



# letter from

## THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Shareholders,

Happy fall to you and your families. As we enter the holiday season, we celebrate our successes and begin preparations for the year ahead. This is a very busy time of year for our operations, as we update strategic plans and budgets for generating 2018 results and the future. We have accomplished many important steps toward our growth, and I am excited to share them with you.



**44th Annual Meeting of Shareholders** — Sitnasuak successfully held our 44th annual meeting in Anchorage September 22, 2018. At that meeting, Shareholders elected continuing directors Helen Bell and Dr. Barb Amarok, welcomed new directors Gloria Karmun and Richard Foster, and thanked outgoing directors Jason Evans and Trudy Sobocienski.

**Settlement Trust** — Shareholders also overwhelmingly approved the creation of a Settlement Trust, which benefits Shareholders in new ways.

**Update to Quorum** — A large majority of our Shareholders passed the proposal to reduce the quorum requirements to hold annual meetings. This will help Sitnasuak conduct business and hold successful meetings in the future.

**Cemetery Dedication** — In recognition of the 100-year anniversary of the 1918 global flu pandemic, Sitnasuak worked with Bering Straits Native Corporation, Arctic Native Brotherhood, Bonanza Fuel, LLC, Nanuaq, LLC, and Sitnasuak Construction Services, LLC to fund, construct and complete improvements at the Sitnasuanmiut Qunuwit in Nome, which memorializes the indigenous people who are peacefully laid to rest there. The dedication ceremony was held October 1 at the site, which is located on the west beach just past the Port of Nome. Afterwards, Sitnasuak and the community joined together at a memorial luncheon at Old St. Joe's. The recognition of this Qunuwit is an important part of our history and was very meaningful to the entire community. We greatly appreciate everyone who contributed and attended this important event.

**Top 49ers** — Sitnasuak also successfully moved up to #23 in the Top 49ers, which is announced each year by Alaska Business Magazine. Sitnasuak reported a growth of over \$134 million in gross revenue for 2017.

Operationally we are working hard to diversify our revenue streams by building up our existing businesses to best meet customer demands while looking at new opportunities in developing markets. Staff is working hard to achieve the goals of the Corporation as we advance the strategic plan and decisions of the board. We continue to work diligently to strengthen our operations and our corporate culture through our values, and by increasing

### **Letter from the President & CEO continued**

benefits to our Shareholders and our community.

I look forward to the new year and advancing our strategies towards success. I wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.

Quyanaqpak,

Plt 2th

Roberta "Bobbi" Quintavell, President & CEO

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert "Bobby" Evans, Chairman

Louie Green, Jr., 1st Vice Chair

Helen C. Bell, 2nd Vice Chair

Joel "Jay" Craft, Jr., Secretary

Haven Harris, Treasurer

Mark Allred

Dr. Barb Amarok

Becka Baker

Richard Foster

Gloria Karmun

Andrew Miller, Jr.

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# letter from

# THE CHAIRMAN

Hello Family and Friends,

We send greetings to you and your families from the Sitnasuak Native Corporation (SNC) headquarters in Nome, Alaska. I am honored and privileged to serve you as Chairman of the Board since 2013. I take this leadership responsibility with great pride and honor. Together the board of directors works very hard and always has you, the Shareholders and the many communities where our Shareholders live, in the mind when we make our decisions.



We successfully held our 44th annual meeting in Anchorage on September 22, 2018. We said farewell, thank you and good wishes to directors Jason Evans and Trudy Sobocienski. They both decided to not run for re-election. Both have been an integral part of the success and growth of SNC over the past six years. We also welcomed newly elected directors Richard Foster and Gloria Karmun, and welcomed back directors Helen Bell and Dr. Barb Amarok, who were re-elected. With the completion of this annual meeting, we now have added four new directors to the board in the last six-months. We are looking forward to working together with you all as SNC continues forward on our path of success.

Shareholders also approved two resolutions that were brought forward by the board and included on the proxy in this election. Both passed with overwhelming Shareholder support. These resolutions will help Shareholders and SNC by updating the annual meeting quorum minimum to 33 1/3, and by creating the SNC Trust. Thank you to each Shareholder for voting in this election and supporting these important initiatives. By lowering the quorum, this assures our annual meetings will be cost-effective and timely. By creating the SNC Trust, both the Corporation and the Shareholders will save millions in taxes.

Great news again, Sitnasuak ranked #23 in the Top 49ers announced by the Alaska Business Magazine in September 2018. This ranking represents the top 49 Alaskan-owned and Alaskan-operated companies in the state as determined by gross revenues. This recognition highlights SNC as a leader in Alaska's business community. Over the last seven years, we have seen steady growth and positive changes with an eye towards always improving. SNC is a great company that has won customers, delivered quality products with best business practices, and demonstrated positive results to Shareholders and Alaska's economy.

We are now in year four of our five-year strategic plan the board of directors adopted in December of 2014. We hope to reach the following strategic goals by end of fiscal year 2019:

- Earn a sustainable \$10 million in consolidated net profit
- Provide a sustainable \$10 per share regular dividend
- Present a sustainable \$1,000 Elder dividend
- Continue to protect our biggest asset our land

### Letter from the Chairman continued

I am glad to share we have a healthy balance sheet and a hardworking management team. We are in a period of investment and growth with opportunities to add to our SNC family of businesses. The board of directors are dedicated to working together to achieve these goals.

The board will also be working this winter to plan the 45th Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which will be held in Nome. We recently held a retreat with the board and we all are encouraged to work together with best business practices to continue doing great things for your corporation.

I want to close this letter by expressing my deepest gratitude to the board of directors and SNC employees who have led our Corporation to another successful year.

Quyaana for your continued support.

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Take care and God bless,

Robert "Bobby" Evans, Chairman of the Board

### SITNASUAK MESSENGER E-NEWSLETTER

Want to know what's going on?
Sign up for the Messenger —
Sitnasuak's e-newsletter. The
Messenger supplements and
complements our quarterly Venture
newsletter. Signing up is quick and
simple: Share your email address
with the shareholder department
at shareholder@snc.org and
include "Subscribe me to Sitnasuak
Messenger" in your email.



# SNC TECHNICAL SERVICES, LLC PROUDLY OUTFITTING OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

We're one of the largest American producers of uniforms and tactical gear for the U.S. Department of Defense. We proudly serve the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. Our product line includes bio and chemical protective clothing, standard and flame-resistant battle dress uniforms, tactical clothing, military uniforms, duffle bags and more.

EVERYTHING WE MAKE AT SNC TECHNICAL SERVICES IS **MADE IN AMERICA** 

To learn more about our wholly-owned Sitnasauk company and tactical products, visit SNCTS.com



44th annual meeting

# SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

The Sitnasuak Native Corporation 44th Annual Meeting of Shareholders drew more than 330 people to the Hilton Anchorage on September 22, 2018. Approximately 200 more viewed the webcast from across Alaska and the country. The meeting was the pinnacle of months of hard work from Corporation employees, board of directors and candidates running for board seats. It offered the opportunity for Shareholders and Descendants to reconnect with family and friends they have not seen in a while and form new connections with others sharing a common desire for the success of our village corporation.

