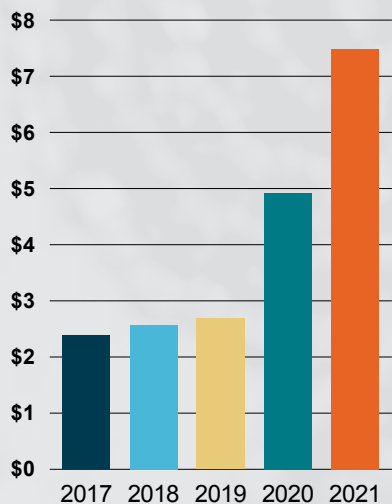


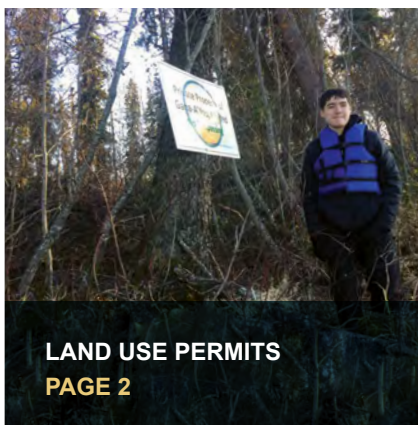


Gana-A'Yoo, Limited

Amount/Share



# “OUR VOICE” Denadolale’



LAND USE PERMITS  
PAGE 2



COMMITTEE VACANCIES  
PAGE 4



ANNUAL MEETING  
INSERT

## SHARE Distribution

The Gana-A'Yoo Settlement Trust Board of Trustees approved a distribution of \$7.47 per share, the largest distribution in Gana-A'Yoo history. The distribution will be direct deposited or mailed to shareholders on Thursday, April 29, 2021. To receive your distribution via direct deposit, a completed direct deposit form must be received by Thursday, April 1, 2021, at 5 p.m. This is also the deadline for address updates. Forms are available online at [www.ganaayoo.com/shareholders](http://www.ganaayoo.com/shareholders). For more information, contact the corporate office.

## CEO Message

Dear shareholders,

I am excited for spring! Vaccine distribution across our communities has me feeling optimistic that we will be able to visit soon. I recently watched a feature on NBC News where Nulato and our region was highlighted in rural Alaska's success with vaccine distribution. It was fun to see familiar faces on national media.

This is the second year that the board has had to adapt and make changes regarding our annual meeting of shareholders. The annual meeting will take place at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks on Friday, May 21, 2021. Due to the uncertainty of public health restrictions, shareholders are encouraged to attend the annual meeting virtually. Information on how to attend will be shared via our website, social media, email and a mail-out closer to the meeting date. This year's theme is "Adapting to Our Environment," recognizing the adaptation our people, communities and businesses successfully accomplished through the COVID-19 pandemic. It embodies our mission: We are a unique company and people, Tleeyegge Hut'aane', thriving for thousands of years by adapting to the environment.

*\*Tleeyegge Hut'aane': People of the land*

The Gana-A'Yoo Board of Directors has three seats up for election. Kimberly Bower, Sharon Hildebrand and Shay Huntington McEwen's terms expire at the May 2021 annual meeting. You can view candidate biographies at [www.ganaayoo.com](http://www.ganaayoo.com). This information will also be included in your proxy materials. Eligible voting shareholders have the option of voting online (verification required), hand-delivery, mail, fax or email by submitting your proxy to the inspector of elections by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19.

Be well,

Dena



## Gifting SHARES

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act amendments of 1987 allow Gana-A'Yoo, Limited shareholders who own Class A, B, C and D stock to transfer stock to a Native or a descendant of a Native as a gift while the shareholder is living. Transfers may be made to their child, grandchild, great grandchild, niece or nephew, brother or sister. The relation must be through blood. A shareholder is not allowed to gift to friends, a spouse, grandparents, aunts or uncles.

