

# Ahtna Kansas

WINTER 2017/2018



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### Ahtna, Inc. and Ahtna Netiyé' 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, AGL & AEI



**Tim Gould, PE**  
President, AES



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

If shareholder-owners would like to submit articles for the next issue of the Kanas, the submission deadline is February 23, 2018.

For questions or more information about the Kanas, please contact the Media and Communications office at [news@ahntna.net](mailto:news@ahntna.net)



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## HIGHEST ELDER DIVIDEND DECLARED

Happy New Year! We wish you a year filled with peace, joy, and good health. This is a good time to look ahead and share what this New Year may bring, but would also like to take a look back and be thankful for our blessings.

### Highest Elder Dividend Declared

Thanks to the hard work of our employees, Ahtna had a successful 2017. In accordance with the Earnings Distribution Policy, the Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors formally declared a shareholder dividend for 2017 of \$4.92 per share. In addition, a dividend of \$1,000 per eligible Elder was declared which was a \$600 increase over the previous year. Please remember, it's very important to ensure your contact information is updated with shareholder records so you don't miss out on any mailings as well as paperwork like the Testamentary Disposition so we know how you would like your shares distributed. Also, by signing up for direct deposit you can receive your dividend days earlier than by mail. Shareholder records forms can be found on the Ahtna website.

### Meeting with Governor Walker

I met with Governor Walker last November. The Governor expressed his appreciation and respect for the Ahtna people and his working relationship with Ahtna, Incorporated. He reflected on this last summer's meetings with the Board and how it seemed his time at the Klutina River was his only real vacation this year. The Governor reaffirmed his intent to complete the Gulkana Land Transfer; to correct a bad chapter in our state's history and return sacred lands to the Gulkana people.

The Governor discussed his trip to China with President Trump; and the signing of a historic joint development agreement for the export of Alaska natural gas to China. The Governor is very aware that Ahtna is the largest private landowner on the proposed LNG route; over 33 miles of Ahtna lands would be impacted by this project not to the mention all the other effects major development brings – increased access that will lead to trespass, wildlife impacts, and social impacts. Governor Walker reached out to Ahtna to invite us to the table and talk with us as a partner in this development. He stressed the need to have skilled workforce that is trained and ready to work; even if that means training Alaskans and having them wait a bit for the jobs that are coming. His point was that once this project starts, we all need to be ready. We will continue to work with the Governor and his staff to ensure the best possible position for Ahtna and our shareholders. To learn more about the AGDC, please visit their website at [www.agdc.us](http://www.agdc.us).

### AFN 2017

We had a tremendous turnout for our Ahtna Shareholder Reception and appreciate everyone who was able to attend as well as those that stopped by to visit our booth at the AFN Convention. During the Convention, Senator Murkowski applauded beloved Ahtna leaders Roy S. Ewan, Nick Jackson and Eleanor Dementi; thanking them for their dedication and service to the Ahtna people and the work they've done to secure customary and traditional hunting and fishing for future generations of Ahtna people. We are thankful to the Alaska Delegation for hearing us out on our need to secure wildlife co-management authority on our ANCSA lands. We are especially thankful to US Senator Lisa Murkowski for her commitment to bring Ahtna, the State and federal agencies together to design a better wildlife management regime. Since she held a field hearing on subsistence in Glennallen in 2013, Senator Murkowski has worked with our board, our people and our staff to secure C&T hunting opportunities. With her support, the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the US Department of the Interior to further wildlife co-management in the Ahtna region. We are thankful for this agreement and will continue to work on a long-term solution that ultimately gives Ahtna people the right to manage wildlife on our lands.

AFN President Julie Kitka invited me to be one of two Alaska Native keynote speakers at a Jan 22, 2018 Alaska Day event in Washington DC that AFN is planning and Secretary Zinke is hosting. I am honored to be speaking on the need for Alaskan Native wildlife co-management and the collective success of decades of Alaska Native management on ANCSA lands.

### Ahtna History Book

A draft of the Ahtna History Book manuscript has been completed and we are currently shopping it to potential publishers. We did a call for historical photos late last year and are working to incorporate these photographs into the final book draft. We are deeply grateful to those of you who are willing to share photographs from your personal family archives for generations to enjoy.

### Shareholder Survey

Over 400 shareholders completed the 2017 Ahtna Shareholder-owner survey! That was an increase of 100 respondents compared to our last survey which was done in 2015. Thank you for taking the time to provide us your valuable input. We have been analyzing the results and comparing them to the feedback we received in 2015

*Continued on page 4*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - *Continued from page 3*

to identify where improvements have been made as well as areas that need additional attention. Stay tuned as we plan to share highlights from the results in the spring issue of the Kanas.

This is the time of the year in which Ahtna employees recognize the outstanding performance of their colleagues in meeting the Ahtna vision. We recognized several Ahtna employees at employee events held in December. Along with giving my deepest appreciation to the entire Ahtna workforce, I want to specially recognize the Ahtna employees who stood out to their peers in 2017 for their hard work and dedication to our shareholders. Congratulations for being recognized as Employees of the Year! We are thankful for all you do!

Tsin'aen,



Michelle Anderson, President  
Ahtna, Incorporated



## SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 2 AT THE GLENNALLEN HIGH SCHOOL

Something new we will be doing this year is only sending one Annual Meeting packet per shareholder household. Shareholders eligible to vote will receive individual proxy information but each shareholder household will only receive one packet with the 2017 Annual Report, Annual Meeting Agenda, etc. We also plan to implement the option to receive materials electronically in 2019. These changes will bring substantial costs savings to the company in printing and postage as well as help to reduce our environmental impact.

**If you wish to still receive your own individual Annual Meeting packet, please contact shareholder services at (907) 822-3476 or [shservices@ahtna.net](mailto:shservices@ahtna.net) no later than March 31, 2018.**



## CEO'S MESSAGE

### 2017 BROUGHT NEW PROJECTS, JOINT VENTURES AND CERTIFICATIONS

I hope everyone's New Year is off to a positive start. 2017 was quite a year for all of us at the Ahtna family of companies. We took on some of the largest projects in our history,

established new joint ventures, certified a new HUBZone subsidiary and secured new long-term contracts.

#### Subsidiary News

Ahtna Construction and Primary Products (AC&PPC) won a new \$11 million project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a follow-on to their Texas-based Oxbow project. The new Onion Creek Watershed Protection project is a collaborative effort between AC&PPC and Ahtna Design-Build (ADB). We are excited to be able to tap into our full company capabilities to win new types of work. The project looks to address solutions to flooding in the Onion Creek area. Ultimately, 190 acres of former floodplain residential area will be restored to its natural state and converted to open space which will help to improve water quality, prevent erosion and provide animal habitat.

