

# VENTURE

45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL **MEETING SUCCESS** 

PAGE 04

REVITALIZING OUR LANGUAGE PAGE 19

SUMMER



## letter from

### THE PRESIDENT & CEO

#### Dear Shareholders,

We were very glad the 45th Annual Meeting of Shareholders was home in Nome and gave us all the opportunity to share the strong financial growth our Corporation has accomplished since our last meeting; to hear how the Corporation's donations are benefiting Shareholders and contributing to the revitalization of our Native languages; to celebrate the many years of service from our employees; and to enjoy the warmth of Shareholders, Elders, family and friends. We had a full house at the Nome Elementary School for the Annual Meeting, with 50.6% of shares represented, which overall guides our important work.



I want to extend my congratulations to returning directors Andrew Miller, Jr. and Joel (Jay) Craft, Jr. and welcome two new directors, Joseph (Joe) Garnie and LieuDell (Ayaaq) Goldsberry. Quyanaqpak to former Chairman Bobby Evans for his commitment and tireless work during his time as Chairman. Under Bobby's leadership, the Corporation grew to new heights and Shareholders received record-breaking benefits driven by the professionalism and dedication that he brought to the position. I send my congratulations to our newly selected Board Chair, Dr. Barbara (Qasuġlana) Amarok, and look forward to the strong experience and perspective that she will bring to the leadership role. We are truly fortunate to have a Board of Directors and management staff who understand you and are dedicated to the Corporation's mission.

Following the 45th Annual Meeting, fog settled into Nome for a couple of days and Alaska Airlines cancelled several flights. The unexpected delay became a blessing in disguise as it afforded our management team and staff two more days in Nome. Some had traveled from as far away as Puerto Rico and we made the most of the extra time together, with Board Members guiding staff for tours of our community and lands while discussing our strategies and business operations. Though separated by great distance, our business leaders and the many who work for SNC companies also share the universal values based upon our Alaska Native culture.

Among those members of the team, we extend a warm welcome to Charles Ellanna, land technician; Chrystie Salesky, shareholder relations officer; and Pat Hoxie, vice president of contract administration and compliance. Each brings a wealth of experience in working for Alaska Native corporations and we look forward to their contributions to the Corporation and the service they will provide to Shareholders. We are especially proud of Chrystie Salesky as she started her SNC career as a Sitnasuak intern in 2011, and has since earned promotions to various leadership roles. Chrystie's career path is a notable example of the Shareholder development that we encourage through our internship program and the Shareholder Executive Leadership Program.

#### **Letter from the President & CEO (continued)**

To support the investment in our people, SNC donated \$317,000 in scholarships and charitable contributions during 2018 for secondary education, vocational training opportunities and programs that help carry out our mission. After Shareholders take full advantage of personal and professional development opportunities, many look for roles with the Corporation and our Family of Companies.

As a Corporation, we are stronger when more Shareholders are involved. That is why we implement a Shareholder hiring preference. Several months ago, we took our Shareholder hiring preference a step further with the goal of creating more job opportunities for Shareholders in Nome. We strengthened our policy by requiring that we ask ourselves, "Can new job postings and vacant positions be supported in Nome?" If so, we must first strive to fill the position there. Through this initiative, we hope to live up to our corporate mission to serve Shareholders by providing more employment opportunities close to home.

We have every reason to be optimistic that we are on track for another great year of financial performance. The Board, management staff and I are hard at work to meet our sustainable 10/10/1,000 goal. New federal and commercial contracts are spurring growth at SNCT, and the final stages of a cyber-security acquisition, through Sitnasuak Applied Technologies, should help boost our bottom line in the third and fourth quarters of this year. If you have questions about our operations, please do not hesitate to reach out to the management staff and me. I value your perspective and the opportunity to hear what is on your mind.

Quyanaqpak,

Pamiiliq Roberta "Bobbi" Quintavell,

President & CEO



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#### NEW SHAREHOLDERS

Arika Jackson
Gordon Lockwood, Jr.
Jordon Lockwood
Morgon Lockwood
Alexa Miller
Andrew Peterson III
Kellie Rank
Jessie Sorem
Parker Sorem



## letter from

#### THE CHAIR

Shareholders,

Thank you to those of you who attended the 45th Annual Meeting of Shareholders and we hope to see you soon at the 46th Annual Meeting in Nome! Congratulations to returning Director Andy Miller and to newly elected Directors Ayaaq Goldsberry, Joe Garnie and Jay Craft. Thank you to the Shareholders who exercised the right to vote, and I encourage all Shareholders to cast your votes for the November 9, 2019 Annual Meeting.



I have served on the Board since 2011 and, as Chair, I will continue to rely on the messages of Shareholders to guide my decisions as I work with fellow Board Members and the Sitnasuak management team to sustain our growth and provide maximum benefits for Shareholders.

With the purpose of staying strong for our Shareholders and Descendants for many generations to come, the operation of Sitnasuak Native Corporation is guided by our longstanding values that include humility, honesty, hard work and open communication. I commit to making every decision based on the premise that we must do what benefits and is in the interest of the Shareholders, and to upholding these important values.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barb Qasuġlana Amarok,

Amarok

Chair of the Board

## 2020 census — YOU GOUNT!

The 2020 Census is coming and you count! The U.S. Census count in Alaska is less than one year away and scheduled to begin in January 2020. According to Julie Lam, U.S. Census regional director based in Los Angeles, California, "Toksook Bay has been selected to be the first village counted in the United States and Alaska and will kick off the decennial count for the nation."

The Census is currently in the hiring process for enumerators ("census takers"), with job opportunities at both village and state levels across Alaska. The hiring process can take awhile as it requires multiple steps: collecting applicant referrals, completing paper applications, fingerprinting, and conducting interviews and background checks.

