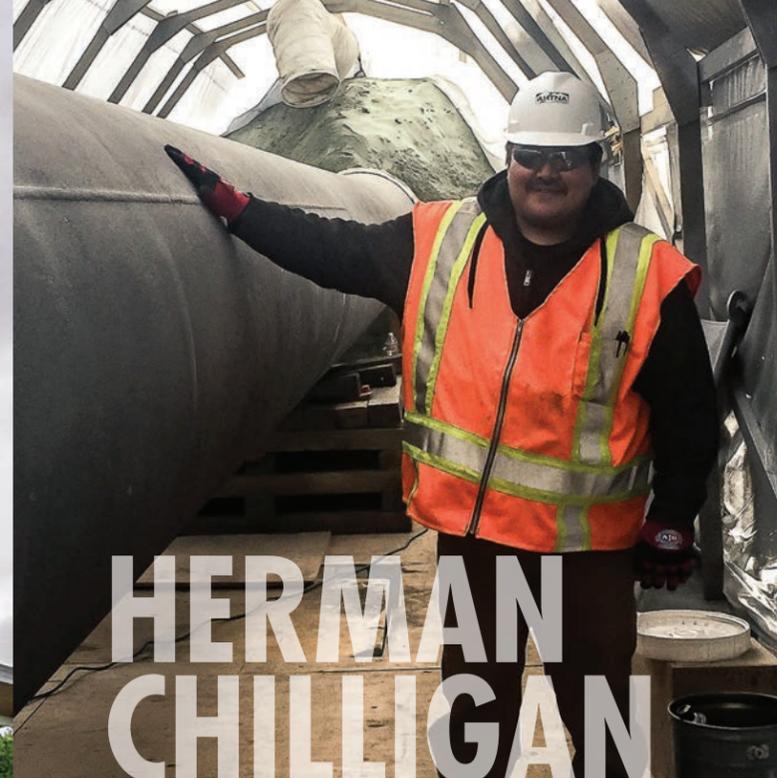
The Ahtna's Shareholder Development department was created to assist shareholder-owners in preparing for rewarding careers.

"Shareholder Development helped connect the shareholders highlighted in this article with the laborers training program, but it's each individual's drive and determination that has allowed him or her to excel. They each have their own unique story and we are proud to see what they have accomplished. They are a shining example of how hard work and putting your

mind to something pays off," said Michelle Anderson, Ahtna President.

Need help with your resume? Need to brush up on your job interview skills? Tracy Parent, Ahtna's Shareholder Development Coordinator can help. "The primary goal of Ahtna's Shareholder Development program is to maximize shareholder potential by providing development opportunities and engaging shareholders as they pursue career and life goals. We work closely with shareholders so that they are better prepared and qualified for opportunities."

This spring, six young shareholder-owners became apprentice laborers after completing the three-week apprenticeship-training program offered by Alaska Laborers Local 341. We are pleased to bring you their personal stories.



## HERMAN CHILLIGAN

### Herman Chilligan

There is an old phrase that says, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." No one personifies that phrase like Ahtna shareholder-owner Herman Chilligan. About a year ago, he left his home, friends and extended family behind in Mentasta Lake to find work in Alaska's largest city so he could more easily support his wife and two young children and begin a new life.

The first few months were tough, living out of his truck working side jobs here and there, but Herman was determined to land a better job. Everything began to change when Starr Knighten, formally with Ahtna Shareholder Development, spotted his name on a job application and assisted him with getting work at Ahtna Facilities Services. "Starr helped me out finding a good job," said Herman. "I am definitely happy with shareholder services."

From there, his situation only got better. He joined Laborers Union Local 341 and immersed himself in the occupational training courses offered by the union. Within a few months, Herman earned multiple certifications in asbestos abatement, hazardous waste, forklift operation and even first aid and CPR so he could respond to a medical emergency. That training led him to a good-paying job with Ahtna Construction and Primary Products Corporation (AC&PPC), where he now performs corrosion inspection and maintenance on the trans-Alaska pipeline.

