Ahtna Kanas **SPRING 2019** 

AHTNA MOURNS THE LOSS OF RESPECTED LEADER ROBERT MARSHALL P. 9

VOTING: A KEY RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING AN AHTNA SHAREHOLDER. P. 5

An early Ahtna, Incorporated Board Meeting. Seated left to right: Mildred Buck, Harding Ewan, Nicholas Jackson, Christine Craig (Yazzie), Robert Marshall and Marsha Major.

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Kathryn Martin Senior VP, AI



CEO, AN

Roy J. Tansy Jr. Executive VP, AN



Joe Bovee VP of Land and Resources, Al





VP of Human

Resources, Al



Nicholas Ostrovsky Managing Counsel, Al



Craig O'Rourke President, AGSC & ADB



**Brenda** Rebne President, AFSI & APSI



President, ASTS & ALL



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



Timothy F. Gould, PE President, AES & ASL



David O'Donnell President, AC&PPC

If shareholders would like to submit articles for the next issue of the Kanas, the submission deadline is June 7, 2019.

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

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

## PLEASE VOTE TO CHANGE THE QUORUM REQUIREMENT

Dear fellow shareholder,

This issue includes a tribute to beloved Elder, leader and first President of Ahtna, Inc., Robert Marshall. Everything he did was for the good of our people and we appreciate the vital role he played in the formation of Ahtna. We honor his legacy and mourn his loss alongside his family, the Ahtna people and the many he influenced. Our condolences to the Marshall family and to all the families who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. You can read more about Robert Marshall on page 9.

#### Important business at the upcoming Annual Meeting

We are just weeks away from one of the most important annual meetings in years. Recently, you should have received a letter from Chairman of the Board Ken Johns informing you that this year we will be voting on an amendment to our Articles of Incorporation to reduce our quorum requirement.

This is a very important change. Currently, our quorum requirement is more than 50 percent of eligible voting shares. As you now should know, we discovered that we did not meet this threshold in 2016, 2017 or 2018 and, therefore, failed to make quorum. This has required the Corporation to reseat the Board members elected at those meetings and incur unnecessary costs. To avoid this problem in the future, we hope to reduce our quorum requirement to one-third of eligible voting shares. This reduction is important because, if we continue to fail to make quorum, we cannot conduct official business or elect new Board members. We may also be forced to postpone the meeting and reconvene later at a considerable cost. This is not good for the Corporation or our shareholders.

#### We need your help

Changes to the Articles of Incorporation must be approved by a two-thirds "yes" vote of voted shares. That is a very high threshold, which makes shareholder participation in this year's vote critical.

You can vote in person at the June 1 meeting or by proxy. Your proxy materials include information on how to vote your proxy, with the easiest voting method being online using the eProxy website.

To encourage your vote, we are offering new, special, proxy prize drawings. Check them out on page 18.

(Continued on page 3)

#### AHTNA NOW MANAGES THE WALTER CHARLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Ahtna has taken over administration of the Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship program from The Ahtna Heritage Foundation. The program assists Ahtna shareholders with meeting their educational goals by funding full and part-time students.

Applications will be accepted online for the Fall 2019 semester from June 1-30 at: www.ahtna-inc.com/walter-charley-memorial-scholarship.

Check the website for more of the latest information, and any questions can be directed to Tracy Parent, shareholder development coordinator, at (907) 868-8250 or scholarship@ahtna.net.

Scholarship Award per Application Period\*

Undergraduate		Graduate	
Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time
Up to \$2,000	Up to \$4,000	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$6,000

\*All awards are subject to available funding and the number of eligible applicants at each deadline.

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** - Continued from page 2

#### What's next?

If we do not reach a quorum by the Annual Meeting, the meeting must be postponed until a quorum is achieved. That means Board elections could not take place. It is also very costly to postpone the Annual Meeting. Rescheduling requires another round of mailings and promotions and rebooking of the meeting space. Rescheduling is a costly undertaking.

Thank you to everyone who attended our shareholder informational meetings and the staff who helped to organize them. We wanted to make sure there was an opportunity to answer all your questions before asking you to vote. These meetings would not have been possible without our Senior Vice President Kathryn Martin, our Managing Counsel Nicholas Ostrovsky and our Shareholder Records Manager Eileen Ewan. We were joined by our Board members holding village seats when we met in the villages, as well as our At-Large Board members when they were able to join us.

#### Hunting and fishing rights upheld

Ahtna filed an amicus curiae, which is a Latin phrase meaning "friend of the court," brief to the U.S. Supreme Court last year urging the justices to protect the Katie John line of cases when making its ruling in the Sturgeon hovercraft case. We are very happy to report that our brief was cited by the court during the recent ruling in which it upheld the Katie John decision. You can read more about the Sturgeon case and its impact on traditional hunting and fishing rights on page 22.

#### Looking for a new headquarters

In 1977, our current headquarters building was originally trucked to its present location from Utah as modular units, which were set up and became the Ahtna Lodge. In the late 1980s, after the Lodge had closed, the building was remodeled and became our corporate headquarters, the courthouse and jail. Today it still serves as our office building and courthouse, and other tenants have space, including the Ahtna Heritage Foundation and other local businesses.

The building has served us well, and we have done everything we can to make it energy-efficient, but it has reached the end of its useful life. There are also a few things we've learned while rehabilitating the space. It's a much larger space than we need, and there are quirks to it, such as not being quite handicapaccessible (because of the age of the building, we were grandfathered in when state law changed building codes in Alaska), we don't have hot water in our restrooms, we truck our potable water in, and it's not configured to be office space.

We are currently performing our due diligence to price a new building on a new site. We are looking at factors like access to power, access to utility lines and potable water. We also want to construct a larger tribal hall that can host our shareholder gatherings and events. We welcome shareholder feedback and suggestions regarding location.



Ahtna, Inc. President Michelle Anderson speaks to the Glennallen High School boys' basketball team at the Ahtna offices in Anchorage via video conference from Glennallen. Michelle, a former Panther basketball player herself, hosted the team to honor them for their terrific season and show them that their community supported them.

The land the current building sits on is prime real estate, and we want to bring the focus of the land back to this original economic-development purpose.

#### 2019 initiatives

We have two other special initiatives this year. One is to complete the due diligence on the Denali resort development. Due diligence is the careful research and analysis we undertake before making any major investment.

