

# VENTURE

F A L L 2 0 1 7



### letter from

### THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Happy holidays to you and your families. As we enter the holiday season and reflect on the success of the past year, we take this opportunity to prepare for the New Year and the success that it also holds.

I have spent a good deal of time with each of our Sitnasuak departments and business units during the past six months to learn about the company and how we can improve operations. I am impressed and encouraged with the hard work our team consistently gives. It is our shared goal to increase the profitability and capacity of Sitnasuak to continue growing our operations, and increasing the benefits to our Shareholders. To do this, we recently updated our strategic plans for 2018. Our strategic plans directly support the



vision and mission set by the Board of Directors. Strategic themes for 2018 that emerged from this process include "Building our Business," "Preserving and Protecting Our Lands" and "Supporting our Shareholders," which are all designed to enrich the lives of Shareholders. We will continue to work together as a team to bring new business and continued prosperity to Sitnasuak.

Recently the Board of Directors announced a dividend amount of \$6.20 per share, an increase of 20 cents per share over last year. Sitnasuak also moved up two places on the Top 49 Alaska Businesses in Alaska, from number 26 to number 24. To continue this momentum into 2018 we must collectively work hard to continue building our capacity, our business units, our Shareholder dividend, and Sitnasuak's role in Alaska's economy.

I am very proud of our team and the hard work to support SNCT's operations in response to the hurricanes that recently hit Puerto Rico. We created a cross company task force and worked tirelessly to send supplies and support to our Puerto Rico-based employees in Camuy and Orocovis. This cooperation ensured operations were not significantly interrupted and our company could continue production. Through these tough times our team pulled together to safeguard the company and promote combined success.

This is best summarized in a report from Humberto Zacapa, CEO of SNCT, "As everybody knows, during crisis times we prove the resilience and leadership of the team. I cannot be more proud with what each of our



team leaders have shown during these past weeks, starting with leadership, ingenuity, creativity and disposition to do what is not usually required."

We, as staff, continue to support the decisions of the Board of Directors and are prepared to complete the Election and Annual Meeting of Shareholders when a date is selected. As President and CEO, I will continue to work alongside staff strengthening Sitnasuak and our operations, while working hard to meet our strategic goals.

I look forward to the New Year and wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.

Quyanaqpak,

Roberta "Bobbi" Quintavell,

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President & CEO

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert "Bobby" Evans, Chairperson

Louis Green Jr., 1st Vice Chairperson

Mark Allred, 2nd Vice Chairperson

Jason Evans, Treasurer

Helen Bell, Secretary

Neal Foster, Director

Charles Fagerstrom, Director

Barb "QasuGlana" Amarok, Director

Edna "Becka" Baker, Director

Andrew Miller Jr., Director

Trudy Sobocienski, Director

#### THE CHAIRMAN

Hello Fellow Shareholders,

Season's greetings from our families to yours. Hopefully, by now you have received your 2017 Shareholder dividends. The Board of Directors was very excited to announce a dividend of \$6.20 per share and a special Elders' dividend of \$500 per Elder this year. These dividends are the result of the hard work of our dedicated employees and a great management team.



I am also very proud of our recognition in Alaska Business Monthly's special Top49ers issue.

Sitnasuak has experienced many successes, and continues to grow in profitability. That's how we support Shareholder dividends and benefits. Sitnasuak is also pleased to serve as a community partner through our donations to Nome Public Schools, NACTEC, Kawerak, Norton Sound Health Corporation, Koahnic Broadcasting/KNBA, the Lonnie O'Connor Basketball Tournament, Nome Kennel Club, Alaska State Troopers, Nome Community Center, XYZ Senior Center and Nome Native Youth Olympics.

We understand that some Shareholders have been inquiring as to when the 2017 Sitnasuak Annual Election will be held – As of Sept. 29, the Sitnasuak Native Corporation 44th Annual Meeting of Shareholders is postponed and will be rescheduled. The new date will be announced as soon as possible. By way of background, on Sept. 11, 2017, the Alaska Superior Court recommended rescheduling the 2017 Sitnasuak Annual Election and the Board of Directors complied. As stated by the Court, "...hardship can be avoided by rescheduling the election until after the preliminary injunction motion is decided." Accordingly, the Board of Directors announced the postponement of the annual meeting originally scheduled for Sept. 30, 2017, due to the additional time needed for legal proceedings, which are important to ensure a fair election.