APSI is expanding their work with a U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) Court Security Officer (CSO) Contract for services in Northern Florida and Central Illinois. This unique and specialized security work includes securing Federal Court Houses and providing protection for judges, attorneys, witnesses and others. APSI is also providing a spectrum of security and access control services at The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), a component of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This Federal training center provides high-level training to first responders, as well as first receivers such as doctors, nurses and medical staff. CDP is the designated federal training center engaged in responders and receivers to combat terrorism including response to weapons of mass destruction and hazardous materials incidents. The APSI-Centerra JV began the year winning one of two nationwide US Coast Guard Security contracts providing security in Alaska, Washington, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Puerto Rico. This contract has proved especially challenging in the wake of hurricane Maria's devastation which resulted in 70% of Puerto Rico being without power for months.

Safety is a cornerstone in our operations, and I would like to commend AhtnaSTS for setting two contract safety records. On the Warfighter FOCUS contract, which AhtnaSTS has been on since May 2008, two sites were recognized by Prime Contractor Raytheon for safety excellence. Our Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Automated Shoot House (ASH) team has gone nearly 13 years, or over 60,000 man hours without a recordable incident and our Fort Wainwright Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF) team has almost 10 years, or 145,000 man hours. What an exceptional accomplishment!

#### New Bonding Company Brings Greater Capacity

Ahtna has continued to earn and win additional bonded projects, particularly with AES, AEI, ADB and AC&PPC, which required us to secure a new bonding company. Our new surety, Great American, has six times the overall capacity of our previous provider which will allow us to grow with them for many years to come.

#### Tolsona Gas Well Update

The Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) has issued a new decision, in which it reduced the fines issued to Tolsona Oil and Gas Exploration from \$380 thousand to \$92 thousand. However, the Commission did not respond to the legal weaknesses we pointed out in our response, but those points may not have any bearing on the final outcome. We are considering our response to the Commission's revised findings for reporting error violations and appreciate the substantial reduction in penalties. Our leaders were not aware of the initial reporting deficiencies, and once known undertook a comprehensive internal review using the full resources of Ahtna to address all of the Commission's concerns.

The Ahtna Board of Directors and leadership has made the difficult decision to Plug and Abandon (P&A) the Tolsona well. We did not wish to expend any additional money for testing and possible well bore stimulation as the opportunity for commercial gas was limited. The P&A work is scheduled to take place February-March of 2018. We will be working with qualified long-term companies to complete the work with 100% Alaska hire and an Ahtna shareholder hiring preference. Ahtna plans to contract with many of the same companies that were involved during the exploratory phase. We have learned valuable knowledge about gas prospects on Ahtna lands outside of Tolsona which was drilled on State of Alaska (SOA) land. Ahtna has signed a term sheet with an oil and gas developer for a future opportunity on Ahtna lands.

Ahtna has received zero funds from the State of Alaska related to tax credits due to the SOA's severe budget shortfalls. Ahtna expects to monetize our tax credits in the near future by completing a tax transaction with a major oil company.

We are proud that the Tolsona project delivered an outstanding safety record, provided a boost to the local economy, created new employment opportunities for Ahtna shareholders and Alaskans, and that we were able to reach and evaluate the targeted zone. Thank you to everyone that was involved in this historic Ahtna project.

#### New Ahtna Engineering Services (AES) President is Familiar Face

I am happy to announce Tim Gould as the new Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC President. Tim has served as the Vice President of AES and Ahtna Environmental, Inc. since 2014 and is a registered Civil and Environmental Professional Engineer. This decision came after evaluating AES's business needs and the many qualified candidates

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**CEO MESSAGE** - *Continued from page 5*

who applied for the position. Tim has worked closely with AEI/AGL President Tim Finnigan to understand the complexities of the company and build a strong team. AES will continue to be the Team that delivers for its many customers. We are happy to be able to benefit from the intimate knowledge and expertise Tim brings to our operations and many customers.

**HUBZone Certified**

Palmer-based AAA Valley Gravel recently earned their HUBZone certification and has applied for 8(a) status which will open up additional contracting opportunities throughout the country. HUBZone is a United States SBA program for small companies that operate and employ people in Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones) such as Palmer. The important classification allows for sole source contracting and Ahtna Global, LLC will be pursuing HUBZone certification in the near future as well. In addition, Ahtna Logistics, LLC recently became 8(a) certified.

It was wonderful to see such a large turnout for our shareholder reception in Anchorage and enjoyed being able to visit with many of you and your families during AFN week. I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and I would like to extend a special appreciation for all of our employees who worked through the holidays for Ahtna.

Thank you,



Tom Maloney, Chief Executive Officer  
Ahtna Netiyee, Inc.



Ahtna Engineering Services (AES) exhibited at the 2017 Society for Military Engineers (SAME) Federal Small Business Conference. For three days in November, Pittsburgh became the epicenter of federal acquisition for the Architecture/Engineering/Construction industry. Photographed at the AES booth (left to right): Colonel Marvin Griffin (USACE Savannah District Commander), Chuck Holman (Ahtna Vice President Southwest Environmental Services), Kelly O'Meara (Ahtna Director of Southwest Environmental Operations), and Colonel Kirk Gibbs (USACE Los Angeles District Commander).



**Ahtna**  
2017 Employees of the Year



**Rhonda Swett**  
Business Manager  
Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Corporation



**Helen Yokota**  
Sr. Project Manager  
Ahtna Design Build, Inc.



**Vivian Tokar**  
Program Manager  
Ahtna Environmental, Inc.



**Heidi Aguilar**  
Director of Business  
Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC



**Alyson Miner**  
Contracts Manager  
Ahtna Facilities Services, Inc.



**Ashley Gaskell**  
Project Manager  
Ahtna Government Services Corporation



**Sarah Urban**  
Organizational Development & HR Compliance Manager  
Ahtna, Inc.



**Jeremy Reams**  
Project Manager  
Ahtna Support & Training Services, LLC



**Anthony Gutierrez**  
Detention Officer  
Ahtna Technical Services, Inc.



## AHTNA ANNOUNCES NEW AES PRESIDENT

Ahtna is pleased to announce Tim Gould, PE as the new Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC (AES) President. Tim has served as the Vice President of AES and Ahtna Environmental, Inc. since 2014 and will continue to be based out of Ahtna's Anchorage, Alaska office.

Tim has managed business operations and business development in multiple markets including design-build facilities, environmental studies and remediation, and energy projects for federal, state, and local governments. He is a Registered Civil PE and Environmental PE, has a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering. Tim has been in the consulting and construction markets for

27 years based out of Anchorage and with responsibilities nationwide and in the Pacific. He was recently selected as the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Alaska Post "Engineer of the Year."

Tim moved to Alaska in 1982 and raised two children. He is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys skiing, sailing, hunting and fishing. Tim and his wife Jodi reside in Anchorage.

"I am pleased to accept the AES President role and excited by the opportunities we see coming in the next few years. I look forward to contributing to continued growth and collaboration across our companies," Tim Gould said.

Please join us in congratulating Tim on his new role with Ahtna!



