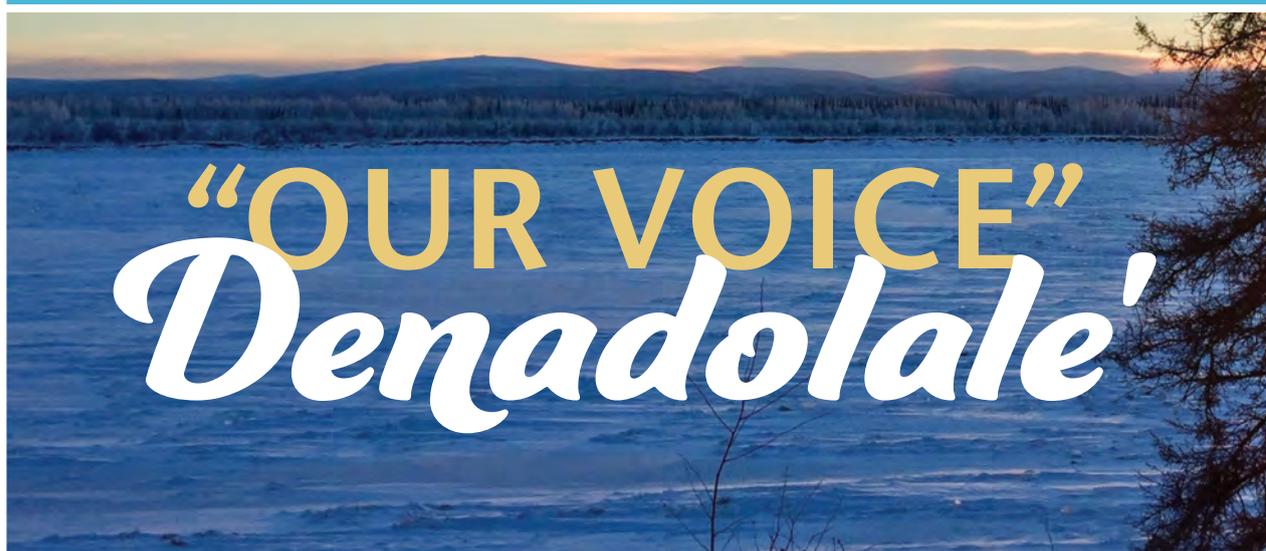




Gana-A'Yoo, Limited



# "OUR VOICE" Denadolale'



Alaska Business  
TOP 49ER  
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FOUNDATION BOARD  
PAGE 3



MEMORIAL POTLATCH  
PAGE 4

**Happy HOLIDAYS**

From all of us here at Gana-A'Yoo, Limited, we extend our warmest holiday wishes and a happy and joyous New Year.

## CEO Message

Season's greetings,

I hope this message finds you healthy and warm.

This fall, Gana-A'Yoo was able to distribute cash to eligible shareholders who experienced negative financial impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic between March 1, 2020, through December 31, 2021. The Cares Assistance Program is the allocation of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding that allowed Gana-A'Yoo to make a one-time payment to eligible shareholders who experienced negative financial impacts due to COVID-19 and had not been reimbursed by any other federal, state, tribal or local government program.

The application period was open from October 5 until November 30. As of November 15, 2021, 752 shareholders received \$1,448 each. Thank you to staff, shareholders and the volunteers who helped make this happen!

As the temperatures drop and the days get shorter, let us remember winter safety tips: When going out on the land, always remember to let someone know where you are going and how long you will be gone; bring extra food; dress for distress and be prepared with emergency safety supplies. Staying hydrated allows the body to perform properly and keeps you warm. Last but not least, it is important to take care of our mental health; being out on the land and enjoying nature often will bring a sense of calm and peace.

As 2021 nears an end, we look optimistically towards 2022. May this holiday season bring you light and comfort.

Sincerely,

Dena Sommer-Pedebone  
Chief Executive Officer



**2021 ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES**

The 2021 Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention will be held in a virtual format this year on December 13 and 14. AFN decided to hold its annual meeting online out of concern for the safety and health of the thousands of attendees who come from every region of Alaska. This year's theme is "ANCSA at 50: Empowering our Future." Alaska Indigenous groups throughout the state consolidated in 1966 to form AFN in order to work toward Alaska Native land claims.

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## ANCSA Anniversary

December 2021 marks 50 years since the passage of the historic Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Up until that time in U.S. history, it was the largest land claims settlement and it forged a new way forward in federal Indian policy. It is also the origin of our Native corporations, which bind our people together. On December 18, 1971, U.S. President Richard Nixon signed the act that created 12 Alaska Native regional corporations as well as over 200 for-profit village corporations. The act compensated corporations with \$962.5 million and 44 million acres of land, while extinguishing aboriginal land claims. The corporations are owned by Alaska Native shareholders.