In the meantime, valid proxies cast still count, subject to any court rulings, and will be maintained by the election judge. Early bird proxy prizes will be awarded based upon those received as of 5 p.m. Sept. 20, 2017. The early bird proxy prize winners will be announced at the rescheduled annual meeting. The eligibility date for proxy prizes will be amended to a later date and announced when the new date for the annual meeting is determined.

Please be patient as we move through the process. We are committed to keeping all Shareholders informed as we work toward selecting a new date for the annual meeting. Sitnasuak, and our dedicated employees, are working diligently every day for all Shareholders.

We wish you and all Shareholders a happy and safe holiday season.

Take care and God Bless.

**Robert (Bobby) Evans** 

H. Evan

Chairman



### update on the

### ESKIMO CEMETERY

The Sitnasuak Land Department has been working to honor our ancestors buried in Nome at the site known as the Eskimo Cemetery. The site is located on the west side of Nome and is also known as the Seaview Cemetery. The cemetery contains the remains of over 175 Inuit people – most whom were buried in mass graves due to the 1918 influenza epidemic. According to the Sitnasuak Elders Committee, there are additional individuals buried including some non-Native people. Sitnasuak owns the land and it is designated as a cemetery. The site is the final resting place of many of our ancestors from Sitnasuak and the Bering Straits region.

The Eskimo Cemetery is an important project and a priority of the Sitnasuak Board of Directors and Elders and Land Committees. Sitnasuak has been working on the project for many years and recently on July 7, 2017, created a new Cemetery Committee which identified designs to improve and honor the site. Plans include building a board walk along the front of the site that leds to a large deck for viewing and paying respects to those laid to rest at the site. This boardwalk will have three access ramps or steps leading up to the site from the beach: one on each side of it and one in the middle. Near the middle entry we will place a plaque with a history of the site and a six-foot cross with names of those we know who are buried there. Also, large boulders will be placed to outline the site while discouraging tresspass by vehicles.

Dave Evans, Land Manager, is leading the project and is aiming to complete it by the summer of 2018 to honor the 100-year mark of the 1918 influenza epidemic. This will include a cemetery dedication ceremony with the community to honor all who are buried there.



# alaska business monthly

# SITNASUAK #24 IN THE TOP 49ERS IN 2017

Alaska Business Monthly's Top 49ers recognizes Alaskan-owned and Alaskan-operated companies, and ranks them by gross revenues of the year prior. Sitnasuak, and President and CEO Bobbi Quintavell in particular, is extremely proud Sitnasuak is recognized in the publication.

"I would like to thank our management team and employees for ensuring we carry out Sitnasuak's mission of 'Earning Profits on Operations While Protecting Our Land, Culture and Benefiting Shareholders.' It takes a dedicated team to accomplish goals and grow businesses with many hours of hard work and commitment," said President and CEO Quintavell.

Chairman Bobby Evans said of the award, "This ranking and recognition by Alaska Business Monthly shows Sitnasuak is a leader in the Alaska business community. Over the last seven years, we have seen steady growth and positive changes with an eye towards always improving. We all work very hard at applying best business practices. Overall, Sitnasuak is a great company delivering results to Shareholders and Alaska's economy."



### new hire

### PAT LEARY

#### Pat Leary Hired as New Senior Vice President of Sitnasuak Applied Technologies, LLC

Pat Leary began working with Sitnasuak Applied Technologies, LLC in October of this year. He is responsible for managing the marketing and operational activities to support federal and commercial service contracting. The primary focus of work will be "remote" supervisory control and data



acquisition (SCADA), information technology (IT) network and physical security, and general IT system operations and maintenance.

"After 30 years in the military, I am happy to be back home in Alaska. I am excited to be part of the Corporation team working to diversify and expand Sitnasuak Applied Technologies," said Mr. Leary.

Mr. Leary is originally from Anchorage, and retired from the U.S. Navy as a Captain in 2012. He has a bachelor's degree in physics with a concentration in oceanography, and a master's degree in systems technology and space systems operations from the Naval Postgraduate School. While in the Navy Mr. Leary served the U.S. Northern Command as C3 Branch Chief and Command Architecture Division Chief; the USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) as the Combat Systems Officer, including support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and also served the Naval Postgraduate School as the Director of the Information at the Professional Center of Excellence. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy Commendation Medal (4), Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal (2). In Mr. Leary's his civilian professional career he held the position of Director of Cyber Technologies for Trabus Technologies, and Senior Program Manager of Cyber Security for Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.

