



Gana-A'Yoo, Limited



Newly ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations to newly elected Board members Shay Huntington McEwen and Sharon Hildebrand and incumbent Kimberly Bower. Their terms will end in 2021. The Board of Directors and staff recognize the contributions of outgoing Board members: Charlene Ostbloom and Joshua Peter for their good work and dedication. Thank you to the candidates who ran for the Board this year. And, of course, thank you to the lovely community of Koyukuk for hosting this year's 40th Annual Meeting. This year's shareholder quorum was 60.629%.

Thanks, BETTY

"Betty is the epitome of leadership, innovation and discipline when it comes to hard work. She is a true role model for our youth and has a profound respect for our elders. I have always trusted Betty's ability for quality leadership, guidance and her unique bond with the cultural values of the Athabascan traditions. Her ability to lead with pride and dignity is impeccable among her peers and in the industry of village corporations in Alaska. I would like to thank Betty's family for sharing their mother with the corporation and all the shareholders. May your next endeavor be adventurous, and horizons be bright."
- Shirley Cleaver (Galena)

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"OUR VOICE" Denadolale'



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S Message

As I write this, my final letter as CEO, to the shareholders of Gana-A'Yoo, I am both excited and sad. I have been involved with Gana-A'Yoo since 1995, serving as a Board member and the Board Chair, before being appointed as CEO in 2007.

I am excited because the Board of Directors did a wonderful job in choosing Dena Sommer-Pedebone, a descendant, as our new CEO. I am confident in her knowledge and expertise. I believe the company will have a great future with her as our leader. I wholeheartedly welcome her.

I am also excited by the education and experience of our Board members. I feel that we are reaping the benefits of the company's long history of supporting education through scholarships. We have Board members with bachelor's and master's degrees, who have backgrounds in business and who understand the integral roles they serve in our corporation. The Board of Directors are set to continue and guide the strategic direction set in past years by diligent and hard-working Board members, who carry strong values and deeply care about the company, its shareholders and future shareholders.

Looking back, I was so fortunate to work with past Board leaders, such as Bev and Max Huhndorf, Eliza Jones, the late Fred Stickman Jr. and the late Franklin Madros. What I learned from them about the traditional use and management of our land and working for our own people was invaluable. The meaning of Gana-A'Yoo is "friends" or "friends together" and that is what so many at our corporation have been to me. I am sad because I love working for and with our people. One of the biggest rewards that I have received from this job is working with our young people and seeing them mature and succeed in their lives and/or careers. Having grown up in a time when all my childhood belongings could fit in one paper box to now when life is not as simple, I feel it is every bit as important to help others succeed when and where we can. I will be working with Dena for a few months to help in this time of transition; it is important to me to make this transition as smooth as possible because of our shareholders and staff. I will miss working directly with our employees. They make a great team and I want to continue to encourage them to do the wonderful jobs they do every day to make Gana-A'Yoo what it is.

Like my mom, the late Angela Huntington, I believe that everything happens for a reason. When I was appointed CEO, I was not looking for a job. I took this one because, as Board members, we had concerns and I felt it was the best decision for us at that time. I also wanted to serve our people in a greater capacity. I have done my best and this role has been my honor. I wish our new CEO and our next generation of leaders the best in taking the next steps to move Gana-A'Yoo forward.

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.
Edeghoyeneegheluhdeneek, Take care of yourselves, *Betty Huntington*



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HANDING OVER THE REINS: *New* CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Gana-A'Yoo, Limited's Board of Directors have appointed Dena Sommer-Pedebone as the new Chief Executive Officer, effective, June 11, 2018. Sommer-Pedebone will now be responsible for leading the long-term direction and day-to-day operations of Gana-A'Yoo, Limited. After serving 11 years as CEO, Betty Huntington will continue with the company in an advisory capacity to provide for a smooth transition over the next few months.

Sommer-Pedebone has a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis on marketing from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She is an accomplished executive with a diverse background in multiple industries such as oil and gas, healthcare and federal housing. For the last five years Sommer-Pedebone has been employed with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company where she graduated from their extensive leadership and management training program, and has held management positions in contracts, supplier performance and purchasing.

Sommer-Pedebone has roots in Nulato, was raised in Fairbanks and resides in Anchorage. She and her husband, Macoy, have two daughters. "I am excited to move the Board's vision forward, bringing teams together, serving our customers and ultimately driving results for our shareholders. Gana-A'Yoo is well positioned to capture an even greater share in the federal market place by building on our strengths," commented Sommer-Pedebone.