## AHTNA HONORED WITH GCV CHAMBER COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AWARD

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska) President, Admiral Tom Barrett, was the guest speaker at the 30th Anniversary



*Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. President Admiral Barrett with Ahtna shareholder Wanda Bell's son Anthony Nelson.*

Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce Dinner. Admiral Barrett, USCG (ret.) became the President of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company on January 1, 2011. Admiral Barrett spoke about Ahtna's work history with Alyeska since the construction of the pipeline. He described Ahtna shareholders as

"smart, capable, tough people," and continued "who better to work on the pipeline and make sure things are done safely and without incident than Ahtna shareholders." We couldn't agree more!

Barrett made excellent comments about the importance of kids doing well in school and the need to make smart decisions so that when they're ready, they can compete for jobs on the pipeline. We look forward to another 40 years of working with Alyeska!

Ahtna was also honored with a Community Investment Award from the Chamber and Ahtna Inc. Special Projects Manager Bruce Cain was re-elected as Chamber President. Congratulations Bruce!

< On March 27, 1975 Ahtna Construction workers installed the first piece of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System at Tonsina River.

**As the Original Oil & Gas Contractor** Ahtna continues its partnership with Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. and its commitment to delivering on our shared vision of opportunity and success for Alaska.

**40** 40th Anniversary of First Oil #40more

**Ahtna**  
ahtna-inc.com  
t i n f o g

**PROUDLY HOSTING 197 MILES OF TAPS IN THE AHTNA TRADITIONAL REGION.**  
construction • environmental • engineering • oil & gas support  
spill response • facilities management • government contracting • security

# SUBSIDIARY SPOTLIGHT

## AhtnaSTS OBTAINS TWO PERFECT SCORES ON ACCREDITATION AUDITS AT PIDC

By Rick W. Durham, AhtnaSTS

Ahtna Support and Training Services (AhtnaSTS) underwent two performance-based audits at the Port Isabel Detention Center. These audits involved a very comprehensive review of services provided that included security, food services, transportation operations, detainee care and safety, and facility management.



All Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Service Processing Centers are required to be annually audited under the Performance Based National Detention Standards and reaccredited tri-annually under

the American Correctional Association (ACA). These audits ensure compliance with nationally recognized standards and define policies and procedures necessary for the operation of correctional programs that safeguard life, health and safety of the personnel who work in juvenile and adult facilities and programs; as well as the offenders who are a part of the correctional system.

For ICE, these audits “make or break” ICE facility management staff and can have a direct impact on career paths. As a contractor, our failure to ensure success on either of these audits/reaccreditations would certainly effect our performance scores and a failure would undoubtedly be looked at unfavorably when an Option Year approval is pending.

In February, the annual PBNDS audit was performed. AhtnaSTS received a rating of “Outstanding” with no deficiencies, which is the highest rating possible. Approximately 4 months later, in June, we underwent our tri-annual ACA Audit where we received a score of 100% on all mandatory and non-mandatory standards.

In my 14 years of Federal Contracting and oversight/management of ICE detention facilities, this is the first time I have seen a score of 100% on non-mandatory standards and the first facility to receive an overall score of 100% under ACA. That is an exceptional score and I am extremely proud of our staff and sub-contractors. As honorable mentions, I would include our sub-contractor Superior’s QA/QC staff. Their crew did an incredible job of ACA file maintenance, management of the audit process and liaison between ICE management, contract management, and ACA audit staff. David Peters, AhtnaSTS Food Service Manager, was also acknowledged for the quality of the meals served to detainees and staff.

Additionally, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to Project Manager Andy Davila, the PIDC management staff, supervisors and detention staff. Their job knowledge, professionalism, and attitudes about their jobs were commended by the auditors and ICE. The auditors more than once stated that our officers seemed to really enjoy their jobs and were individually excited and proud of their work at PIDC. The auditors jokingly commented on the fact that not a single officer was timid regarding their job responsibilities, that they knew their responsibilities and not once did they try to avoid being questioned. All officers were able to “say what they did, did what they said, and were able to prove it.”



It is my distinct honor to be part of an award winning team that not only sets the standard, but makes the standard.

## ADB WINS NEW CONTRACT WITH THE U.S. AIR FORCE

Ahtna Design-Build, under a SBA Mentor-Protégé Joint Venture with CDM Smith, has a \$1.5 Billion, 8-year, Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract with the U.S. Air Force Civil Engineering Center for engineering and construction services across the U.S. The JV just received a \$22.9M project task order award for the design-build construction to demolish existing diesel fuel storage facilities and to design and construct new storage facilities at two remote Alaska Long Range Radar Sites (LRRS) at Tatalina and Cape Newenham.

The existing systems are over 200,000 gallons with multiple

tanks, and significant ancillary piping and facilities that are all to be demolished and replaced with larger systems. The sites are very remote and can only be accessed by boat and/or air which presents unique logistical challenges. Our proposal included several barge trips and numerous C-130 flights to transport materials, equipment, and personnel over the 2-year project timeframe. It’s notable that while this task order was awarded to the JV, Ahtna will be responsible for performing 95% of this task. Dave O’Donnell’s AC&PPC group helped significantly with bidding the civil portion of the project and will be counted upon to assist ADB in performing this effort.

# INTERN PROFILE: AARON MILLER



Ahtna Intern Aaron Charles Miller is the son of Jim and Charlene Miller and the grandson of Charles and Delia Renard. He grew up in Glennallen, Alaska and is in his junior year in the Construction Management Bachelors of Science program at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Like many college students, he changed his degree after his freshmen year. He wanted to make sure he was equipping himself with valuable skills that would last a lifetime and ultimately chose a degree

that best fit with his people-oriented personality. He hopes to be able to stay with Ahtna long-term and to grow with the company as it evolves.

## **What made you want to intern with Ahtna and what excites you about the internship?**

Ahtna is known for taking care of their people and my field of study in college was similar to the work being done by Ahtna Environmental and Ahtna Engineering.

## **What does a typical work day look like for you?**

My internship consists of assisting project managers in all steps of a construction project. One day I could be writing a report or safety plan and the next day I could be sent out into the field to learn how a certain type of project is carried out. My favorite part of the job is working and communicating with sub-contractors and other personnel. It is rewarding when you establish an effective relationship with a company or an individual.

## **In what ways would you like to create value as an intern?**

Taking tasks or projects from supervisors and coworkers and completing them to the best of my ability. I believe if you want to be considered valuable then you have to put yourself in that place by taking responsibilities and following through with them until the end.

## **What role has Ahtna played in your educational pursuits?**

Ahtna has given me the opportunity to work part time while I am attending college. This has been essential in my pursuit of education and experience.

## **Who has been an inspiration to you in your educational and/or career pursuits?**

Many people have been very supportive, however, there are two that stand out. Michelle Anderson has definitely been someone who stands out. It is nice to see a shareholder

that is professional and driven. The other person that stands out to me is Tim Gould. Tim has been very involved and yet provides liberties for Ahtna employees that enable them to grow.

## **What advice do you have for Ahtna youth?**

Often I find myself realizing that what I want right now will hinder my opportunities for the future. As humans it is in our nature to pursue what is in the present moment. When in reality, what is actually in our best interest is often something we have to wait or work for. So maybe try and put down your phone, controller, or whatever it might be and start planning for the future. What will make you the best possible version of yourself? Often this takes postponing what is fun. Avoid instant gratification and exchange it for a bigger plan.