We warmly welcome Mr. Leary to our Sitnasuak family of businesses and look forward to his important contributions with Sitnasuak Applied Technologies, LLC. His valuable skillset will enhance our projects with customers and significantly add to our company's capacity to offer cutting edge cyber and technology services.





# shareholder employees

# EMBARK ON LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Five Sitnasuak Shareholder employees recently embarked on the Corporation's Shareholder Executive Leadership Program. The program is sponsored by Sitnasuak and hosted within a Qazgi – an Inupiaq cultural institution for teaching. Our village corporation is implementing the Qazgi in a modern way as a space for meeting, training and sharing. The Qazgi is titled Ubluģiaq, or Star, to symbolize the leadership development at Sitnasuak that is like reaching for a star as well as guided for direction by a star. The Ubluģiaq Qazgi has four goals for development with each participant: (1) Promote Culturally Grounded in Identity and Values; (2) Support Confident Leadership Abilities; (3) Develop Exceptional Management Skills; and (4) Expand Thoughtful Strategic Planning.

The Ublugian Qazgi is a unique opportunity to work with our next generation to learn and grow individually,

professionally and culturally. Our Qazgi supports and develops employees that are shareholders and descendants to be more prepared for leadership – within the Corporation for job effectiveness, within our Businesses and Subsidiaries for customer excellence and within our Shareholder Base for promoting community and cultural growth. The Ublugiaq Qazgi spans two years, with quarterly gatherings for training and discussions. Participants also receive coaching for working on individualized career goals and job leadership skills. Ukallaysaaq Okleasik, Sitnasuak Vice President of Corporation Affairs, is leading the Qazgi as an experienced facilitator and ilisautri (trainer or teacher).

Marilyn Koezuna-Irelan, Sitnasuak Shareholder Relations Officer and participant in the program, said, "The Ubluğiaq Qazgi for the Shareholder Executive Leadership Program is meant to bring leadership skills in all the work we may do. The training we have been provided so far helps us to think critically about challenges that we may face, and to face them with determination and divergent thinking. We are reminded to trust ourselves and remain adaptable when working on solutions for the future. The group is also learning to treat individuals as humans and with great care. I believe this was our ancestors way of life before naluaqmiu contact."

Cara Buie, Escrow Assistant with Mat-Su Title Agency, said, "The first two gatherings during our two-year Ubluğiaq Qazgi have been encouraging and inspiring. I've expanded my knowledge of our Inupiaq culture and have experienced the importance of incorporating our Inupiaq values into the workplace firsthand. Our first gathering in Nome involved listening and speaking with Elders and our second gathering in Anchorage included two incredibly motivational guest speakers. Having the opportunity to listen to Elders and guest speakers while reflecting on our own individual experiences to enhance the leadership abilities we all possess has been such a rewarding experience. It has not only been rewarding, but challenging as well; one of the requirements of this program is to maintain full-time employment with Sitnasuak or one of its subsidiaries. While it can be difficult at times, there are also very important skills being enhanced including communication, time management, organization and setting goals."

"It has been a great experience to have the privilege of being able to participate in Ublugiaq Qazgi for the Shareholder Executive Leadership Program. Ukallaysaaq has done a great job of incorporating traditional values with modern business practices. Our guest speakers have been very inspiring and motivational – they are great examples of intertwining our corporate values into day-to-day operations at Sitnasuak," said Jason Omedelina, Sitnasuak Land Technician and another program participant.

Jaqulyn Viner, Assistant Bonanza Express Manager, said, "When I first signed up for the program I had no idea what I was getting into. I was new to my job, and didn't know what to expect from the first gathering other than introductions and learning about the other participants. But the gatherings have been simply amazing. We have so many inspiring guest speakers; getting to know their stories and how they brought peace to themselves after all the tragedy that our ancestors have been through is incredible. I appreciate everything we have shared in our group, including getting to know one another as individuals and talking with those who have impacted our community. While this has been an extraordinary journey, I think my biggest takeaway has been that we can encourage anyone to do his or her best. I started out as a retail clerk at Bonanza Express, and am now an assistant manager. With the right encouragement we can get people to achieve their goals, and can really accomplish anything we set our minds to."

Sitnasuak is pleased with the progress the participants have been making, and can't wait to see these future leaders in action.





franklin "buddy" okleasik, jr.

## AFN PARENT OF THE YEAR

Sitnasuak and its Elders Committee is proud to have nominated this year's winner of the AFN Parent of the Year — Buddy Okleasik Jr. He is a Sitnasuak, Mary's Igloo Native Corporation and Bering Straits Native Corporation Shareholder. Buddy is a lifelong resident of our home community of Nome, and parents are LaVonne and the late Piqigiaq Franklin Okleasik, Sr., and grandparents were Utuayuuraq Martin and Amaanaq Sarah Okleasik of Teller, and Russell and Lucille Sime of Iowa.

