



“OUR VOICE” *Denadolale'*



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Season's GREETINGS
From the entire crew,
here at Gana-A'Yoo.



2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2023 Gana-A'Yoo annual meeting will be held in Galena on June 2, 2023.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH Initiative

Gana-A'Yoo, Limited strives to be a better partner with our village local governments and stakeholders. Some initiatives include potentially broadening benefits provided by the Gana-A'Yoo Foundation. Over the coming year, Gana-A'Yoo plans to hold community meetings, focus groups and online surveys to discuss local needs with our shareholders, descendants, local governments and other residents of our four villages. Discussion topics may include: How can Gana-A'Yoo better provide educational opportunities for shareholders and descendants? In what ways can our local governments and Gana-A'Yoo partner on community development planning and projects? We are excited about this initiative and opportunity to learn more from our shareholders, local governments and other stakeholders.

CEO Message

Dear shareholders,

As 2022 comes to a close, your Board of Directors, management and employees wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

We have been busy at the office with exciting first-time events and activities from welcoming shareholders, descendants, families and friends to the first Gana-A'Yoo open house, “Getting to Know Gana-A'Yoo,” to rebranding our website and social media for better business outreach, to initiating and rolling out a formal employee recognition program, and, most importantly, planning community, shareholder and descendant outreach activities to engage with you.

Keep a look out for the next shareholder and descendant survey.
We want to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Dena Sommer-Pedebone
Chief Executive Officer



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TOP 49er

For the third year in a row, Gana-A'Yoo, Limited is the proud recipient of a spot on the Alaska Business Top 49ers list. The Top 49ers are an elite group of Alaskan-owned businesses that are ranked by gross revenue. This year, Gana-A'Yoo ranked at 39.



Original LEADERSHIP

Over 50 years ago, the United States Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which created what are today's Alaska Native regional and village corporations. Seven years later, in May 1978, Gana-A'Yoo, Limited was established when the village corporations Notaaghleedin, Limited; Mineelghadza'Toh, Limited; Nik'aghun, Limited and Takathlee-tondin, Incorporated merged, creating our Denaakk'e name meaning "friends together."

For this issue, we interviewed one of Gana-A'Yoo's original leaders, Miranda Wright. Wright is the daughter of the late Eddie and Alice Hildebrand of Nulato. Her maternal grandmother was known as Little Lisa, or Adinonaadlino, who was of the Kaiyuh people and the Toneedze Gheltseelne clan. Her maternal grandfather was Clark Carey, an Irishman who arrived in Nulato with the Signal Corp. Wright's paternal grandparents are the late Peter Esmailka and Martha Esmailka-Joe. Wright was born in her family's winter camp on the Mud River, where she lived until she moved to Nulato at age 6, when the Alaska territorial government mandated all children attend school.



Were you involved in the formulation of ANCSA? If so, how did you become involved? How did your journey start?

Few women were actively involved in the formulation of ANCSA. It was a different space and time, so most women advocated in the background. Many held bake sales as fundraisers for the ANCSA movement. As for myself, I hosted private dinner meetings for several Native leaders as they engaged with my brothers-in-law, Jules and Don Wright, who were active in the ANCSA movement. Prior to this, I was a student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks along with Willie Hensley, John Sackett, Reva Wulf and a handful of other Alaska Native students. We were all aware of the pressing issues our people were facing after Alaska was granted statehood. It was during this period that Willie wrote his now-famous paper on who owns Alaska. You might say that I was in the eye of the storm from the beginning; however, due to societal restrictions, women often worked in the background, providing support to the effort in subtle ways.

What was your involvement with the creation of the Nulato/Kaltag/Galena/Koyukuk village corporation?

I was not involved in the creation of Nik'aghun, Limited. I ran for election once I saw how unstable the corporation was. The corporate concept was foreign to many of our people. They were trying to hold things together, but it was a real challenge dealing with all the federal and state requirements while understanding the financial aspect of running a for-profit company with shareholders that demand accountability.

What was your involvement with Gana-A'Yoo's 1977-1978 merger of the village corporations?

It was during my tenure on the Nik'aghun, Limited Board of Directors that the discussion surfaced to merge our sister villages into one corporation. Much like Nik'aghun, other village corporations were struggling with this new concept called corporations. A couple villages had populations of less than 100 residents. Often our seasonal harvests put added pressure on the corporate office as people were actively working to keep food on their tables. After many meetings, it was decided that unity and support was necessary to keep our land intact and under Native ownership. By merging, we could share expertise, cut administrative costs and pool our financial resources to help grow the company.

What were the early days of corporate life like? How did you learn to navigate corporate life?