Herman's long-term career goal is to become a certified heavy-equipment operator, "I really like working with heavy equipment. I never thought I would be driving one of those things."



## BRANDON NICOLAI

### Brandon Nicolai

While he takes pride in his success, Herman admits he still misses everyone back home in the Mentasta Lake community and its traditional way of life. Herman encourages anyone in circumstances like his who say they cannot do it to just look at what he accomplished in little over a year. The keys to success are to work hard, stay strong and never give up. Herman's parents are Smitty Sanford of Mentasta and Irene Chilligan of Eklutna.

### Brandon Nicolai

Shareholder-owner Brandon Nicolai didn't need any convincing to join the laborers-training program. He just followed in his father's footsteps. "It runs in the family. My dad used to be in the laborers union. I knew I would have a good job." At just 19 years old, Brandon is a newly-minted apprentice, completing the training program in late May. He heaps praise on Ahtna Shareholder Development for not only helping him get into the training program, but for its financial assistance with purchasing tools and the free career counseling.

Also from Mentasta Lake, Brandon welcomes seeing the far-flung areas of Alaska that come with working as a laborer and the experiences it creates, but admits leaving his family behind leaves him a little homesick. Brandon's father is Lee Nicolai of Mentasta, his mother is Ramona Nicolai of Tetlin.

### Quinn Hagberg

For Quinn Hagberg, working with her hands in the great outdoors is her dream job, even if she gets a little dirty doing it. Quinn completed her training as part of the Women in the Trades program hosted by the Laborers Apprentice Training Program.



**QUINN  
HAGBERG**



**KARL  
MARTIN**



**STEWART  
GEORGE**



**CLARENCE  
EDWIN**

Before beginning the training program, every laborer trainee must complete a grueling, three-part physical test. Quinn had to push a wheelbarrow filled with gravel, move 75 cinderblocks, set up and take apart scaffolding before digging a 10-foot-long trench and refilling it. "The physical test was tough, but it was more of a mental thing," said Quinn, "I was glad to get through that."

While the job of a laborer may sound generic, apprentices quickly learn there is a lot that goes into earning that job title. Trainees learn how to use the correct tools, avoid injuries and keep workplaces safe. "I like that I am learning a little bit about of everything. So much to learn and so much to grow."

Her deep cultural roots in Alaska instilled in Quinn an appreciation for the outdoors. After hanging up her hard hat at the end of the workday, she remains outside by camping, rock climbing, skiing and just about anything else she can find to do outdoors.

Quinn not only works with her hands, she plays music with them, too. An accomplished musician with the guitar, autoharp, harmonica and ukulele, she can be seen performing live at nightspots around Anchorage. Last year, she placed second in the Crowd Pleaser event at the annual Fur Rondy Great Alaska Talent Competition. Quinn is the daughter of Tawny LeBlanc of Anchorage and her father is Glenn Hagberg of Anchorage.

**Karl Martin**

Some careers are a family affair. Brandon's cousin, Karl Martin, became a laborer's apprentice for a change of pace. "I was tired of working job-to-job and wanted a career. The staff at Ahtna suggested I join them." Karl says Ahtna staff was

always reaching out to him about job fairs, educational and career opportunities – and eventually the laborers program.

Karl says he loves the hands-on work, building scaffolding, replacing guardrails, maintenance and learning to prevent workplace injuries. "I am always busy and did not want to sit in an office. Here I get paid to learn, and that is pretty awesome."

Considering his future, Karl plans to stay a laborer for the remainder of his working career and highly recommends all young shareholder-owners contemplating which career path to take consider becoming a professional laborer. Karl's mother is Kathryn Martin of Mentasta, his father is the late Karl Martin of Dot Lake.