At the 44th annual meeting, the board recognized those Shareholders who have passed in 2016 and 2017, finalized and declared election results and reported on the Corporation's audited financials and growing business operations. Shareholders also learned the winners of proxy and door prizes and had the opportunity to express their thoughts on how to improve the Corporation and increase benefits to Shareholders as the company continues to grow.

### Board members elected, SNC Trust and ensuring quorum for future meetings

During the 44th annual meeting, four board of director seats were elected and two resolutions passed that improve Shareholder benefits and increase the ability to reach quorum at future annual meetings. The Inspector of Elections reported a quorum with 112,677.3404 shares of common stock represented in person or by proxy at the meeting,

### **Annual Meeting continued**

which was 58.4 percent voted. A record breaking voter turnout in recent memory.

Following the close of voting, the Inspector of Elections announced the re-election of two board members (Helen Bell and Dr. Barb Amarok) and the election of two new members (Richard Foster and Gloria Karmun), who will serve terms through the 47th annual meeting. Additionally, Resolution 2018-01, which establishes the SNC Trust to allow tax-free dividends to be paid to Shareholders and maximizes federal tax savings, passed by a wide margin. Resolution 2018-02, which lowers quorum requirements to one-third to ensure business at future annual meetings can be conducted, also passed.

### **Election Results - Board Candidates:**

- (1) Dr. Barb Amarok 16.2% (72,657.9957 shares)
- (2) Gloria Karmun 12.4% (55,354.8414 shares)
- (3) Helen Bell 12.2% (54,367.6277 shares)
- (4) Richard Foster 11.8% (52,764.0602 shares)

The results for the remaining board candidates are as follows:

LieuDell Goldsberry 9.4% (42,259.6330 shares)

Marie Tozier 9.3% (41,793.1247 shares)

Denise Barengo 5.3% (23,720.7086 shares)

Susie Delgado 4.4% (19,604.7514 shares)

Jeanette Yuman 4.2% (18,712.0824 shares)

Wendell Wassman 4.0% (17,879.5920 shares)

Joan Kane 3.9% (17,270.6441 shares)

Karen Neagle 3.5% (15,636.1319 shares)

Lori Hughes 1.9% (8,513.2565 shares)

Buffy Meyer 1.5% (6,925.1404 shares)

### **Resolution Results:**

Resolution 2018-01. Resolve that the SNC Trust shall be established. PASSED.

Yes 106,343.6470

No 5,721.2505

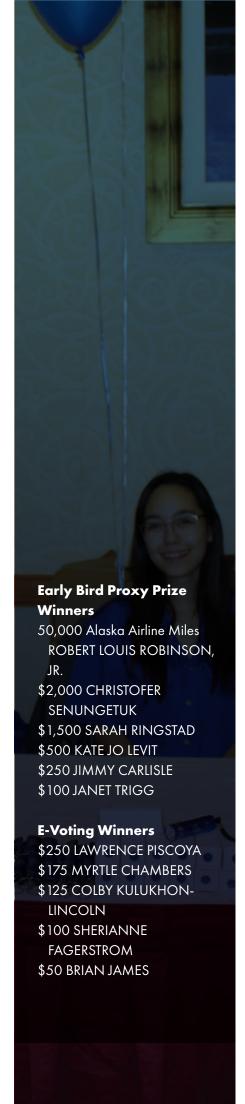
Resolution 2018-02. Resolve that quorum is set at one-third of shares. PASSED.

Yes 92,143.5484

No 19,921.3491

### **Reaching New Heights**

Overall, Sitnasuak experienced another year of important growth in 2017. We remained on a solid path to achieving our strategic goal: 10/10/1,000 - a sustainable \$10 million in consolidated net profit, a sustainable \$10 per share regular dividend and a sustainable \$1,000 Elder dividend by 2019. Our goals





### **Annual Meeting continued**

have real benefits that can improve the lives of our Shareholders for generations. Our management team is also dedicated to integrating the Corporation's long-term strategy corporation-wide while maintaining focus on strengthening financial performance, business growth and serving customers.

According to the audited financial statements presented by accounting firm BDO, Sitnasuak's total assets increased 3.9 percent to \$129,708,756 in the 2017 reporting year, and the operating income, a measure of the profit realized from our business operations, increased 16.6 percent to \$6,757,774. The board and management team were pleased to report the 2017 Shareholder regular dividends and Elder dividends both increased with total distributions of \$1,273,480 and \$266,500, respectively.

Another product of profitable business operations is our Corporation's ability to support scholarships to Shareholders and Descendants. In 2017, total scholarships awarded via the Sitnasuak Foundation increased slightly to \$132,500, and we are excited for the great work our students can do with the Corporation's support.

The profitability of our businesses is important, but so is our Corporation's goal of creating opportunities for our Shareholders. This includes increasing Shareholder hire. Sitnasuak added nine new Shareholder hires between 2016 and 2017, and Shareholders accounted for just under 40 percent of total employees across all subsidiaries (excluding Puerto Rico operations) in both 2016 and 2017.

Sitnasuak's business-unit income rose again in 2017, primarily through the performance of our tactical apparel operations. Our tactical apparel business-unit income increased 27 percent from \$6,601,000 in 2016 to \$9,043,000 in 2017. Sitnasuak's companies also continued to generate business-unit income from fuel distribution (\$4,423,000), real estate (\$2,256,000) and financial services (\$756,000).

In the coming year, the Sitnasuak management team will continue to optimize operations, enhancing our solid foundation that includes controlled spending. We expect to diversify, improve and grow our existing business units. We will also protect our biggest asset – our land. Sitnasuak will accomplish all of this through continued leadership that connects with and can carry out the Corporation's vision.

### **Guided by Shareholders**

Sitnasuak Shareholders had the opportunity to provide their input regarding our Corporation's vision and future to the board of directors and staff. Comments centered around ways the Corporation can grow Shareholder involvement and increase communication of operations and decision-making processes. Comments provided will help drive future decisions of board and staff.

### **Annual Meeting continued**

### A Successful Meeting

The 44th annual meeting culminated with a successful and fair election, a welcome to new and returning board members and the passing of key resolutions that will improve Shareholder benefits and the ability of our Corporation to move forward. Shareholders received a report on the success of our business operations and a map of where Shareholders would like to see the Corporation go in the future. Quyaana to all the Shareholders who attended the meeting and participated by proxy and web viewing. We are looking forward to a successful year ahead and hope to see you at the next meeting.



# AT YOUR SERVICE SITNASUAK NATIVE CORPORATION'S SHAREHOLDER DEPARTMENT Dedicated to supporting our Shareholders.

# RECORDS, DIRECT DEPOSIT AND GIFTING SHARES

We'll help you update your address, enroll in direct deposit for distributions or give your shares as a gift.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Help with Sitnasuak scholarships for financial assistance to an accredited college, university, vocational school, or training programs.