The other is a REAL shareholder workforce-enrichment program. As our businesses and business lines continue to grow, they open more employment opportunities for our shareholders. Our career fields now go well beyond construction and include union and non-union jobs, careers in technology, human resources, finance and accounting, risk management, executive management, contract management, contract compliance, project management and much more. We'll be talking in more depth about this in later issues of the Kanas.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the 46th Annual Meeting June 1 at the Glennallen High School. I encourage you to please cast that very important yes vote on the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.

Tsin'aen,

Mikelle Anderson

Michelle Anderson, President Ahtna, Incorporated



## **CEO'S MESSAGE** SECURING OUR FUTURE THROUGH GROWTH

#### Greetings shareholders,

Last year's financial success showcased our team's capabilities and raised the bar for years to come. Due to an orchestrated effort that involved your elected Board of Directors, our subsidiary presidents and every team member, we ended the year with record revenues of \$284M and continued our three-year growth trend, reaching an approximate 51 percent increase in revenues since 2015. Our successful 2018 culminated in a record-high dividend distribution and increased shareholder benefits. Now, our team is primed for continued growth in 2019 as we take advantage of new opportunities that will provide additional career options and increased benefits to shareholders.

#### **Opportunity through growth**

To build on our Corporation's success over the last three years, we must continue to provide exceptional service to our current customers while seeking and pursing additional opportunities. In the first quarter of 2019, we identified five new business opportunities, four of which are in Alaska. These opportunities range from working with producers on the North Slope taking advantage of our state's oil renaissance and the rebound of legacy fields to industries in which Ahtna has not historically participated. The leadership of Ahtna Netiye's Executive Vice President and shareholder Roy Tansy Jr. has been instrumental in our success. He is overseeing a large part of our growth strategy and managing existing and new relationships with customers.

We plan to launch four to eight companies in 2019. Our Corporation's increased bonding capacity has allowed our current subsidiaries to win larger contracts while bidding on additional work.

We have purchased a new storage warehouse in midtown Anchorage. This facility will allow us to end storage-rental agreements with thirdparty landlords and securely store our subsidiaries' equipment in a centralized location. This saves money, improves operating efficiencies and increases safety by reducing the amount of time our employees are on the road picking up the tools they need to service contracts. It also increases the amount of time they are on an Ahtna-secured jobsite, where safety is a priority.

#### New shareholder career paths

The Corporation's involvement in new industries means new opportunities for shareholders in career fields that go beyond construction and include union and non-union jobs, careers in technology and more. We are always looking to match shareholders with new opportunities, which makes it important to keep your profile current in the online Shareholder Talent Bank.

All available jobs at Ahtna are listed online, as are the many training programs your Corporation sponsors. These are important components of continued growth because we become stronger and more successful when more shareholders are involved in our Corporation.

#### Securing our financial health

One of my responsibilities is to look after our Corporation's financial safety by making sure we are in a position where events and circumstances outside of our control do not have a major impact on our bottom line. Because Ahtna is a federal contractor, the recent government shutdown did adversely impact our federal work. It caused a delay in the awarding of new contracts, hindered our ability to move forward on projects, suspended the processing of documents for new subsidiaries and paused payments on current contracts.

Despite these negative effects, Ahtna Netiye' was able to weather the government shutdown and emerge in a better position to secure future contracts as federal agencies increase requirements and scrutiny over federal contractors. Our reputation is strong among our customers, thanks to our ability to safely and successfully deliver phenomenal results on our contracts.

#### Be prepared and stay safe

As spring creeps in, I encourage each of you to stay safe and take precautions when going out to enjoy the land. Make sure your loved ones know where you are going, wear the proper clothing and bring all the equipment you would need should your activities not go as planned.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 46th Annual Meeting and encourage you to exercise your shareholder rights by casting your proxies, attending the meeting and asking questions of the leadership team. We value your thoughts and look forward to our conversations with you. When each shareholder becomes involved in the Corporation, we are stronger and better equipped to take on future challenges.

Thank you,

Oom Maloney

Tom Maloney, Chief Executive Officer Ahtna, Netive'



Ahtna Netiye' CEO Tom Maloney gives some words of encouragement to the Glennallen High School boys' basketball team at the Ahtna offices in Anchorage. Ahtna hosted the team for lunch to celebrate their wonderful season and to wish them luck at the state tournament.

# **Voting:**

## a key responsibility of being an Ahtna shareholder

One of the main responsibilities of being an Ahtna shareholder is to vote in Ahtna elections and on other matters appropriate for a shareholder vote.

Voting in elections ensures that your voice is heard in any decision-making process. Shareholders who own voting shares are responsible for ensuring the long-term strength of Ahtna by electing a Board of Directors. In addition to providing guidance and leadership, the Board establishes policies for achieving Ahtna's strategic goals. This election normally occurs at Ahtna's Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Other matters are also occasionally presented for a shareholder vote. This year, Ahtna shareholders will be voting on a resolution to amend our current Articles of Incorporation to reduce the quorum requirement from more than 50 percent to one-third (33.33 percent) of eligible voting shares.

#### What is a quorum?

Alaska law states that a minimum number of shareholders must be present in person or by proxy during shareholder meetings in order to elect Board members and make other important decisions. This minimum participation requirement is also known as "quorum." Currently for Ahtna, a quorum means 50 percent plus one vote of eligible voting shares must be received by the appropriate deadline in order to hold the Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

Following a recent change in the law, Alaska Native corporations may now reduce their quorum requirement from more than 50 percent to one-third by changing their organizational documents. As Ahtna shareholder numbers continue to increase through gifting and inheritance, it makes sense to modify the current quorum requirement. Changes to Ahtna's organizational documents must be approved by Ahtna's shareholders. In addition, this change can pass only if at least two-thirds (66.67 percent) of voted shares vote yes, making shareholder participation in this year's vote very important.

Meeting the quorum requirement is always a challenge. If quorum is not achieved by the time of the meeting, the meeting must be postponed until a quorum can be achieved. Postponing a shareholder meeting to achieve quorum can be a significant expense. Resetting the date requires another round of mailings and promotions regarding the Ahtna election and rebooking an event space for the meeting. If the Annual Meeting is not held, the Board election could not take place. The election of the Board of Directors is the way Ahtna's shareholders choose who will lead the Corporation. It is the directors chosen by shareholders who make major transactional decisions, such as investments and distribution amounts.

#### What is a proxy?

When a shareholder is unable to attend an Annual Meeting of Shareholders in person, he or she may assign a proxy to another voting shareholder who will be in attendance at the meeting. In doing so, the signed and dated proxy authorizes another person to represent and vote the shares of stock for the absent shareholder at the meeting in accordance with the proxy holder. The proxy may stipulate how the proxyholder is to vote, or it may leave the choice to the proxyholder's discretion.