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## Land Use PERMITS REMINDER

Gana-A'Yoo, Limited owns the surface estate of more than 438,000 acres of land in and around Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag. These lands are utilized and prioritized primarily for subsistence hunting and gathering purposes. Although Gana-A'Yoo land is reserved for shareholders and descendants in support of promoting healthy communities and to preserve the important historic and cultural aspects of our heritage, some aspects of the policies are inclusive of residents of our villages, including non-shareholders.

Gana-A'Yoo reserves the right to grant land use permits to individuals or groups for a set period of time, for a specific purpose, and subject to terms and conditions dictated by the corporation. Types of permits include, but are not limited to, seasonal use, campsite, subsistence, trapping and timber use permits. Our land use policy is available on our website at <http://bit.ly/LandManagementPolicies>.

This is a reminder to be mindful of our land use policies; remember to apply and secure permits before cutting wood on corporation lands.

Residents in our communities do a great job observing hunting and fishing regulations. When we do become aware of trespassing, we work closely with Doyon, Limited, Fish and Game, and the Alaska State Troopers to address it immediately. Thank you to all those who complied with our land use permit application process in 2020: Jason Kopp, Brad Scotton, Glenn Stout (Alaska Fish and Game checkpoint), Robert Rebarchik, Tim Bodony, Tim Kalke, Paul Apfelbeck and Wyatt Snodgrass (active permit for 2021).

## SHAREHOLDER Spotlight

Galena shareholder, **Leann Sommer**, of Anchorage, has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious "Top 40 Under 40" award for 2020. Every year, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development selects 40 Native American Indians under the age of 40 from across Indian Country who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, resiliency and dedication, and made significant contributions in business and/or in their community. Sommer will attend the Reservation Economic Summit in July, where she and her "Top 40 Under 40" cohort will be recognized.

Sommer is the director of sales for In-Group Hospitality, LLC, at the Hyatt Place Anchorage-Midtown, where she was also awarded the 2019 Alaska Hotel and Lodging Association's sales manager of the year. She has been working in tourism and the hospitality industry since 2011, when she graduated from Fort Lewis College with a bachelor's in business administration. Sommer was the youngest shareholder to be elected to the Gana-A'Yoo, Limited Board of Directors in 2015; during some of her time on the board, she served as the president. Midway through her term, she had the opportunity to serve as our first shareholder to work in Antarctica under our contract. She currently sits on the Gana-A'Yoo Foundation Board of Directors and is a past recipient of Gana-A'Yoo Foundation scholarships.



## NEW EMPLOYEE Spotlight



Program manager **Mike Gay** leads the United States Antarctic program's station services team of 120 people at remote bases throughout the southern continent of Antarctica. He excels at building high-functioning teams to work in remote locations around the world. He works to ensure good working conditions, while providing quality results, value and continuous improvement for his clients. Gay especially enjoys coaching and developing team members to their highest potential. In his free time, he enjoys hiking the Colorado and Antarctica trail system, tramping the great walks of New Zealand, walking his dog, cooking for his wife and reading a good science fiction book.

**Daniela Avezzano** was hired as Gana-A'Yoo's payroll manager in September. She has 15 years of accounting specialist experience in New York, North Carolina, Florida and Alaska. Avezzano is excited about her new position and is eager to learn more about Alaska Native culture, contracts and unions.



Prior to **Jeremy Ernst's** position as the quality control safety manager, he worked for a decade at Alro Steel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Ernst grew up in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, where he and his wife are now raising their two young children. He said, "I really enjoy working for Kaiyuh Services and can't wait to see what the future holds for me with the company."



**Laura Zahm** joined the business development department as the new federal program estimator in Sparta, Wisconsin. Zahm attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied geology before diving into her scientific career as a geologist serving the energy sector around the world. Most recently, Zahm, her husband and family relocated from Austin, Texas, to join the Gana-A'Yoo team, where she will serve all subsidiaries with products that are process- and numbers-based. Zahm suffers from "wanderlust" that took shape as a young girl while her parents worked opportunities across the globe; to this day, she is grateful for that curiosity and adventuresome spirit they instilled in her.