**Stewart George**

Like almost all young Alaskans, Stewart George looked to his family and social media to find his career path. Reading the Laborers 341 Facebook page and having two family members in the union convinced him to become a laborer. "Joining the union was a great opportunity. It's a good way to support a family, and the benefits are good for raising a family," said Stewart.

Stewart sees being a laborer as the beginning of a career in construction. He plans on completing a college degree in construction management and becoming a project manager. His parents are the late Kevin George of Copper Center and the late Brenda Goodlataw of Tazlina.

**Clarence Edwin**

As a child, Clarence Edwin saw first-hand what a professional laborer could accomplish. "My grandfather was in the

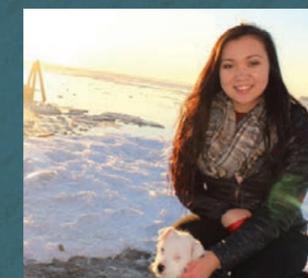
laborers union, and I grew up watching him fix stuff around the house. In fact, he built his own house!"

Growing up in Copper Center, Clarence says he always enjoyed physical labor, and while the work of a laborer can be difficult, it brings with it a sense of accomplishment when the job is done. He has nothing but praise for the laborers union and its instructors, who are very thorough, teaching the skill sets necessary to do the job right and safely. Clarence sees himself becoming a journeyman and eventually a foreman. Clarence is the son of Jessica Rock of Copper Center and Stanley Edwin of Tanana.

Today, Clarence, Brandon, Stewart, Herman, Quinn and Karl are all on job sites earning a livable wage and providing for their families thanks to Laborers' Local 341 and Ahtna Shareholder Development.

Shareholder-owners in need of job-training assistance can reach Ahtna Shareholder Development Services at 110 West 38th Avenue, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99503, and the number to call is (907) 868-8250. Career assistance and development services are available for all shareholder-owners, their spouses and descendants.

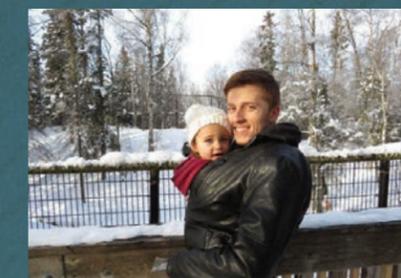
**CORPORATE INTERNS**



**Christina Alee LeBlanc**

Christina is currently an intern at Ahtna, working within the Legal, Safety & Risk Department, where she is gaining experience editing, reviewing and drafting content for corporate books and

employee websites. She is really taking the opportunity to learn how Ahtna works as a corporation, as well. Working for Ahtna has given Christina experience in other fields that she would not have likely considered otherwise and opened her eyes to opportunities in working with her Native corporation to help better the future of all Ahtna people. She is the daughter of Jolene Spiller and Douglas LeBlanc. Her grandparents are the late Mary Levshakoff and Dan LeBlanc.



**Clay T. Masterson**

Clay T. Masterson is the son of Tina Chapman and Fred Masterson. His grandparents are Roy Turner Jr. and Doris Hernandez and Fred

and Patricia Masterson. Clay has been working as an Ahtna intern within the Human Resources Department. He says that this internship opportunity has helped him gain a better understanding of the dynamic and functions in the different departments within a corporation. Most notable in the experience gained is the occupational savviness necessary to succeed in the business world so he is better prepared to join the workforce after his graduation.

**Read more in the eKanas**

# ANNUAL MEETING 2017



Ed Hendrickson, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.'s Senior Vice President & CFO with Ahtna's President Michelle Anderson.



Thank you to the wonderful shareholder youth servers team!



Ahtna President, Michelle Anderson & Chief Ewan



Charlene Nollner and Lishaw Ann Lincoln



Laura and Davis Hobson



The Ahtna Heritage Foundation Dancers, led by Project Director Lacayah Engebretson, performed.



Joe Bovee, VP of Lands, with Colton Prince, grandson of Marilyn and Wilbur Joe. Son of Brian and Marlene Prince.