To be valid, signed and dated proxies must be received by the secretary of the Corporation or the election inspector for the meeting at which the proxy is to be voted within the specified proxy deadline. There are several ways to submit proxies: by mail, fax, in person and online using the eProxy website.

Shareholders need not vote at the meeting if they have already voted by proxy; however, a shareholder who sends in a proxy but attends the meeting and registers by the advertised deadline may revoke his or her proxy and vote in person by ballot if he or she wishes to change his or her vote. But even if a shareholder plans to attend a meeting and vote in person, he or she is encouraged to return a proxy to help ensure that a quorum is reached. By returning a valid proxy before the designated proxy deadline, a shareholder's interests will be represented even if his or her plans change and prevent attendance at a meeting.

Every shareholder who votes can be a catalyst for growth. In addition to submitting a proxy, shareholders can stay involved with the Corporation by spreading the word when Annual Meeting materials are received, keeping a valid mailing address on file with the Ahtna Shareholder Records Department, reading shareholder news and attending nearby shareholder events.

## AHTNA STOCK OWNERSHIP ALSO COMES WITH OTHER IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **Keeping stock-record information current**

Ahtna maintains complete stock records for all Ahtna shareholders. Because the Ahtna stock records are the basis of determining who is entitled to receive dividends and to vote at meetings of shareholders, it is extremely important that the records are kept accurately. Shareholders may have only one address of record, and it is essential that the address of record is kept up-to-date at all times. Shareholders cannot receive shareholder materials and letters from Ahtna if their addresses are not kept current. From time to time, Ahtna communicates with the shareholders, and it is important that correspondence, reports, newsletters and distributions reach each shareholder in a timely manner.

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

It is each shareholder's responsibility to maintain complete and accurate shareholder records by promptly advising Ahtna of:

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

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

#### MyAhtna shareholder portal

Ahtna's shareholder portal, MyAhtna, is a free, online resource available to all eligible Ahtna shareholders. MyAhtna allows shareholders the convenience of performing certain tasks and making certain record changes online. Options available in MyAhtna include updating mailing addresses and other contact information, viewing payment information, printing dividend confirmations, viewing information about the shares owned and viewing and printing tax information. The portal can be accessed through a secure link on the Ahtna website or by visiting MyAhtna.com.

## Maintaining a valid, up-to-date testamentary disposition – Who will inherit your shares?

Ahtna's Shareholder Services department is responsible for settling deceased-shareholder estates, and a testamentary disposition form provides clear and concise guidelines to determine the heirs of your Ahtna shares. Please note there is a different process for gifting shares when a shareholder is still living. A testamentary 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 on file with Ahtna. Without it, your shares may go to someone other than your choosing. The testamentary disposition form will also allow 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 he/she does not have a testamentary on file with Ahtna, the transfer of shares becomes more complicated and could take months, or even years, delaying what should be a relatively quick and simple process. We know it isn't easy thinking about these things; however, a testamentary protects you by allowing you to determine who inherits your shares if something were to happen to you. Preparing for this makes the process much smoother and faster for your family.

#### Signing up for direct deposit

Ahtna offers direct deposit of dividends for its shareholders. Having your dividend direct deposited safeguards against misplaced, lost or stolen dividend checks and helps shareholders receive dividends faster. When a shareholder participates in the direct-deposit program, there is no need to wait until the check arrives in the mail and no need to make a trip to the bank. Instead, funds are electronically transmitted to the shareholder's bank account on the designated distribution date. Direct-depositauthorization forms are available on Ahtna's website or can be obtained at the Glennallen or Anchorage offices or by contacting the Shareholder Services department directly. It is also important to keep your direct-deposit information current with Ahtna to avoid rejected payments.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

## 2019 COPPER BASIN 300 A BIG SUCCESS

BY BRUCE CAIN | SPECIALIST PROJECTS MANAGER, AI

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Ahtna teams have worked together for many years setting up and staffing the Sourdough Checkpoint on the Copper Basin 300 mid-distance, sled dog race, but this year's government shutdown and some very cold weather added a new layer of complexity to an already difficult assignment in a harsh and remote environment.

But everyone involved stepped up and did a wonderful job making the checkpoint, located at Mile 166, a success.

A week before the race, the Ahtna crew set up a 12-by-16-foot and a 12-by-14-foot walled tent with woodstoves for the mushers and checkpoint volunteers and helped with the set-up of a camper trailer provided by BLM for use by the race veterinary team. Because of the shutdown, it took extra effort to obtain permission to use the BLM equipment. The temperature at the checkpoint during setup was -40°F, but the Ahtna crew and the BLM volunteers worked safely and efficiently to get the facilities up. On race day, volunteers arrived early and fired up the wood stoves, generator and furnace in the camper trailer. A cellphone repeater was set up to provide communications in this remote site. Initially, the repeater did not work due to a bad connection fitting, and a backup satellite phone was used for much of the race. The bad connection was identified near the end of the first day and cellphone coverage was established.

Kathyn Martin made a wonderful bean soup and Shirley Cain baked lots of yummy cookies.

Many of the mushers, checkpoint volunteers and race officials commented on how much the Sourdough Checkpoint has improved in the last few years. The efforts of the Ahtna team, along with many other volunteers, has been a big part of this improvement.

Ahtna would like to thank all of the employees, family members and community members who volunteer to make the Copper Basin 300 a great event each year.



Crews set up the Sourdough Checkpoint January 9 in -40°F weather. From left to right: Jan Miller, BLM; Alysia Hancock, BLM; John Leonhart, Ahtna; Trenton Culp, Ahtna; Ray Stickwan, Ahtna. Ahtna supplied the wall-tent frame and woodstove for a mushers' shelter while the camp trailer provided by BLM served as the checkpoint veterinary station.

#### CHEESH'NA TRIBAL COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS

Cheesh'na Tribal Council asks that Tribal members who have changes to their phone, email or mailing address to immediately contact the Cheesh'na Tribal Council Tribal Enrollment Department at (907) 822-3503. Tribal members with bad addresses on file will not receive updated information on meetings, elections and other important matters. Tribal members should also update their mailing addresses with the U.S. Post Office. If you have questions or comments, you can contact Donna Boston at the Cheesh'na Tribal Council at (907) 822-3503 or email her at adminassist@cheeshna.com.



If you were born after January 1, 1986, and are 18 years old or older, you must successfully complete a huntereducation course before you can hunt in Unit 13.