For the village corporations, those early days were hectic, scary, confusing and required a lot of work educating our people on how to navigate a foreign system. When I ran for election to our village corporation Board of Directors, I had already been in business for a number of years. I had established a corporation for the construction company my husband and I ran, so I had a good understanding of how a corporation works.

Did you sit on the Board of Directors for Gana-A'Yoo? If so, did you hold any positions on the board?

If my memory serves me, I stayed on for one term after Gana-A'Yoo was established. I felt my goal to stabilize my village corporation had been accomplished. In the process, our sister village corporations were also in recovery mode. All were benefiting from the merger.

What were your hopes and aspirations for the corporation?

The objective from the start was to make money. The focus was very conservative and to proceed with a vision. In those early days, much of our money was in the stock market.

How did Gana-A'Yoo hold up to your expectations in today's day and age?

I am extremely proud of Gana-A'Yoo and the growth trajectory they are on. They have a strong board and a great management team.

How do you envision Gana-A'Yoo in the future?

Maintain the focus on educational and career opportunities for shareholders as the company continues to grow and expand shareholder equity.

SUBSIDIARY Spotlight

Kaiyuh Services was awarded a four-year sole source contract to oversee and operate the Yuma Desalting Plant on behalf of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation under the U.S. Department of Interior. This plant encompasses 60 acres, or 2.6 million square feet, of space that is comprised of both a research testing facility and real-time desalination plant capable of producing over 96 million gallons of desalted water per day. The plant has 43 full-time staff on hand to keep it in "ready mode" in case the plant must be turned on due to a water shortage, or if the salt content in the Colorado River exceeds standard levels caused by leaching from the surrounding area farmlands.



Teacher HOUSING

Over the last several months, Gana-A'Yoo has been working closely with the Galena City School District to provide more teacher housing options. Since 2015, the school district has leased Gana-A'Yoo's seven-plex for teacher and school administrator housing, and recently added an additional building to their lease agreements. The school district applied for the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Professional Housing Grant to renovate and refurbish the seven-plex beginning next year to ensure the property remains adequate for housing. The school district has expressed their gratitude to Gana-A'Yoo, and we look forward to building stronger relationships that contribute to building a better tomorrow for our youth of today.

“The Galena City School District is grateful for our ongoing collaboration and partnership with Gana-A’Yoo in a joint effort to best serve the children and students of our region. This strong relationship has recently resulted in a 28 percent increase in available teacher housing units and potentially a dramatic remodel of these facilities here in Galena, and has substantially elevated our capacity to meet the needs of our professional educators and to ensure that we are in a position to provide our students with an impactful education that they deserve.”

- Superintendent Jason Johnson, Galena City School District

Open HOUSE

Thank you to all shareholders and descendants who attended our open house held on October 18. Our theme was "Getting to Know Gana-A'Yoo." Visitors were given a Gana-A'Yoo passport to take on their travels through the informative stations organized throughout the office. Stations included a records update booth, a lands and resources information center, human resources, operations information, and many others. Those with a passport full of station stamps were eligible for prize drawings! Congratulations to door prize winners Lauren Bonn, Cynthia Evans, Betty Huntington, Sharon Lestenkof and Grace Packer. The evening was purposeful and fun, and the photo booth captured many great memories for shareholders and staff alike.

"It was nice to get all the latest information and meet everyone."

"It was really nice to talk to different staff. What a great idea!"

"It was meaningful to meet shareholders and their families and be able to put faces and names to the people behind the purpose of the corporation. I think there was a great balance between having a lot of useful information available and just having a fun, social time. I was proud of the effort my colleagues put in to making this a successful event for everyone."

- Kimberlie Payne, Gana-A'Yoo Technical Writer/Web Developer



Call for NOMINATIONS

The Gana-A'Yoo shareholder relations committee seeks nominations for the 2023 Shareholder of the Year award. The award recognizes a shareholder who models the mission, vision and values of Gana-A'Yoo, and who demonstrates a strong commitment to helping others make our communities healthier and safer places to live. A nominee 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 **February 3, 2023**.

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 **February 3, 2023**.

Nomination forms are available
at ganaayoo.com.

EMPLOYEE *of the Year*

Congratulations to long-standing employee, Janelle Huntington, recipient of Gana-A'Yoo, Limited's first Employee of the Year award! This new annual award recognizes an employee whose loyalty and consistent efforts embody and are reflective of Gana-A'Yoo's mission, vision and values. The selected employee consistently demonstrates these principles, and their actions add to the improvement, quality and performance of our corporation through their professionalism, customer focus, quality, teamwork and innovation.