Karen Linnell, Ahtna Board Member of the Year



Shaun Ewan and his mom, Nelly Ewan

## 2017 Board of Directors selections:

- Class A, At-Large: Nicholas Jackson (incumbent)
- Class C, Cantwell: Eleanor Dementi (incumbent)
- Class G, Kluti-Kaah: Kenneth P. Johns
- Class J, Tazlina: Albert L. Fleury

\*All newly elected directors will serve three-year terms, which end at the 2020 annual meeting.

A big thank you to former Board Directors Jessica A. Rock (Seat G1, Kluti-Kaah) and Dorothy Shinn (Seat J, Tazlina) for their dedication and service.

## 2017 Recognition awardees:

- Board Member of the Year: Karen L. Linnell
- Special recognition – 40-Year Alyeska Partnership
  - Tom Barrett, President, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
  - Ed Hendrickson, Alyeska's Senior Vice President & CFO
  - Lorena Hegdal, Alyeska's Right of Way Director,
  - Dan Flodin, Alyeska's Supply Chain Management Director

For more information including, door-prize winners, visit: <http://ahtna-inc.com/shareholders/annual-meeting-of-shareholders>

## AHTNA REACHES MILESTONE IN CONVEYANCE OF CANTWELL 14(C)(3) LANDS

The Ahtna Land Department is nearing completion of fulfilling Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 14(c) obligations. Section 14(c)(3) of ANCSA provides that the village corporations convey to a municipal corporation or the state in trust lands identified for present and future community needs.

The community of Cantwell voted March 27 to tender 822.12 acres surrounding Cantwell to be placed in trust status with the State of Alaska. This major accomplishment allows Cantwell, Ahtna and the federal Bureau of Land Management to finalize the Cantwell 14(c)(3) conveyances.

Under ANCSA, the village corporations received title to the surface estate in and around the village, subject to valid existing rights. The 14(c)(3) provision is defined as a responsibility of the village corporations, but seven of our region's eight villages, including Yedetena Na Corporation, which had obligations in connection with

ANCSA 14(c)(3), merged into Ahtna. As a result, Ahtna now owns the former village corporation lands around Cantwell.

Section 14(c)(3) requires a certain amount of property (between 0-1,280 acres) to be transferred to city governments, and when the community is unincorporated, the property must be transferred to the State of Alaska to be held in trust. All eight of the Ahtna Villages are unincorporated with no city governments, thus the transfer to the State. The State holds the land in trust until a city is established. After a city is formed, the State transfers all trust land to the new city.

Questions about Ahtna's lands can be directed to the Ahtna Land and Resources Department at (907) 822-3476 or [ahtnaland@ahtna.net](mailto:ahtnaland@ahtna.net).