The hunter-education course provides training in firearms safety, wildlife conservation and respect for our natural resources, landowners and other hunters. Graduates receive a lifetime certification recognized by all states, Canadian provinces and Mexico.

A field-test day will be held from 5-9 p.m. May 23 at the Glennallen gun range. To attend the field test, hunters must first pass the online test at www.hunter-ed.com/alaska.

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## IN LOVING MEMORY Robert Marshall

## APRIL 13, 1922 - MARCH 31, 2019

Robert Marshall served as the first president of Ahtna, Inc.

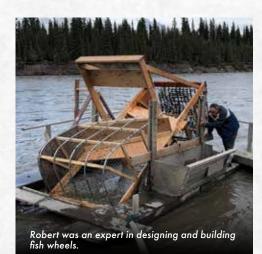
Robert Marshall went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 31, 2019, with family and friends by his side. He was 96 years old.

Robert was born on April 13, 1922, in Chitina, Alaska, to parents Bob and Maude (Charley) Marshall. He spent his young years in Chitina. After the death of his father, Robert was raised by his uncle "Bear Jack" Marshall. He married Mae Goodlataw on April 13, 1946. Robert and Mae built their home in Tazlina, Alaska, in 1964, where they raised their four children: Lucille, Elmer, Judy and Norma. Robert was a proud grandfather of many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Robert provided for his family using the cultural and traditional values of his youth. He was a successful hunter and fisherman. He was an expert in designing and building many fish wheels. He passed on his love of the outdoors to his children and grandchildren.

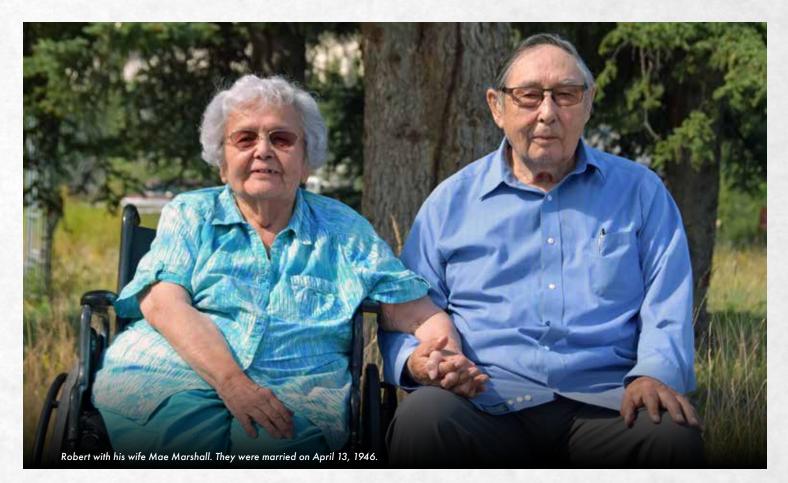
Robert retired after 40 years of service to the Alaska Department of Transportation. A well-known and respected Ahtna Athabascan leader, Robert tirelessly served his people. His leadership was recognized throughout Alaska, earning him the prestigious AFN Citizen of the Year award and the honor of the Copper River Native Association naming their new headquarters "The Robert Marshall Building."

Robert was preceded in death by his parents; siblings Herbert Marshall, Thomas Pete, Agnes Taylor, Etta Bell and Mary Bell; his beloved wife, Mae, just over a year ago; and in the past nine years, he and his wife endured the passing of their three youngest children: Norma, Elmer and Judy. He is survived by daughter Lucille Thomas (Jim Williams); his sonin-law, Roy Yates; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.





Robert passed his love of the outdoors on to his children and grandchildren.



#### A Tribute from Ahtna

A well-known and respected Ahtna leader, Robert Marshall served his people in various capacities throughout his life and was instrumental in the formation of Ahtna and the Copper River Native Association (CRNA).

Even his traditional name 'Kensal canan', which means "Leader Man comes back with a boat," highlights his leadership qualities. Robert's contributions to the Ahtna people lives on through the cultural and traditional knowledge he readily shared; he spoke of his wish that traditional Ahtna practices and protocol be followed correctly and passed on to the next generation. He frequently ended his speeches by recognizing the potential of the younger generations and encouraging them to step up and be leaders for the good of the Ahtna people.

"Robert laid a solid foundation for Ahtna to thrive as a company, and we are forever grateful for the strong leadership, traditional knowledge and guidance he gave over his lifetime," said Ahtna chair Ken Johns.



Robert was instrumental in the formation of Ahtna, Inc. and CRNA.

#### Words from Robert Marshall's president speech: "Ahtna: a new corporation" Ahtna, Inc.'s first Annual Meeting, April 13, 1974

"With this first annual report, your Ahtna corporation prepares to take the final organizational steps that will lead our company and its stockholders, no matter where they live, to a permanent place in the future of Alaska.

I hope that you'll regard this report as more than a souvenir of a successful, century-long struggle. Securing the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was the first long step taken together in a common purpose. But, it was only a small part of what we can now accomplish to realize the wealth offered by this land and the boundless energy of its people."

## **SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT**

## PATHS TO SUSTAINABILITY

JOB-SEEKERS FIND MORE THAN ONE WAY TOWARD CAREER SUCCESS AT CITC BY JAMEY BRADBURY | COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL

With CITC's assistance, Robert Shockey got the training he needed to land a job with Carlile Transportation Systems.

Robert Shockey's future changed when he struck up a random conversation with a stranger.

Robert, an Ahtna shareholder, first came to Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) looking for assistance with paying his heating bill. While he waited in the reception area for a caseworker to meet with him, he offered some assistance of his own.

"I happened to be sitting there, helping this woman with her phone, and her niece started talking to me," Robert recalled.

That woman happened to be Viola Smith, CITC's job developer. When she heard that Robert was looking for work, she began to tell him about all the ways CITC can remove the roadblocks to finding a job. From helping people enroll in and complete specialized training, to offering gift cards for work clothes, to hosting a bi-annual job fair, CITC's Employment Services and Training Department is in the business of helping people build their careers.

#### The right training for the right job

"I don't know where I'd be if it wasn't for Viola taking five minutes to talk to me and tell me all about what CITC can offer," Robert said.

Before finding himself at CITC, Robert had worked for the Municipality of Anchorage as a driver for nearly five years before two knee replacements put him out of commission for three years. When he started looking for work as a driver again, he found that potential employers wanted a more experienced employee.

"There's such a shortage of drivers right now," he said. "But you've got to have those credentials. I tried to get a job with a class B commercial driver's license, but employers like Carlile Transportation Systems want you to have class A."