Love of children is one of our important Inupiaq values, and Buddy is blessed with six children – son Ryan, stepson Jordon, and daughters Ivory, Zoe, Heidi and Grace. Unfortunately, his late wife Denise Amarok-Oliver passed away in 2012. Through this hardship, Buddy stepped up as a single father and took on the responsibilities of two parents in raising their family. In addition to everyday work and family duties, he has been positively involved in his children's education and activities. He coaches their softball teams, volunteers in their schools and supports their many sports from basketball and swimming to Native Youth Olympics. Buddy holds high expectations for his children, which is evidenced by their many accomplishments. Three of his daughters, Zoey, Heidi and Grace, have attended the Anvil City Science Academy. His oldest daughter, Ivory, recently graduated from Nome-Beltz Junior/Senior High School and was accepted to attend flight training in California. She is currently attending the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Chairman Bobby Evans said of Buddy, "Every community has a hardworking parent like Buddy Okleasik, and we thank AFN for recognizing our friend and fellow Shareholder."

Sitnasuak expresses congratulations to Buddy Okleasik in receiving this honor and award from the Alaska Federation of Natives during the 2017 Convention in Anchorage, Alaska.

#### MISSING SHAREHOLDERS

ADAM J. LARSEN ADRIENNE ORR AHBREE R. LANCASTER ALFRED HUFF, JR ALICIA L. LARSEN ALIE D. DOUGLAS ANDY K PISCOYA ANGELO BUFFAS JR. ANISHA OKSOKTARUK-LUMIANSKY ANN WHIPPLE ANNA M. CHAMBERLAND ANNOKAZOOKA Z. SANCHEZ ANTHONY LUCIANO BLANCHE T. TRIGG BRYAN L. OUTWATER CAROL L. HULL CHARLENE A. CALLAHAN CHARLIE BARGER JR. CHERI KREMPER CHRISTIAN C. GUSTAFSON CHRISTOPHER DICKSON CHRISTOPHER EUBANKS COURTNEY D. KAYOUKTUK CYNTHIA M. BOURDON DANIEL EUBANKS DAVID VERNON SLWOOKO DAWN M. SALESKY DESIREE K. GUSTAFSON DONNA M. ELLANNA DOUGLAS N. LANE ELIZABETH A HICKOK ELIZABETH J. LARSEN ELSIE R. OKITKON **EMILY SELMA SUTTON** ERIC M. COLEMAN FRANK B. WITTIE FREDERICK E. ERNAK II GARON M. JOHNSON GEORGE E. LARSEN JR.

ISAAC B. PISCOYA IVAN M. LARSEN IVAN SILOOK JAMIE W. WITTIE JANELLE P. M. CRANDALL JENNIE AMY MICHELS JENNIFER E. OLSON JENNIFER L. RUSSELL JULIE A LARSON KATHERINE G. ANDERSON-TIMMONS KATHERINE CARLTON KENDRA MORGAN LARS P. WILLOYA JR. LAURA FAHEY LOUIE A. J. OZENNA MABEL BROWN MARK D. SEEGANNA MARTHA M. BOWMAN MARY BUCK MICHAEL MAYAC MICHAEL THOMAS MICHELLE J. RYLANDER MILTON R. RUDZAVICE MICHAEL L. TESTU NANCY G. ANALOAK NORMAN L. GOFF PATRICIA MCCLARY PAUL V. LUCIER PERRY O LARSEN QUINN E. OKSOKTARUK RACHEL S. RAIS RICHARD R. OMELAK ROBERT BALLARD ROBERT B. KOKULUK ROBERT SEBRING-STROUT ROGER L. TESTU ROMALD KATAXEC **RUTH FLOYD** 

HAZEL N. JACK

SAMANTHA M. GUSTAFSON
SAMUEL AHWINONA JR.
SARAH L. SKROCH
SCOTT D. DIXON
SCOTT LITTLEFIELD
STARTLA R. SMITH
STEWART TOCKTOO
THOMAS BELL
TIMOTHY M. GREINER
TIMOTHY P. WALLUNGA
VICKI M. OLIVER
WILLIAM L. WALLUK
WILLIAM J. WILLOYA
WILLIAM J. WOFFORD
YOLANDA M. APTED

If you know the whereabouts of a missing Shareholder, please contact Sitnasuak's Shareholder Relations Manager Rebecca Neagle with updated information at rneagle@snc.org or (907) 929-7032.



