



Gana-A'Yoo, Limited



Happy  
HOLIDAYS

From all of us here at Gana-A'Yoo, Limited, we would like to express our best wishes for a healthy, happy holiday season and a new year filled with peace, joy and hope.



Open  
BOARD SEATS

The Gana-A'Yoo, Limited Board of Directors seeks to fill three open board seats. This year's election requires one director owning class D (Kaltag) stock. Voting shareholders 18 or older are encouraged to consider serving on the board. In order to be listed on the proxy, interested shareholders must submit a director's questionnaire by **Monday, January 27, 2020**. Forms may be downloaded at [ganaayoo.com](http://ganaayoo.com), and may be submitted by email to [csommer@ganaayoo.com](mailto:csommer@ganaayoo.com), via fax to 907.569.9699, or by mail to Gana-A'Yoo, Limited, 1001 E Benson Blvd., Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

The following current directors' terms expire in May 2020:

- \* Urban seat currently held by Betty Griffin, Kaltag stock
- \* Urban seat currently held by Melissa McGinty, Nulato stock
- \* Rural seat currently held by Thomas Neglaska, Kaltag stock

Director eligibility requirements:

- \* Must be a Gana-A'Yoo, Limited shareholder holding voting stock
- \* Must be at least 18 years of age



"OUR VOICE"  
Denadolale'



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CEO Message

Happy Holidays, Shareholders!

I hope this message finds you are doing well while enjoying time with family and friends. It is hard to believe 2020 is just around the corner. I had the pleasure of visiting with several shareholders and descendants at the fall shareholder meeting in Fairbanks. Thank you to Susan Paskvan for sharing with us how to pronounce "Tleeyegge Hut'aane" (the people of the land) and "Khotol." Acknowledging and sharing who we are is one area I feel strongly about and encourage our management team to promote.

The Board of Directors asked the management to research and analyze how the establishment of a settlement trust could benefit Gana-A'Yoo shareholders. This federal tax provision, which allows Alaska Native corporations to establish settlement trusts, has the potential to secure long-term sustainability of the corporation by growing shareholder equity through tax savings. This is in direct alignment with our strategic target to increase shareholder equity. To date, over 30 Alaska Native corporations have taken advantage of this provision. As our net income grows, we continue to look for savings for the company, and the establishment of a trust helps us move towards that goal.

Shareholder/descendant hire and development is also a priority for the board and management, and I am pleased to report that shareholder/descendant hire has increased by almost 27% since last year. To date, three shareholder/descendants have "been on ice," traveling to and working with Gana-A'Yoo Service Corporation in Antarctica, supporting the National Science Foundation. Gordon Reiland, a Gana-A'Yoo descendant, is there now.

The comfortable nights of winter are a great time for reflection. I often think about those role models that have made an impact on me. Solid figures in my life. Each year the Gana-A'Yoo board and shareholder relations committee recognizes and honors a shareholder and student of the year. If you know a shareholder or descendant "making waves," please nominate. Nominators do not have to be shareholders. I encourage shareholders to reach out with questions. Contact me at [info@ganaayoo.com](mailto:info@ganaayoo.com) or 907.569.9599.

2019 is shaping up to be our best year yet. Stay tuned for more details!

Be well,

Dena Sommer-Pedebone, CEO



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# ANNUAL MEETING 2020: *Settlement trust?*

Shareholders will have the opportunity to vote on whether to create a settlement trust at the Gana-A'Yoo, Limited annual meeting on May 22, 2020.

A settlement trust is organized under the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and Alaska state law to provide benefits to the shareholders of an Alaska Native corporation. The purpose of a settlement trust is to promote the health, education and welfare of the beneficiaries, and to preserve the heritage and culture of Alaska Natives. A settlement trust accomplishes its purpose by making distributions to its beneficiaries.

Individuals who own shares of Gana-A'Yoo will be beneficiaries if the settlement trust passes the vote.

While Gana-A'Yoo shareholders are not currently required to pay federal income tax on dividends received from the corporation, eventually they will be required to.

With a settlement trust, the corporation, Gana-A'Yoo, will be able to take a tax deduction for its contributions to the settlement trust, resulting in savings for the corporation and ensuring that beneficiary dividends remain tax free for shareholders.



## ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

The Alaska Federation of Natives convention took place in Fairbanks in October. During that time, Gana-A'Yoo, Limited took the opportunity to host a shareholder information meeting, which was well attended. Shareholders and descendants had the opportunity to hear corporate updates from Gana-A'Yoo CEO, Dena Sommer-Pedebone, and board president, Melissa McGinty. Committee members, directors and management in attendance were introduced to attendees. Gana-A'Yoo leadership discussed creating a settlement trust,

open enrollment, our family of companies, and the Gana-A'Yoo Foundation. The next shareholder information meeting will take place in Fairbanks in March.

Thank you to all those who attended the shareholder information meeting in October in Fairbanks. Congratulations to the \$50 cash door prize winners: Brenna Cruger, Paula Curran, Darrell Hildebrand, Colleen Stickman and Mike Tanner.

## VILLAGE *Spotlight*

### GGAAŁ DOH

A historical monument came to its end in Kaltag in October when local volunteers tore down the community hall. The iconic structure was becoming hazardous as it started to deteriorate. The hall was designed by Plasker Nickoli Sr., Goodwin Semaken Sr. and Dave Sheets, and was completed in 1977. It was possibly the first octagon-shaped community center built in rural Alaska and its design was replicated in other villages; in fact, Nickoli went on to assist Huslia, Hughes and Allakaket with their community halls. The top of the hall was preserved and is planned to be utilized in a gazebo-type structure at the Kaltag ballpark. Work will commence on a new community hall in early 2020, made possible with donations and support from Tanana Chiefs Conference.



## Open ENROLLMENT

The topic of opening enrollment to descendants of original Gana-A'Yoo shareholders has been under discussion the last few years, per the request of shareholders. While the majority of shareholders support opening enrollment, a large percentage have expressed concern about the impact of opening enrollment on dividends and voting strength.

“The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was and continues to be an experiment. There are a few comparable examples in northern Canada to ANCSA, but otherwise throughout the rest of the world we Alaska Natives are in a unique circumstance. The main point is that we as a collective own most of our traditional lands without any government oversight. Since the implementation of ANCSA in the 1970s, we have managed and stewarded our lands successfully, thanks to the ANCSA corporation leaders of the day. This leads us to an important question: Who will be our ANCSA corporation leaders 10, 20, 30 and more years from now? Who will be the managers and stewards of our traditional lands that we have proudly held and now owned for millennia? I believe the more inclusive we are of our youth, the more successful they will be as ANCSA corporation leaders, and subsequently managers and stewards of our lands when the day comes. There is much more to ANCSA corporations than a profit margin and shareholder dividends; we have a greater responsibility to our lands and to our youth, who will one day be our leaders after the leaders of today have had their time.”

- *Freddie Olin IV,*  
shareholder descendant and former  
Gana-A'Yoo, Limited employee

## EMPLOYEE *Spotlight*

Gana-A'Yoo recognizes the corporate office's longest-serving employee, shareholder Crystal Sommer. Sommer started as a temporary employee after graduating from the University of Alaska Anchorage with her Bachelor of Arts in psychology in May 2010. She has served as administrative assistant and office manager/shareholder relations, managing shareholder relations and records, coordinating meetings and events, serving as a Gana-A'Yoo Foundation liaison, and assisting the CEO. She has worked in three different office locations under two different CEOs throughout her tenure. “I am lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from and work for former CEO Betty Huntington and current CEO Dena Sommer-Pedebone,” she said. Sommer is the daughter of shareholders Christopher and Albertha Sommer, and inherited shares from her maternal grandfather, Edward Pitka. She enjoys traveling, biking, skiing, watching shows, looking at restaurant menus, and spoiling her nieces and nephews, who lovingly refer to her as “Auntie Claus.” Sommer is one of the notaries in the office who can help shareholders with updating stock wills and records.



“I enjoy working for Gana-A'Yoo and our shareholders. I love our company's mission, vision and values, and am grateful for our work environment that promotes corporate and personal growth.”

- *Crystal Sommer*

We would like to hear from you, our shareholders, on how you feel about this topic. Please direct questions, concerns and comments to the corporate office or on social media to have your voice heard today.