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Shareholder Development can help you with the process at CITC if you live in the Anchorage Bowl Area. Shareholder Development works with several different apprenticeship and training organizations, which can be good ways to get started in these fields. Many offer free, or even paid, training. The department's primary goal is to maximize shareholder potential by educating, developing and engaging shareholders as they pursue meaningful career and life goals. The Shareholder Development support services include: career counseling and development, including resume and interview preparation; identifying and providing funding for higher education; identifying training opportunities; and connecting shareholders with gainful employment.

For more information on how Ahtna's Shareholder Development department can help you, please contact Tracy at (907) 868-8221 or shdevelopment@ahtna.net.

Robert's CITC job coach helped him enroll for courses at Northern Industrial Training (NIT), where he earned his class A license. Since he had to drive from Anchorage to Palmer to attend NIT, Robert also received gas cards from CITC.

Today, Robert is working full-time for Carlile. He credits CITC for offering more opportunities than he could have predicted.

"I didn't know the amount of things CITC offered," he said. "It's like back in the day, you would go to the gas station, and you just got gas. Nowadays, though, you can do all your shopping at the gas station. That's CITC — it's like a one-stop shop for everything you need."

To learn more about what CITC has to offer Ahtna shareholders and family living in the Anchorage area, please visit www.citci.org.

## MEET TVETENE JOHN CARLSON

Shareholder Development's primary goal is to maximize shareholder potential by educating, developing and engaging shareholders as they pursue meaningful career and life goals. We like to share stories from our shareholders on the Ahtna website and in company materials, such as the Kanas newsletter, to elevate awareness about our programs.

#### 1. What is your full name?

Tvetene John Carlson

## 2. What are your parents' and grandparents' names?

My parents are Vernon Carlson and Susan Carlson. Grandparents on my dad's side are Bud Carlson and Edna Carlson; mom's side are Donna Ericksen and Robert Ericksen, with Diane Ericksen.

#### 3. Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Cantwell, Alaska.

#### 4. Where do you live now?

I am living in Cantwell right now.

#### 5. Education: Are you currently enrolled in school? If so, where, what year are you and what is your major? If graduated, where did you go to school, what year did you graduate and what degree(s) did you earn?

I just graduated this December 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and minor in Mathematics at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

#### 6. Why did you choose your major?

I chose engineering because I had attended many of the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program's summer components and enjoyed the designing part of the engineering activities. I chose civil engineering specifically because they are the engineers that spend the most time outside on the job.

## 7. What are your plans for the future?

I will be starting an internship soon with Ahtna Engineering Services. After that I will be attending graduate school at UC Berkeley. I plan on studying and working for a few years, get some exploration out of my system, before returning to Alaska.

## 8. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

l enjoy reading, snow machining, beading and playing videogames.

## 9. What would you tell shareholder youth today?

Experiment, see what's out in the world to do for work and fun, and remember that you can always come home if things get too hectic.

## 10. What do you think is the most important part of being an Ahtna shareholder?

Having a tradition to carry on.

#### 11. If you could coach other Ahtna shareholders on the importance of voting in shareholder elections, what would you tell them?

I have recently become a shareholder after receiving my shares from my dad, so I have not participated in shareholder elections yet. However, elections are important because it is how we choose our leaders by voting. It is every person's duty to vote and represent yourself, your family and your community by choosing the people who, by your informed judgment and knowledge, will best lead us into the future.

## SHAREHOLDER DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

#### AHTNA SON' UNIVERSITY: PROJECT-MANAGEMENT FUNDAMENTALS

Project management is an in-demand skill set that contributes greatly to the success of Ahtna's family of companies.

"An Introduction to Project Management Methods & Tools" is an interactive, online course that can enhance skill sets to maximize career potential. Participants have 90 days to complete the course. Certificates are awarded upon completion.

This course is available courtesy of Ahtna Son' University at no cost to Ahtna shareholders, shareholder descendants or shareholder spouses.

For more information and to sign up, contact Shareholder Development Coordinator Tracy Parent at tparent@ahtna.net or 907-868-8221.

#### **Participants will learn:**

- The basic concepts of project management
- Methods for identifying and managing stakeholders
- How to define and manage scope
- Techniques to enure projects are run on time
- Ways to set up roles and organize projects
- Approaches for managing resources and costs wisely
- How to identify and deal with project risks
- Tools for controlling projects
- Importance of closing a project

## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT POSITIONS**



#### **EXPERIENCE**

High School diploma or equivalent

Proficient computer skills using Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook

Working knowledge of construction and environmental industries

Solid knowledge of general office procedures and equipment

Solid knowledge of converting paper data into a computerized form, keeping integrity intact



#### Working knowledge of bookkeeping tasks

Exceptional attention to detail, with proven interpersonal skills

Strong organizational skills and the ability to independently prioritize workload and tasks to optimize production



MANAGER

Bachelor's degree in engineering or physical/environmental sciences

Valid driver's license with clean driving record, able to drive company vehicle

Experience with federal and state contracting

Ability to pass background checks by various Federal Agencies (e.g. DOD, DHS, FAA, etc.) to obtain security access badges

Thorough understanding of corporate and industry practices, processes, standards, etc. and their impact on project activities

Strong knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook

Adept at explaining technical aspects of fieldwork to internal and external clients verbally and in writing

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1 to 3 years of relevant working experience, specialized training and/or a degree may be substituted for work experience

3 to 5 years of relevant working experience; specialized training and/or advanced degree may be substituted for work experience

#### LEVEL - III

5 to 7 years of relevant working experience; specialized training and/or advanced degree may be substituted for work experience

#### The project assistant & project manager positions **both require:**

- Strong knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook
- Valid driver's license with clean driving record
- Ability to pass a pre-employment screening, including a drug test

5 to 7 years of relevant experience; specialized training and/or advanced degree, such as Master of Science, may be substituted for work experience

8 to 10 years of relevant experience, specialized training and/or advanced degree may be substituted for work experience

**LEVEL - SENIOR** 10+ years of relevant experience, specialized training and/or advanced degree may be substituted for work experience

# EAT, LEARN, GROW!

Ahtna Son' University is excited to offer "Eat, Learn, Grow," a professional-development lunch series open to shareholders, shareholder spouses and shareholder descendants. These trainings focus on skills helpful to all professions, with topics such as communication skills, time management, conflict management and more. Training is currently offered in our Anchorage and Glennallen offices. Exciting lunch-and-learn topics on the way for Summer 2019 include Ahtna history, culture and the land. Stay tuned for more information.