## **What have been defining moments in your educational/career path and what have you learned along the way?**

In my previous job I was challenged every day with a problem that I did not have the answer to. This forced me to find solutions and use resources efficiently. Essentially, I was in a place that forced me to acquire problem solving skills. This has been most valuable, not only at work and in school, but in my personal life as well.

## **What motivates you?**

This is a very deep question that leads to the core of a person's existence. A large portion of motivation is fueled by desire, but desires come and go with each day. I need something more consistent than that. I look to the future and ask questions such as: where will I be in 10 or 20 years, how do I want to spend my life, what can I find hope in? The answers to these questions are what motivate me.

## **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

I enjoy playing the guitar and basketball. I really enjoy experiencing the outdoors whether it is hiking, hunting, fishing or camping.



*Aaron installing a float panel in a fuel tank on Eielson Air Force Base.*

# LANDS SPOTLIGHT



*Left to right: Trenton Culp, Katie Finnesand (intern featured in fall 2017 issue), Ray Stickwan, Sarah Sherwood, Joe Bovee, Marilyn Eskilida Joe & John Leonhart.*

The Ahtna people have been managing the land and natural resources on a sustained yield basis before there was ever such a term. Recently, western science is becoming more aware of the importance of native, or indigenous, science as a means to gauge acceptable practices for fish, wildlife and plant harvesting. Essentially the native knowledge has been used and proven to be so effective that renowned western scientists are utilizing Native American management systems across entire ecosystems.

The Ahtna Land Department is currently staffed with six full-time, two seasonal and one intern position and respect and appreciate the customary and traditional knowledge the native elders, customary and traditional committee, land committee and tribal members are willing to share. Although the written history may be limited, the oral history is always beneficial in learning how the Ahtna managed their lands and resources in the past.

*“I have been in the land and natural resource field for nearly forty years and there isn’t a day that goes by that myself, or staff, don’t learn something new from the Ahtna people about how they managed the resources.”*

**– Joe Bovee, Ahtna, Inc. Vice President of Land and Resources**

Today the Land Department is as much about managing the land

as it is about managing the users. Approximately 10,000 fisherman, 10,000 hunters and over 500,000 tourists visit the Ahtna Region annually. Typically the Land Department issues 1,000 permits annually for such activities as land crossing, camping, per-head fees from commercial users, predator control, photography and a special bison hunt accessible primarily on Ahtna land south of Copper Center. Approximately 25% of these permits are purchased online through an automated process. Other website features offer users to view interactive land status maps and download the imagery and coordinates onto their personal devices to reduce trespass by knowing their location at all times. The Land Department has the most extensive land status (ownership) records in the Region and shareholders are invited to contact staff to assist in locating land records and survey monumentation as needed.

The Land Department administers over 75 property leases and easements for cellphone towers, tour companies, pipelines and housing leases with various tribes and housing authorities as well as managing 92 active sand and gravel material sites. The Merger Land Use Program, or MLUP, was implemented during the 1980 Merger Agreement with seven of the eight Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Ahtna Region Village Corporations and typically the Department finalizes 10-20 MLUP applications each year.

More recently the Land Department has been instrumental in assisting

with development of the Forest Carbon Project, with field and reporting operations ultimately being managed by the department for the next one hundred years; Village natural resource development plans; moose, caribou and carnivore stewardship planning and population surveys; and greater collaboration with the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission (AITRC).

### 2018 Projects

In 2018 some of the top priorities for the department will be completion of an in-house customary and traditional land use map to include: Ahtna trails, historic fishwheel and village sites, etc.; installation of highway interpretive signs of the Ahtna people, culture and Region; a Transportation Plan and public trail funding; and negotiations with the State of Alaska on the proposed 33-mile natural gas pipeline through Ahtna land near Cantwell.

**More information, forms, applications and services provided to Shareholders can be found on the Ahtna website or by contacting Land Department staff at (907) 822-3476.**

## MEET THE LAND & RESOURCES TEAM

### Joe Bovee, Land and Resource Vice President

I have more than 30 years of U.S and international resource management and marketing experience. As the Vice President of Land and Resources, I oversee the nearly 1.8 million acres of Ahtna's land in Southcentral Alaska. Prior to joining Ahtna, I worked for various state and federal agencies as well as private sector natural resource companies. My career has focused on operations, regulatory policy and responsible development. I earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a Certificate of Forestry from the University of Alaska-Kenai Peninsula Campus. I am based out of Ahtna's Corporate Headquarters in Glennallen along with the rest of the department.

I have two sons and enjoy hunting, fishing, art and travel.

### John Leonhart, Land and Resource Manager

I had previously served as an Ahtna, Inc. Natural Resource Technician prior to applying for the position of Land and Resources Department Manager. I have a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and a Master of Science in Wildlife Biology with over 21-years of natural resource management experience. My prior work experience was primarily focused on biological surveys for major resource development projects in the western U.S. I now supervise 6-8 seasonal and full-time Natural Resource Technician staff, as well as serve as a project lead for various wildlife, forestry and natural resource projects.

I was born and raised in North Dakota where I developed a deep appreciation for everything in the natural environment. My parents were extremely influential in shaping my future hobbies and interests which include hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, trapshooting and anything else that keeps me occupied outdoors.

I have also managed to make a career out of these interests. I am happy to be working for the Ahtna people and the Ahtna, Inc. Land and Resources Department in particular. The land management aspects and wildlife projects we have planned for the future provide plenty of excitement and opportunity for myself and the entire Land and Resources staff.

### Tammany George, Natural Resource Technician

I am an Ahtna shareholder who was raised in Cantwell, Alaska. My mother is Eleanor Dementi from Cantwell of the Udziyuu clan and my Father is the late Gilbert Dementi Sr. from Shageluk of the Deg Xinag clan. The land and our cultural and traditional values are what is most important to me for the future. Protecting the rights to use Ahtna lands to survive for the Ahtna descendants is my passion. I can't remember a year growing up and in my adult life where we as a family have not used the land to survive. We hunt, fish, berry pick and gather more than half of our food from the land.



**Tammany George, Ahtna NRT, Cantwell**

I worked for Ahtna from 2006-2010 as a Land Protection Officer (LPO) in Cantwell. I then worked for Ahtna Facility Services until the job reopened in February of 2016 here in Cantwell. I

was more than blessed by Ahtna to be able to return to Cantwell and take the position of Natural Resource Technician.

### Trenton Culp, Natural Resource Technician

I earned a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a Wildlife Management emphasis and a minor in Physical Geography. I attended Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Prior to college I worked on cattle ranches doing predator control. While attending college, I worked for South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks as a habitat biologist intern helping create habitat plans. After graduating college, I moved to Idaho and was an on-call wildland forest firefighter while also working as the manager of a large-scale aquaculture facility. In late April, I drove the Alcan Highway and moved to Alaska to work for Ahtna.