# Congratulations to our recent shareholder-owner and descendant graduates

## High school:

**Adalberto Lopez**, son of Tiffany Jordan & Adalberto Lopez Sr. Cyberlynx K-12, Anchorage

**Bjorn Beeter**, son of Marilyn Beeter, Glennallen High School, Glennallen

**Brandon Eskilida**, son of Daniella Linnell & Ross Eskilida, Houston High School, Houston

**Cheyenne Ewan**, daughter of Donna & the late Harding Ewan, Galena Interior Learning Academy

**Jared Virgin**, son of Teri Nutter & Joey Virgin, Glennallen High School

**Kylie L. Christiansen**, daughter of Lisa & Matt Christiansen, Beaverhead County High School, Dillon

**Micah Stickwan**, son of Wendi & Marvin Stickwan, Ketchikan High School

**Nick Holstrom IV**, son of Loni Maxim & Nick Holstrom III, Glennallen High School

**Sarah D. Martin**, daughter of Kathryn Martin & the late Karl Martin Jr., Glennallen High School

**Shania Stickwan**, daughter of Valerie & Ray Stickwan, Glennallen High School

**Sierra Virgin**, daughter of Teri Nutter & Joey Virgin, Glennallen High School

**Steven Bator IV**, son of Julie & Steven Bator III, Idalina High School, Burlington, CO

**Taliylah Patrick**, daughter of Ronda Lincoln & Drew Patrick, East High School, Anchorage

**Tamra Jones**, daughter of Anita & Jeremiah Jones, Glennallen High School

## College graduates:

**Adrianah L. Walsh**, daughter of Cassandra & Rae Walsh, University of Alaska Anchorage, industrial process tech

**Agnes Denny**, daughter of Lena Charley & the late Jerry Charley, University of Alaska Fairbanks, tribal management

**Ashley N. Lucas**, daughter of the late Alice Mahle, Arizona State University, Master of Education

**Audrey A. Juliussen**, daughter of April and Robert Juliussen, Stanford University, BS in human biology

**Cassela G. John**, daughter of Jessie Whitmore & Dale John, Fort Lewis College, CO, BA in psychology

**Charlene A. Holloway**, daughter of the late Olga Mohammed & the late Dick Rice, University of Alaska Anchorage, BA in human services

**Dana Sherman**, daughter of Susan Taylor & Brian Sherman, Highline College, Des Moines, WA, Associate of Arts

**Jolenda Johnny**, daughter of Jackie & Patrick Johnny, Yukon College, Beaver Creek, Native language teacher

**Sophia Johns**, daughter of Martha Folden & Donald Johns, Alaska Career College, Anchorage, medical coding

**Stephanie C. Rainie**, daughter of Constance & Raymond Carroll, University of Arizona, Doctor of Public Health

**Audrey Ann Juliussen received her bachelor degree at Stanford University with honors in human biology and will be taking a few more classes this fall, then on to medical school, hopefully at Simon Fraser University.**



# MEET THE BOARD

## RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming Ken Johns and Albert Fleury back to the Ahtna Board. Their decades of experience working for the Ahtna family of companies and serving on the Board bring tremendous value.



**Ken Johns** is married to Leona Johns and has four children: Jerry, Amber, Caleb and Andrew. He graduated from Glennallen High School and now lives in Anchorage. He was the President and CEO of Ahtna from 2000 to 2011. Johns has served on many Ahtna committees and subsidiary boards and was most recently an Ahtna Board member in 2015.

He previously worked at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Copper River Native Association and has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Copper River School District, Indian Education Board, Alaska Village Initiatives, Alaska Commercial Company, Native American Rights Fund, and Alaska Federation of Natives. His financial experience includes serving as a Bank Advisor for National Bank of Alaska and Wells Fargo. He currently serves as Special Assistant to the President for Cully Corporation and is the former CEO.



**Albert "Palmer" Fleury** is married to Linda Fleury and has four children: Dominic, Donna, Melissa and Jerry. He was born in 1944 and raised mainly in Tazlina village. He attended school in Glennallen, as well as the Wrangell Institute, a boarding school for Alaska Natives. He has served on numerous Ahtna committee boards and most subsidiary boards from 2006-2012. He also serves on the Tazlina Successor Village Organization.

Fleury worked around the nation as a mechanic and machinist from 1967 until returning to Alaska in 1971. As a member of the Operating Engineers Local 302 Union, he worked for Wilder Construction, Alaska General and AC&PPC, holding such aggressively responsible positions as Master Mechanic, Shop Foreman, and Equipment Superintendent. He was involved in the early days of the trans-Alaska pipeline and haul-road construction in the 70s and a member of the union for 42 years before retiring in 1998. He currently resides in Eagle River but enjoys spending time hunting, fishing and snowmobiling at his Klutina Lake cabin. Fleury is happy to return to the Ahtna Board and is committed to economic growth and profit for shareholders.