# WILLS, STOCK INHERITANCE AND BEREAVEMENT ASSISTANCE

We help Shareholders make stock wills and ensure your stock is distributed appropriately, your heirs receive stock and help you offset a Shareholder's funeral costs with Shareholder bereavement assistance.

Forms for all these services are available AT SNC.ORG

For any questions about your Sitnasuak stock or benefits, CALL TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-443-2632 OR E-MAIL SHAREHOLDER@SNC.ORG



# 2018 sitnasuak native corporation

# ELDER OF THE YEAR: DELLA ANN WALLUK

Della was born May 18, 1931, in Shishmaref, Alaska. Her parents were the late John and Lena Ahnangnatoguk. Della is one of 13 children.

At the age of five, Della's family moved from Shishmaref to Brevig Mission by dog team. Della grew up and went to school in Brevig Mission. From a young age she began learning the traditional and subsistence lifestyle of her Inupiaq culture as well as how to sew. She sewed seal skin slippers to help her family with income.



In the early 1950s, the family moved to Nome, Alaska. In 1954 Della met and married David Scott Walluk. David was also originally from Shishmaref. Together, they raised eleven children: seven of their own and four adopted. Della has nine grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. She loves all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and enjoys them all when they visit.

Della loves to go on car rides and going out to her camping grounds. She loves to gather and prepare traditional foods, knitting and can still sew. In fact, she is well known for her expertise in skin sewing and her neatly done crafts.

Della has a strong faith in the Lord and has been a lifelong member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Nome. She loves to listen to old translated gospel hymns.

Della also believes that in sharing whatever you have available, God will return to you more abundantly. Her youngest son John is an example of her teaching and raising him in the subsistence lifestyle of hunting, sharing and taking only what is needed.

Della is honored with this recognition by Sitnasuak, thanks everyone and shares, "God Bless!"

# words from past

# DIRECTOR SOBOCIENSKI

The last four years of my service on the Sitnasuak Native Corporation Board of Directors have been fiscally successful, which is a testament of the alignment between the "Sitnasuak Six" and the various executive management teams.

An executive management team is only as successful as its board of directors. To say that the success of Sitnasuak is solely because of the staff is incorrect. I have served as a President/CEO since 2002 for statewide and local Native corporations. I worked from both high-functioning boards to completely dysfunctional boards. Beneficial achievements for Alaska Native people, including the building up of businesses, gaining profits and expanding services, were all realized with a high-functioning board.



My hope for the immediate future is that mob-mentality is shunned. Sitnasuak has to continue increasing profits and expanding benefits for Shareholders. Winding the Corporation backwards will bring the \$50 dividends back sooner than later.

Board members should not vote throughout their term to perpetuate turmoil and feed a fire of unrest and instability.

Sobocienski continued on page 12

### IN MEMORIAM

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the recently deceased.

ALICE TOPKOK
BETTY NICHOSON
DAVID DAVIS
DIANA JUDD
DICKSON OZENNA
EDWARD RODRIGUE, SR.
ESTHER SMITH

JEROME TRIGG III
LELA OMAN
LOUIS KOST
NANCY ANALOAK
PETE LARSEN, JR.
WAYNE TOBUK, SR.

PLEASE SEND OBITUARY INFORMATION TO SHAREHOLDER@SNC.ORG

### Correction to Summer 2018 Article: Sitnasuak – Past and Present

In the article Sitnasuak - Past and Present printed in the 2018 Summer Venture, it was incorrectly stated that Roberta "Bobbi" Quintavell was the first Inupiag woman to be President and CEO of Sitnasuak Native Corporation. SNC Shareholder Trudy Sobocienski holds this distinction, as she was SNC President and CEO from 2009 to 2010. SNC sincerely apologizes to Trudy Sobocienski for the error and greatly appreciates her leadership with the Corporation.



That is the opposite of a board member's role.

Once a board member is elected, they have the fiduciary duty to vote on issues before them in the best interest of the corporation. A corporation is like its own person in business law.

The fact of the matter is many of the demands to which some Shareholders feel entitled are not allowable in business laws and best practices.

Culture is the foundation of Sitnasuak, but the Corporation is incorporated and chartered via the State of Alaska under the federal Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. As such, western business laws and rules apply to the Corporation. Culture is not a governmental authority, plain and simple.

There are other models of how Native corporations approach a rural-urban balance for their board representations. It may be worth a discussion on looking at other models to find solutions to honor our culture and land while increasing profits and expanding Shareholder benefits.

I am honored to have served on the Sitnasuak Native Corporation Board of Directors in 2008 and from 2014-2018. I am proud to have followed the trail before me by such incredible leaders who form my worldview, foundation of integrity, respect and who fought for our rights:

- My Grandpa Art Johnson, House of Representatives 1960-1961
- My Grandma Grace Johnson, House of Representatives, fulfilling her late husband's term, 1961
- My Uncle Art Johnson and Aunt Clara Langton; both serving on the Sitnasuak Board of Directors and that of the Bering Straits Native Corporation
- And the one whose shoes I expect I can never fill, but always will strive toward that mark: my mom, Irene Anderson, who has created, implemented and protected enormous positive Shareholder benefits as the land manager for Sitnasuak Native Corporation and Bering Straits Native Corporation

Through my incredible family, I became the first woman Shareholder to serve as Sitnasuak Native Corporation's President & CEO in 2009 to 2010. Sitnasuak is important to me, my family and those still to come.

I hope all the best for current and future generations. I have a deep love for our Corporation, Shareholders, culture and our home.

Thank you. Trudy Sobocienski norm resnick joins snc

# MANAGEMENT TEAM AS GENERAL COUNSEL

Sitnasuak Native Corporation is pleased to welcome Mr. Norm Resnick to the SNC management team as General Counsel.

Resnick started on July 24, 2018, and is based in our Anchorage office. As general counsel, he will be SNC's Chief Legal Officer, as well as work with our family of businesses that include Bonanza Fuel and Express, LLC, Nanuaq, LLC, Sitnasuak Applied Technologies, LLC, SNC Technical Services, LLC, Mocean, LLC,



Aurora Industries, LLC, Fidelity Title Agency of Alaska, LLC and Mat-Su Title Agency, LLC.

Resnick shared, "I am excited to be a part of SNC's leadership team to best serve its many diverse customers and support the growth of its companies. I am looking forward to working with the Corporation and its family of businesses that will bring long-term value to Shareholders and Descendants."

Resnick brings diverse legal experience to this new management role. His credentials and experience have involved important work with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) issues, commercial and real estate transactions, business acquisitions, corporate law, land and resource management and government contracting. He also has experience in litigation, alternative dispute resolution, human resources and employment law, probate and shareholder support. Resnick has previously represented private individuals, business enterprises, and local, state and federal agencies. Most recently Resnick was General Counsel for Calista Corporation. Welcome Norm!