In my spare time I enjoy hunting, fly fishing, kayaking, hiking, ATV riding and trapping. I grew up in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming where I took advantage of the abundant wildlife and outdoor opportunities around me. I hope to continue my outdoor pastimes here in Alaska and expand on them as well. I have always been an avid outdoorsman and sportsman. I enjoy working in the wildlife field and helping to preserve nature and the animals in it for the people of today to use and treasure as well as future generations to come.

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### **Sarah Sherwood, Natural Resource Technician**

I have worked for the Land Department since October 2015. I have helped collaborate with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and was lead on several wildlife habitat and forestry projects around the Copper Basin region. I am currently working towards becoming a Certified Conservation Planner and a Technical Service Provider, specializing in Forest Management Planning. I graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Conservation and Forestry. I worked as a wildland firefighter on an engine crew in Montana and California for three seasons, then stayed in California another year working as a utility forester assessing hazardous trees. Right before coming to work at Ahtna, I went overseas to Botswana, Africa to study African wildlife and human-wildlife conflicts.

In my free time, I like to read, hunt, fish, ski, ride ORV's, and just relax. I got married this past summer to Noble Sherwood, who worked at Ahtna for about 7 years. He is self-employed as a logger and I help out at our woodlot when I'm available. I have lived in Alaska for a little over two years now and love it.

### **Ray Stickwan, Natural Resource Technician**

I am an Ahtna shareholder and a Kluti-Kaah Tribal member. I have nearly 40 years' experience in the public safety field. Just some of my varied experience has included serving as a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Supervisor, Airport Police/Fire/EMS Officer, Alaska Dept. of Public Safety Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer and a Military Police/Investigator with the U.S. Army which took me all the way to Germany. My interest in law enforcement started at a young age when I was one of six Glennallen High School Students chosen to participate in the student program to learn basic Law Enforcement and department policy and procedures. I have designed entire safety and health programs for state and private corporations. I attended

the University of Maryland while serving our country. I feel that working with the community in a civic capacity by serving on boards, or just helping people, has given me a better understanding on how to serve Ahtna shareholders and the company. I am passionate about the land and community and have served on several boards including Crime Stoppers, Fairbanks Native Association, World Eskimo Indian Olympics, North West Indian Head Start, FNSB School District Alaska Native Education and the Fairbanks Volunteers in Policing.

### **Marilyn Eskilida Joe, Land Administrative Assistant**

I am an Ahtna shareholder from Chitina, Alaska and the Ditsiltsiine-Eagle Clan. My parents are the late Maggie (Billum) and Joe Eskilida, both from Chitina. I was born with a speech defect called "Tongue-Tied. When I accepted Jesus Christ, I prayed, "If there is a God that hears me, please help me" and my life changed. My brother Albert taught me to speak and I taught myself to read and write. I enrolled at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and graduated with a secretarial certification. I had to set aside all the fun activities and focus extra hard on my studies. After UAF graduation, I went to the Anchorage Job Service and was immediately hired as a seasonal Secretary/Travel Agent; then BIA Computer Operator; Secretary/Bookkeeper; Ahtna Weigh Station person and now Ahtna Land Administrative Assistant. Working in Anchorage was not easy - I didn't have a car so I had to walk from 3rd Avenue to the 16th Avenue BIA Office every day; rain or shine!

I met my husband Wilbur Joe in 1962 and we have been married 47 years. When I look back I realize I met my two childhood goals; I'm a Secretary and also a Nurse for my husband. I give God all the credit for my achievements. Our young people need to set goals and realize God created us equal. We can do anything through Christ, be determined and "Just-Do-It."



## **WORKFORCE WEDNESDAY FEATURES AHTNA LAND & RESOURCES**

The Alaska Process Industry Career Consortium (APICC) and KTVA's Daybreak showcase Alaskan workers, training programs and employment opportunities each Wednesday morning on Workforce Wednesday. Wednesday, November 8, KTVA and APICC focused on the Ahtna Region and featured guests, Joe Bovee, Ahtna Vice President of Land and Resources and Ahtna Intern, Katie Finnesand. Watch as Joe and Katie describe employment opportunities, job qualifications, education requirements, compensation and why the Ahtna Region is a special environment to live and work in. The KTVA segment can be viewed on their website at [www.ktva.com/category/326077/workforce-wednesday](http://www.ktva.com/category/326077/workforce-wednesday).



# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

## APPLYING FOR CLASS-L SHARES

Application booklets are available online at [www.ahtna-inc.com](http://www.ahtna-inc.com) and at either Ahtna, Inc. office. Ahtna will not accept incomplete applications. Once a shareholder turns 18 it becomes their responsibility to ensure their records are up to date; parents or family members cannot request changes on their behalf.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Lineal descendant of an original Ahtna shareholder-owner (such as child, grandchild, etc.)
- ¼ or more Alaska Native blood quantum
- Be born after Dec. 18, 1971
- Be a United States citizen
- Not be a shareholder-owner of another ANCSA Regional Corporation (except by gifting or inheritance)

### Required documents:

- Class L Stock Application
- Original birth certificate – An original birth certificate is the only document that will be accepted. If you do not have an original birth certificate, contact your local Vital Statistics office.
- Original Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB)
  - For assistance regarding CIBs, contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- Additional documents that may be required if applicable can be found online.

**IMPORTANT:** If you are a Class L shareholder-owner, are of age and have received your high school diploma, GED or equivalent, please remember that Shareholder Services needs proof of graduation/completion, such as a copy of your diploma, so they can transfer your remaining shares to you. Please note that Class L applications and graduate gift requests are managed under separate programs and proof of graduation must be submitted separately to each. When first enrolled, a Class L shareholder-owner receives 30 shares of Class L stock. Upon turning 18 and receiving a high school diploma, GED or equivalent, Class L shareholder-owners receive an additional 70 shares of Class L stock, for a total of 100 shares.

## DIRECT DEPOSIT

Thank you to all the shareholders that signed up during our Direct Deposit Drive! We now have 600 shareholders signed up, but that's still only about 30 percent of the total shareholder

population. Direct deposit is the fastest and most reliable method to receive dividends. Forms can be found on the Ahtna website. Just click on the "Shareholder Services" tab at the top of the page and select "Services and Forms."

**Even if a graduate already submitted their diploma for the graduate gift process, they still need to resubmit to Shareholder Services.**

## PAMELA FINNESAND FIRST TO EARN ANELP CERTIFICATE FROM ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



Alaska Pacific University's Alaska Native Executive Leadership Program (ANELP) graduate certificate program was developed for high-potential leaders by Alaska Native Corporations working with the University. Its purpose is to develop a unique Alaskan executive education program that meets the specific needs of Alaska Native Corporations

by providing future executives with the foundational knowledge to excel in today's competitive business climate. It also aims to provide the know-how to build a holistic approach to identify areas of improvement and strategies for change within Alaska Native Corporations.

Pamela Finnesand is the first Ahtna shareholder-owner employee to complete the Alaska Native Executive Leadership Program at Alaska Pacific University. The ANELP program helps Pamela work towards her goals of becoming the Vice President of Government Contracting and ultimately Ahtna Netiyé's CEO.