The Census is encouraging job seekers to start the process now so people are ready to begin working this coming winter. Job candidates will need to meet these requirements:

- be a U.S. citizen
- minimum of 18 years old
- have a valid Native American tribal document or state ID and social security card
- pass a background check

Census taker pay ranges from \$25/hour for training and \$28/hour for enumeration. Call 1.855.314.6664 for recruiting staff and job information. You may also visit census.gov/fieldjobs for job information.



LieuDell (Ayaaq) Goldsberry is the son of the late Victor Goldsberry and mother Nancy (Kunayak) Goldsberry. He lives in Sitka, Alaska. He was the past owner of Chukotka-Alaska Inc. in Nome, a tourist shop that specialized in Native and Russian art that operated for over 20 years. Ayaaq also taught and coached at Nome Public Schools for eight years and is the assistant residential principal/activities director for Mount Edgecumbe High School in Sitka.



Shareholders gathered at Nome Elementary School for the 45th Annual Meeting while hundreds more watched online and followed along via social media.

### the 45th annual meeting of shareholders

## A SUCCESS AT EVERY LEVEL

Culture, character and contribution — our Corporation's values — were everywhere you looked at the 45th Annual Meeting. On June 1, over 200 Shareholders and Descendants came together at the Nome Elementary School while more than 200 watched live online and participated via social media.



The Elders Committee's 2018 Elder of the Year, Della Walluk, shares a hug with her granddaughter, Della Medlin, who gave tribute to her life and accomplishments as part of the celebration.

The Ugiuvak Dancers and Drummers of Nome welcomed Shareholders with song and dance; the Elders Committee honored Della Walluk as the 2018 Elder of the Year; door-prize winners took home fun and useful gifts; and Sitnasuak Native Corporation (SNC) announced proxy-prize winners and posted them on the Corporation's Facebook page. A full list of prize winners can also be found in the Annual Meeting section on snc.org and also on page 10 of this newsletter.

In addition to conducting a successful election and reporting 2018 financial performance, Shareholders learned about the success of our business units and the contributions SNC made to Shareholders and organizations – all promoting and supporting the mission of the Corporation. Shareholders were also able to learn about our subsidiaries, talk to management staff and share comments and ask questions.

#### Welcome new and returning Board Members

At the meeting, four board seats serving terms through the 48th Annual Meeting were up for election. We achieved a quorum and an impressive 50.6% of votes cast with the largest number of proxies ever submitted via e-voting. Quyaana to everyone who submitted their proxies.

#### **45th Annual Meeting (continued)**

Shareholders re-elected directors Andrew Miller, Jr. and Joel (Jay) Craft, Jr. and elected two new Board Members, Joseph (Joe) Garnie and LieuDell (Ayaaq) Goldsberry. We thank former directors Haven Harris and Mark Allred for their service to the Corporation and appreciate Andrew Miller, Jr.'s and Joel (Jay) Craft, Jr.'s continued commitment and service to the Board.

#### Very strong financial performance

During the meeting, the accounting firm BDO USA, LLP, reviewed the Corporation's 2018 audit and Sitnasuak's Acting Chief Financial Officer Nathalie Martin reviewed the 2018 financial performance. SNC works with BDO to audit and confirm the Corporation's financial performance in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. BDO's auditor reported that the Corporation's financial statements received one of BDO's highest grades.

As highlights from the financial presentation, SNC's current assets increased by more than \$3 million from 2017 to 2018 and total liabilities decreased by \$6 million. Shareholder equity increased by over \$6 million. Even more impressive, the Corporation's gross profit jumped by \$5 million, cash flow skyrocketed from \$2.8 million to \$16.9 million, and we ended 2018 with \$7.9 million more in cash and cash equivalents on hand totaling \$24.3 million, compared to \$16.4 million at the end of 2017.

#### **Management report**

SNC President and CEO Pamiiliq Roberta (Bobbi) Quintavell provided the management report, which helped tell the story of how SNC achieved such great financial success in 2018. The report highlighted SNC's tactical-apparel unit as the greatest contributor to the Corporation's income followed by fuel distribution, real



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Candidate	Number of shares voted			
Joel (Jay) Craft, Jr.	46,188			
Haven Harris	34,386			
Andrew Miller, Jr.	102,065			
Susie Delgado	25,326			
Fred (Pushulq) Eningow	ık 29,916			
Joseph (Joe) Garnie	44,274			
LieuDell (Ayaaq) Goldsb	erry 76,236			
Dwayne Robert Robin	8,553			
Jaylene Wheeler	25,563			
Quyaana to everyone who ran for a Board seat.				



Director Becka Baker welcomes Joseph (Joe) Garnie to the board.

#### **45th Annual Meeting (continued)**

estate and financial services. Bobbi then outlined how SNC's successful operations are leading to increased Shareholder benefits totaling over \$2.5 million in 2018.

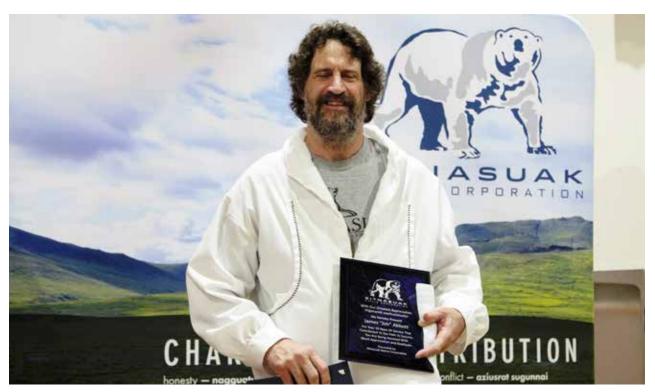
Growth in Shareholder benefits was seen through the record high \$7.50 per trust unit (share) Heritage Distribution and through the \$750 Elder Benefit. With the establishment of the SNC Trust in 2018, Shareholders also benefited with tax-free distributions made for the first time through the new ANCSA Trust.