Our ancestors, who prospered on the lands in the area of what is now considered the villages of Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag, lived a nomadic lifestyle, sharing resources to ensure the success of our lineage. In line with those same traditional values, the village corporations of Notaaghleedin, Limited; Mineelghaadza', Limited; Nik'aghun, Limited and Takathlee-tondin, Incorporated merged together in May 1978 to form Gana-A'Yoo, Limited, the Denaakk'e word for "friends together."

Today, our corporation serves over 1,200 shareholders, has been named in the top 49 Alaska businesses two years in a row, and has six subsidiaries and four joint ventures spanning the state, country and globe, all driven by the same mission: "Providing solutions for our customers across the globe through unparalleled passion reflecting our creativity and innovation, with respect for the environment and our traditional values." A half century of history has brought us to where we are today: from a small office in Galena to sending shareholders to work in Antarctica. Today, we are among the first village corporations in the Doyon region to consider opening enrollment to our descendants – passing the torch as our ancestors have done for us.

## Top 49 ALASKA BUSINESS

Alaska Business magazine recently published their 2021 list of Top 49 businesses throughout the state, featuring top Alaskan-owned companies ranked by gross revenue. Gana-A'Yoo, Limited came in at number 39 this year, up three spots from last year.



The Alaska Business editorial team explored changing perspectives, as the state's world of commerce has shifted as we learn to navigate our world's "new normal" brought on by the pandemic. While Gana-A'Yoo explores changing perspectives, we also continue to adhere to our traditional values. Examples include contributing \$100,000 to the schools in our communities, supporting the vision of investing in our people, and promoting healthy, thriving communities.

**"Gana-A'Yoo and our family of companies serves clients around the globe. From engineering and deploying Air Force training aides to feeding the Coast Guard, we offer an array of services including construction, camp janitorial and professional services."**

*- Alaska Business Magazine, October 2021*

## OPEN ENROLLMENT: Gana-A'Yoo Shareholder Opinion Survey

Over the last several years, we conducted a series of opinion surveys, special newsletters and informational meetings in regard to opening enrollment for descendants of original Gana-A'Yoo shareholders. A final opinion survey was sent to shareholders to provide an additional opportunity to share your views and opinions for opening enrollment. Your feedback on this issue is crucial in our decision process. The deadline to complete the survey was November 19, 2021. Shareholders who returned their survey by mail or completed their survey online by the deadline were entered into a prize drawing for one \$1,000, two \$250, and three \$100 cash prizes. Watch our website for the list of winners!

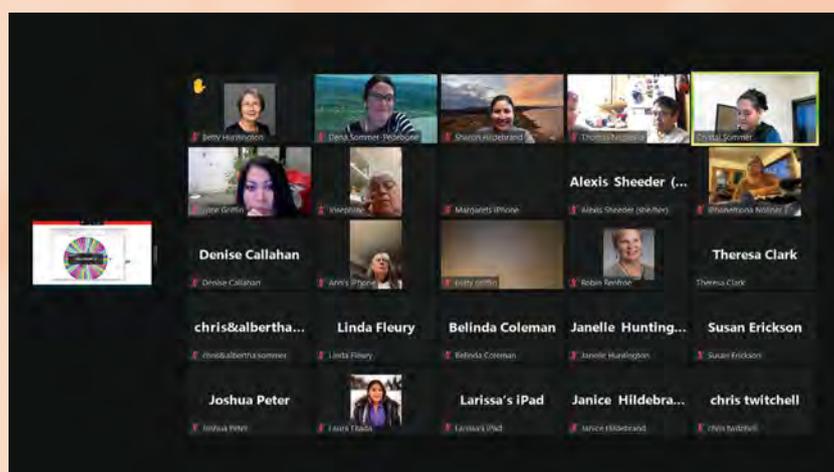


## SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION Meeting

Thank you to all 40 participants who took part in the virtual shareholder information meeting held via Zoom on the evening of October 13. Thank you to Hazel Lolnitz for opening the meeting with a prayer and for the good discussion that ensued.

Congratulations to the \$50 door prize winners: Denise Callahan, Harold Huntington Sr., Ann Neglaska, Aubrey Sommer and John Sommer Jr.