Stephanie Fahey's winning photo of her children picking berries.

# shareholder

### DIGITAL PHOTO CONTEST

Congratulations to the winners of our fall Shareholder digital photo contest: First Stephanie Fahey submitted a picture of her children berry picking, and second Dolly Kugzruk submitted a picture of fish drying at Camp Masu. First place won a \$100 gas card and second a \$50 grocery card. Quyaana to everyone that submitted photos and sharing with our Corporation.



Dolly Kugzruk's second place photo.



Photo Credits: Top, Dolly Kugzruk; Middle Left, Amanda Noyakuk; Middle Right, Nancy Analoak; Bottom, Jackie Jaskuloski







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#### DIVIDENDS ARE DECLARED

Sitnasuak's Board of Directors is pleased to declare a regular dividend of \$6.20 per share (or \$620.00 for those with 100 shares) to all Shareholders of record as of Nov. 15, 2017. A special Elders' sividend of \$500.00 per Elder has also been declared for Shareholders 65 or older as of Nov. 15. Distribution began Nov. 29, 2017.

"Our Sitnasuak family of businesses are profitable and continue to perform and grow. Our 2017 earnings fund our Shareholder dividends as well as other Shareholder benefits such as scholarships, bereavement assistance, camp and home sites, heating fuel discounts and apartment discounts. Our profitability reflects our many successes in delivering trusted and quality products and services," said Sitnasuak Board Chair Robert "Bobby" Evans.

"The 2017 dividend distribution demonstrates our commitment to all Shareholders and especially our Elders, while ensuring the financial stability of the Corporation. We wish all Shareholders and their families a safe and happy holiday season."

The Sitnasuak dividend amount is based on a review of Corporation's dividend policy that includes an analysis of both historical and projected financial performance. This is the sixth year Sitnasuak has distributed an extra benefit to our Elders.

#### **Sitnasuak Dividend History**

1979     NO DISTRIBUTION     \$ -       1980     \$ 51,375     \$ 0.25     \$ 25       1981     \$ 390,450     \$ 1.90     \$ 190       1981     \$ 205,500     \$ 1.00     \$ 100	\$ - . 0 0
1980       \$ 51,375       \$ 0.25       \$ 25         1981       \$ 390,450       \$ 1.90       \$ 190	
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YEAR	TOTAL PAID	AMT. PER SHARE	AMT. PER 100 SHARES
1994	\$ 1 4 0 , 4 5 3	\$0.68	\$ 6 8 . 3 8
1995	\$166,374	\$ 0 . 8 1	\$81.00
1996	\$ 191,022	\$0.93	\$ 9 3 . 0 0
1997	\$166,874	\$ 0 . 8 1	\$81.00
1998	\$ 172,536	\$ 0 . 8 4	\$84.00
1999	\$102,700	\$ 0 . 5 0	\$ 5 0 . 0 0
2000	\$ 197,184	\$0.96	\$ 9 6 . 0 0
2001	NO DISTRIBUTION	\$ -	\$ -
2002	NO DISTRIBUTION	\$ -	\$ -
2003	NO DISTRIBUTION	\$ -	\$ -
2004	NO DISTRIBUTION	\$ -	\$ -
2005	\$ 2 0 5 , 4 0 0	\$ 1.00	\$100.00
2006	\$ 4 0 4 , 6 3 8	\$1.97	\$197.00
2007	\$ 4 6 2 , 1 5 0	\$ 2 . 2 5	\$ 2 2 5 . 0 0
2008	\$ 3 5 9 , 4 5 0	\$1.75	\$ 175.00
2009	\$ 6 8 1 , 9 2 8	\$ 3 . 3 2	\$332.00
2010	\$ 1,142,024	\$ 5 . 5 6	\$ 5 5 6 . 0 0
2011	\$ 1 , 4 0 0 , 8 2 8	\$ 6 . 8 2	\$ 6 8 2 . 0 0
2012	\$1,470,664	\$ 7.16	\$716.00
2013	\$ 1,265,264	\$6.16	\$616.00
2014	\$ 1 , 2 6 5 , 2 6 4	\$ 6.16	\$616.00
2015	\$ 1,273,480	\$ 6 . 2 0	\$ 6 2 0 . 0 0
2016	\$ 1,232,400	\$6.00	\$600.00
2017	\$ 1,273,480	\$ 6 . 2 0	\$ 6 2 0 . 0 0



Sitnasuak Native Corporation Shareholder Mr. Arthur "Guy" Martin passed away on the evening of October 7, 2017.