Beyond direct cash benefits to Shareholders, Bobbi also shared that the Corporation made nearly \$200,000 in donations to local nonprofit organizations that promote community, social and cultural development, which also benefits Shareholders. One recipient is an Iñupiaq language revitalization program that seeks to establish an immersion program in Nome public schools. Shareholders showcased the immersion program and other revitalization efforts at the Annual Meeting. You can read more about the program on page 19. Additionally,



The Piscoya family gathers for a picture at the photo booth.

the Corporation provided \$117,000 in scholarships for college, vocational training and secondary education opportunities for Shareholders and Descendants. SNC's Lands Department managed more than 275 camp and home sites.



Jim Abbott receiving employee recognition for 29 years of service during the 45th Annual Meeting.

#### **45th Annual Meeting (continued)**

Looking at 2019 and beyond, Bobbi shared that she and the management staff will continue working to realize the Corporation's vision to stabilize operations, diversify and grow existing business units, protect the land and select leadership who can connect and carry out SNC's vision while advancing Shareholder hire.

#### **Recognizing employee contributions**

SNC's management team and staff are major contributors to the success SNC experienced in 2018. Several employees were recognized for their years of service, ranging from five years to nearly 30, including Jim Abbott for 29 years of service. While the meeting was in recess, Shareholders had the opportunity to meet and ask questions of subsidiary leaders and take home memorabilia.

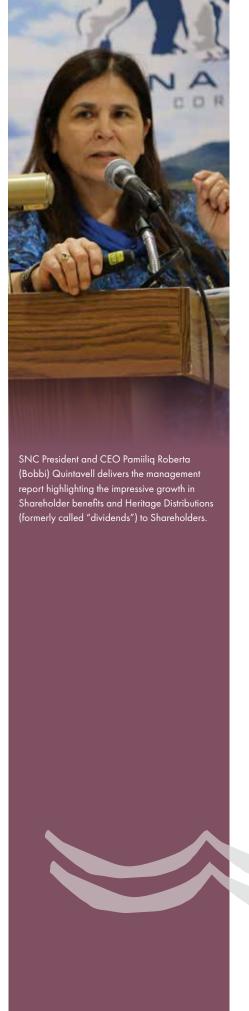
#### Sharing comments and asking questions

Shareholders had two separate opportunities to share their thoughts and ask questions of the Board and management staff, first during a comment section early in the meeting, and later during a question-and-answer session near the end. Staff members noted Shareholder comments help inform management and Board decisions. SNC answered questions during the meeting or recorded them for follow-up. The comments demonstrated that every Shareholder at the meeting cares deeply about the success of the Corporation and is committed to its success.

Overall, the 45th Annual Meeting of Shareholders was successful and will help guide our Corporation's future. The Board of Directors and management greatly appreciate Shareholders' willingness to participate, and look forward to working hard toward continuing profitability, sustainability and success.



The Blandford family celebrates winning the 48" TV door prize.



## PROXY PRIZE WINNERS

WINERO	
Sandra Geddes	\$100
Mae Eningowuk-Nels	son \$100
Phillip Castel	\$100
Shawn Seetomona	\$100
David Evans	\$100
Laban Iyatunguk, Jr.	\$100
Nelson Kenick	\$100
Linda Hoyt	\$100
James Nershak	\$100
Christina Reasner	\$100
Linda Oxereok	\$250
Dwayne Charles	\$250
Butch Nattanguk	\$250
John Bahnke, Jr.	\$250
Clarissa Eide	\$250
Aarnout Berry	\$250
Alice Heilesen	\$250
Edna Ruud	\$250
Warren T. Trigg	\$250
Geraldine Hoogendo	rn \$250
Bethany Johnson	\$500
Buffy Meyer	\$500
Bryan Willoya	\$500
Austin Ahmasuk	\$500
Charles Swanson	\$500
Eric Larsen	\$750
Jerry Ahwinona	\$750
Jeremy Perkins	\$750
Alexandra Amarok	\$750
Frank Reale	\$750
Hazel Nyberg	50,000 Alaska Miles

## GRAND CASH PRIZE:

Christine Oles \$2,500

#### DOOR PRIZES

Rubbermaid cooler **Dawn Warnke** 

Screwdriver set, including a bit kit

**Teresa Trigg** 

Foodsaver, including Foodsaver bags

**Austin Ahmasuk** 

22" charcoal grill

**Mildred Marie Edenshaw** 

Binoculars
Rita Hukill

\$100 heating fuel donated by Bonanza

**Josephine Bourdon** 

\$100 Visa gift card donated by SAT

Joanne Adsuna

3 yards of fabric **Sharon Rida** 

48" Sony television

Jessica Blandford

2 \$100 Lowes gift cards

Joel Rose

**Charles Punguk** 

3 Bonanza Fuel jackets

**Dorothy Thomas** 

Kaia Miller

**Mary Jane Litchard** 

## DESCENDANT AND FAMILY DOOR PRIZES

Camping chair with a lantern and water

Tera Bergamaschi-Earnshaw

Electric skillet
Elliott Mathisen

Colby light-up speaker
Katherine Scott

\$25 gift cards donated by Bonanza

Jackson Castel
Carly Outwater

Coffeemaker

Ali Smithhisler

Sony Blu-ray player Maggie Miller

Shareholders with questions regarding prizes may contact the Shareholder Relations
Department at 1.877.443.2632 or shareholder@snc.org.





## sitnasuak welcomes

## DR. BARB AMAROK



The Sitnasuak Board of Directors and management are very pleased to welcome Dr. Barbara (Qasuġlana) Amarok to lead our Board. Barb, as she prefers to be called, was selected by the Board as Chair following the 45th Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

First elected to the Board in 2011, Barb is a lifelong educator, having taught fourth grade and cultural standards. She retired from the classroom but is still a career educator. Recently, she also accepted a position as Director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks – Northwest Campus, based in Nome. We congratulate Barb on her new job and are thrilled she will be guiding both our Village Corporation and our local university campus, both of which are dedicated to serving their constituents.