## STUDENT of the Year

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation Board of Directors selected Austyn Pedebone for the **2019 Student of the Year award**. The annual award recognizes a shareholder or descendant of an original shareholder who is a student in 7th grade through college that has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities. Pedebone was selected based on her leadership qualities, educational goals, and cultural and community involvement. Pedebone attended the University of Alaska Anchorage majoring in business management with a minor in entrepreneurship and English. John Maxwell said, "Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts; it is about one life influencing another." Maxwell's quote describes Pedebone's style of leadership. From an early age, she has been nominated and held leadership roles in varsity flag football as the captain and has been named "most inspirational" for her motivational efforts toward her teammates on and off the field. Additionally, her strong work ethic became apparent at a young age when she became a dance instructor to young children, and she was recently recognized by her employer as a young person to grow within the company through their institutional advancement program. Pedebone's dedication and love of learning is reflected in her commendable grade point average, which she has demonstrated throughout high school and college. Her future aspirations include earning her PhD and owning her own business focusing on philanthropy and nonprofit work for marginalized communities. She volunteers at Elders' events at Centennial Village in Anchorage and regularly attends community gatherings, including potlatches and the Alaska Federation of Natives.

## YEAR-ROUND Scholarships

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation offers short-term and vocational funding awards in addition to competitive and general scholarships. Short-term and vocational applications are accepted throughout the year. The Foundation's mission is to enrich and enhance educational opportunities for Tleeyegge Hwt'aane' (the people of the land) for Gana-A'Yoo shareholders and descendants, as we are adapting to our environment. We realize that secondary and post-secondary schools, regardless of the type of institution, can present economic difficulty, and we would like to see all students succeed. Education is the key to the future and the Foundation would like to encourage success rates. Vocational schools are an excellent way to gain technical skills for trades and allow students to directly enter the workforce. Please call the corporate office if you have any questions or would like to know more about scholarships offered.

## SUBSIDIARY Spotlight

### ANTARCTIC SUPPORT CONTRACT (ASC)

Since 2012, Gana-A'Yoo Services Corporation (GSC) and Eures Support Services Alaska (ESS) have subcontracted to Leidos for the camp support services on the continent of Antarctica. Our teams provide food, janitorial, lodging, laundry, post office, beverage and administrative services. The team also manages the retail stores and supports the scientific field camps on the continent.

The dedication and hard work of our employees and managers have paid off in the last seven years. Our team was honored this year for their services and was asked to be part of the flag-raising ceremony that signifies the opening of the summer science season at McMurdo Station and the kick off for many of the international programs that depend on our station to carry out their work. The ASC team has been a gateway to securing three food procurement contracts (GSC and Kaiyuh Services, LLC), food inspection contracts (GSC), the Ground Penetrating Radar Contract (Gana-A'Yoo Services Corporation Mechanical, or GSCM), and the South Pole HVAC Contract (GSCM). The ASC team was also integral in the acquisition of Best Recycling, which led to the creation of Six Mile, LLC. The culmination of all contracts, since inception in 2010, is anticipated to yield close to \$100 million in total revenue for Gana-A'Yoo.

Program manager, Mike Gay, supports and directs the management team in the performance of the contract, which has six years remaining. Gay has successfully communicated Gana-A'Yoo's mission, vision and values to his team. This marks the fifth season we have been lucky to share the South Pole experience with Gana-A'Yoo shareholders or descendants; Gordon Reiland, a shareholder descendant from Galena, is working as the retail materials person this 2019 - 2020 season in McMurdo.

The support of the Antarctic mission is far reaching, servicing the Palmer, McMurdo and South Pole stations, as well as two research vessels and over 40 field camps. Our team also supports logistics in Punta Arena, Chile; Christchurch, New Zealand; Port Hueneme, California; and Centennial, Colorado.

We are proud of the success of our Antarctic support contract and the team that makes it all possible. Gana-A'Yoo, in partnership with ESS, has employment opportunities in Antarctica. Visit [ganaayoo.com/opportunities](http://ganaayoo.com/opportunities) to learn more. After applying, please call the corporate office at 907.569.9599.



## Call for NOMINATIONS

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation Board of Directors intends to recognize an outstanding student at a 2020 shareholder meeting. If you know a student between 7th grade and college, please consider nominating him or her for the Gana-A'Yoo 2020 **Student of the Year award**. The candidate will be selected based on leadership qualities, cultural and community involvement, and educational goals. Nominees must be either a Gana-A'Yoo shareholder or a descendant of an original shareholder. Nominations are due on Friday, January 24, 2020.

The Gana-A'Yoo shareholder committee is seeking nominations for the 2020 **Shareholder of the Year award**, which recognizes a shareholder for an outstanding achievement. Since 2012, Gana-A'Yoo has presented Shareholder of the Year awards during the annual shareholder meeting. Nominees must be a Gana-A'Yoo shareholder who is involved in community service and whose involvement has directly affected Alaska Natives. The Shareholder of the Year shows a strong commitment to helping others in order to make our communities a healthier and safer place to live. Please submit nominations by Friday, January 24, 2020.