Retired Marine **Chris Donaldson** recently accepted the Kaiyuh Services, LLC position of quality control and site safety health officer in Keokuk, Iowa. Donaldson has worked in the construction industry and is currently working on the Lock and Dam project. He said, "The project I am on is really rewarding because it is being done in an effort to protect the local environment and has the potential to be an effective solution to the invasive fish targeted." Donaldson, his wife and two daughters recently moved back to the continental United States from Hawaii.



**Patrick Hoxie** joined the Gana-A'Yoo team as a federal acquisition regulation and government contracting subject matter expert in December. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from American University in Washington, D.C., and has worked for over 35 years in government contracting, 20 of those years with Alaska Native corporations. Hoxie enjoys outdoor activities and downhill skiing with his granddaughter. "I am extremely excited about joining a rapidly growing organization like Gana-A'Yoo," he said.



Gana-A'Yoo IT coordinator **Jerry Davis** grew up in Delta, Colorado, and graduated with a business administration degree and accounting minor from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. He has worked in the IT field for the last 20 years after earning a Microsoft certification out of college. Davis enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters, camping in the mountains, playing softball and watching the Denver Broncos.



Human resource generalist **Jeorgette Jackson** was hired by Gana-A'Yoo Services for the Rock Island arsenal contract and Antarctic support contract. She earned her associate professional in human resources certification and has over 20 years of experience in the restaurant industry. Jackson said, "I have a passion for helping people and enjoy working with and learning from the Gana-A'Yoo, Limited team."



## GANA-A'YOO FOUNDATION *Celebrating 20 Years*

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation is celebrating 20 years of investing in our people and supporting shareholder (and descendant) perpetuity. Gana-A'Yoo's nonprofit entity was established in 2001; since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$750,000 to shareholders and descendants to help further their educational goals. Education is key to the

future and the Foundation's goal is to increase scholarships available for shareholders and descendants. The next scholarship deadline is June 15.

*We are proud to sponsor the next generation and encourage them to be successful and give back to their community.*

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation met in December 2020 and awarded two spring general scholarships to Sommer Burgett and Anthony Jenkins-Alexie, and two short-term scholarships to Estelle Burnham and Maurine McGinty.

### MISSION

To enrich and enhance educational opportunities for Tleeyegge Hut'aane' (people of the land), Gana-A'Yoo shareholders and descendants as we are adapting to our environment.

### VISION

We continually invest in our people to promote healthy communities as they thrive and prosper.

### FOUNDATION VALUES

- We are respectful of our land, culture, language, traditions and one another.
- We are trustworthy.
- We are responsible.
- We are ethical.

## INTERNSHIPS

Gana-A'Yoo understands the high value of shareholder relations and perpetuity for the corporation. We continue to strive to enhance our connections with the younger generation. Our internship program adheres to this value by connecting individuals, exposing those to different aspects of corporate, local and tribal entities, and providing the opportunity to gain meaningful work experience. Our hope and intention are for our shareholders and descendants to prosper and succeed, and our internship program is one way we are working toward that goal.

Gana-A'Yoo is offering two summer intern positions, located at the corporate office in Anchorage, that are available to shareholders and descendants. Our corporation has had the privilege of hosting interns (consisting of both shareholders and descendants) for the last five years in our corporate office as well as in conjunction with the tribal offices in our four villages.

In 2016, Jocelyn Patsy was a summer intern at the Nulato Tribal office. In 2017, Courtney Carlo and Jaiden Huntington interned at the Loudon Tribal Council in Galena. In 2018, we partnered with the Tanana Chiefs Conference to host Kyana Madros as an intern with the Kaltag System of Care Family Lead. That same year, June Griffin interned in Anchorage, which resulted with her permanent full-time employment; she continues her work as the corporate office's administrative assistant. Sunny Pedebone and Cheyanne Cheverie interned at the corporate office in 2019; Cheverie's position was extended as her workload continued throughout the fall and winter. Most recently, Charles Pitka fulfilled his internship with the Nulato Tribe in 2020.