## STAR AWARDS



### Anthony Gutierrez

On Jan. 24, ATSI Officer Anthony Gutierrez responded to an emergency call of a female detainee who was choking. Upon his arrival, Officer Gutierrez immediately began performing abdominal thrusts on the detainee until medical staff arrived. Medical staff determined that she still could not breathe and advised Officer Gutierrez to continue until the nurse on site advised that the detainee was breathing on her own. The detainee was then transported to the hospital via ambulance. There is no doubt that Officer Gutierrez's swift actions saved the life of this detainee.

**Editor's correction:** Ruby Sinyon was the person who appeared on the Travel Channel show Bizarre Foods, not Edna Charley. We regret the error.

## Welcome Ahtna's New Shareholder Development Coordinator



Ahtna is pleased to welcome shareholder-owner Tracy Parent as the new Shareholder Development Coordinator. She is based out of Ahtna's Anchorage corporate office. Tracy comes to us with over 17 years' experience working in human resources, during which time she implemented and developed work-readiness programs for K-12 students. In taking this position, Tracy is returning to Anchorage after living in the Lower 48 for many years. She is looking forward to connecting shareholder-owners with the many opportunities Ahtna has to offer and happy to be living closer to family. Her brother is Jason Nesslage, her mom is the late Alice Nesslage and her grandparents are Molly and Frank Hobson.

Tracy is especially proud of a program she created while working at a car dealership in Colorado that taught underprivileged kids to become automotive technicians. She presented to high schools and then invited interested students to shadow leading technicians. Students who wanted to learn the trade became paid trainees and master technicians within five years. "Not everyone has the grades or money to attend college, and learning a trade for free while getting paid made a huge difference in their lives," Tracy said.

We are excited to have Tracy as a part of the Ahtna Human Resources team. Also, we would like to express our appreciation to Ve'dra Bechtol for stepping up to assume the Shareholder Development duties on an interim basis during recruitment. Ve'dra will be returning to her position as a benefits analyst for Ahtna Human Resources.

**All Shareholder Development inquiries can be directed to Tracy at (907) 868-8250 or shdevelopment@ahтна.net.**

## Welcome new Natural Resource Technicians (NRTs) to Team Ahtna



(Left to right) John Leonhart's background includes wildlife management and zoology. Trenton Culp's background is in environmental science and wildlife biology. Jeff Hermanns' background is forestry and fire science. Not pictured, Ray Stickwan. Ray's background is in public safety (VPSO, Trooper, military police) and as a land technician.

The Ahtna Land Department has staffed up for the summer, bringing on several new Natural Resource Technicians. We extend a warm welcome to our Ahtna shareholder-owner employees John Leonhart, Ted Sanford, Ray Stickwan and Trenton Culp.

Natural Resource Technicians, or NRTs, are tasked with the patrolling and protection of Ahtna lands from unauthorized trespass, as well as any unauthorized disposal of waste, junk vehicles, appliances, garbage and hazardous materials; illegal hunting and fishing; criminal mischief and theft; removal of resources; theft or damage to cultural and historical sites; and, in some cases, armed and disorderly conduct. Each NRT is assigned a geographical area to patrol, often working outdoors in a variety of weather conditions and operating a number of modes of transportation, including trucks, ATVs, snowmachines, boats and airplanes. NRTs are usually the main points of contact with members of the public and are authorized to issue Ahtna Land Use Permits for those wishing to utilize/access Ahtna lands. In addition, NRTs work closely with state and federal agencies in trail maintenance, public access and fire management across the Ahtna Region. Other duties include collaborating with AIRTC in development of wildlife projects and Ahtna Tribes in land-stewardship planning. NRTs are also an integral part in assisting with forest carbon-sequestration projects, including reporting, verification and inventory work.

There was a recent report of two armed males impersonating Ahtna employees near Chitina. Ahtna NRTs drive vehicles with the Ahtna logo on the side and shirts that read "Ahtna NRT." Please be aware. Any related information or suspicious activity should be reported to the Troopers at (907) 822-3263 (Glennallen).