"After thorough succession planning and a comprehensive search process, the Board is pleased to have found the best individual to assume leadership of our growing corporation. In Dena Sommer-Pedebone, we selected a very strong leader and communicator who will thrive in a highly competitive marketplace while balancing growth and sustainable operations. Dena has the ability to develop people, inspire change, and connect with our shareholders, employees, customers, partners and other business leaders. The Board is confident that she will capitalize on our opportunities."
— Kim Bower, Board Chair

Shareholders OF THE YEAR

LEO LOLNITZ

Leo Lolnitz is the son of the late Raphael and Doria Lolnitz. Together with his wife, Darlene, they have five daughters: Priscilla Dayton, Mary Malemute, Barbara Lolnitz, Rachael Lolnitz and Kalene Lolnitz.

He is the proud grandfather to Morgan and Alec Malemute. Lolnitz is originally from Koyukuk and serves as the First Chief on the Koyukuk Tribal Council. As Chief he advocates on behalf of not only the people of Koyukuk but for all Native people. He has worked towards developing policies on issues that deeply impact rural Alaskans including but not limited to housing needs, educational resources, hunting and fishing rights, and Alaska Native management of traditional lands and resources. Thank you for all you do for our communities and for the entire state of Alaska.



GANA-A'YOO SUMMER PICNIC

SUMMER
PICNIC
Thursday, June 28
5-7 p.m.
Kincaid



Gana-A'Yoo will host its summer picnic on Thursday, June 28 at the Kincaid Chalet Rentals Picnic Shelter, 9401 Raspberry Road in Anchorage, from 5 until 7 p.m. This is normally an employee picnic but this year we are inviting all shareholders and guests to join us as we welcome Dena and show our appreciation for Betty.

Thank you, BETTY HUNTINGTON, YOUR TIME AND SERVICE TO GANA-A'YOO IS TRULY APPRECIATED

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"I've had the fortunate timing to follow Betty from her days at UAF, when she had young children, studying for her accounting degree; to her tenure at Tanana Chiefs Conference in charge of multiple nonprofit programs; to Doyon, Limited and the for-profit ventures; and finally, to Gana-A'Yoo, Limited. Betty is a woman with a strong work ethic, will stand for what is right for the people of Gana-A'Yoo and will maintain professionalism through her honesty and integrity. As a friend, I love texting Betty in Denaakk'e, because she pushes me to learn more. We both have in common, the strong family ties to working on fish to speaking our language, Denaakk'e. I wish Betty and her family much deserved rest and relaxation. But, I hope to have her working towards our language revitalization."
— Susan Paskvan (Koyukuk and Fairbanks)

"Betty always takes that extra step in accomplishing her goals. That is why she has been so successful in her job, using integrity, responsibility, honesty and determination in a humble manner."
— Martha Demoski (Nulato)

MARIAH PITKA-JENKINS

Mariah Pitka-Jenkins is the granddaughter of the late Laura and Edward Pitka, Johnny Habeich and Eleanor Barrett. She is the daughter of Gerald Pitka and Rosie Habeich. Pitka-Jenkins is married to Shannon Jenkins and together they are raising their five children in Anchorage. She is a success story from our region and exemplifies leadership and commitment in her line of work at Doyon, Limited, where she has spent the last 16 years. Pitka-Jenkins started in accounting and worked her way up the ladder to where she serves as the Senior Vice President and General Manager for Doyon Remote Facilities and Services, LLC. She was the first Doyon Class C shareholder to serve as a General Manager in the Doyon Family of Companies. She calls the Interior home and has made a commitment to keep that connection alive with her children; she brings them all home to Galena for fishing and hunting every year in the summer and fall. Thank you for continuing with our traditional and cultural values while pursuing a corporate career.



GANA-A'YOO

Foundation News

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to this year's Gana-A'Yoo Foundation competitive scholarship recipient graduates. Starlene Kriska is the recipient of a certificate in culinary arts and hospitality as well as a certificate in baking and pastry from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Christina Edwin graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in rural development with an emphasis on community research and indigenous knowledge from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

The 2018 Foundation General and Competitive Scholarship Deadline was June 15. Short Term and Vocational Scholarships are accepted all year long.

SHORT TERM
AND
VOCATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIPS
Apply year-round

CHARITY WALK FUNDRAISER

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation participated in the 2018 Alaska Visitor Industry Walk for Charity on a blustery May 11 in downtown Fairbanks. The walk was a success and we would like to recognize the following participants and contributors: Natasha Parker, Harrison Cramer and Larissa Sommer. It is because of your generosity that we can have a successful program and award scholarships to students.