Huntington has been an exceptional asset to Gana-A'Yoo, Limited since June 2013. Huntington was a student at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) when she began her career at her village corporation as a temporary office clerk, assisting in various departments. Eventually, she transitioned to the Human Resources (HR) Department as a regular, part-time HR clerk in 2014. The next year, she moved into an HR assistant position and transitioned to a full-time employee in 2016. Huntington graduated from the Doyon Leadership Training and from UAA with her Bachelor of Science in aviation management with a minor in Alaska Native studies and business administration in 2017. After graduating, she made the tough decision to take an internship at an airline as a systems safety analyst. She explained, "I loved working for Gana-A'Yoo, but I wanted to utilize my degree and discover my career path. When I resigned, I decided I wanted to still be involved with the company, so I ran for the Gana-A'Yoo Foundation Board of Directors, which allowed me to give back to the Foundation that had so graciously supported me with my educational endeavors." Huntington served as a Foundation board member for a term from August 2017 until 2020.

While Huntington enjoyed working in her field of study in the aviation industry, she found herself missing the culture, values, people and environment of the Alaska Native corporation she had become so fond of. Once Huntington completed her three-month internship, she was offered a full-time position. Simultaneously, Gana-A'Yoo took the opportunity to encourage her to apply for a vacant HR generalist position. "I knew it was the right decision to come back to Gana-A'Yoo. I love working here because it brings me closer to my culture, and, in my role, I help people, which is my passion," she said. Huntington was promoted to senior HR generalist in 2020 and received her Professional in Human Resources certification in 2021.

Huntington is the daughter of Harold and Shirley Huntington, and the granddaughter of the late Jennie Huntington of Koyukuk.



"Gana-A'Yoo has supported me both personally and professionally, and I wanted to contribute to motivating and inspiring others."

- Janelle Huntington, former Gana-A'Yoo Foundation director and current Gana-A'Yoo, Limited senior HR generalist

“Janelle’s positive ‘there’s got to be a way’ attitude demonstrates optimism and commitment. She understands the responsibilities of her position, which motivates her to see her tasks done well and completely.”

- Ryan Kealey, Chief Operating Officer

MARK YOUR *Calendar*

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

DECEMBER

- 26 Merry Christmas!
Gana-A'Yoo offices will be closed

JANUARY

- 2 Happy New Year!
Gana-A'Yoo offices will be closed
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Gana-A'Yoo offices will be closed

FEBRUARY

- 3 Student of the Year and Shareholder of the Year nominations due
- 3 Board of Director candidate questionnaire deadline
- 20 President's Day
Gana-A'Yoo offices will be closed

MARCH

- 13-16 Tanana Chiefs Conference annual convention *in Fairbanks*
- 17 Doyon, Limited annual meeting *in Fairbanks*

Notary OPPORTUNITIES

Gana-A'Yoo has notaries in each of our villages to help shareholders update their records. If you would like to meet with a notary, please contact the corporate office.

LAND *Sales*

Gana-A'Yoo has parcels of land for sale in Galena and Nulato. Parcels are listed on the open market and there are no shareholder/descendant restrictions. The Crow Creek Subdivision in Galena has seven parcels available for sale, with an approximate starting price of \$3,000. The G'isaalma Subdivision in Nulato has over a dozen parcels for sale, starting at best offers from private/individual buyers. Please visit ganaayoo.com/lands for sale brochures, or contact lands@ganaayoo.com with any questions or for the exact locations of each parcel.

STOCK WILL *Drive*

Thank you to the 290 shareholders who have updated their stock wills in the last five years! Congratulations to Gina Madros and Victoria Patsy, the \$500 winners of our latest stock will drive held on November 5. Remember to continue submitting valid stock wills and be on the lookout for future drawings.

GAN A-A'YOO



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Linda Fleury | President
Sharon Hildebrand | Vice President and Secretary
Joshua Peter | Treasurer
Howard Darling | Director
Frederick Huntington Sr. | Director
Shay Huntington McEwen | Director
Melissa McGinty | Director
Thomas Neglaska | Director

EDITOR

Larissa Sommer
newsletter@ganaayoo.com

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 B (Koyukuk) stock, one director owning class D (Kaltag) stock, and one director that is a resident of a rural community. 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 **February 3, 2023**. Interested shareholders may submit their application through the Gana-A'Yoo, Limited online portal, located at ganaayoo.com.

The following current directors' terms expire in May 2023:

- Urban seat currently held by Linda Fleury, Galena and Koyukuk 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

Where ARE YOU?

Please visit the Shareholder Portal on our website or contact the office for the updated list of shareholders without current address information on file.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of:
Ronald J. Dayton, 64, *Koyukuk Stock*
Dena J. (Stickman) Dufresne, 75, *Nulato Stock*
Daisy M. Kelly, 66, *Kaltag Stock*