# sitnasuak welcomes

# JIMMIE ROGERS, RISK AND SAFETY MANAGER

Sitnasuak Native Corporation is pleased to announce that Mr. Jimmie Rogers, CHSP, has joined our subsidiary companies in the new role of Risk and Safety Manager.

Rogers will oversee organizational risk management and safety programs with Bonanza Fuel, LLC and Nanuaq, LLC. This is a new role in which he will support the safety of our employees and companies. In this role he will also administer the loss control program, workers



compensation compliance and occupational surveillance requirements.

Rogers has more than thirty years of Alaska-based experience leading safety, security, risk management and emergency management disciplines. He is a board-credentialed Certified Healthcare Safety Professional (master's level), Certified Environmental and Safety Compliance Officer and Certified Emergency, Disaster and Security Manager, with a bachelor's degree in business management. He brings a broad base of experience in both management and director positions. Past positions held include Chair of the Northwest Arctic Public Safety Commission, member of the Matanuska Susitna Borough Local Emergency Planning Committee and member of the Alaska Safety Advisory Council representing industry.

Rogers shared, "I am looking forward to this important safety role to support the healthy growth of Sitnasuak and its businesses. I will be able to build on my past collaborative work with federal, state, municipal agencies and Alaska Native Corporations. A goal of mine in this new position is to successfully blend award winning safety programs with Sitnasuak's corporate values for creating the best in-class systems and processes." Welcome Jimmie!



shareholder

# RECORDS AND YOUR INFORMATION

### By Norm Resnick, General Counsel

The Sitnasuak Native Corporation Shareholder Department maintains Shareholder records that include stock information, personal data and addresses, as well as guardian and custodian information that may be associated with shares. The department is responsible for transferring shares and also records the amount of dividends Shareholders receive. The department handles a large amount of information and maintains over 2,900 individual Shareholder files which is an ongoing and continuing effort by the department.

The contents of a Shareholder record or file are confidential information and will only be released to the Shareholder, or in some instances, to a third party with the Shareholder's permission or by court order and/or applicable state law. Most changes to a Shareholder's records must be supported by appropriate documentation.

In this article, there will be references to stockholder and Shareholder, or stock and shares. However, these terms can be used interchangeably.

### Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Stock Wills

Taking care of a family means making sure they are looked after, even when a person is no longer around. A will is a legal document that states a person's wishes concerning the disposal of property, such as ANCSA stock, after death. Wills are an important part of life because they ensure a person's last wishes are known and followed. As years pass, a will should be updated to reflect life changes, such as a marriage, divorce, additional family members or death of an heir. A current stock will on file with Sitnasuak, or other Alaska Native Corporations, makes certain that stock is inherited by the people the Shareholder chooses.

SNC shareholders can update their ANCSA stock will at any time. When determining inheritance, the most recent will mentioning ANCSA stock determines who inherits SNC shares. If there is a personal will, Native Allotment Will or Indian Will and ANCSA stock is mentioned, it is not necessary to complete an SNC ANCSA stock will that is specifically designed for the disposition of SNC shares.

If a will is valid, then the shares are transferred to the beneficiaries in the amounts specified in the will. Relatives of the deceased are contacted as well as entities such as Alaska Legal Services by the shareholder department to inquire if a will exists or if there is a more current will than the one on file with SNC. If a will was not written or cannot be found, after a period of time it is assumed the Shareholder did not leave one.

A Shareholder may obtain a copy of their current will on file with SNC to review by submitting a written request to the Shareholder Department. SNC can also send a will form to have it available to make any changes.

It is important to remember that it is necessary to complete a stock will for each Regional or Village Corporation in which stock is owned because each corporation is a different entity. Recipients of ANCSA stock who inherit by a stock will are not required to be Alaska Native to receive their stock. SNC stock wills are available to download at snc.org.

### What If There Is No Will?

Finalizing the estate of a Shareholder who does not have a valid, up-to-date will on file with SNC can be complicated and difficult. So, it is recommended that Shareholders complete a SNC Stock Will if they have not yet done so. SNC also recommends that Shareholders update their wills after giving or receiving a gift of stock, upon the death of a designated beneficiary or if additional shares are inherited. Marriage, divorce, the birth or adoption of children and other life changes are also reasons to complete a new will.

When a person dies without a will, the Alaska Interstate Succession Statutes provide guidance on who inherits from the deceased, which may result in a person inheriting stock that you did not intend. In order to determine who is entitled to receive the stock, relatives of the deceased must complete an Inheritance Questionnaire and Affidavit, which is a written statement made under oath before a notary public or other person such as a postmaster who is authorized to administer oaths. The Inheritance Questionnaire lists the names of surviving relatives and this information is used to determine inheritance.

### Gifting ANCSA Stock

SNC Shareholders have the option of gifting their ANCSA stock to their loved ones. Shareholders are only allowed to gift ANCSA stock to children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, brothers and sisters. This person must be an Alaska Native, or descendant of an Alaska Native.

Relatives receiving gifted SNC stock must be at least one-fourth Alaska Native by blood quantum. If stock is gifted to siblings, there are age restrictions on the recipient of the stock. Brothers and sisters receiving shares through gifting must be at least 18 years of age if they are single, or 16 years of age if they are married. In order to complete a gift transfer of stock, both the gifting shareholder and the recipient are required to complete certain forms.

If the recipient of a gift of SNC stock is less than 18 years of age, a custodian must be appointed to hold the shares. The custodian may be the recipient's parent, legal guardian or the Shareholder who is gifting stock. The custodian must complete a Custodian Consent Form to accept the appointment.

Once the gift is finalized in SNC's records, the recipient of the shares will own and have all the stock rights for those shares, including the right to vote the shares at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, to receive dividends and distributions on the shares, to bequeath the shares upon death, and to give the shares to a relative. Once the gift is completed, the gifting Shareholder will have no rights with respect to the shares that were gifted.

Gifts of shares may be made to any number of recipients so long as each recipient is eligible and each gift qualifies. A gift may be made of any number of shares that are owned, but not a fractional share, and gifts cannot be made to more than one relative jointly. Remember, if all shares are gifted, the gifting Shareholder will no longer be an SNC Shareholder. Forms for gifting are available for download at snc.org.

### **Power of Attorney**

A Power of Attorney (POA) is a written document in which one person (the principal) appoints another person or persons to act as an attorney-in-fact, or agent, authorizing the attorney-in-fact to perform certain acts or functions on behalf of the principal. POA's are given for a variety of purposes, including authorization to make decisions regarding medical care, financial transactions and child care. For an attorney-in-fact to be recognized in connection with a Shareholder's SNC business, a valid POA granting the appropriate powers must be shown in SNC's records. The shareholder department will not honor a POA unless the Shareholder specifically grants his or her attorney-in-fact the power to conduct specific SNC business. Because SNC is governed by Alaska law, a person who wishes to designate another as attorney-in-fact by POA should execute a POA that substantially complies with the Alaska statutes. If the POA is not substantially similar, SNC is unable to honor it.