FUNDRAISER IN GALENA

The community of Galena will hold a Gana-A'Yoo Foundation fundraiser on June 30 in Galena. If you are interested in walking to raise money for scholarships, the minimum donation is \$10 per person. Participants will receive a cooler bag and water bottle. Please contact Joyce Huntington in Galena for more information.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR SHIRLEY SAM

Shirley Sam is originally from Koyukuk and recently moved back to Koyukuk from Huslia with her daughter, Cherish. Her husband, Darrell Sam, is residing in Huslia with two children they are in the process of adopting, Isaiah and Jasper. The couple's other children are Alexandria, Kate, Patricia, Jenny, Tyson, Starlene and Darrell. Sam's parents are Ethel Esmailka and the late Ernie Esmailka Sr.



Sam is enrolled at the University of Alaska Fairbanks where she is working towards her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology as well as her Bachelor of Arts degree in rural development with an emphasis in community health and well-being and a minor in psychology.

On behalf of the Gana-A'Yoo Foundation, we are proud of Sam and her achievements. She is a determined woman who is dedicated to higher education, her family and community, and has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and cultural and community involvement.

FOUNDATION BOARD RECRUITMENT

If you are interested in serving on the Gana-A'Yoo Foundation Board of Directors, there is one seat, with a three-year term, that will be open in September of 2018. The current Board members are Janelle Huntington (Koyukuk), whose term ends September 2020; Michael Stickman (Nulato), whose term ends September 2019; and Anne Esmailka (Kaltag), whose term ends September 2018.

To qualify, you must be 18 years of age or older. Submit your resume and a letter of intent to Crystal Sommer via fax at 907.569.9699 or email to csommer@ganaayoo.com before the deadline of August 24, 2018. Please note that under federal laws governing private foundations, family members of Gana-A'Yoo Foundation Board members are not eligible to receive a Foundation scholarship during their term on the Board. Current scholarship recipients are also not eligible to serve on the Board.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Every spring Gana-A'Yoo gathers in one of our four villages for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. This year the Board of Directors and staff traveled and met in Koyukuk on Friday, May 25 at the Koyukuk Community Hall.



CORRECTION

A correction must be made to the spring newsletter for an inaccurate photo of the Ggaal Doh dancers and singers. The Ggaal Doh group traveled to Fairbanks in March for the University of Alaska Fairbanks annual Festival of Native Arts. Twenty dancers, singers, teachers and elders from Kaltag performed at the Festival; children as young as 5 and as old as 14 practiced twice a week during the winter, and the older students made some of their regalia. Many volunteer hours were put in by community members to sew, sing, teach and fundraise. The Ggaal Doh dancers would like to thank the Kaltag Co-op Store, Kaltag Tribe, Gana-A'Yoo, Limited, Dora Nickoli and the parents that donated their time and resources towards the dedicated group of dancers and singers.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- JUNE

28

Gana-A'Yoo Picnic
Kincaid Park, Anchorage
5 - 7 p.m.

30

Gana-A'Yoo Foundation
Galena Fundraiser Walk
- AUG

24

Foundation Board of Directors
letter of intent deadline
- SEPT

14

Gana-A'Yoo, Limited
Board of Directors meeting
8:30 a.m.

14

Gana-A'Yoo Foundation
annual membership meeting
12 p.m.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kimberly Bower | Chair
Melissa McGinty | President
Ragine Pilot | Vice-President
William Dayton | Secretary
Michael Stickman | Treasurer
Shay Huntington McEwen | Director
Betty Griffin | Director
Ida Hildebrand | Director
Sharon Hildebrand | Director

EDITOR

Larissa Sommer
newsletter@ganaayoo.com

CONDOLENCES

Poldine Carlo, 98
Nulato Stock

Shane G. Edwin, 46
Koyukuk Stock

WHERE ARE YOU?

Current contact information is needed for the following shareholders. Please contact Crystal Sommer at 907.569.9599 or csommer@ganaayoo.com if you have any information on their whereabouts.

Reggie Becker	Brandi Gorsche	Rachel Leann Silas
Rhonda Becker	Lance Richard Gurtler	Lillian A. Smith
Laneil Ann Brasket	Daniel Lauesen	Danny Stickman
Sheila Cheverie	Jason Lauesen	Donald AJ Stickman
Janet Cline	Jeremiah Lauesen	Luann Strickland
Jarynn R. Cunningham	Timothy McArdle Sr.	Esther N. Warner
Leonard Dayton	Jason Nollner	Jordan Williams
Thomas T. Debo	Mary Olin	Wink Winklemann
Glen Stewart Duncan	Byron Arnold Peters	
Adam Goodwin	Sally Agnes Semaken	