Barb also serves as a board member of both the Nome Public Schools Board of Education and the Association of Alaska School Boards, in addition to adjunct faculty with the University of Alaska Fairbanks – Northwest Campus, member of the Education Compact Committee for First Alaskans Institute, member of the Advisory Council for the University of Alaska College of Education, and as a member of the Alaska Native Collaborative Hub for Research on Resiliency.

Barb's high level of involvement in our schools illustrates her strong belief in the power of education. In short, she is committed to giving our youth the best possible tools for building a happy life.

"Children will grow up to be the strongest and the most capable of making informed decisions if they have an authentic learning experience, meaning the good and the bad," she tells us. "It's all tied to schooling being

more relevant. And that goes back to teacher education. Our system needs to better prepare teachers to serve the community and build the kids up to be successful in tribal offices, in corporation offices."

Barb has personal knowledge of some of the "bad" she refers to above. Many decades ago, her grandfather took his wife and children to see a movie in Nome where he was asked to leave the theater with his family because he sat them in the Whites-only section. He was mortified and angry. Fortunately, times have



Barb Amarok with mother, Mary Ann Amarok Tiffany, younger sister Sarah Tiffany and younger brother Maiyak Tiffany.



#### **Dr. Barb Amarok (continued)**

changed, but Barb believes it is important to acknowledge and talk about all aspects of history and to celebrate the people who worked to bring about change, such as the late and honorable Elizabeth Peratrovich and Alberta Schenck – and she believes one of the most important places to have those conversations is in the classroom.

"Once the teachers and administrators are equipped with that knowledge, they can turn around and incorporate it into their teaching at the schools and that is how we'll build up students to be prepared to become board members, CEOs and employees at our Native corporations," she says. "Everything is about partnership. When organizations partner everyone benefits and you can work toward social justice and advocacy. And that's what we need to do: We need more social justice and advocacy."

Raised by teachers, Barb's interest in education started early. Her stepfather was a Bureau of Indian Affairs teacher and then administrator. Her mother was an expert seamstress and skin-sewer. As her stepfather's career progressed, the family moved from Nome and lived in several communities around Alaska, including Kotzebue, Juneau and Wrangell. Barb graduated high school in Juneau, then went to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for college. She returned to Nome in the 1970s as a teacher herself.

Barb was raised with a combination of traditional and western education and life experiences gained throughout Alaska and in the Lower 48. She brings her philosophy of acknowledging our faults but embracing the best of both worlds to our Board, guiding our Corporation to growth in modern business while honoring our traditional culture.

"I see the chairperson as somebody who has the same importance and voice as every other Board member, but holds more responsibility," she tells us. "I am a team player, and I am ultra-sensitive to the fact the Corporation is owned by, and responsible to, its Shareholders. To make profits, to protect the land, to provide for the betterment of the Shareholders and to support maintenance of our proud and distinct identity."

Although she is new to the position of Chair, Barb has been on the Board for nine years and understands Sitnasuak's business imperative to create value for Shareholders. She recently visited our subsidiary in Puerto Rico, SNC Technical Services, and came away with a high level of confidence in the company, its management and personnel.

"It is just the most amazing operation I have ever seen," says Barb. "All the way from the employees at the sewing machines, to the mid-level, up to the CEO and his team. There's such a positive attitude there."

#### Dr. Barb Amorak (continued)

Looking forward, Barb is confident that the strategic plan Sitnasuak has in place is a good one, with its emphasis on sustainability, making profits, exploring new industries in which to invest, protecting the land and serving Shareholders.

"Being a part of a team is so important and that team includes the Shareholders," says Barb. "I love when Shareholders come to our meetings to share messages. Being on the Board is a way of serving my community. If I can serve the Shareholders by being on the Board, that would be very fulfilling to me."

In talking with Barb, three things become clear: one, she cares deeply about Alaskans and our culture; two, she is a wise woman who values and respects others; and three, Sitnasuak is in very good hands with her as Chair.

When you run into Barb in Nome, take a moment to congratulate her on the two new positions she now holds, and share with her your thoughts on Sitnasuak. More than anything, she loves to hear what Shareholders think.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Barbara (Qasuġlana) Amarok, Chairman

Gloria Karmun, 1st Vice Chair

Andrew Miller, Jr., 2nd Vice Chair

Becka Baker, Treasurer

Helen Bell, Secretary

**Bobby Evans** 

Louie Green, Jr.

Joel (Jay) Craft, Jr.

Richard Foster

Joseph (Joe) Garnie

LieuDell (Ayaaq) Goldsberry





hoxie new vice president of

# CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE



Pat Hoxie has joined Sitnasuak Native Corporation (SNC) as the new vice president of contract administration and compliance.

"We are pleased to have Pat join our executive management team to integrate contract administration and compliance with our Corporation and growing Family of Businesses," shares SNC President and CEO Pamiiliq Roberta (Bobbi) Quintavell. "This new position will focus on increasing efficiencies and ensuring steadfast compliance with local, state and federal regulations. Pat's well-rounded background and areas of expertise will help us continue to strengthen our corporate infrastructure as we grow."

Hoxie brings more than 30 years of experience in federal contracting and over 20 years with Alaska Native corporations. He has an education in accounting and finance, and previously served as the vice president of finance for an international government contractor and as director of contracts and compliance for Doyon Regional Corporation.

Hoxie says, "I am excited and honored to join the SNC Team and serve its Shareholders. We have embarked down an exciting road that will provide multiple challenges while we evolve best in class business lines."

Welcome, Pat!

# sign-up for DIRECT DEPOSIT

Did you know that Sitnasuak Shareholders and SNC Trust Beneficiaries have the option to receive their dividends and/or distributions via direct deposit? Signing up is quick and easy – just complete the form inserted in this Venture, cut it out and return it to the Shareholder Department. The form is also available at snc.org, in the Forms Library under the Shareholders tab.