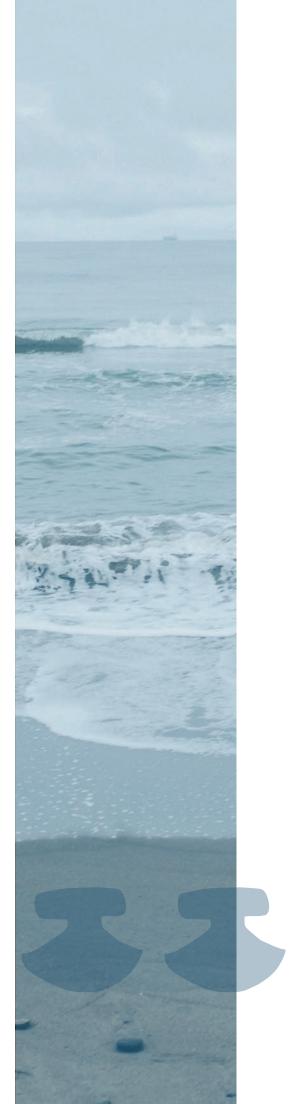
Shareholders may at any time revoke a valid POA by delivering a signed and dated written request to SNC. Alternatively, a designated attorney-in-fact may resign by delivering a signed and dated written request to SNC.

### **Custodians**

Alaska law requires that for Shareholders under the age of 18, stock must be issued in care of a custodian. The custodian may be a parent, legal guardian or another appropriate adult. A custodian of a minor's SNC stock assumes various duties and powers including safekeeping the minor's stock certificate or equivalent, collecting dividend payments, and if voting shares are owned, representation of the minor in the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Once the minor Shareholder reaches the age of majority, the designated custodian will be automatically removed from the Shareholder's stock record.

### **Guardians/Conservators**

Alaska law defines an "incapacitated person" as a person whose ability to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions is impaired for reasons other than minority to the extent that the person lacks the ability to provide the essential requirements for the person's physical health or safety without court-ordered assistance. Capacity is determined by a judge at a judicial hearing. When a SNC Shareholder is adjudicated legally incapacitated and a guardian and/or conservator appointed, SNC requires legal documentation that fully and appropriately states the rights and responsibilities of the Shareholder's guardian/conservator before the guardian/conservator can be recognized by SNC in connection with the Shareholder's SNC business.



SNC requires a copy of a valid court order (signed by a judge) appointing the guardian/conservator, along with the corresponding Letters of Conservatorship and/or Guardianship Plan. The shareholder department will review the legal documentation to ensure that the guardian/conservator has the authority to receive distributions from SNC on the Shareholder's behalf. The guardian/conservator is also responsible for notifying the Shareholder Department of any changes made to his or her appointment, and for timely furnishing copies of new court orders, updated Guardianship Plans, etc. to SNC's Shareholder Department. Once the appropriate legal documentation is received, the Shareholder's stock certificate will be reissued so that, in addition to the Shareholder's name, the certificate shows the guardian/conservator's name and the capacity in which he or she has been appointed to serve.

The Shareholder will retain legal ownership of the stock. The Shareholder's SNC dividends and distributions must be sent to the duly-appointed guardian/conservator on the Shareholder's behalf. The guardian/conservator is responsible for lawfully managing any money received as a result of SNC stock ownership and for properly accounting for any such funds. SNC is not able to assist the Shareholder in accessing the funds.

### **State Ward**

When a Shareholder is in the custody of the State of Alaska (a state ward), SNC holds dividends in trust until the Shareholder turns age 18 or is released from state custody. If SNC issues a dividend during the period of time a Shareholder is in the custody of the State of Alaska, the checks of that Shareholder are deposited in an individual interest-bearing saving account. Upon reaching the age or 18 the Shareholder is issued a check for the amount held plus interest, unless the child is released before age 18, in which case the check is issued to the custodian of the Shareholder.

### **Vulnerable Adult**

Alaska law defines vulnerable adults as a person 18 years of age or older who, because of incapacity, mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability, advanced age, chronic use of drugs, chronic intoxication, fraud, confinement or disappearance, is unable to meet the person's own needs or to seek help without assistance.

A person with concerns about the immediate safety of a SNC Shareholder should promptly report those concerns to the appropriate police department. A person who has other concerns should contact the State of Alaska's office of Adult Protective Services if the Shareholder is an Alaska resident, and the appropriate state or local agency for a Shareholder living outside of Alaska.

### **Keeping Current Records**

It is important for Shareholders to keep all information and records, including a will, current with SNC. For example, if a Shareholder recently changed their name due to a marriage or other reason, SNC's shareholder department should be notified in writing to update the information and include a copy of the relevant legal documentation such as an ID card, marriage certificate, divorce decree, adoption decree, etc. authorizing the change.



It is also important to update an address after a move. Failing to update an address with the Shareholder Department could result in missing out on important information because Shareholder addresses are used for mailing Venture newsletters, annual meeting election mailings, dividend checks, data-gathering documents for stock transfers and other important SNC materials and information. Much of the information SNC mails to Shareholders describes opportunities and benefits for Shareholders. If an address is not correct, a Shareholder may miss information that could benefit themselves or their family.

When undeliverable, Shareholder mail is returned to SNC and the Shareholder is listed in the records as having an unknown address. Unless SNC is notified by the Shareholder, SNC has no way to determine when a Shareholder's address changes. A forwarding address left with the U.S. Postal Service does not notify SNC of an address change.

SNC recommends a signed and dated written notice from the Shareholder, a custodian, or a person with a Power of Attorney to make an address change in the records. If an address change is phoned in to the Department, the caller will be asked to verify the social security number to ensure that the proper person is requesting the change. These procedures help guaranty that the correct Shareholder information is on file.

### **Legal Assistance**

SNC's general counsel advises the Corporation, board of directors and its management on legal matters related to business and operations.

The following resources may be able to offer assistance on legal matters:

- Alaska Legal Services in Nome 907.443.2230 or toll free 888.495.6663;
   in Anchorage 907.272.9431 or toll free 800.478.9431
- Alaska Native Justice Center in Anchorage 907.793.3550
- Alaska Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service in Anchorage 907.272.0352 or toll free 800.770.9999

### Questions

Forms from SNC are available for download at snc.org. Please contact the SNC Shareholder Department if you have questions:

Nome 907.387.1200 or toll free 877.443.2632 or fax 907.375.2910 Anchorage 907.929.7000 shareholder@snc.org

This article is for general information purposes only and should not be considered as legal advice. Shareholders are encouraged to seek appropriate counsel for specific personal or family matters.