We continue to welcome feedback from our shareholders on the topic of opening enrollment to descendants. Please send us your opinions and ask us your questions. Contact us at [info@ganaayoo.com](mailto:info@ganaayoo.com) or 907.569.9599.



## Open BOARD SEATS

The Gana-A'Yoo, Limited Board of Directors seeks to fill three open board seats. This year's election requires two directors to fill two rural seats. Shareholders are encouraged to consider serving on the board. To be listed on the proxy, interested shareholders must submit a director's questionnaire by January 31, 2022. Forms may be downloaded at [ganaayoo.com](http://ganaayoo.com), and may be submitted by email to [info@ganaayoo.com](mailto:info@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 2022:

- Rural seat currently held by William Dayton, Koyukuk Stock
- Rural seat currently held by Frederick Huntington Sr., Galena Stock
- Rural seat currently held by Colleen Stickman, Nulato Stock

Director eligibility requirements:

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

## FOUNDATION *Board*

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation welcomes newly elected board member, Vera Lestenkof of Koyukuk, who joins directors Sharon Hildebrand and Alexis Sheeder. Thank you to outgoing director Leann Sommer for serving a three-year term. Sommer commented, "My time on the board was a rewarding experience. It was a pleasure to serve the future of Gana-A'Yoo shareholder and descendants. Thank you to all shareholders, employees and organizations for your continued donations and support." The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation is a nonprofit 501c3.



## HIRE VETS *Medallion Program*

HIRE Vets Medallion Program is a federal program that recognizes employers for their effort in recruiting, employing and retaining our nation's heroes. Gana-A'Yoo, Limited received the Gold Award for fiscal year 2020 based on the percentage of employee veterans, percentage of new hires that are veterans, percentage of veterans that are retained for at least 12 months, and for not having any labor law violations. This program is the only federal-level veterans' employment award that recognizes companies for exceptional achievement in veteran employment. Gana-A'Yoo received the award on November 10 at a virtual award ceremony and accepted the digital image of the award to use in advertisements, solicitations, business activities and products. Our official award will be mailed to us and will be on display at our corporate office. We are honored to demonstrate patriotism and recognize the value veterans bring to the workplace, and we look forward to employing and retaining more veterans as we grow.



## Job OPPORTUNITIES

We encourage any and all shareholders and shareholder descendants to apply for open job positions at [gylantarctica.workbrightats.com/jobs](http://gylantarctica.workbrightats.com/jobs). After applying, please contact our corporate office or email [csommer@ganaayoo.com](mailto:csommer@ganaayoo.com) to inform us that you have completed the application process. Visit the opportunities page for the most updated and current job openings. A reminder that the 2022 Antarctica job positions will be posted at midnight on January 1.

## New EMPLOYEE

Gana-A'Yoo's newest employee, Ryan Kegley, will take over the reigns as the chief operating officer. Kegley was born and raised in Alaska, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Prior to his new position, Kegley worked for the Chugach family of companies for the last seven years, serving as the vice president of projects and support at Chugach Commercial Holdings (CCH), as well as the general manager of Chugach Alaska Services (CAS). His position encompassed marketing, bidding, capturing and overseeing all new projects for CCH and CAS's subsidiary, TCC, LLC in Alaska's oil and gas industry. Kegley has over 20 years of experience in leadership roles, ranging from operations and business development, working as a congressional staffer in Washington, D.C. and the Alaska State Legislature, government 8(a) contracting, and leading several multi-year, multi-phased and complex projects. Kegley enjoys cooking, fishing, traveling and keeping up with his teenage son.



**"With a background working in Alaska Native corporations, Ryan will play an instrumental role in achieving our strategic priorities, including implementing continuous process improvement to maintain infrastructure commensurate to the size and complexity of our operation, achieving consistent and sustainable growth in profit year over year, and expanding operational industry and market mix outside of 8(a)."**

*- Dena Sommer-Pedebone, CEO, Gana-A'Yoo, Limited*

## CALL FOR *Nominations*

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation Board of Directors intends to recognize an outstanding student with the Student of the Year award. Students who are in 7th grade through college or who are enrolled in other career advancement programs are eligible. Please consider nominating a student who demonstrates leadership qualities, is involved in cultural and community events, and is working toward their educational goals. Nominees must be either a Gana-A'Yoo shareholder or descendant of an original shareholder. Nominations are due January 31, 2022.

The Gana-A'Yoo shareholder committee seeks nominations for the 2022 Shareholder of the Year award, which recognizes a shareholder who models the mission, vision and values of Gana-A'Yoo. The Shareholder of the Year award recognizes individuals with a strong commitment to helping others to make our communities healthier and safer places to live. Nominees must be a Gana-A'Yoo shareholder who is involved in community service and whose involvement has directly affected Alaska Native people. Please submit nominations by January 31, 2022.