Nomination forms are available at the village tribal offices in Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag, and online at [ganaayoo.com](http://ganaayoo.com). Contact the corporate office at 907.569.9599 or [records@ganaayoo.com](mailto:records@ganaayoo.com) with questions or concerns.

*Nominations due Jan. 24*

# FOUNDATION DONATIONS

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation is a nonprofit organization primarily funded through Gana-A’Yoo, Limited. In order to remain compliant and maintain its nonprofit status, a certain percentage of funding must come through private donations.

The 2019 fiscal year was a success and, in fact, exceeded the Foundation’s donation goal. The target was \$8,000 and, thanks to the generous donations of individuals and organizations, we achieved 102% of that goal. If you would like to donate, contact the corporate office today! The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation accepts donations year-round.

## Photo BANK

Gana-A’Yoo is creating a photo bank! If you would like to submit photos, please email them to [newsletter@ganaayoo.com](mailto:newsletter@ganaayoo.com). In addition to the photo bank we would also like to hear from you, our shareholders and descendants, with stories of interest that can be archived. Historical or present-day stories from our ancestral lands are of interest. By submitting stories or photos, you are giving Gana-A’Yoo permission to use them.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DEC

25 *Merry Christmas!*  
*Gana-A’Yoo offices closed*

JAN

1 *Happy New Year!*  
*Gana-A’Yoo offices closed*

20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
*Gana-A’Yoo offices closed*

24 Student of the Year and  
Shareholder of the Year  
nominations due

27 Board of Director candidate  
questionnaire deadline

FEB

17 Presidents Day  
*Gana-A’Yoo offices closed*

21 Board of Directors meeting  
Anchorage, AK

MAR

16-19 Tanana Chiefs Conference  
annual convention  
Fairbanks, AK

18 Gana-A’Yoo shareholder  
information meeting  
Fairbanks, AK

20 Doyon, Limited annual meeting  
Fairbanks, AK



**Gana-A’Yoo, Limited**

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



## CONTACT US

**Toll-Free** | 1.888.656.1606  
**Anchorage** | 907.569.9599  
**Galena** | 907.656.1606  
**web** | [ganaayoo.com](http://ganaayoo.com)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

## EDITOR

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

## WHERE ARE YOU?

Current information for the following shareholders is requested. Please contact the corporate office if you have any information on their whereabouts:

**Nathan Angel**  
**Michael R.C. Baranda**  
**Vienna L. Boe**  
**Brook D. Bryant**  
**Duane Burnham**  
**Diane R. Carlo**  
**Walter Carlo**  
**Leanne F. Dapceovich**  
**Andrew Dayton**  
**Thomas T. Debo**  
**Verna L. Demoski**  
**Melissa Diaz**  
**Dewayne Drake**  
**Norman Drake**  
**Tyler Drake**  
**John C.I. Ekada**  
**Minnie Ekada**  
**Lloyd T. Esmailka**

**Pamela A. Esmailka**  
**Veronica M. Frese**  
**Jacklyn E. Gabrielson**  
**Lance R. Gurtler**  
**Dorothy Henry**  
**Kody Henry**  
**Matthew Henry**  
**Roger Henry**  
**Vincent Henry**  
**Tobi Hower**  
**Daphne M. Jensen**  
**Isabelle K. Kallio**  
**Daniel Kennedy**  
**Robert J. Kennedy**  
**Rose Kennedy**  
**Corina M. Kriska**  
**Bradley McGinty**  
**Marvin C. Mountain**

**Edith Nicholas**  
**Victor W. Nicholas**  
**Jason Nollner**  
**Rhonda Patsy**  
**Alesia Peters**  
**Kenneth C. Pitka**  
**Donovan C. Reiland**  
**Kayla R. Ridderbush**  
**Teresa M. Solomon**  
**Bridget A. Stanley**  
**Donald A.J. Stickman**  
**Shyanna Stickman**  
**Luann Strickland**  
**William J. Walsh**  
**Owen Wofford**  
**Joshua Yaska**

## CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of:

**Alda Frank**, 92, *Galena Stock*  
**Yolanda Sophie Sam**, 87, *Koyukuk Stock*