We value success stories from our former interns; Madros appreciated the opportunity to expand her network and make strong connections with the youth in Kaltag. She commented in 2018, "I received a lot of knowledge and experience through the internship and it helped me establish my educational goals." This is a prime example of our internship intentions coming to fruition: fostering career development while allowing personal growth within our communities.

This year, the corporation is extending internship opportunities to all four villages through the tribal offices. Koyukuk, Nulato, Loudon and Kaltag Tribal Councils will host interns for the 2021 summer season, offering up to 12 weeks of paid internship experience. This potentially career-boosting opportunity is made possible in conjunction with Alyeska. For more information, contact the corporate office.

## *Vocational* SCHOLARSHIPS

Vocational scholarships are available to students who may apply anytime in a year. This scholarship is intended to help eligible students pay for the cost of a vocational program once a year; the amount is determined by the Foundation board. Seth Saunders received a vocational scholarship in the amount of \$3,250 recently for attending the American Institute of Dental Assisting in Phoenix, Arizona. Saunders hopes to gain employment in a pediatrics corporate office at the conclusion of his training.

## ALYESKA *Scholarship Funding*

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation was selected for scholarship funding by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska) last year. The additional funds were distributed to our eligible recipients through scholarships, internships and/or on-the-job training.

The funding is intended to help prepare students for specific careers with emphasis in engineering (electrical, mechanical, civil), health and safety, environment, security, construction and project management, project controls, computer science, information technology, MIS, instrumentation, process technology, SCADA, accounting, business administration, economics, finance, applied technology, construction and Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) industry trades (welding, diesel/heavy equipment, electrician, maritime). If you are a Gana-A'Yoo Foundation scholarship recipient and qualify under any of the categories, you are eligible to receive extra funding through the Foundation. Congratulations to all recipients; we are proud of your efforts and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.



## *Subsidiary Spotlight* KAIYUH SERVICES, LLC

Kaiyuh Services, LLC is under contract with the United States Geological Survey in Keokuk, Illinois, working on an experimental underwater Acoustic Deterrent System at the Mississippi River Lock and Dam 19. The intention of the temporary system is to study and understand how the invasive species Asian carp respond to acoustic, or sound, signals. Asian carp, including silver carp, bighead carp, black carp and grass carp, grow quickly and aggressively compete for food and habitat with the indigenous fish of the area. If the deterrent is effective at controlling upstream movement of this species, with limited effects on native species, the technology could be used in other locations to help curb the spread of invasive Asian carp.



*The Weldment or "speaker box" being hoisted into place at Lock 19*

## Shareholder TALENT BANK

Gana-A'Yoo has implemented an internal shareholder talent bank that provides the opportunity for shareholders and descendants to submit their skills, education and work history for possible job opportunities. As jobs become available with Gana-A'Yoo, individuals will be notified of open positions. Please consider participating in the shareholder talent bank by sending your resume to [hr@ganaayoo.com](mailto:hr@ganaayoo.com) or filling out the form located on the Gana-A'Yoo shareholder website.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information.

- APRIL**
- 1 Address update and direct deposit form due for distribution
  - 23 Early bird proxies due for annual meeting of shareholders
  - 29 Distribution
  - 30 Committee letter of interest deadline

- MAY**
- 5 Stock will drive drawing deadline
  - 19 Proxies due for annual meeting of shareholders
  - 21 Annual meeting of shareholders  
*Westmark Hotel Fairbanks*
  - 31 Memorial Day  
*Gana-A'Yoo offices closed*
- JUNE**
- 15 Gana-A'Yoo Foundation scholarship deadline
  - 15 Gana-A'Yoo internship application deadline

## STOCK WILLS

Stock wills are vital to our future; please consider submitting a new or updated stock will. If you submit or update your stock will by Wednesday, May 5, 2021, you will be entered into a drawing to win prizes. All stock wills must be notarized or certified by a postmaster and signed by the shareholder. Shareholders who have submitted a valid stock will within the last five years will be entered into the drawing.