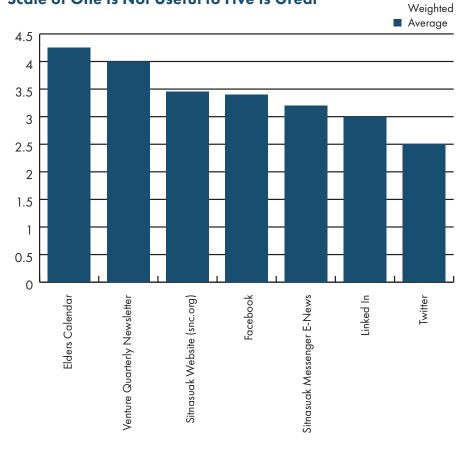
# shareholder

# SURVEY RESULTS

Sitnasuak invited Shareholders to participate in a survey to help improve our services in early 2018. 322 Shareholders participated in the survey – thank you to each. The survey was completely confidential and anonymous. We are glad to share the summary results which will help Sitnasuak improve our services with Shareholders.

72.4% of the survey participants were Shareholders that resided in Alaska – 38.2% in the Bering Strait Region and 34.2% in other parts of Alaska. 62.3% of the survey participants were ages 50 and older.

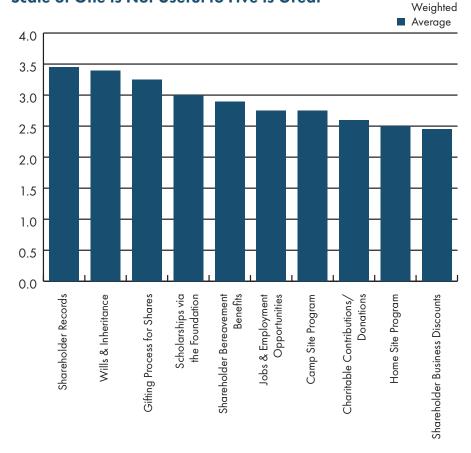
### Usefulness of our Shareholder Communications Scale of One is Not Useful to Five is Great



Survey participants rated Shareholder communications with the Sitnasuak Elders Calendar as the highest at 4.25 (with 5 be the highest rating). The least useful rating was Twitter at 2.47.

Survey participants rated their knowledge and information about benefits and services with the highest knowledge/information about Shareholder records at 3.46 (with 5 be the highest rating). The least knowledge/information was Shareholder discounts with our family of businesses rated at 2.39.

# Usefulness of our Shareholder Communications Scale of One is Not Useful to Five is Great



Survey participants had an average rating of 63 when asked if they had a positive association with Sitnasuak as my village corporation (with 0 as the low and 100 as the high). 148 of the survey participants shared comments – 58 (or 39.2%) were positive, 51 (or 34.4%) were negative and 39 (or 26.4) were general or neutral comments.

Sitnasuak appreciates your participation in the survey for input, feedback and sharing of ideas. The Corporation is continually improving Shareholder services and we are working to make positive changes based upon the survey data.





# sitnasuak moves up to

# # 23 IN THE TOP 49ERS

In 2018, Sitnasuak successfully moved up to #23 in the Top 49ers, as recently announced by Alaska Business Magazine.

President & CEO Bobbi Quintavell shared, "We have a strong family of businesses led by a great management team with hard-working employees. Together we have strategically focused on our goals to achieve Sitnasuak's mission of 'Earning Profits on Operations While Protecting Our Land, Culture and Benefiting Shareholders.' The move to #23 on the Top 49ers shows our team's dedication to serving our customers with a focus on quality and value. We are honored to be recognized by Alaska Business in the Top 49ers, demonstrating our business growth with many hours of hard work and commitment."

The Top 49ers represent Alaskan-owned and Alaska-operated companies ranked by their 2017 gross revenues. Annually, Alaska Business surveys companies for ranking in the Top 49ers, which are at least 51 percent Alaskan-owned. According to Alaska Business, "...these companies are home-grown heroes in Alaska's economy, providing jobs, supporting communities and making the plays that keep Alaskans on their feet."

Chairman Bobby Evans said, "This recognition shows Sitnasuak is a leader in the Alaska business community. Over the last five years, we have seen steady growth and change while always improving. We all work hard at best business practices, and overall Sitnasuak is a great company delivering results to Shareholders and the Alaska's economy. The board has worked hard with our great management team and its outstanding employees throughout our family of businesses."

### MISSING SHAREHOLDERS

Natalia Anagick

Katherine Anderson-Timmons

Robert Ballard
Charlie Barger Jr.
Ellen Barger-Knox
Stephen Bigjim
John Blankenship
Chelsea Borkowski
Dale Brower
Mabel Brown
Mary Buck
Jennifer Cauble

Jennifer Cauble Allison Childers Christopher Dickson

Scott Dixon Alie Douglas Frederick Ernak II Ruth Floyd Laura Giffin Norman Goff

Harley Gologergen-Johnston

Timothy Greiner
Jacqualyn Guiley
Christian Gustafson
Desiree Gustafson
Michelle Gustafson
Samantha Gustafson
Samuel Hanschen
James Heidlebaugh
Carol Hull
Hazel Jack
Garon Johnson
Melanie Johnson
Romald Katexac

Courtney Kayouktuk

Judith Keeble Jennifer Kinney Robert Kokuluk Michele Kulukhon Elizabeth Larsen George Larsen Jr. Perry Larsen Joylyn Leonard Michael Leonard Jr. Scott Littlefield Anthony Luciano Paul Lucier Michael Mayac Anthony Mazonna Kelly McClary Carla Montana Kendra Morgan Daniel Murphy James Murphy Elsie Okitkon Quinn Oksoktaruk Vicki Oliver Alexandria Olson Jennifer Olson Richard Omelak Adrienne Orr

Bryan Outwater

Louie Ozenna

Lincoln Riley Jr.

Thomas Riley

Kenneth Ross

Milton Rudzavice

Jennifer Russell

Michelle Rylander Annokazooka Sanchez Alonzo Scott
Robert Sebring-Strout
Ivan Silook
David Slwooko
Starla Smith
Blanche Trigg
William Walluk
Timothy Walunga
Preston Washington
William Willoya
Lars Willoya, Jr.
Frank Wittie
Jamie Wittie
William Wofford
Theresa Yool

If you know the whereabouts of a missing Shareholder, please contact our Shareholder Department at shareholder@snc.org or 907.929.7032.









In order of appearance: Helen C. Bell, Dr. Barb Amarok, Gloria Ann Karmun and Richard Foster

# four directors elected at

### 44TH ANNUAL MEETING

On September 22, 2018 during the 44th annual meeting, the Inspector of Elections announced that four directors were elected by Sitnasuak Shareholders. The following candidates have been seated on the board for terms until the 47th annual meeting.

- Helen C. Bell (continuing director)
- Dr. Barb Amarok (continuing director)
- Gloria Ann Karmun (new director)
- Richard Foster (new director)

Welcome and congratulations to each for a successful election to the Sitnasuak Board of Directors!