Shareholders, shareholder spouses and shareholder descendants are welcome!

To sign up, call (907) 868.8221 or email tparent@ahtna.net

Lunch will be provided. Space is limited and sign-up is required. You can also log into Ahtna's Learning Management System and find the event under the "Calendar" link to register.



## STAR AWARDS -





From left to right: Capt. Raul Garcia, Officer Elias Trevino and Project Manager Andy Davila.



From left to right: Andy Davila, project manager; Bruce Carter, safety manager; Izick Garcia, chief of security; Joe Blanchard, assistant project manager; Capt. Raul Garcia, Lt. Charlie Guillen (holding the plaque), and Capt. Ruben Ramos.

#### Elias Trevino

AhtnaSTS Armed Security Guard Elias Trevino received a Level 1 STAR Award for his detection and response to a potentially disastrous situation.

On January 22, 2019, while assigned to post at the Port Isabel Detention Center's main gate, Trevino noticed that the driver of a vehicle approaching for inspection appeared to be disoriented. While speaking to the subject, Trevino noted the driver's speech was slurred and saw alcoholic beverages in plain view. Trevino asked the subject to pull out of the right-of-way, where he took the keys and secured the vehicle. When local law enforcement arrived, the subject was taken into custody. It was also learned that the subject had an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

Trevino's actions and the resulting positive outcome demonstrates an exemplary regard for the preservation of human life and an outstanding dedication to service the AhtnaSTS mission.

#### Lt. Charlie Guillen

AhtnaSTS Detention Lt. Charlie Guillen received an Ahtna Level 1 STAR Award for his contribution to saving a life. On December 28, 2018, Guillen responded to a medical emergency in a male dormitory at the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos, Texas. He found an unresponsive detainee lying in a bunk without a pulse. Guillen began CPR and, at the fourth compression mark, the detainee took a deep breath and started breathing on his own. Guillen stayed with the unconscious man until on-site medical staff arrived.

Guillen's extensive training and quick reaction to a crisis situation prevented the loss of life of those we are entrusted to protect. His actions and the resulting positive outcome demonstrate an exemplary regard for the preservation of human life and an outstanding dedication to the AhtnaSTS mission.



# INTERN WITH Ahtna

# Ahtna Shareholder Internship Program May 1 – August 31 (flexible for school dates)

htno



## **Internship areas:**

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

### Why pick an internship with Ahtna?

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

#### Visit www.ahtna-inc.com/internship to apply and learn more.

## **SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES**

#### **2019 ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Saturday, June 1, at Glennallen High School. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with call-to-order at 9 a.m.

Shareholders will be mailed their annual reports and proxy materials by April 20. We will send only one Annual Meeting packet per household this year. Proxy voting forms and PIN letters will be mailed separately to individuals. This change will bring substantial cost savings to the company in printing and postage, as well as help to reduce our environmental impact. As in previous years, shareholders will be able to vote online. Instructions will be mailed in April.

For this year only, in addition to the early bird and online proxy prizes, there will be weekly special proxy prize drawings. Details can be found on page 18.

You can find more information about this year's and previous years' Annual Meetings at www.ahtna-inc.com/shareholders/annualmeeting-of-shareholders or contact Shareholder Services Manager Eileen Ewan at (907) 822-3476 or shservices@ahtna.net.

#### Meet the 2019 Board candidates

This year, in lieu of an in-person candidate forum, candidate videos will be posted on the proxy voting website at www.ahtnavote.com. You will need the Shareholder ID and PIN that was mailed to you to log in. The brief videos will help shareholders get to know the candidates better. Each candidate will be asked a set of pre-scripted questions. It is Ahtna's hope that shareholders will use the information provided in the videos to help them make a more-informed decision regarding whom they want to elect.

#### Annual Meeting temporary hires

Ahtna is accepting applications for:

- Set-up/take-down crew members
- Greeter/Elder assistant
- Janitor
- Camera/Video assistant
- Youth servers to assist Elders with drinks, meals and snacks (must be 14 - 19 years of age, work attire is black pants, white dress shirt and good shoes)

Please visit www.ahtna-inc.com/shareholders/employment to apply for any of the positions.

**Please note:** To be able to work at the Annual Meeting, new-hire paperwork will have to be completed online. Staff can assist with this as needed. Additionally, all new hires must provide identification and complete an U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) form I-9. For questions regarding which identification documents are approved by the USCIS, please contact Nikita Comstock at (907) 868-8230 or ncomstock@ahtna.net.

If you have any questions, please contact Shareholder Development at (907) 868-8250 or shdevelopment@ahtna.net or the Ahtna Human Resources Department at (907) 868-8250 or ahtnajobs@ahtna.net.

#### Honor guard

Ahtna would like to invite all shareholder veterans to serve as honor guard at the 46th Annual Meeting on June 1. Those interested will need to arrive between 8:15-8:30 a.m. at the Glennallen High School. Carlene Pete can be contacted with any questions at (907) 822-3476. Thank you!

#### CONDOLENCES

In loving memory of our shareholders who have passed

Aurelia E. Harris Ben F. John, Sr. Edward E. Johnson Dale J. Snell Marie L. Craig Robert Marshall Ruby P. Sinyon Simeon Sipary

#### **GRADUATES: GET YOUR GIFT**

Shareholders receive a congratulatory gift for graduation from high school or college. Check out the form below and submit the request by May 17 so we can celebrate your achievement at the Annual Meeting on June 1.

#### Here's how it works:

Go to: www.ahtna-inc.com/shareholders/shareholder-services. Under "Shareholder Forms," select "Graduate Information Form,"

Use this form to apply for a congratulatory gift provided by Ahtna to shareholder graduates. It's a simple, one-page document.

#### **Requirements for the gift include:**

- Must be an Ahtna shareholder
- Must be receiving a high school diploma/certificate of attendance/certificate of completion, GED, or associate, bachelor, master or doctorate degree
- Must submit all documents as required within one year following graduation or receipt of degree, diploma or certificate. Required documents include graduate information form, IRS W9 form and copy of diploma or degree
- Please note that graduate-gift requests are managed under a separate program from Class L Stock and require their own submission of proof of graduation

Approved applicants will be officially recognized at the Annual Meeting; however, gifts will be tendered upon receipt of all necessary documents at the discretion of management.