## CONDOLENCES

In loving memory of our shareholder-owners who have passed

**Diana M. Barlip**  
**Marnie J. Dolchok**  
**Ina V. Lincoln**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY

**July 26** - Audit and Finance Committee, 9 a.m.

### AUG

**Aug 7** - Policy Committee, 1 p.m.,

**Aug 9** - Land & C&T Committee, 9 a.m., Glennallen

**Aug 14** - AIRTC Board, 10 a.m.

**Aug 8** - Oversight & Improvement Committee, 9 a.m.

**Aug 12** - Chief Ewan's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration, 4 p.m., Gulkana Community Hall - Dinner & Fiddling, all are welcome

**Aug 10 - Sept 20** - Hunting Season

**Aug 8** - Shareholder Committee, 1 p.m.

### SEPT

**Sept 4** - Labor Day

**Sept 28** - AN/Sub Board Meeting, 9 a.m., Anchorage

**Sept 29** - Strategic Planning, 9 a.m., TBD

**Sept 11** - AIRTC Board, 10 a.m.

**Sept 29** - AI BOD, 9 a.m., Glennallen

**Sept 30** - AI Board and Settlement Trust Meeting, TBD

**Sept 27-28** - AN BOD Subsidiary Meetings, Anchorage

=video

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## Consolidated Balance Sheet

The Consolidated Balance Sheet shows economic resources that we own (assets), what we owe (liabilities) and the stockholders' ownership in the business (stockholders' equity). The Consolidated Balance Sheet reflects a snapshot picture of our business at any given time.

## Consolidated Statement of Operation

This statement shows our sales, expenses and profit from operations. It is a reflection of our business activity and gives an overview of how we are doing financially during a certain period of time.

### AHTNA, INCORPORATED, AND SUBSIDIARIES Consolidated Statement of Operations (unaudited) For the Period Ending May 31, 2017 and 2016

		2017	2016
Revenues	\$	83,893,389	70,557,474
Other regional corporation natural resources (7i), net of (7j)		1,873,572	1,373,244
Cost of revenues <sup>1</sup>		<u>70,666,973</u>	<u>59,189,554</u>
Gross profit <sup>2</sup>		15,099,988	12,741,164
Operating expenses <sup>3</sup>		<u>11,531,999</u>	<u>10,408,991</u>
Income from operations		<u>3,567,989</u>	<u>2,332,173</u>
Other income (expense):			
Investment income		50,777	34,156
Interest expense		(159,452)	(61,257)
Gain from sale of property and equipment		10,300	4,388
Social, cultural and educational programs		(212,010)	(183,715)
Other		(61,453)	198,893
Total other income (expense)		<u>(371,838)</u>	<u>(7,535)</u>
Income before income taxes		3,196,151	2,324,638
Income taxes expense		(1,238,717)	(868,693)
Net income <sup>4</sup>		<u>1,957,434</u>	<u>1,455,945</u>
Net (income) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests		(4,301)	(23,915)
Net income attributable to Ahtna, Incorporated	\$	<u>1,953,133</u>	<u>1,432,030</u>
Earnings per share		8.12	6.02

<sup>1</sup>**Cost of Revenue** – Costs incurred in providing services to customers.

<sup>2</sup>**Gross Profit** – Revenue less cost of revenue.

<sup>3</sup>**Operating Expenses** – Costs associated with running core operations on a daily basis, such as general and administrative payroll, insurance and professional services.

<sup>4</sup>**Net Income** – Profit left after all expenses have been paid.

<sup>5</sup>**Cash and Cash Equivalents** – Includes cash and other liquid investments that are convertible into cash within three months.

<sup>6</sup>**Marketable Securities** – Investments in marketable securities, such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds.

<sup>7</sup>**Accounts Receivable** – Money owed from customers to Ahtna from sales to customers.