### **HELEN C. BELL**

Thank you to all Shareholders for turning in your proxies to ensure we reached a quorum in order to hold the 44th annual meeting. Thank you kindly for your continued support, it is an honor to serve as your director. It is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully, Helen C. Bell, Director

### **DR. BARB AMAROK**

Dr. Barb "Qasuġlana" Amarok is the daughter of Mary Ann Amarok Tiffany and the granddaughter of Joseph and Maiyak Amarok. She has served on the SNC Board of Directors since 2011. Dr. Amarok has a Ph.D. in Education and currently serves on the Graduate Advisory Committees of five university students, two of whom are SNC Shareholder descendants. She has served on the Nome Public Schools Board of Education since 2010 where she is currently serving her third year as president. She also serves on the Alaska Association of School Boards Board of Directors, the First Alaskans Institute Education Compact Committee and the Nome United Methodist Iñupiaq Choir. Dr. Amarok has been teaching a cultural competency course, ED 420 Alaska Native Education, for educators since 2011, and during the 2015 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, Dr. Amarok received the Educator of the Year Award. Dr. Amarok has been employed in the field of education for 32 years and has spent the last four years working for the Bering Sea Women's Group.

### **GLORIA ANN KARMUN**

My heartfelt and genuine appreciation to our valued Sitnasuak Native Corporation Shareholders; thank you for your support as I serve on your behalf!

I consider it an honor to be elected. Shareholder interests will be first and foremost in my decision making. I value and will continue to honor our precious Elders, land and business affairs of our Corporation.

It is a blessing to serve on your behalf, Gloria Ann Karmun.

### **RICHARD FOSTER**

If we could pick one word to describe Richard Foster, it would be "service." Born in Nome, Richard is serving our country as a gunnery sergeant (E-7) in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He joined the military during a summer break when he was a college student at Central Washington University.

"The first day I showed up at my unit," he tells us, "the major asked, 'Hey, what do you think you've got planned?" And I said basketball season, because I was on the college basketball team. And the major said, 'Well, you can go ahead and squash that idea. We're going to Iraq."

When Richard arrived in the war zone, the last thing he expected to see was a friendly face, but the Marine he replaced was another young man from Nome, Thomas Baxter. They'd met during training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, then again in Ramadi, Iraq. So even on the other side of the world, Richard was connected to home. Richard's connection to our rural community runs not only across long distances, but also through time.

For generations, public service has been a hallmark of the Foster family. Richard's grandfather, Neal W. Foster, flew P-38 fighter planes over Nazi Germany in World War II and represented Nome in the Alaska Senate before and after statehood. His parents are Cathy and the legendary Richard Foster, who was a Vietnam veteran and represented Nome in the Alaska House of Representatives for 20 years. And his brother Neal is the current legislator from Nome, serving in their late father's old seat.

Now, Richard will be serving our people as a new Sitnasuak board director. At just 34 years old, he has energy and big ideas for Sitnasuak. "I think there are a lot of things we can do with four of our subsidiaries," he says. "There's huge opportunity, whether it's horizontal or vertical integration, to move into new marketplaces. If there was ever a time to move into new markets, now is the time to do it because the economy is expanding rapidly."

Richard's background in the Marines will serve him well not only because he has extensive experience leading people and working together as a team, but also because he understands the world of our federal government. "Government expenditures are going up and, regardless of which party is in control, they're going to keep going up," he says.

Richard works as an economic-development specialist for the State of Washington Department of Commerce, where he works in marketing, accounting, and business recruitment, retention and expansion. Part of his work involves coordinating large infrastructure projects and workforce-development programs, some of which have been hailed as the best in the state. He is, in short, an expert at building up rural communities economically. In fact, some of the programs Richard innovated have been written about in the Vancouver Business Journal.

"I'm very impressed with the people we've got working for Sitnasuak," Richard says, "and I think we've got excellent potential to grow the corporation across all our companies, particularly with providing complementary services."

Welcome to the Board, Richard! Next time you see Richard in Nome, he may be headed out to his family's gold camp or the family cemetery, but make sure to thank him for his service and let him know any thoughts you have on Sitnasuak. He loves talking about his big ideas for our village corporation.



protect yourself from

# SCAMS

### By Norm Resnick, General Counsel

It has come to our attention that Sitnasuak Native Corporation Shareholders have been contacted by individuals claiming to be SNC representatives, telemarketers and others requesting financial or other personal information. SNC never asks a Shareholder for personal information over the telephone.

SNC recommends Shareholders do not give their bank account, credit card, or any other financial or personal information out over the telephone, by mail or by email unless you initiate the contact and know who you are dealing with.

Here are some "red flags" that should warn you that a letter, phone call or email you receive may be a scam:

- **High pressure tactics.** Beware of phrases like: "You will lose out if you don't act now," or "you won a sweepstakes winnings or proxy prizes and can only claim if you give bank information."
- **Don't pay upfront.** If you are told you must pay up front to receive your prize or winnings it's a scam. If you've won something from SNC, it's yours and you will not have to pay anything, including taxes or shipping and handling.
- Refusal to provide written information. If the person or company contacts you but refuses to give
  information in writing, don't do business with them.

- **Unrealistic profits.** Be skeptical if you are told that you can make lots of money quickly with no risk, or with no experience or training.
- Be skeptical about free trial offers. Some companies use free trials
  to sign you up for products and bill you every month until you cancel.
  Before you agree to a free trial, research the company and read the
  cancellation policy. And always review your monthly statements for charges
  you don't recognize.
- Don't believe your Caller ID. Technology makes it easy for scammers to
  fake Caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always
  real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If
  you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know
  is genuine.
- Talk to someone. Before you give any money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. They might even threaten you. Slow down, check out the story, do an online search, consult an expert or tell a friend.

If you receive a telephone call that includes any of these or similar suspicious red flags, just hang up. You don't have to listen. Remember that telemarketing fraud is a crime and the people who practice it are criminals.

If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from SNC and are unsure (1) do not give out any personal or financial information, (2) hang up and contact our Shareholder Department to report it at 907.387.1200 in Nome, 907.929.7000 in Anchorage or toll-free at 1.877.443.2632.

If you believe you have been scammed, you can report it to the Alaska Consumer Protection unit at 907.269.5200, or file a report online at law.state.ak.us/department/civil/consumer/cpindex.html.





# sitna sua ŋ m i u t q u ŋ u w i t

# CEMETERY DEDICATION

Sitnasuak in partnership with community organizations dedicated the Sitnasuanmiut Qunuwit (People of Sitnasuan Cemetery) October 1, 2018.

This qunuwit (Inupiaq for gravesite or cemetery) memorializes the indigenous people who were peacefully laid to rest at this site located in Nome, Alaska on the west beach just past the Port of Nome. The cemetery has been known as the "Sea View Cemetery" and "Eskimo Cemetery" in the past.

The dedication project has been a collaborative effort with the support and leadership of the Sitnasuak Elders Committee, Land Committee and board of directors. In recognition of the 100-year anniversary of the 1918 global flu pandemic, Sitnasuak worked with Bering Strait Native Corporation, Arctic Native Brotherhood, Bonanza Fuel, LLC, Nanuaq, LLC and Sitnasuak Construction Services, LLC to fund, construct and complete improvements at the site. The improvements include a platform for viewing the cemetery, large cross, rebuilding of four old crosses, placement of boulders marking the cemetery boundaries and plaques. The City of Nome also provided a public sign for the cemetery.