Direct deposits help us reduce paperwork and get your dividend and/or distribution check to you quickly. Direct deposit is optional and paper checks are the default payment method. Please note that the bank account for direct deposit must be in the name of the Shareholder or SNC Trust Beneficiary receiving the distribution, unless there is a custodian on file. If the names do not match, a paper check will be issued.

We encourage Shareholders and SNC Trust Beneficiaries to enroll today. If you need assistance with direct deposit enrollment, please contact the Shareholder Department at 1.877.443.2632 or shareholder@snc.org, or come by the Nome and Anchorage offices.

## THE LAND IS OUR BIGGEST ASSET

The Sitnasauk Native Corporation Land Use Policy preserves and protects our indigenous lands for Shareholders to use for family, cultural and business activities. These programs are available for all Shareholders:

#### CAMPSITE PROGRAM

Set up your own camp area for subsistence and recreational activities.

#### HOMESITE PROGRAM

Land lease agreements allow you to establish a primary place of residence.

#### SPECIAL USE PERMITS

Permits are available for fisheries, grazing, mining, historical preservation, land development and other purposes.



For information and permit applications, contact:

LAND STAFF NOME HEADQUARTERS 214 FRONT STREET, 2ND FLOOR NOME, AK 99762 907.387.1220 1.877.443.2632



## charles ellanna joins

## LAND DEPARTMENT

Charles Ellanna, born and raised in Nome, recently joined the Sitnasuak Land Department at the Nome headquarters as the land technician.

"We are very glad to have Charles join our land management team," shares Sitnasuak
Native Corporation (SNC) President and CEO Pamiiliq Roberta (Bobbi) Quintavell. "Our land is our great asset.
Charles brings great experience and personal knowledge of our area, cultures and lands, which will help continue to ensure we manage our Corporation lands well for our Shareholders."

Ellanna is an avid outdoorsman and family man. He shares, "When I am not working, I am fishing, hunting, camping or enjoying the amazing countryside views with my family. I am very excited and thrilled to begin my position as land technician here at Sitnasuak. I am looking forward to serving and working for Shareholders and clients alike, and hope that my past experiences serve the Corporation and Shareholders well."

Family is very important to Charles. He shared, "I have three wonderful children: Dade (age 8), Breannon (age 7) and Killian (age 11 months), and one very smart and hardworking stepdaughter, Brooke Anungazuk (age 17), with my amazing wife Katie Ellanna." He continues, "I would not be in the position that I am in today without the love and encouragement of my family – they are what keeps me going every day."

Ellanna recently worked with Kawerak, Inc. in the Land Management Services Program which served the Bering Strait region tribes and people with Native allotment land management, natural resource issues and probate.

Welcome, Charles!

#### **Correction to Spring 2019 Venture In Memoriam**

In the Spring 2019 issue of The Venture, errors were included in the "In Memoriam" listing. Corrections are as follows: Steven Potter (he is alive) was listed when it should have been Mary Jean Potter (his late mother); Marlene Ahkinga (she is alive) was listed when it should have been Dora Ahkinga (her late mother); and Sherman Thomas was listed when it should have been Thomas Sherman.

SNC sincerely apologizes to each Shareholder and their families for the errors.





#### MISSING SHAREHOLDERS

Anagick, Natalia Anderson-Timmons, Katherine Barger, Jr., Charlie Blankenship, John Borkowski, Chelsea Brower. Dale Buck, Mary Carter, Jeanette Cauble, Jennifer Childers, Allison Dixon, Scott Douglas, Alie Ernak II, Frederick Floyd, Ruth Giffin, Laura Goff, Norman Goldsberry, Samuel Gologergen-Johnston, Harley Guiley, Jacqualyn Heidlebaugh, James Herman, Sidney Hickok, Elizabeth Hurst, Faye Hutton, Albert lyatunguk, Frank Jack, Hazel James, Thomas

Johnson, Melanie Katexac. Romald Keeble, Judith Kinney, Jennifer Kowchee, Petula Larsen, Darrell Larsen, Elizabeth Larsen, Perry Larsen, Jr, George Littlefield, Scott Luciano, Anthony Lucier, Paul Luke, Henry Maldonado, Jaden Mayer, Nellie Mazonna, Anthony McClary, Kelly Miller, Wayne Montana, Carla Morgan, Kendra Morse, Jr., Robert Murphy, Daniel Murphy, James Okitkon, Elsie Oliver, Vicki Olson, Alexandria Olson, Jennifer

Omelak, Richard Orr, Adrienne Orr, Darlene Ozenna, Louie Ozenna, Sandra Russell, Jennifer Sanchez, Annokazooka Scott, Alonzo Seeganna, Mark Silook, Ivan Slwooko, David Smith, Starla Walluk, William Washington, Preston Willoya, William Wittie, Frank Wittie, Jamie Yool, Theresa

If you know the whereabouts of a missing Shareholder, please contact our Shareholder Department at shareholder@snc.org or 907.929.7032.



## revitalizing our

## LANGUAGE

Our indigenous languages in Alaska have been fading away, with only an estimated 14% of Iñupiat remaining who can fluently speak Iñupiaq. This dire situation did not arrive overnight – it has occurred over decades, starting with forced discrimination and assimilation policies of the U.S. government and schools combined with the introduction of modern technology, such as television. Many members of Nome's community are not willing to accept the extinction of this major part of our culture and are stepping up to do something about it.

At the 45th Annual Meeting of Shareholders, special guest speakers Josie Tattauq Bourdon, Kiminaq Maddy Alvanna-Stimpfle and Hattie Ivilik Keller shared their efforts to preserve, revitalize and renormalize the Iñupiaq language. Josie has more than 35 years of teaching experience in the region, Maddy is going into her fifth year of teaching in Nome, and Hattie has raised over \$2.3 million to support Inuit education programs in the region. Josie has offered several opportunities for adults to learn Iñupiaq at Nome's UAF Northwest Campus and through her own volunteer efforts, as well as teaching students Iñupiaq at Nome Elementary as the cultural studies teacher. Hattie and Maddy are working to institute an Iñupiaq-immersion program for kindergartners in the fall of 2020 at Nome Elementary School, through Inuusiq Inc.