#### The aifts are as follows:

- High school certificate of attendance/completion: \$150
- Diploma/GED: \$200
- Associate's degree: \$250
- Bachelor's degree: \$350
- Master's degree: \$500
- Doctorate degree: \$750

Contact Carlene Pete at Shareholder Records with guestions. Send the form and required documents via fax to (907) 822-3495, by email to cpete@ahtna.net or by mail to:

**Carlene** Pete **Graduation Form PO Box 649** Glennallen, AK 99588

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

= video conference between Anchorage & Glennallen

#### MAY May 15 - Slana Graduation May 30 - Al Board, 9 a.m., May 7 - Land Committee, 9 a.m. Glennallen May 16 - Kenny Lake Graduation May 9 - Mentasta Graduation May 31 - Election & Rules May 17 - Glennallen Graduation May 10 - CRNA Annual Meeting Committee, 9 a.m., Glennallen May 27 - Memorial Day May 12 - Mother's Day May 31 - Katie John Day (Ahtna offices closed) May 14 - AITRC Board

#### JUNF

June 1 - Al Annual Shareholders Meeting, 9 a.m., Glennallen

June 11 - AITRC Board June 16 - Father's Day

June 17 - Ahtna Day (Ahtna offices closed)

June 8 - Chitina Native Corp Annual Meeting

JUIY

July 4 - Independence Day (Ahtna offices closed)

July 9 - AITRC Board

July 12 - AN BOD Strategic Planning, Anchorage, 9 a.m. July 16 - Audit and Finance Committee, 9 a.m.





#### FOR THIS YEAR ONLY, AHTNA IS OFFERING SPECIAL DRAWINGS TO INCREASE QUORUM.

<b>\$10,000</b>	1st week of voting
Deadline:	May 3, 2019, 5 p.m.
Drawing:	May 6, 2019
\$5,000 Deadline: Drawing:	2nd week of voting May 10, 2019, 5 p.m.
<b>\$3,000</b>	3rd week of voting
Deadline:	May 17, 2019, 5 p.m.
Drawing:	May 20, 2019
<b>\$2,000</b>	4th week of voting
Deadline:	May 24, 2019, 5 p.m.
Drawing:	May 27, 2019

#### EARLY-BIRD PRIZES

General early-bird deadline: Friday, May 10, 2019, 5 p.m.

<u># of prizes</u>	<u>Cash amount</u>
	\$1,000
	\$750
	\$500
	\$250
8	\$200

#### **ONLINE VOTING PRIZES**

Online voting deadline: Wednesday, May 29, 2019, 5 p.m.

<u># of prizes</u>

<u>Cash amount</u> \$200

#### Notes:

Vote early! Vote online! Undrawn names will roll over to the subsequent drawings. Shareholders who complete their proxies online and by the special/ early bird deadlines will be eligible for both. All deadlines shown are Alaska time.

Only valid proxies received will be considered for the proxy prizes. Proxies are valid if they are signed by the proxyholders or completed online using the online voting system and received by the above deadlines. In accordance with the IRS, prizes are taxable. Ahtna is required to provide shareholders a 1099-Misc form for all items of value over \$600 and for cumulative prizes of value totaling \$600 or more within a tax year.

## KEEP YOUR INFORMATION CURRENT WITH THE "MyAhtna" SHAREHOLDER PORTAL

Ahtna's new shareholder portal, MyAhtna, is a free, online resource that provides shareholders easy access to a wealth of information.

The portal can be accessed through a secure link on the Ahtna website. It allows shareholders the convenience of making certain record changes online, such as updating mailing addresses and other contact information, viewing payment information, printing dividend confirmations, viewing information about the shares owned, viewing and printing tax information and RSVPing for events.

#### Go paperless!

Shareholders now have the option to go paperless and receive their Annual Meeting packet materials electronically instead of through the mail. By opting in for digital Annual Meeting materials, you will be helping to save trees and eliminate printing and mailing costs.

#### Who can register?

You must be an Ahtna shareholder at least 18 years of age and not subject to guardianship or conservatorship orders, provided there is an email address in the Ahtna stock records and that email address was not used by another shareholder to create an Ahtna account. As an example, if a husband and wife are both shareholders and have the same email address on file with Ahtna, only one may create a portal account using that email address.

#### Getting ready to register

You will need your social security number or your shareholder identification (ID) number, which can be requested from Shareholder Records.



#### How to register

- 1. Visit the Ahtna website and click on the "MyAhtna" link under the "Shareholders" tab, or type "MyAhtna.com" into your browser.
- 2. When the "Connect with MyAhtna" sign-in screen appears, <u>click the word</u> "here" in the sentence "Click here to get started."
- 3. A new screen will appear, where you will enter your shareholder ID number or social security number and your date of birth. When you are done entering the requested information, click the "Validate" button on the lower, left-hand side of the screen.
- 4. If the information you entered matches the information in Ahtna's shareholder database, you will advance to a new screen. Otherwise, a message will appear on the screen to alert you to any issues.
- 5. The final step of the registration process involves adding or confirming your email address and agreeing to abide by the "MyAhtna Terms of Use" and creating a password.

Once you have successfully created a MyAhtna account, you may sign in again at any time by visiting the Ahtna website and clicking on the "MyAhtna" tab, or by typing "MyAhtna.com" into your browser and entering your username and password. To maintain confidentiality and keep your information secure, your MyAhtna sign-in information should be treated confidentially and not shared. Additional hints for keeping your portal account secure may be accessed by clicking a link on the MyAhtna signin screen.

If you experience any problems when using MyAhtna, you may find an explanation in the troubleshooting document, which is accessible on the MyAhtna sign-in screen or, if you are already signed in, by clicking on the link under your name on the top right-hand side of the screen. As always, Shareholder Services is happy to assist. Contact us by calling (907) 822-3476 or emailing shservices@ahtna.net.

## MEET THE BOARD

#### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR A SHAREHOLDER TO PARTICIPATE AND/OR VOTE?



**Ken Johns** – All shareholders have been given the opportunity to participate by a 1971 act that includes them to be stewards of not only the company but of the land. It is very important that each shareholder realizes they have a say in the future for our ANCSA lands and what the mission of the company should be.



Albert Fleury – Shareholders need to participate and vote as well as meet either the village or at-large incumbents and nominees. Shareholders need to participate in order to find out what Ahtna is actually doing for shareholders. By participating, shareholders will provide the required quorum in order to elect directors and have a legal annual meeting.



**Eleanor Dementi** – I think it's important for shareholders to vote to get good leaders as Board members. It is important to read the biography of those running for the Board. It is also important for shareholders to listen to what is happening at Ahtna.



**Linda Pete** – Shareholders need to vote. Every vote matters. Your vote determines the direction of the company. Your vote is important. Your vote lets your voice be heard.