Guy was born in Nome on April 5, 1942 to Stanley C. Martin and Josephine Garnie. He attended school at the St. Mary's Mission, Holy Cross Mission, Nome High School and Anchorage West High School. Guy served three years in the U.S. Army, and afterward Chief of Police for Gamble and Kotzebue. He also served police departments in Nome and New York City.



Since the 1980s, Guy worked diligently on issues concerning our Alaska Native land claims, and cultural and historical preservation. He was instrumental in many landmark programs, including the establishment of the Eskimo Walrus Commission – one of the first cooperative agreements for wildlife management between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and tribal communities.

From 1989 to 1997, Guy worked in the land department at Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC) guiding the ANCSA land conveyance process. In 1990, he helped establish a pilot program that paved the way for later compact agreements between tribes and the U.S. Government. This Agreement created the BSNC Cemetery and Historic Site Program, which began in 1993. During his years with BSNC, Guy was the Land Manager and later worked in the Bering Straits Foundation on a program to document contaminated sites in the BSNC region. He served as a director on the Bering Straits Foundation Board for many years. Guy was recognized as Employee of the Year for Kawerak, Inc. in 1980, and for BSNC in 1990.

Guy also served on the Nome Eskimo Community tribal council and Sitnasuak Native Corporation Elders Committee. Beginning in the 1990s, Guy was our region's representative on the Shared Beringian Heritage Program Committee for the National Park Service, which funded cultural preservation and enhancement programs in the Beringian area. During his tenure on that committee a number of important projects were funded in the region: the Golovin Heritage Field School (1999-2001) and the Teller Community Cultural Festival. In recent



years, he volunteered as an Elder instructor for the Nome Archaeology camp, an annual program with participation by Kawerak, Inc., BSNC, Alaska Geographic and the National Park Service.

In 2010, Guy was awarded the prestigious David M. Hopkins Award for his many years on the Beringia Project panel and for helping to advance its mission through personal assistance, conveying knowledge and inspiring and mentoring Native People of the Bering Strait region. Guy was most recently recognized by BSNC at their 2017 Annual Shareholders meeting for his life's work and for his unwavering support of the people and traditions of the region.

Guy was always open to anyone needing advice or guidance. A quote from Guy which appears on each agenda of the Sitnasuak Elders Committee, summarizes his life's work: "The Sitnasuak Elders Committee is charged with bringing back a lot of values and reinstating values from past Elders Committees. Our work is not done, we have to look at what we have had in the past and move forward."

Guy is survived by his wife Blue (Taxac) Martin and children, Tara, Christopher, Katherine, Crystal and Jacob; his grandchildren Sydney, Janessa, Ryan, Neva, Jossalyn and Carly; nieces, nephews and many loved ones and friends. Guy's kindness, humor and dedication to the region will be long remembered. One of his important pieces of advice was: "Keep the past vibrant and alive by listening to Elders and their history, which includes subsistence, Native knowledge, Native storytelling and family history."

Sitnasuak respectfully honors Mr. Martin's life, his many contributions to the Corporation and community, and expresses condolences to his family.



### shareholder &

### ANNUAL MEETING Q&A

Sitnasuak works hard to protect the rights of Shareholders and our investments so we can have a strong Corporation now and into the future. This has been a challenging year for our annual meeting and election. We wish to share the following facts and information for fairness and transparency.

# (1) Question: How can a Shareholder make his or her voice heard? Does my opinion count?

Answer: Yes

Sitnasuak encourages Shareholders to voice their concerns and views with respect. At the same time, it is important to maintain a clean, truthful, and honest discussion of the issues facing Sitnasuak. We believe one of the most important ways Shareholders can make their voice count is to vote in the annual election. That is why Sitnasuak takes the integrity of our election

process so seriously. Under Alaska State law, false and misleading proxy statements are prohibited and that is why Sitnasuak has taken the necessary legal actions to protect our election.

Please do call Shareholder Department of there are questions or concerns that arise. Staff members in Anchorage and Nome can provide a wealth of information regarding Shareholder involvement, bereavement benefits, change of address, inheriting stock, gifting shares, and more. The toll free number is 1-877-443-2632.

# (2) Question: Is Sitnasuak a profitable corporation?

**Answer:** Yes

Sitnasuak was ranked #24 by Alaska Business Monthly's Top 49ers of Alaskan Corporations in 2017.