These three Nome-Beltz High School alumni are driven by more than their passion for education – they are motivated by their desire to do right by the next generation. Hattie said, "We realize that our language, culture and traditions are within us but their decline and absence in everyday life didn't make us feel whole. We didn't want to pass this empty feeling on to the next generation."

Maddy and Hattie's desire to preserve, revive and renormalize our Inuit cultures inspired them, along with two other Inuit women, to create Inuusiq Inc. in 2016. The word "inuusiq" means "our way of life." The mission of the organization is to empower Inuit through the revitalization of Inuit languages, cultural values and practices. To see successful models of language revitalization, Maddy traveled to New Zealand to visit the indigenous Maori people, who found themselves in a similar cultural decline and, in the span of 40 years, have completely changed the trajectory of their culture and language.

"The opportunity to first-hand see a culture that was once in decline as vibrant and successful as it is today was absolutely inspiring. It provided confidence that, if they can do it, so can we," Maddy said.

#### **Revitalizing Our Language (continued)**

In its early stages, the Maori revitalization program started small. Some Maori language-immersion classes started with two or three students, with one or two certified teachers in a make-shift classroom. One class started underneath a tree. The small ripple caused by these community-driven moms quickly turned into a wave and, 40 years since their first language immersion classrooms, students can now start their Pre-K and K-12 education and complete up to their PhD all in the Maori language.

"The Maori culture has some similarities to ours, and we can learn a lot from their success. For instance, Maori language-immersion schools have built in traditional knowledge of the ocean and land into their curriculum and they also make sure students understand the history of their tribe and where they came from. I met very young, confident students while in New Zealand. I could sense that pride and confidence comes from knowing their cultural identity and language, which contributes to their success in life." Maddy continued, "When speaking with the program administrators, the biggest determinate to their success was taking the first step to get started and having the support of the community."

With plans to institute an Iñupiaq immersion kindergarten class in Nome Elementary School in the fall of 2020, Inuusiq Inc. is well on its way to taking the first step towards language revitalization in the region. However, to be successful and expand the program, it will require the support of the community.

"We appreciate the financial support from Sitnasuak Native Corporation, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Kawerak Inc., Norton Sound Health Corporation, King Island Native Community, Solomon Traditional Council and Wells Fargo. Without them, the first step to revitalizing our languages would not have been possible," Hattie shared.

The revitalization of our language and culture rests on the shoulders of the community. To learn how you can become involved, please visit surveymonkey.com/r/InupiaqSurvey to fill out a survey.

#### Inupiaq learning opportunities

Event	When	Location	Instructor
Brown Bag Lunch & Iñupiaq	Fall Semester 2019	NWC	Tattauq Josie Boudon
INU F115 Iñupiaraqta! Let's Speak Iñupiaq!	Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:50 — 8:20 p.m.	NWC	Kiminaq Maddy Alvanna- Stimpfle
Conversational Iñupiaq	TBA	Nome High School	Siġvanna Meghan Topkok



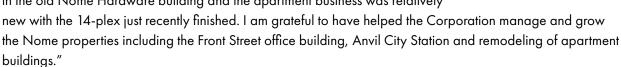
## 29 years of service

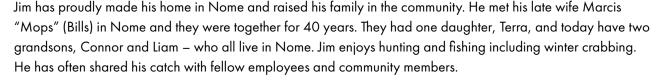
## RECOGNIZING JIM ABBOTT

Jim Abbott, manager of Nanuaq, LLC, was honored for 29 years of employee service at the 45th Annual Meeting of Shareholders in Nome, Alaska, on June 1, 2019.

Jim moved to Nome in 1976 to work for the Alaska Gold Company. He later worked in construction with Johnson Brothers and the U.S. Public Health Service on utility and building projects. Then in 1990, he was hired by Sitnasuak Native Corporation as a maintenance technician for the apartment business. In 2000, Jim was promoted to manager with Nanuag, LLC.

"I have seen many changes in the Corporation and Nome over my 29-year career with Sitnasuak," said Jim. "When I started, the Corporation offices were in the old Nome Hardware building and the apartment business was relatively





Scot Henderson, CEO of Bonanza Fuel, LLC and acting general manager of Nanuaq, LLC, shared, "We have depended on Jim's expertise, commitment and loyalty to Sitnasuak for nearly 30 years to keep our facilities and properties in good operating condition. Jim's job often requires working long hours in bad weather and adverse working conditions. He has been on-call at night and on weekends for most of those 30 years, for responding to emergencies and assisting tenants when needed. Although we will miss him greatly when he retires, we are proud and truly grateful for all of the hard work Jim has done for Sitnasuak and Nanuaq."

Quyaana Jim for the many years of service and contributions which supported the success of our properties and businesses in Nome.



## sitnasuak summer intern

## KEON EVANS



My name is Keon Evans, and I am the son of Lucille Kugzruk and David Evans. I am 19 years old and this year I am getting a first-hand glimpse at Sitnasuak's Shareholder Department as a summer intern. Through the department, I get to see the care that goes into working for our Shareholders.

As background, I graduated from Nome-Beltz in May of last year. Then last summer, I interned with Bonanza. Afterwards, I spent the fall semester at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). I then stayed home and worked to get an idea of what I want to do in

these upcoming years. During the initial time I did spend at college, I was left unsure if this was what I really wanted to do. By taking a small break, I learned that pursuing a post-secondary education feels right, if not exciting. I have narrowed my major down to either finance or technology and will return to UAF in fall 2019.