**John Craig** – Shareholder votes count. When shareholders vote, it is for the betterment of Ahtna, Inc.



Margie Ewan - It is important for shareholders to exercise their right to vote for the director of their choice. Shareholders should read the candidates' answers printed in the proxy statement to get an idea if they agree or disagree with the candidates' views. Once they decide what candidate they believe would serve in the best interest of the shareholders and the Corporation, they should complete and submit their proxy. It is important that they choose a fellow shareholder to vote their proxy, even if they plan on attending the annual meeting in person. Another important item to review in the proxy statement is the attendance percentage, if a candidate is currently a serving director. Remember that it is important that each annual meeting has a quorum in order to conduct business, so vote your proxy and mail, submit online or fax your very important vote.

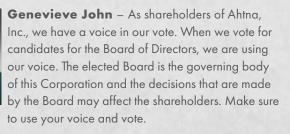


**Nicholas Jackson** – The Board is elected by shareholders to represent their interest in Ahtna. The Board responds to the needs of Ahtna based on shareholder input. In order to make good decisions, the Board needs shareholder input. It is also important for shareholders to participate and vote at this year's Annual Meeting in order to change the quorum requirement of shareholder representation in the Articles of Incorporation from 50 plus one to one-third. Without this change to the Articles of Incorporation, quorum might not be met at this year's and future annual meetings. Without the annual meetings, directors cannot be elected to represent Ahtna and its shareholders' best interests.



**Franklin John** – Voting at the Annual Meeting and participating in Ahtna's business is the duty of all Ahtna shareholders.







**Lucille Lincoln** – Your vote counts always, to make sure you get the right people on the Board that will work for the very best interest of our Corporation and shareholders, to remain financially stable, to continue to have great dividends, to hear what has and is happening in the Corporation and to see friends and family. Also, you may be lucky enough to get a door prize.

# UPDATED INFO ON MISSING SHAREHOLDERS

Ahtna has received returned mail for the shareholders listed below. It is important that your mailing address and other contact information is current so that you receive dividend distributions and other mail from Ahtna.

If you are on the list below, please contact the Shareholder Records department at (907) 822-3476 or shservices@ahtna.net to provide updated contact information. Shareholders with MyAhtna portal accounts can update their addresses electronically by visiting myahtna.com.

Adalberto Lopez Alex Reginald Long Andrew Bill Tyone Angel Rose Dwyer Anita Cheryl Eskilida Annie M. Tyone Ashley Nicole Holtry Benjamin Leonard Racelis Bruce M. Howard Byron Barry Phillips Jr. Charlotte Harbour Cheyenne A. Ewan Dakota Jordan Jerauld Daniel Kerry Long Darrel E. Bayless Dolly May Eskilida Edward T. Carew Elizabeth V. Sabon Elsie Lorraine Jackson Emil J.H. Wilson Florence E. Hicks Gerald Stevens Jr. Henry A. Racelis Jr. Henry Albert Racelis lii

Henry Clay Iverson Huston C. Sanford Jr. Jamesson L. Major Janeal R. S. Hicks Jax Danny Thompson Joel J. Hicks Jonathon A. Major Jordan R. Pennington Kayla R. Gabby Keith L. Jackson Kira Jeanie Mc Robie-Lee Kyle Aaron Perkins Leroy Langley lii Lucas Derek Paul Malachi A Ewan Marlene Pedro Martha L Sonnier Matthew Walter Phillips Max Maynard Nesslage Melissa Syphus Melissa N. Bayless Michael R. Murphy Jr Michael T. Hood-Eakon Nancy Kay Holtry

Naomi Sharnay Stickwan Nathaniel M. Gene-Beach Nickole R. Perez Ocean Rachel Gray Patricia Ann Nicholas Rachel L. Owens Raelinda R. Turner Richard Eugene Johnson Richard Jon Norris Robert Allen Stansell Robin L. Goodlataw Ryan Frederick Moran Shandice Marie Beal Shaunalee Ann Johns Shyla Nadine Smith Tamela L. G. Norris Tamra M. Kindgren **Timothy Bell** Toni Rae Goodlataw Ty Clinton Jackson Vanessa Shela Bainter Vincent Michael Gene Wanda Lee Richardson Wenona J. Kuhrman



## AHTNA ISSUES STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO U.S. SUPREME COURT STURGEON DECISION

Ahtna is pleased by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Katie John line of cases as part of the Sturgeon ruling. The Katie John decision has stood as one of the few protections of Alaska Native traditional hunting and fishing rights, and the unanimous ruling helps defend how our people live and use the land and waters near our communities. This is a paramount issue for Ahtna, and we are honored that the court cited our amicus brief in protecting the Katie John decision.

Protecting our right to use our land, while also preserving the right of our people to live their culture and traditional lifestyle, is not only fair and proper, it is protected by the compromise Congress reached with Alaska Natives during the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). We would like to congratulate Mr. Sturgeon on his victory and thank him and all those who fought to ensure the Katie John decisions were not disturbed.

In 1980, the Wrangell St. Elias Park & Preserve was established by ANILCA. It surrounds 622,000 acres of Ahtna's original land selections in 1971 under ANCSA. Ahtna owns approximately 1,978 acres in the Denali National Park & Preserve. The court's decision regarding access is one we support.

#### Sturgeon Case Background:

In the landmark case of Katie John v. United States, the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that navigable waters adjacent to parks and other Conservation System Units (CSUs) created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) were "public land" for purposes of a rural subsistence priority that protected Alaska Natives' right to fish. The case of Alaska resident John Sturgeon, who sued the National Park Service in 2011 over being forced off the Nation River for using a hovercraft to hunt moose, was argued before the Supreme Court last fall for a second time. At issue in the appeal was whether the state or federal government has management authority over state and Native property located within the boundaries of ANILCA CSUs. Ahtna is one of the largest private land owners within the CSUs in Alaska.





John Sturgeon with his hovercraft on the Nation River. (Photo provided by John Sturgeon)



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



#### **RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**





#### Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors



Ken Johns Chair



Vice Chair



Linda Pete Secretary









John E. Craig

Corporate Headquarters PO Box 649 Glennallen, AK 99588 Phone: (907) 822-3476 | Fax: (907) 822-3495 Toll Free: 1-866-475-0420

Anchorage Office 110 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99503 Phone: (907) 868-8250 | Fax: (907) 868-8285 Toll Free: 1-888-562-5316





Franklin John

Treasurer

Karen Linnell

Genevieve John



John Dye

Read more in the eKanas at ahtna-inc.com/kanas



Lucille Lincoln