## Committee VACANCIES

Gana-A'Yoo committee seats are open on the natural resources and shareholder relations committees. Interested shareholders must hold voting stock and be 18 years of age or older to qualify. Please submit your letter of interest by Friday, April 30, 2021, to our corporate office, email to [csommer@ganaayoo.com](mailto:csommer@ganaayoo.com), or fax to 907.569.9699.



## Gana-A'Yoo, Limited

1001 E Benson Blvd., Suite 201  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508



### CONTACT US

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Anchorage | 907.569.9599  
Galena | 907.656.1606  
web | [ganaayoo.com](http://ganaayoo.com)



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Kimberly Bower** | Chair  
**Melissa McGinty** | President  
**Sharon Hildebrand**  
Vice President and Secretary  
**Shay Huntington McEwen** | Treasurer  
**William Dayton** | Director  
**Linda Fleury** | Director  
**Frederick Huntington Sr.** | Director  
**Thomas Neglaska** | Director  
**Colleen Stickman** | Director

### EDITOR

**Larissa Sommer**  
[newsletter@ganaayoo.com](mailto:newsletter@ganaayoo.com)

### New

## SHAREHOLDERS

Gana-A'Yoo would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and welcome our new shareholders of 2020:

**Edward Sadowski Sr.**  
*Nulato Stock*

**Lisa Patsy**  
*Nulato Stock*

**Shyanna Stickman**  
*Nulato Stock*

**Austyn Wilson**  
*Nulato Stock*

**Avery Demoski**  
*Nulato Stock*

## WHERE ARE YOU?

Visit our website or contact the office for the updated list of shareholders who we need current contact information for.

## CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of:

**April A. Carlo, 46**  
*Galena Stock*

**Hilda Mabel Clark, 86**  
*Galena Stock*

**Francis A. Esmailka, 70**  
*Nulato Stock*

**Rita M. Esmailka, 100**  
*Nulato Stock*

**Jennifer R. Hildebrand, 46**  
*Galena Stock*

**Pauline M. Peters, 88**  
*Nulato Stock*

**John Clifton Sackett, 77**  
*Galena Stock*

**Allen J. Solomon, 32**  
*Kaltag Stock*



Gana-A'Yoo, Limited



## *Adapting to Our Environment*

### **GANA-A'YOO, LIMITED** **2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on Friday, May 21, 2021, at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks, located at 813 Noble Street. The option for shareholders to attend in-person is dependent on public health recommendations closer to the day of the meeting. Last year made history with the first virtual Gana-A'Yoo, Limited annual meeting of shareholders.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

1. Elect three Board of Director members, whose terms will expire in 2024
2. Hear reports on the corporation's operations for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020
3. Carry out any other business as may properly be brought up during the meeting

Gana-A'Yoo shareholders of record who are Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives are entitled to vote with regard to the meeting and any adjournment thereof. Voting stock held by minor shareholders may be voted by the minor's custodian if the custodian is otherwise qualified to vote.

We encourage you to vote by proxy. Proxies are necessary to achieve a quorum for the annual meeting of shareholders.

Those who submit their signed and dated proxy on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, April 23, 2021, are eligible for the early bird drawings of one \$1,000 prize, one \$500 prize and five \$100 prizes. To be eligible for all other door prizes (one \$1,500 prize, one \$1,000 prize, two \$250 prizes and two \$100 prizes) at the annual meeting, valid, signed and dated proxies are due to the inspector of election no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, or you can hand-deliver on Friday, May 21, 2021, between 10 and 11 a.m. Submit your proxy by the following methods:

- U.S. Mail (envelope provided): Sramek Hightower, CPAs, P.O. Box 240569, Anchorage, AK 99524-9968
- Fax: 907.561.4341
- Email: [chelsi@sh-cpafirm.com](mailto:chelsi@sh-cpafirm.com)
- Vote Online: [ganaayoovote.com](http://ganaayoovote.com), verification required
- Hand-Deliver: Drop box located outside of the Gold Ballroom at the Westmark Fairbanks between 10 and 11 a.m. on May 21

*Friday,  
May 21, 2021  
Fairbanks,  
Alaska*



*Denadolale'* "OUR VOICE"

# Open ENROLLMENT

As your village corporation, we believe it is important to listen and respond to the questions, concerns, needs and ideas of our shareholders. Based on the discussion from the shareholder information meeting held on January 20, 2021, the Gana-A'Yoo Board of Directors has decided to further research the idea of opening enrollment to descendants born after December 18, 1971. We are committed to making sure this is the correct decision for our shareholders.

Thank you to those who participated in the virtual shareholder information meeting in January. Congratulations to door prize cash winners Karen Kennedy, Dakota Griffin, Alaura Cramer, Aaliyah Hildebrand and Adrienne Wyble.

The questions and answers below share some of the feedback received on the topic of open enrollment over the last few years.

## WHY ¼ BLOOD QUANTUM?

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act defined Native as: a citizen of the United States who is a person of ¼ degree or more Alaska Indian (including Tsimshian Indians not enrolled in the Metlakatla Indian Community), Eskimo or Aleut blood, or combination thereof. This means only Alaska Native people of blood quantum were eligible to be enrolled in an Alaska Native corporation (regional or village). In our past surveys, 61 percent of shareholders responding to the survey indicated they want to see a ¼ blood quantum requirement in place.

## WHAT ARE LIFE ESTATE SHARES?

Life estate shares only exist for the lifetime of the shareholder to whom they have been issued. This stock ceases to exist upon the death of that shareholder. The shares cannot be passed along by gifting or inheritance. The number of life estate shares owned by the shareholder who has passed away are returned to the corporation.

## WHAT IS A DESCENDANT?

A descendant is someone who was born or adopted by an original Gana-A'Yoo shareholder. Original shareholders received their shares directly from Gana-A'Yoo, not through gifting or inheriting. If you are eligible and approved for open enrollment, you will then be considered an original shareholder.


## WHY DECEMBER 18, 1971?

Only those Alaska Native people of ¼ blood quantum who were born on or before 11:59 p.m. on December 18, 1971, were eligible to enroll in Alaska Native regional and village corporations. Those born on December 19, 1971, or after were not eligible. For example, several of our current board members received their shares through gifting or inheritance and would otherwise not be shareholders, therefore, unable to fill a board seat.


*"We must instill good stewardship in our youth and include them in decisions affecting their future."*

*- Monica Riedel,  
former Gana-A'Yoo director  
and shareholder relations  
committee member*

## GANA-A'YOO DESCENDANT *Spotlight*



Kiley Burton is a Gana-A'Yoo descendant and grandchild of shareholder, Monica Riedel. Burton, 15, had the opportunity to serve as a keynote speaker for the 2020 First Alaskans Institute Annual Elders & Youth Conference, held virtually in October. The focus of her speech took on the issue of blood quantum. Although she is a blend of Eyak, Alutiiq, Inupiaq and Denaakke' (Koyukon Athabascan), her total amount of "Indian blood measurement" impacts her eligibility for some traditional ancestral privileges. That "measurement" consequently affects many youth across the state.



Burton lives in Cordova and is a tribal member of the Native village of Eyak. It is estimated that approximately 60 percent of Alaska Natives in the Gulf of Alaska, where Cordova is located, do not meet the ¼ blood quantum criteria. Burton was quoted in Alaska Public Media last fall, saying, "With blood quantum still used as an identifier of Native people, they will one day lose their status and recognition. The moment when tribal members are no longer Native enough, based on colonial tactics that were used to assimilate, is the moment Indigenous people are bred out of existence." See the full story at <http://bit.ly/KileyBurton>.