During my summer internship in the Shareholder Department, I got to talk to you, the Shareholders, and learn the impact we have in your lives. Whether it was talking on the phone, helping with papers or even walking an Elder the right way down the hall; I got to learn our impact on the community in a much different way than last year, which was focused on business operations with Bonanza Fuel and Express. The Shareholder Department felt just as welcoming and kind as my internship experience with Bonanza. I recommend the Sitnasuak Intern Program to anyone who is going to graduate high school and those in college, to gain experience.

Last year I learned the importance of Bonanza's impact on the community. While this was direct, it wasn't as face-to-face as the Shareholder Department. Working under Bonanza felt like helping all of Nome, while working with you the Shareholders, felt like helping the people who make Nome feel like home.

Thank you, Sitnasuak Native Corporation!



## sitnasuak summer intern

## KATHERINE A. SCOTT



I am Katherine A. Scott, I'm based in Nome and I'm the 2019 summer intern with Bonanza Fuel, LLC. During my internship, I have gained knowledge that I don't think would be gained through certain colleges or schools.

As background, I was raised in Nome by my mother Ina Parker, father Steve Scott and aunt and uncle Debi and Mike Scott. My maternal grandparents are Grace Parker (Tungwenuk) and Wallace Parker. My paternal grandparents are Kitty and Wiley Scott. I graduated from Nome-Beltz High School in 2018. I have attended two semesters, so

far, at Arizona State University in Phoenix, Arizona, where I am studying to get my bachelor's in mathematics, so I can become a high school math teacher. However, that isn't my only goal. I would like to explore different careers before becoming a teacher, which is why I was so grateful for this internship opportunity.

In this summer internship I have learned many aspects about what goes on in the Bonanza companies of Fuel and Express. I spent some time at the Bonanza Express gas station. I learned how to work the cash register, and what goes on within the store. It was also a great place to see old friends and family, as well as meet new people. However, it is more than a store. You must be aware of the precautions that come with dealing with gasoline, diesel and propane. I got to work at the Tank Farm for Bonanza Fuel. I learned that the Tank Farm is literally what helps keep Nome running. Our homes wouldn't be warm and our cars wouldn't be running without the employees of the Tank Farm. I enjoyed working at the Tank Farm very much! It opened my eyes to new opportunities that I can take to the future, which is one of the things that I was looking for in this internship. I also got to work in the main office of the Sitnasuak and Bonanza companies. I realized that places like the Tank Farm wouldn't function as well, as I witnessed, without the employees at the office. With this internship, I was able to gain a new skillset while working in the office.

Overall, this summer internship with Bonanza Fuel, LLC is a great experience. I have been able to learn about the Corporation as a whole as well as the different parts of the Bonanza offices as a subsidiary of Sitnasuak Native Corporation. I have gotten everything that I was hoping for, and more, out of this internship. It has opened my eyes about my future, my hometown and the rest of the world.



## sitnasuak summer intern

## QUNUPIAQ SHANNON ONGTOWASRUK



Uvaŋa atiġa Qunupiaq, naluaŋmiutun Shannon Ongtowasruk, Sitnasuaŋmiuruŋa suli Kiŋiginmiuruŋa tauq. Aakama Iliġati, nalauŋmiutun Gerri, Attatama Aŋatauqsraq, nalauŋmiutun Ron Ongtowasruk. Annatka Kaiyaunik suli Patchiaq, nalauŋmiutun Vivien Olin suli Arlene Soxie. Appatka James Olin suli Aklasik, nalauŋmiutun Pat Ongtowasruk. Ilaiyatka Iliġati, Aŋatauqsraq, Staataq, Silausiaq, Kuuyuk, Yachuaq, Ubluġiaq, suli Tusraq, nalauŋmiutun, James, Tamara, Cheryl, late sister Amber, Amber suli Tiffany. Tavra.

I am, my namesake, Qunupiaq, and my English name is Shannon Ongtowasruk. I am from Nome and Wales, Alaska. My mother is Iligati, English name Gerri Ongtowasruk, and my father is Anatauqsraq, English name Ron Ongtowasruk. My grandmothers are Kaiyaunik and Patchiaq, their English names are Vivien Olin and Arlene Soxie. My grandparents are James Olin and Aklasik, English name Pat Ongtowasruk. My family includes Iligati, Anatauqsraq, Staataq, Silausiaq, Kuuyuk, Yachuaq, Ublugiaq, suli Tusraq, their English names are Gerri, Ron, my brother James and my sisters Tamara, Cheryl, late sister Amber, Amber and Tiffany Ongtowasruk.

For the summer of 2019, I am an intern in the Land Department with Sitnasuak Native Corporation. My main assignment for the summer is scanning files to convert the Land Department from paper to electronic files. Occasionally, I also go out in the field with SNC Land Manager Dave Evans and Land Technician Charles Ellanna to conduct field exams for camp sites, home sites and special use permits.

Currently, I am a college student with a double major in Native American/indigenous studies and sociology with a minor in public health at Fort Lewis College, in Durango, Colorado. I am planning on enrolling into a two-year master's plan through Fort Lewis College and the University of Denver's Graduate School Social Work Cooperative Undergraduate/Graduate Degree program. This academic partnership allows students to obtain a master's degree within a two-year time frame, completing one year of the degree in their senior year of undergraduate school, then finish the second year on the Fort Lewis campus after graduation.

Once I obtain those college degrees, I would like to take some courses at Ilisagvik College to decolonize from western education. Then as a career, I would like to plant my roots in the field of social work, to work with youth in Alaska, especially Alaska Native youth, to help find better lifestyles.



# native youth OLYMPICS

Attend most any Alaska Native meetings or conferences in the region and you are sure to hear a discussion on preserving our rich lñupiaq culture in times when our traditional ways of life are now coexisting and competing with modern-day changes. It is important to reinforce our traditional knowledge with our Elders in order to pass it on to our youth and descendants in many ways around the home, community and school. Today our youth seek avenues for strength and pride in cultural heritage, and the Nome Native Youth Olympics team is an organization that provides constructive, fun and meaningful activities directly from our indigenous traditions and cultures.