<sup>8</sup>**Prepaid Expenses** – Amounts already paid for future services or goods.

<sup>9</sup>**Oil and Gas Exploration Costs** – The costs for exploring for oil and gas in the Ahtna region.

<sup>10</sup>**Property Plant and Equipment** – The cost of property and equipment purchased by the company less depreciation or costs for using the equipment

<sup>11</sup>**Line of Credit** – Shorter-term amounts borrowed from financial institutions or banks to conduct operations.

<sup>12</sup>**Accounts Payable** – Amounts owned for purchases made by the company.

<sup>13</sup>**Accrued Expenses** – Amounts that will be paid in the future for company activity that has taken place.

<sup>14</sup>**Billings in Excess of Costs and Estimated Earnings on Uncompleted Contracts** – Amounts billed on contracts that are in excess of costs recognized to date on contracts.

<sup>15</sup>**Long Term Debt** – Longer-term amounts borrowed from financial institutions or banks to conduct operations.

<sup>16</sup>**Total Stockholders' Equity** – Stockholder/owners ownership in the company and/or assets less liabilities.

## AHTNA, INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Balance Sheets (unaudited)

May 31, 2017 and 2016

Assets		2017	2016
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents <sup>5</sup>	\$	3,086,434	1,432,985
Marketable securities <sup>6</sup>		2,689,374	2,440,251
Accounts receivable, net <sup>7</sup>		28,336,357	22,422,978
Inventories		228,496	163,083
Prepaid expenses and other current assets <sup>8</sup>		1,123,312	764,781
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on uncompleted contracts		7,934,971	1,842,821
Total current assets		<u>43,398,944</u>	<u>29,066,899</u>
Deferred taxes		–	–
Other assets		120,167	290,845
Oil and gas exploration costs <sup>9</sup>		28,809,579	6,133,153
Property and equipment, net <sup>10</sup>		<u>21,308,495</u>	<u>19,241,366</u>
Total assets	\$	<u>93,637,185</u>	<u>57,732,263</u>
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		2017	2016
Current liabilities:			
Line of credit <sup>11</sup>	\$	–	1,621,209
Accounts payable <sup>12</sup>		11,112,676	9,222,942
Accrued expenses <sup>13</sup>		19,367,259	10,540,092
Current portion of long-term debt		1,094,643	856,302
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on uncompleted contracts <sup>14</sup>		7,634,619	3,552,825
Income taxes payable		879,402	213,080
Deferred income		1,229,997	1,287,024
Other current liabilities		<u>221,067</u>	<u>806,728</u>
Total current liabilities		41,539,663	28,100,202
Long-term debt, less current portion <sup>15</sup>		12,156,462	2,374,745
Other liabilities		3,000,000	–
Deferred taxes		<u>10,309,076</u>	<u>878,745</u>
Total liabilities		67,005,201	31,353,692
Stockholders' equity <sup>16</sup> :			
Common stock, no par value. Authorized 2,750,000 shares; and 233,800 shares issued and outstanding, at 2015 and 2014, respectively		–	–
Contributed capital		–	–
Retained earnings		26,419,831	23,310,757
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax		<u>164,189</u>	<u>28,578</u>
Total stockholders' equity attributable to Ahtna, Incorporated		26,584,020	23,339,335
Noncontrolling interests		<u>47,964</u>	<u>39,236</u>
Total stockholders' equity		26,631,984	23,378,571
Commitments and contingencies			
Total stockholders' equity	\$	<u>93,637,185</u>	<u>54,732,263</u>



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### Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors



Nicholas Jackson  
Chair



Eleanor Dementi  
Vice Chair



Jason Hart  
Treasurer



Linda Tyone  
Secretary



Roy J. Tansy Sr.



John E. Craig



Lucille Lincoln



Albert Fleury



Franklin John



Ken Johns



Karen Linnell



Angela Vermillion



Genevieve John

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