Pamela is the daughter of Lucille and Arnold Lincoln, and the late Wilbur Finnesand. She is the Granddaughter of the late, Oscar and Ella Craig, Nick and Ina Lincoln, and Neil and Hanna Finnesand. She is currently the Vice President of Ahtna Support & Training Services, and the SBA Compliance officer and Security Manager of Ahtna Netiyé', LLC.

For more information on APU's Alaska Native Executive Leadership Program (ANELP) visit: [www.alaskapacific.edu/anelp](http://www.alaskapacific.edu/anelp)

# VILLAGE HIGHLIGHT: GAKONA DEVELOPS TRIBAL RESPONSE PROGRAM

## WISE STEWARDSHIP OF AHTNA LANDS



**The Ahtna Athabascan people have lived in the Copper River basin since time immemorial.**

**There are eight villages within the Ahtna region; each village is unique with all of the**

**villages in the region connected by the values and traditions of the Ahtna people and culture. In this issue we are highlighting the village of Ggax Kuna' (Gakona).**

Gakona, meaning "Rabbit River," is located at the confluence of the Copper and Gakona rivers providing access to world-class King Salmon, Sockeye Salmon and Rainbow Trout fishing. In the 1930s archaeologists discovered the site of a village with many storage pits for storing salmon, not surprising due to a culture that remains deeply rooted in fishing and hunting; a Customary and Traditional way of life.

The Native Village of Gakona (NVG), with a population of approximately 200, is a Federally Recognized Tribe located 15 miles northeast of Glennallen at mile 4.8 on the Tok Cutoff Road just east of the Richardson Highway. The Gakona Village Council is the governing body for the village. The mission of the NVG is "to exercise self-determination for the benefits of the tribe to increase services that will meet social, health and community development needs within the community" and has a Vision for the community to "live health-conscious lifestyles."

In keeping with their Mission and Vision, the NVG has developed a Tribal Response Program (TRP) which is dedicated to identifying Brownfield sites as part of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfield Program. These are sites where buildings and/or land is unused due to the potential presence of some form of contamination along the Tok cutoff highway, with a cleanup and reuse plan for the land or the structure. This includes returning it to its natural state for subsistence activities. NVG's Environmental Department works in conjunction with Ahtna, Inc. and local villages staff as they inventory

and place signage in the areas that may be considered a danger to human, wildlife and environmental health and safety from Gakona Village to Mentasta Village. Contaminates may include but are not limited to; abandoned vehicles, trailers and snowmachines, car parts, household appliances, used tires, any form of petroleum products, barrels, and standing or dilapidated buildings.

This summer, Gakona Village celebrated their ten-year anniversary of the Youth Environmental Summit (YES). This event was developed by the Gakona Village Council and is a three-day hands-on learning event about environmental issues. Joining forces with over 20 different entities from across the state, Gakona Village has gained state and national recognition, including a nomination for "Honoring Nations" by The Harvard Project. Environmental staff were asked to present a session at the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management on a model for how other communities might host their own summits.

Through exposing participants to the stewardship opportunities, the summit has brought inspiration to many young people.

For example, Alexandria Hand, a long-time participant, based



her college education goals on the inspiration she received from YES. Gakona Village exposes hundreds of children to proper stewardship practices using the same methods the Ahtna people have used since time immemorial.

Continuing the traditional stewardship of Ahtna lands, the NVG wants to “keep the land free of solid waste and toxins for cleaner and healthier communities,” and believes “no contaminated site is too small or too big” for the Native Village of Gakona’s Tribal Response Program.

To report a real or perceived site, or for more information on the NVG Tribal Response Program or the Environmental Youth Summit visit [www.nvgakona.com](http://www.nvgakona.com).

Gakona Village is committed to their youth and hosts an after-school program in addition to the summer environmental youth program. The children designed a vision pledge that is as follows:

#### **I am Ahtna and I pledge to:**

- **Honor our lands**, protect it by not littering. Pick up litter in our village and reuse and recycle when I can.
- **Honor our trees**, which give me shelter by not being destructive to them. Plant flowers and vegetable in my village.
- **Honor our wildlife and berries**, which feed us by spending time hunting and gathering.
- **Honor our language**, by learning one new Ahtna word a month and spending time with an Elder.
- **Honor our waters**, by not pouring oil, gas or throwing trash into them.
- **Honor myself**, by making good choices and staying healthy.
- I will stand tall and proud and represent my people in a good way.

***I do this because I am Ahtna and I am the future!***

## **“FIRST EMPLOYEE” OF AHTNA, INCORPORATED, ROY EWAN HAS NEW YEAR’S MESSAGE FOR AHTNA YOUTH**

**Just as his elders instilled in him, Roy Ewan’s message for Ahtna youth is clear, working together will help you to accomplish your goals in the coming years. There are leaders who define generations by their dedication, loyalty and enduring service – and Roy S. Ewan’s role as an Elder, culture bearer and lands advocate continues. Roy set out to live a life of service that would benefit others; not only those in rural Alaska, but those who would benefit to this day from his involvement in one of Alaska’s most significant events.**

In 1966, Walter Charley, Oscar Craig, Jack Larson, John Billum Jr., Roy Ewan, Harding Ewan and Markle Ewan Sr. attended the first meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN). At the meeting, AFN resolved to ask the Secretary of the Interior to impose a land freeze to stop state land selections until Native claims were resolved. The Secretary of the Interior imposed a land freeze at the end of the year halting state land selections and development of an oil pipeline that would carry North Slope crude oil across Ahtna territory to Valdez. The land freeze pushed Congress, the President, and the state to settle, and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was signed in December of 1971. “The land claims should be considered a very big thing; a very big thing,” Roy emphasized. By working with the people in rural villages throughout the state, Roy had a

good idea of what he saw happening in Alaska. “I was involved in; I guess you could say the change. We did not want what was happening with other Native Americans in the lower 48 to happen with Alaska Natives. By working together we wanted to try something different, make it our own voice.”



*Roy Ewan, Ahtna Executive Director, reviews Mentasta Lake’s Village selection with Fred John, Village Planning Coordinator, March 1973. “Dave Hickok Collection; Anchorage Museum, B2009.049.1”*

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Roy served on the Ahtna, Inc. Board for over 20 years. He is a former President/CEO of Ahtna and has also served on many Ahtna subsidiary boards and committees. While Roy was involved in the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, he continues to advocate for the Ahtna region. He was instrumental in advocating for co-management of Ahtna lands and the protection of Ahtna's way of life.

The most defining moment in Roy Ewan's life was "realizing we had to make a change in the life we were used to living to the life we live today. It was hard to give up hunting as we knew it, with all of the new, manmade regulations. Our people were not working at that time and were not trained to work. At that time there were no jobs to be had. It was a very difficult time for our people."