Nomination forms are available online at [ganaayoo.com](http://ganaayoo.com). Call the corporate office or email [info@ganaayoo.com](mailto:info@ganaayoo.com) with any questions or concerns.

## EMPLOYEE *Spotlight*

Gana-A'Yoo, Limited subsidiary, Kaiyuh Services, LLC, recognizes longstanding Kodiak employees Nico Madrid, who has served for 21 years, and Edlorde Cruz, who has 16 years of service.

Madrid is a front-of-the-house cook who makes all breakfasts to order, oftentimes remembering which breakfast to cook for each patron even before he is able to tell them good morning. Thank you, Nico, for your efficiency and good work ethic and personalizing all those you come into contact with on a daily basis.



Cruz is an all-around happy, easygoing and good-natured employee. You cannot help but be lifted up and ready to laugh when coming in to contact with his encouragement and good attitude. Thank you, Ed, for always helping out whenever and wherever you are needed.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

### DEC

- 24 *Merry Christmas!*  
Gana-A'Yoo offices closed
- 31 *Happy New Year!*  
Gana-A'Yoo offices closed

### JAN

- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Gana-A'Yoo offices closed
- 31 Board of Director candidate questionnaire deadline
- 31 Student of the Year and Shareholder of the Year award nominations due

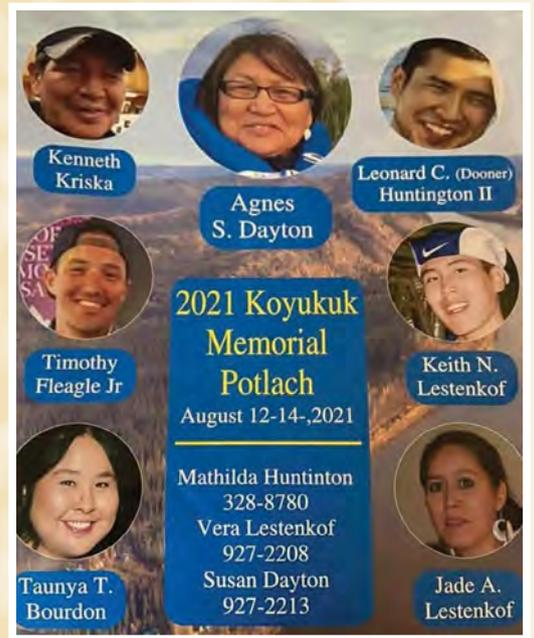
### FEB

- 21 Presidents Day  
Gana-A'Yoo offices closed
- 26 Board of Directors meeting

## VILLAGE Spotlight

A memorial potlatch was held in Koyukuk on August 12 to 14 in honor of Kenneth Kriska, Agnes Dayton, Leonard "Dooner" Huntington II, Keith Lestenkof, Jade Lestenkof, Tanya Bourdon and Timothy Fleagle Jr. The community worked together to prepare food and give gifts, and guests traveled from near and far to heal together, listen to and give speeches, sing, dance and eat.

**"We honor our loved ones by gifting the people that helped us during our time of need, when it felt like we could not even think. It is a way of processing our grief; with every stitch, we shed a tear or laugh or sigh remembering our loved ones. It is a healing process; our ancestors paved the way for us and we must keep our traditions going. We don't do this alone; everyone helps make it flow – thank you to everyone who participated to honor our loved ones."**  
- *Mathilda Huntington*



## Gana-A'Yoo, Limited

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

### EDITOR

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

### CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of:

**Nora Demoski, 69**  
Galena Stock

**Claude W. Esmailka, 71**  
Kaltag Stock

**Nicolas R. George, 42**  
Nulato Stock

**Jeffrey C. Huntington, 45**  
Galena Stock

**John Scott Tanner, 47**  
Galena Stock

**Gordon V. Yaska, 59**  
Galena Stock

### WHERE ARE YOU?

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

### STOCK WILL DRIVE

### Winners

Thank you to all shareholders who have submitted a valid stock will within the last five years. By the stock will drawing deadline of November 5, 2021, the 255 shareholders who submitted a valid stock will were entered to win cash prizes. Congratulations to the lucky winners: Gabriel Arthur Solomon and Randolph Joseph Pitka. If you would like to be entered into future drawings, be sure to submit your valid stock will. All stock wills must be notarized or certified by the postmaster and signed by the shareholder submitting the stock will. Contact the corporate office with any questions.