The Nome team is coached by Native Youth Olympics (NYO) veteran Vanessa Tahbone, who is assisted by Jake Kenick. About 32 students in grades 7-12 comprise the team that travels to events, such as Cook Inlet Tribal Council's Native Youth Olympics, to compete with others from across the state and Arctic regions outside of Alaska, like Canada and Greenland. There are over 100 different competitions that test an athlete's strength, endurance and agility in the NYO. Each competition is designed to recreate movements or challenges that our ancestors had to perform or overcome in survival, and the athletes learn that part of our history.

To give athletes the opportunity to specialize and improve in a competition, NYO limits the games to 10 competitions each year, with boys and girls divisions, and rotates competitions on four-year cycles. This allows an athlete joining the team in ninth grade to start learning the techniques for a competition, improve until they are at the top of their game over a three-year period, and have a shot at giving their best performance in their final NYO.

While becoming a state record holder is a major motivator, NYO Coaches Vanessa and Jake and some of the athletes tell us that winning is not the ultimate measure of success. Nome NYO athlete Parker Kenick states, "My personal growth and being able to compete at NYO is motivating enough. My personal goal is to just do my best every time I practice or compete."

"During training and competitions, the athletes endure so much with their bodies, both physically and mentally, that



Joseph (Joe) Garnie is from Teller and, prior to being elected to the Board, was an advisory member for the Corporation's Land and Subsistence Committees. Joe also serves on the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

#### **NYO** (continued)

they walk away with a lot more than a good time. They learn how to persevere, communicate, become good sportsmen and become engaged in the community," Coach Vanessa shared.

NYO Coach Jake said, "Through meeting their fellow athletes and all of the NYO legends, they are becoming part of that big, community, family-like network where older athletes and Elders return to mentor the next generation, a community where everyone is striving to be the best they can be. Ultimately, the games give our youth and their mentors the opportunity to learn and practice our ancient lõupiaq values."

The Nome NYO team works to preserve our culture and, equally important, helps to share it. Participation in NYO is not limited to Alaska Natives, and several non-Native student athletes take the time to learn about the origins of a competition, work on mastering the techniques and compete alongside Alaska Native athletes. Additionally, during the summer off-season, several members of Nome's NYO team gather to demonstrate and provide a history on the different competitions to cruise ship visitors.

"Spectators leave Nome with a greater understanding and appreciation of our culture, while athletes gain respect for and honor our ancestors who overcame tough challenges that allow us to be standing here today," shared NYO Coach Jake.

The NYO games beautifully integrate our rich heritage into the modern world and have even captured the attention of world-wide sportswear giant Nike, which produced a video series in partnership with the Cook Inlet Tribal Council. The series is an overview of the history and cultural significance of the NYO games, and several videos provide a demonstration on competitions like the seal hop and double-foot high kick, along with a history on the real-life applications for which our ancestors used those skills. The video series can be viewed on CITC's NYO webpage at citc.org/partnerships-events/nyo-games.

Nome NYO athlete Paris Hebel said, "By participating in NYO, I'm doing things I know my ancestors did and it strengthens my bond with them."

Beyond honoring and integrating our history and culture into modern-day society, a 2018 survey among participants shows that the social skills and the values athletes develop through participating in NYO have measurable impact on student success. NYO encouraged 76% of participants to stay in school and maintain good grades, while convincing 90% of participants to abstain from drug use. Over 90% of participants credit the program for giving them the opportunity to learn about Alaska Native culture and values and for helping them forge new friendships. These positive benefits help strengthen our communities and contribute

#### **NYO** (continued)

to community and individual success.

Sitnasuak supports and recognizes the benefits Nome's NYO team brings to the community and, as such, has donated funds to help the team attend competitions. Sitnasuak Native Corporation Vice President of Corporate Affairs Ukallaysaaq Okleasik said, "The Corporation's values are culture, character and contribution, and the work the Nome NYO program does to preserve our culture, strengthen character among participants and contribute to the improvement of our communities helps further our goals of serving Shareholders and their families."

For the athletes, NYO Coach Vanessa says, "We are grateful for the Corporation's support. Beyond helping to fund our travel, it sends the message to our athletes that the Corporation and community support them. It provides a sense that they are not alone in their venture and makes them proud to say, 'Yeah, that's my Native Corporation.'"

With all eyes on the 50th NYO to be held in Anchorage in April 2020, athletes around the state are already hard at work perfecting their technique and striving to be better than they were yesterday. As one athlete puts it, "You only get better tomorrow by trying hard today."





## SAVE THE DATE

46th annual meeting of shareholders

NOVEMBER 9, 2019 NOME, ALASKA



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## **DUR VALUES**

Key values that define our corporate and business culture are:

#### CULTURE

Ukpaisrun | Spirituality

Qinuinnaq | Humility

Kammakłui Nunamiituat | Reverence Toward Nature

Puyaunau Iñupiaqtun Ittusiq | Pride in Culture

Iñupiuraġluta | Speaking Our Traditional Language

#### CHARACTER

Nagguatun Kulliaglutin | Honesty

Kattiilutin Sahuagat | Cooperation

Uttakiragagin | Patience

Analataasran | Responsibility

Sağiknatuak Sauaq | Hard Work

Kammaktui | Obedience

Kanniglusi | Open Communication

#### CONTRIBUTION

Aziusrat Sugunnai | Avoidance of Conflict

Munnaktui Kinunaisi | Commitment to the Family

Nagguagiktut Ilagit | Love of Children

Innugilaqluit llagit | Respecting Others

Utuqannat Kammagiralui | Respect of Elders

Pikkaagupsi Aitturalui | Sharing

Quyniunniq | Humor

Our values encompass the guidance from our Elders and honor our Alaska Native Heritage.