Roy knew something had to change when he witnessed firsthand "some of our people serving time in jail because they were trying to feed their families. They had broken laws that were made using these new hunting regulations, but I tell you we would rather be jailed than to starve to death. They had no alternative because they were hungry." Roy felt, "it just wasn't right." Roy's hope for the future "is that our youth today need to work together to accomplish some of the things we as elders were not able to accomplish," and feels that, "we need to gain political strength to be strong not only for Ahtna but for all Alaska Natives."

In November 2016, the First Alaskans Institute, a statewide Alaska Native non-profit organization, presented Roy with the Alaska Native Leader Howard Rock Award for his quiet and humble leadership. This honor is given to a person who has shown quality of character and effort to be a leader by putting their community and people before themselves just as Roy continues to do.

***"Roy continues to uplift the Alaska Native people through his integrity and perseverance as an Alaskan leader. Our paths have crossed through the years during the passage of ANCSA, his co-chair of AFN, and while he was President/CEO of Ahtna, Incorporated. He has held a firm hold on our cultural and traditional way of life which is demonstrated in the advancement of the Ahtna and all of Alaska's Native people."***

***-Lt. Governor Byron Mallott***



2016 First Alaskans Institute trustees (Lt. Governor Mallott is on the far right) present Roy with the Alaska Native Leader award.

Roy Ewan is a past board member of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, the Alaska Native Heritage Park, the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Resource Development Council. He is past co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives, SNOW PAC and the Southcentral Subsistence Advisory Council. Roy is from Kluti-Kaah and his father is the late Estaco Ewan from the Taltsiine Tribe and his mother is the late Jessie Charley from the Udziyu Clan. Roy moved to Gulkana after marrying his wife, Glenda. He and his wife have one daughter, Jackie Johnny.

Advice for the New Year that Roy shares with young people is "to learn from your past and take all the good things from the old ways – and there are a lot of good things from the past." He also feels strongly about the importance of young people getting an education and as much training as possible. "Be aware of who you are – we are Ahtna people, we are all of the same tribe and pretty much the same background through our ancestors." Working together is necessary Roy says, "to make us better people in trying to accomplish what we need to do not only as a corporation but as Ahtna people and more importantly don't forget who you are."



Early Bird Proxy winner Lucille Lincoln receives her prize from Roy Ewan at the 1984 Ahtna Annual Meeting.



## AHTNA SON' UNIVERSITY BRINGING SHAREHOLDERS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

It was a busy year for our Ahtna staff who are developing Ahtna Son' (Star) University programs. As we continue to create partnerships and develop curricula for Ahtna's corporate university, we will communicate these offerings to shareholders.

In 2017, several pilot programs were launched to assist shareholders in cultivating their business skills and professional expertise. In October, Ahtna's four-part Professional Development Series began. These in-person workshops, developed via partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage's Center for Corporate and Professional Development, are designed to develop basic skills useful to business professionals. We are happy that all four workshops were well attended. Feedback gathered from shareholders will inform the structure and content of future offerings. Our 2017 workshops included:

- **Understanding Finance: Financial Statements and Terminology**
- **Understanding Finance: Managing Budgets and Financial Wellbeing**
- **Conflict Management**
- **Stress Management**

We look forward to enhancing these workshops, and expanding the series to include more topics.

Online courses were also made available in 2017, and shareholders can continue to enroll. The project management fundamentals training, The Junior Project Manager, is an introductory course providing a high-level overview on the discipline of project management. This story-based learning experience allows participants to follow a new project manager as he tackles his first project. This course is offered online and can be completed at the participant's pace.

Additionally, Microsoft Office Suite trainings are also available online. These vary from beginner to intermediate to advanced coursework in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, SharePoint, and more. The Microsoft trainings are beneficial opportunities for shareholders of every skill level – for new users, for those looking to enhance their current knowledge, and for experienced users needing a quick refresher.

Ahtna's Learning Management System is a new tool, also made available to shareholders. Participants in Ahtna Son' University courses will receive access to their own learning dashboard, where they can print transcripts, view offerings, and register for courses.

**Opportunities with Ahtna Son' University are free to shareholders. For more information and to sign-up for classes, contact Tracy Parent, Shareholder Development Coordinator at [tparent@ahnta.net](mailto:tparent@ahnta.net) or call 907-868-8221.**

**Stay connected! The Kanas is one venue we use to communicate about shareholder learning opportunities. You can also connect with us on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.**

In 2018, Ahtna Son' University will bring more to Ahtna shareholders. The Project Management series will expand to equip shareholders with the practical knowledge and skill development essential to managing projects of all sizes. We will continue to incorporate additional coursework into this series, providing a path to meet the educational requirements of the Project Management Professional (PMP) and Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) certifications, credentials with the Project Management Institute (PMI).

# AFN 2017



Michelle Anderson, Ahtna President; Eleanor Dementi, Ahtna Board Vice Chair; Senator Lisa Murkowski; & Roy Ewan at AFN



Tracy Parent & Ray Stickwan were all smiles at the Ahtna booth



Anne Thomas, Chitina Native Corporation President at the Ahtna AFN Shareholder Reception



The Ahtna Heritage Dancers performed at the Elders & Youth Conference

## CONGRATULATIONS AFN REPRESENTATIVES!

- **AHTNA REPRESENTATIVE:**  
Michelle Anderson
- **CRNA REPRESENTATIVE:**  
Linda Pete
- **VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE:**  
Lacayah Engebretson
- **ELDER REPRESENTATIVE:**  
Christopher Gene
- **YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE:**  
Mary Jane Ewan



Lt. Governor Byron Mallott & Ahtna Board Chair Nick Jackson visit at the Ahtna AFN Shareholder Reception

# HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES



Chief Ewan visiting with Santa at the Glennallen Christmas Gathering



Byron Chinuhuk, Kathleen Peterson, Francis Sanders and Jeremiah Butler



Anchorage Christmas Gathering



Leroy Barlip Jr., Dollie Hoch and Amelia Hoch



Colton Pete

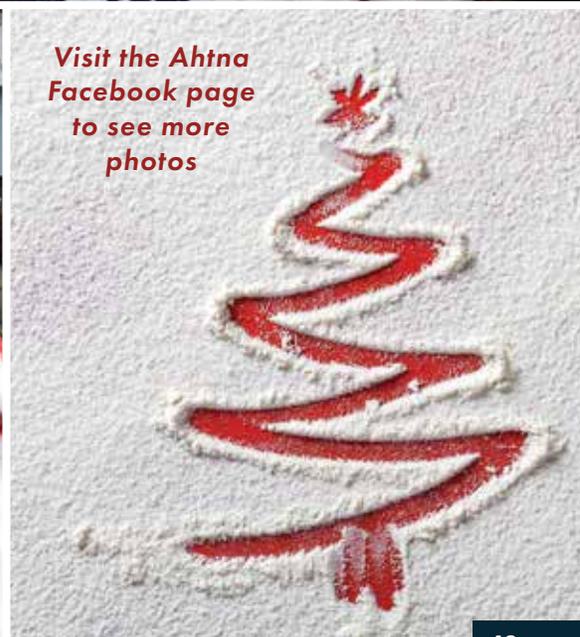


John Ewan, Amara Ewan and Cierra David



Aileen Frankson

Visit the Ahtna Facebook page to see more photos



# MEET THE BOARD



## ALBERT "PALMER" FLEURY

### Describe your family (married, children, grandchildren?) What are their names?

My wife, Linda Fleury and I have four children: Donna, Melissa, Jerry, and Dominic. Friends call me "Palmer." My mother was the late Leona Joe and her father was the late

Tazlina Joe. My grandfather used to have a village at Tazlina Lake in the early 20s and 30s and that is where my aunts and uncles were born.