As background, the site was used as a cemetery during the early 1900s primarily for Alaska Native peoples.

### **Cemetery Dedication continued**

During the 1918 global flu pandemic, at least 175 Sitnasuaŋmiut who perished in Nome were buried at this cemetery site in a mass grave. There are other mass grave sites throughout the Bering Strait Region that reflect the impact of the flu pandemic among our Alaska Native people. Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), this land was selected by Sitnasuak Native Corporation to honor and recognize our past which is important in preserving the history of the Sitnasuaŋmiut. Today, this quŋuwit is considered historical and no additional burials are currently permitted.

At the dedication ceremony, Pastor Charlie Brower opened with a prayer and the Nome Methodist Inupiaq choir shared gospel songs. Sitnasuak President & CEO Bobbi Quintavell dedicated the cemetery. Words were shared by Chuck Fagerstrom, Honorable Mayor Richard Beneville on behalf of the City of Nome, David Evans on behalf of the Arctic Native Brotherhood, Gloria Karmun on behalf of Nome Eskimo Community and Larry Pederson on behalf of Bering Straits Native Corporation.

After the dedication, the community gathered at Old St. Joe's for a memorial luncheon of silver salmon, reindeer stew and desserts. Girly Dickson provided a written statement sharing the historical overview and her family story of relatives buried in the mass grave. The Nome Beltz Dance Group shared song and dance to honor our ancestors.

Quyaana to the following that supported the improvements and recognition of this quŋuwit: Sitnasuak Native Corporation (including subsidiary companies Bonanza Fuel, LLC, Nanuaq, LLC and Sitnasuak Construction Services, LLC), Bering Straits Native Corporation (including subsidiary company Cape Nome Products), Arctic Native Brotherhood, Nome Eskimo Community, City of Nome, Electroimpact (donation of large cross), PLS Construction, LLC (contractor for platform), Wilson Bourdon (contractor for smaller crosses), U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (funding for the radar survey), Norton Sound Economic Development Corp. (fish donation for the luncheon), XYZ Senior Center (cooking for the luncheon and Elders transportation), Anvil Mountain Correctional Center (luncheon baking of desserts), Norton Sound Health Corporation (luncheon provider of the coffee/tea/water), and Nome Beltz Dance Group (sharing of song and dance at the luncheon).

Sitnasuak remembers and honors all those we have lost in during the 1918 flu, and all our ancestors buried at this cemetery.





# traditional

# LEADERSHIP

### **By Eileen Norbert**

Long ago, before Westerners arrived in Alaska, the communities in the Bering Straits Region had leaders who Inupiat titled "umaliit," Yupiit titled "uss'tali" and St. Lawrence Island leaders titled "umileq." Umaliq (plural umaliit) could mean boat owner, leader or rich man and/or all three (the last definition will be used in this article). Westerners often called this person a "chief." This important leadership position was not inherited but based on earned respect and demonstrated capabilities. Some, but not all umaliit were also anatkut (shamans or singular anatkuq). Elders from Shishmaref to Stebbins told of the same qualities traditional leaders had during the Kawerak Elders Conferences in the 1980s.

Umaliit were responsible for upholding laws, decisions on village moves or relocations, where to hunt, when to have potlatches or ceremonies, and handled those who broke community laws. They conferred with Elders when there were disputes or conflicts in the community or threats from outside groups. Leaders were often excellent hunters. They showed people in their respective villages to take the right action in different situations. An umaliq was well respected and generally was wise and courageous.

When there were problems or conflicts in the village, people went to him. Issues might include someone stealing, causing disruption in the village, or more serious crimes like murder or rape. Punishment for serious crimes could include banishment from the village or even death. Generally, they would talk over issues at a gathering where people had an opportunity to give their opinions. When there was general consensus the umaliq declared what was to be done, keeping the well-being, survival and prosperity of his village in mind. As with any society, some leaders were self-serving but they would eventually be replaced. If the leader continually made poor decisions, the people followed someone who did the right thing. Each village had its own laws. Family problems were taken care of by the mother and father who taught their children to behave, how to treat others, to respect others and their property and other cultural values. Elders guided the young ones. Children were taught that if they were belligerent or did not obey the laws they would not live long.

An umaliq always represented his people when dealing with other villages and outsiders. A good Inupiaq

### Leadership continued

leader ensured widows and orphans were taken care of. He was responsible for community feasts including setting the time of year and which villages were to be invited. As a rich man, he would be expected to distribute gifts on special occasions.

Traditionally, leaders met in the qargi (community or men's house) where men discussed community issues and decisions were made. The qargi also was a place for the men to make and repair tools and train boys and young men to learn from hunters, Elders and leaders. Larger villages had more than one umaliq (boat owner and captain) but only one leader. Each village had its own customs and generally leaders were chosen based on character, proven capability and respect. There was one chief who had the final say on village matters.

These traditional governing customs were in place when Westerners first arrived. In 1936, the United States amended the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) to include Alaska Natives. This began the introduction of new Westernized systems that eventually influenced the way village leaders were chosen.

Today, our communities have multiple organizations which specialize in various functions from economic development, health care, municipal affairs, community non-profits and tribal government. Each organization has its own leadership, some hired and some elected by shareholders or tribal members. Our ancestors left us a wonderful inheritance – a culture with traditional values developed over the centuries that enabled us to survive challenges and thrive. Our ancestors chose strong qualities for umaliit of their time, particularly those reflecting character, proven capability and respect, which are still applicable and important today.

The late William Oquilluk, author of *People of Kauwerak* described four catastrophic disasters in our history as a people that we have survived. He said, "The fifth disaster is maybe now. There are not many old people left. The rules and stories of our ancestors are being forgotten." Sitnasuak Shareholders are encouraged to learn our history, practice our values today and continue supporting and developing strong leaders who can embrace our values, make wise decisions, act courageously and promote respect.





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# **DUR VALUES**

Key values that define our corporate and business culture are:

### Culture

- Spirituality Ukpaisrun
- Humility Qinuinnaq
- Reverence Toward Nature Kammakłui Nunamiituat
- Pride in Culture Puyaunau Iñupiagtun Iłłusią
- Speaking Our Traditional Language Inupiurağluta
- Cultural diversity and innovation

### Character

- Honesty Nagguatun Kulliaglutin
- Cooperation Kattiilutin Sahuagat
- Patience Uttakiragagin
- Responsibility Analataasran
- Hard Work Sağiknatuak Sauaq
- Obedience Kammaktui
- Open Communication Kanniglusi

### Contribution

- Avoidance of Conflict Aziusrat Sugunnai
- Commitment to the Family Munnaklui Kinunnaisi
- Love of Children Nagguagiktut Ilagit
- Respecting Others Nagguagiktut Ilagit
- Respect of Elders Utuqannat Kammagiralui
- Sharing Pikkaagupsi Aitturalui
- Humor Quyniuηniq

Our values encompass the guidance from our Elders and honor our Alaska Native Heritage.