As stated in the 2016 Annual Report, Sitnasuak had revenues of \$130.2 million and continues to have solid operational earnings across our four business units: apparel manufacturing, financial services, fuel distribution and real estate.

# (3) Question: Are candidate tallies kept confidential during the election when proxies are being cast?

**Answer:** Yes

Under Sitnasuak's Annual Meeting Rules, "The filing of proxies and casting of votes is confidential[.]" Candidate tallies of proxies are kept confidential by the election judge.

# (4) Question: Do Shareholders receive benefits from the Corporation?

**Answer:** Yes

Sitnasuak is proud of our dividends paid to Shareholders and Elders. In 2017, the Board of Directors declared a regular dividend of \$6.20 per share (or \$620.00 for 100 shares) and a special Elder dividend of \$500.00 per Elder.

The Corporation also works to enrich the lives of our Shareholders in many ways. That is why we provide resources to our Shareholders including bereavement assistance, Shareholder discounts, scholarships, campsites, home sites, and charitable contributions.

# (5) Question: Is Sitnasuak promoting values in a way that sustains us as Sitnasuakmiut (people of Sitnasuak)?

**Answer:** Yes

As noted in our strategic plan, Sitnasuak's mission is to "earn profits on operations while protecting our land, culture and benefiting shareholders." Some examples of promoting our values include: outreach to Shareholders through informational sessions, scholarships, active management of our lands to support subsistence hunting and berry picking, camping, fishing and home sites, and publication of the annual calendar highlighting traditional and cultural activities with the Sitnasuak Elders Committee. Additionally, Sitnasuak makes charitable donations – which have included the Nome Native Youth Olympics (NYO) and Kawerak for the Katirvik Cultural Center.

# (6) Question: Is discretionary proxy voting consistent with our traditional lñupiaq values?

**Answer:** Yes

Under Alaska law and Sitnasuak's Election Rules, Shareholders are able to





participate in the annual meeting and election process through either in-person voting or proxy voting.

Sitnasuak Shareholders have the right and option to vote by discretionary proxy. For millennia, our people have survived and thrived as a direct result of trusting that every member of the community is playing the role they are best suited for. In a modern context within the Corporation, a Shareholder who gives or allows discretion of a proxy to another Shareholder is demonstrating confidence in the proxy holder to cast their shares in keeping with their values and putting trust in a role they are best suited for. The discretionary proxy process relies upon confidence in our fellow Shareholders. This option represents a system that honors our shared values.

# (7) Question: Did Sitnasuak take steps to avoid a lawsuit with Shareholders?

**Answer:** Yes

A lawsuit involving Shareholders was undertaken as a last resort in order to protect the integrity of the annual election. While Sitnasuak did take multiple steps to avoid litigation, the other side was unwilling to find a reasonable resolution that adequately addressed our concerns and preserved the integrity of our elections moving forward.

Alaska has specific banking and securities laws that apply to Alaska Native Corporations including Sitnasuak. Shareholders and the Corporation must follow the state laws. When the laws are broken it puts our Corporation, Shareholders and our investments at risk – as well as the integrity of the process. We look forward to successful resolution of the case that provides a process that Shareholders can count on into the future to ensure fair elections.

#### (8) Question: Will write-in votes be valid in this election?

The validity of write-ins for either Barbara Amarok or Marie Tozier is subject to a ruling from the Alaska Superior Court. Should the court decide these votes are invalid, Shareholders will have the option to recast their proxy. As always, Shareholders do retain the right to file a new proxy during the election process.

If you have additional questions or concerns please contact the Shareholders Department: in Nome at 907-387-1200, in Anchorage at 907-929-7000, or toll free at 1-877-443-2632 or via email at shareholder@snc.org. We are happy to listen and answer questions at any time.

# RESPONSE & RECOVERY IN PUERTO RICO

Sitnasuak continues to offer response and recovery help for the people of Puerto Rico as they rebuild their lives, homes and communities. This past fall, Hurricanes Irma and Maria together ravaged the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico, and displaced many people and families to shelters, cut electrical power and communications across the island and created flooding.

Sitnasuak has a wholly-owned manufacturing holding company SNC Technical Services, LLC (SNCT) based in Puerto Rico, and is one of the largest American manufacturers of uniforms and tactical gear for men and women serving the U.S. Armed Forces.

"Our primary concern is the safety of our employees based in Puerto Rico, and we are here to support them in ensuring everyone's safety and recovery," said President and CEO Bobbi Quintavell.