### What tribe are you a member of?

I'm a member of the Taltsiine, Water Clan. It is pronounced (Tal-chee-na). Our clan was named for the many rivers that were where we lived and hunted.

### What are some defining/influential moments in your life?

I developed my strong work ethic at a young age and it has stayed with me probably due to my first job I had. When I was 16 years old I worked for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a Fire Fighter Crew Chief and it was hot, hard work!

### Is there anyone in particular in your life that has inspired you?

The best part of my first job was my BLM boss, Fred Rungee. He taught me what good work ethics were, and to not only work hard, and to always be dependable.

### What are you most passionate about in your life?

In addition to traveling outside of Alaska, I enjoy spending time at our cabin at Klutina. When I'm at the cabin I appreciate the solitude, and the ability to hunt and fish. Hauling all of the materials myself, I built the cabin by hand with the help of my nephew-in-law and my grandson. Originally, the land belonged to Chief, Jim McKinley, and his father before him, which is near an old mining area. Remnants of the Chief's original cabin can still be seen. I inherited the land from my cousin, the late Cecelia Larsen, who was Chief McKinley's daughter.

### What hobbies or activities do you enjoy?

Not many people know that in addition to rebuilding classic cars, gun and knife-smithing, that as a machinist, I like to repair old watches. You'd be surprised to know that I probably have repaired enough watches to wear a different one every day for a year! But my collecting has slowed down because of the popular Antiques Roadshow program has made it hard to

pick up affordable quality watches that are in need of repair. I currently have a yellow and brown, classic '56 Oldsmobile that I rebuilt most everything on. I also rebuilt a '62 Thunderbird and gave it to my friend, Martin Finnesand, a mechanic, 302 Retired.

### What are your hopes for the future of Ahtna?

My hope is that Ahtna will succeed, and that the Ahtna Vision statement, Our Culture Unites Us; Our Land Sustains Us; Our People are Prosperous; can come true.

### How long have you served on the Ahtna Board?

Originally, I served on the board from 2006 to 2012 and was recently re-elected in 2017.

### What is the Board's vision for Ahtna, Inc?

To be a prosperous company.

### What made you want to join the Board?

I knew that being a board member would enable me to be able to help the shareholder-owners have a stronger voice and I want to work to help them receive all of the benefits that they are entitled.

### What excites you the most about the Board's work?

That the board works hard for the shareholders and Ahtna, Inc.

### What are some key things you wanted to change/implement when you joined the Board?

Most importantly was to enable the shareholders to have a voice and encourage them to ask question at the Annual Meeting.

### What is one or a few things you would love for all shareholders to know about the Board?

I'd like to remind all shareholders that they are welcome to sit in on the board meetings and encourage them to attend. When they are present at the meetings, they can learn what the board is doing to help them. Shareholders can sit in on any regular board meeting whether in Glennallen or Anchorage, but for the executive sessions they would have to step out.

### What message would you like to share with the youth of today?

Do not be afraid to leave the village to get work or training. Do not let peer pressure lead you to smoke, drink, or to do drugs. Work hard to be independent and strong.

### Can you tell me more about your work history and community involvement?

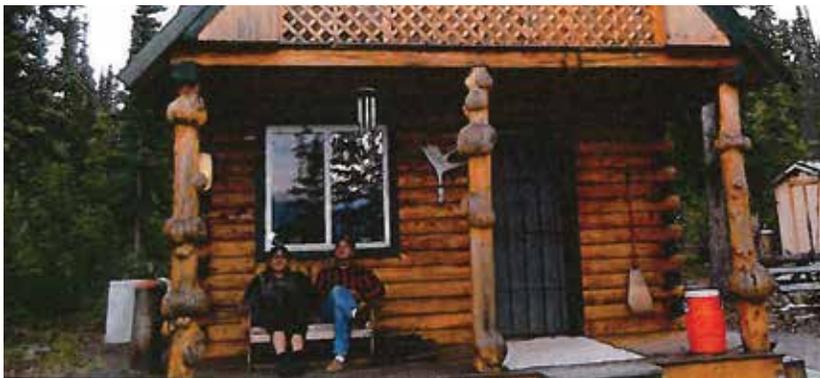
I've been a union member most of my life, I.U.O.E., International Union of Operating Engineers. Local 302. I worked hard to be able to retire after working 20 years and I've been retired now for 22 years. When I was working as a mechanic on heavy

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equipment, it was a dirty and thankless job! The coldest environment I ever worked in was at Prudhoe Bay in -120 degrees below zero wind chill! The hydraulics would freeze up and we could only be outside for 10 minutes at a time. Now that I'm retired I have the time needed to work hard for the shareholders and elders of the Ahtna region. I'm able to truly focus on the issues and commit the time necessary to my position on the board.

**Anything else you would like to share?**

I feel for Ahtna to remain strong we need to make some changes in the board and to Ahtna. The Elders have the wisdom and we need to support our youth that can carry the torch into the future.



*The Fleury family cabin at Klutina Lake.*

## CONDOLENCES

In loving memory of our shareholders who have passed

**Ella M. Charley**  
**Mona J. Michal**  
**Delia E. Triber**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JAN

**Jan 19** - Class L Deadline

### FEB

**Feb 9** - AI Board, 1 p.m., Anchorage

**Feb 12** - AITRC Board, 10 a.m.

**Feb 16-23** - Alaska Board of Game (BOG), Dillingham, AK

**Feb 19** - Presidents' Day (Ahtna offices closed)

**Feb 27** - Shareholder Committee, 1 p.m. 

**Feb 28** - Policy Committee, 9 a.m. 

**Feb 28** - Land Committee, 1 p.m. 

**Feb 28** - Deadline for all Board nominations

### MAR

**Mar 12** - Audit & Finance Committee, 9 a.m., Anchorage

**Mar 12** - AITRC Board, 10 a.m.

**Mar 22-24** - AI, AN Board, 9 a.m., Sacramento, CA

**Mar 23** - SVO ballots deadline

**Mar 30** - Good Friday

=video conference between Anchorage & Glennallen



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Chair



**Eleanor Dementi**  
Vice Chair



**Jason Hart**  
Treasurer



**Linda Tyone**  
Secretary



**Roy J. Tansy Sr.**



**Lucille Lincoln**



**Albert Fleury**



**John E. Craig**



**Ken Johns**



**Franklin John**



**Karen Linnell**



**Angela Vermillion**



**Genevieve John**

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