Fortunately, SNCT facilities only sustained minimal damage and were reopened for production by September 26.

"We are extremely proud of our people, after what happened to the island. The response to the disaster and our ability to resume SNCT operations is amazing, and shows the endurance and resilience of our employees and all people of Puerto Rico," said SNCT CEO Humberto Zacapa.

To date, 44 SNCT employee families partially or entirely lost homes. SNCT has offered subsidized lunch meals to employees, and onsite daycare for their children, to aid in the recovery efforts. SNCT also extended temporary emergency shelter to employee families at the company facilities. Sitnasuak chartered flights to bring in communication equipment and satellite phones, and shipped generators, fuel, camp stoves, water purification systems, ice makers and other necessary items.

To help and support the people of Puerto Rico, Sitnasuak made a financial contribution to the organization United for Puerto Rico, an organization with an initiative to provide aid and support to those affected in Puerto Rico by the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Sitnasuak matched \$2,500 in employee contributions from our Alaska staff – for a total contribution of \$5,000. SNCT also joined the government of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican Manufacturers' Association in gathering personal effects and non-perishable items for the residents of Culebra (the municipality on the island's east coast) and their neighbor islands in the Caribbean.







# recap of the

# 2017 ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE

#### By Sierra Anderson, Nome Youth Participant

The 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference was held October 16 to October 18 in Anchorage. It is a conference where youth and Elders from around the State of Alaska come together and talk about becoming better leaders in our communities. Whether talking about issues they have in their community or sharing their achievements, we all help each other towards achieving goals and growing as leaders.

I attended this conference with two other youths from Nome – Sierra Tucker and Evelyn Rochon – and our chaperone Nancy Bahnke. I had a great time talking with other youth and Elders from around the state and it was a great learning experience for everyone involved.

The conference theme was "Part Land, Part Water – Always Native." I thought that this was a very relatable theme for lots of Alaskans, because not very many of them are full Alaska Native. Many people are half-white and half-Alaska Native or half-Inuit and half-Alaska Native, but regardless of what percentage, they're all still Native. No matter what mix an Alaska Native is, they still represent Alaska and our cultures – from excellent seamstresses and beaders to brave hunters and gatherers.

One thing I love most about this event is to hear speakers talk about their stories. There were plenty of inspirational stories, though one really stood out to me. Chris Apassingok of Gambell may be young, but he knows so much about his land and the waters around him. This knowledge he has has made him a very successful hunter and he's provided much for his village.

In between different speakers and presentations during the conference, there were many dance groups who performed – from the North Slope to Southeast regions. The age range in each dance group differed, I saw many Elders and even more youth. Seeing the youth up on the stage performing was amazing and a reminder that our cultures aren't being forgotten.

Another part of the conference was the workshops. Different workshops helped with different skills, from art to business. One of the workshops I attended involved learning to make a yellow or red cedar bark bracelet. The Elder who was leading this workshop was Della Cheney from the Southeast region. She explained to us how the bark was retrieved, how much it cost per ounce and how to weave the bark carefully so we didn't snap them. Weaving the bracelet was difficult at first, but it slowly started to get easier with her guidance.

Colleges from around Alaska also conducted workshops to inform and hopefully convince youth to pursue higher learning opportunities. The two workshops I attended were Ilisagvik College and University of Alaska Southeast. They both served us lunch and gave us a couple baggies with brochures and other college goodies.

One of the last events was the youth-teen dance. The musical group, "A Tribe Called Red," performed for us and it was amazing! They mix traditional Native music with modern music and I think this group is a great way for today's youth to have pride in their cultures and where they come from.

If anyone is considering attending this conference, I highly suggest it. No matter what age you are, you will learn new things. Everyone who attends this conference is always willing to teach and willing to learn. It will be an experience you will cherish and never forget.







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### VALUES

spirituality - ukpaisrun commitment to family - munnakłui kinunnaisi love of children - nagguagiktut ilagit respect of elders - utuqannat kammagiralui respecting others - nagguagiktut ilagit hard work - sagiknatuak sauag reverence toward nature – kammakłui nunamiituat cooperation - kattiilutinsahuagat sharing – pikkaagupsi aitturalui honesty - nagguatun kulliaglutin obedience – kammakłui patience – uttakiragagin humor - quyniuηniq humility - qinuinnaq responsibility - analataasran pride in culture - puyaunau iñupiaqtun iłłusiq avoidance of conflict - aziusrat sugunnai open communication - kanniglusi speaking our traditional language - iñupiuraġluta