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**Board of Directors**

Ida Hildebrand | Chair
Leann Sommer | President
Ragine Pilot | Vice President
Kimberly Bower | Secretary
Michael Stickman | Treasurer
William Dayton | Director
Betty Griffin | Director
Melissa McGinty | Director
Charlene Ostbloom | Director

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**Director’s Message**

Dear Shareholders,

I hope you are enjoying your summer and the bounties that this time of year provides. By now, many of you are preparing for the coming salmon runs. I hope you are lucky and able to get what you need for your families.

In May, Gana-A’Yoo held its annual meeting of shareholders in Galena. Thanks to the people for their hospitality and graciousness during the time the board and staff were in your beautiful community. I wish I could have been there with you, but I was working during the time of the meeting. The final quorum number for the meeting was 64%. Of the 1,261 Gana-A’Yoo shareholders, approximately 800 of us voted. As our shareholders continue to move from the region, it is important we keep connected and stay involved in what is happening with our village corporation. If you did not vote this time, there is always next year. As reported at the annual meeting, the board of directors will continue to focus on growing the company. Since 2007, we’ve seen a 54% increase in net worth. In 2015, net income was $772,402 and $896,700 in 2016, a positive variance of over $124,000. The positive changes we see are due to the hard work and dedication of Gana-A’Yoo’s management team and the employees. As we move forward with our strategic plan, management will continue to research new opportunities to increase the bottom line of the corporation.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the summer. Feel free to reach out if you have questions or concerns. Please be safe in your travels and best of luck in your subsistence activities.

Ana maasee’,
-Charlene Ostbloom,
Director

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**Newly Elected Board Members**

Congratulations to the newly elected Board members: Betty Griffin (Kaltag stock, Urban) and Melissa McGinty (Nulato stock, Urban), and incumbent, Michael Stickman (Nulato stock, Rural). Their term will end in 2020. The Board and staff recognizes the contributions of outgoing Board members: Sharon Hildebrand (Galena & Nulato stock) and Cecilia Solomon (Kaltag stock) for their hard work and dedication.

We thank all who ran for the Board and thank you to the Gana-na community for hosting this year’s Annual Shareholder Meeting. Thank you Gana-A’Yoo Shareholders for the 64% quorum!

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**Foundation Board Open Seat**

If you are interested in serving on the Gana-A’Yoo Foundation Board of Directors there is one (1) seat open. The current Board members & term consists of: Kimberly Bower, Nulato; term ends 9/2017; Anne Esmailka, Kaltag; term ends 9/2018; and Michael Stickman, Nulato; term ends 9/2019. The deadline for candidates to turn in their information is **Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 5pm**. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older. Submit your resume and letter of intent to Crystal Sommer via Fax: 907-569-9699 or Email: csommer@ganaayoo.com. The candidate will be selected on August 11, 2017 at the Gana-A’Yoo Foundation Annual membership meeting. Please note: Under federal laws governing private foundations, family members of Gana-A’Yoo Foundation Board members are not eligible to receive a Foundation scholarship during their term on the Board. Current scholarship recipients are also not eligible to serve on the Board.

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**Friday 8/11/17**

Board of Director’s Meeting at 8:30am & Foundation Annual Membership Meeting at 12pm in Anchorage
Bernice M. Joseph: Journey to her Ph. D.
The late Bernice M. Joseph was awarded her Ph.D. from the University of South Australia in Adelaide on March 29th, 2017. Bernice submitted her dissertation in December of 2013 titled, “Indigenous and Western Knowledge: Transforming Educational Practices in Native Alaska,” before she passed away on January 7th, 2014. Bernice’s thesis focused on the intersection between Indigenous and western knowledges and highlights how Indigenous people have historically experienced discrimination in educational sites which therefore has been a failure by western educational institutions to recognize and value Indigenous knowledge. Her research takes a holistic approach that is grounded in Denaakk’e values, beliefs, spirituality, the environment, language, and the Indigenous philosophy. The University contacted Bernice’s family in December 2016, stating that they wished to award her Ph.D. posthumously. Bernice’s husband, Stewart Joseph Sr., daughter Alice Joseph, Robert Wright, mother Edith Nicholas, sister Kathleen Meckel, aunt Miranda Wright, aunt Ida Hildebrand, and family friend Agnes Sweetser were in attendance at her Ph.D. commencement in Australia. Her family and friends were honored to take part in her award ceremony and were all in tears when they received a copy of her dissertation. Many stories and memories of Bernice were shared by her professors and associates at the University. One of her professors shared a story that he continues to share with his students called, “Lessons from Bernice.” Bernice was a higher-education visionary that made history at the University of South Australia by being the first person to receive a doctorate’s degree after death. She continues to make a positive impact in people’s lives. Bernice’s married Stewart Joseph in 1982. Their children are the late Stewart Joseph Jr., Alice Joseph, and Derek Joseph. Her parents were the late Bernard (Barney) Hildebrand and Edith Nicholas. Her siblings are Kathleen Meckel, Victoria Hildebrand, Bernard Hildebrand I, Darrell Hildebrand, Rodney Hildebrand, and Kristy Malemute. Born in Tanana and raised in Nulato, Bernice was passionate about education. She served as Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community and Native Education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Prior to this position, she served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development at UAF and as a Deputy Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development. Bernice was a founding member of the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders. In honor of her memory, they created and awarded the inaugural, “Bernice M. Joseph Award” on March 24, 2017 to the University of Hawaii Community College for their innovative tools used in Indigenous Education. Ida Hildebrand shares, “I was honored on behalf of Bernice to receive her Ph.D. with her family and am extremely grateful and appreciative of all the professors and staff that worked with Bernice. Their kindness and courtesy to us will never be forgotten. It is no wonder that Bernice chose such a warm, loving, and enlightened place to seek her doctorate. Bernice is also the first in our family to receive her Ph.D. and the first from Nulato.”

Tribal Council Summer Interns
Two (2) summer interns were selected for the Summer Intern Program which is designed to partner with Tribal councils to gain meaningful work experience. Gana-A’Yoo is pleased that the Kaltag and Louden Tribal Councils are hosting this year’s Summer Intern Program. Courtney Carlo and Jaiden Huntington are the Summer Interns at the Louden Tribal Council in Galena and the Kaltag Summer Intern will be announced in the next newsletter. Courtney Carlo is the daughter of Dewan Stickman and Norman Carlo. Jaiden is the daughter of Coleen Huntington and Martin Nelson. The interns will learn, participate, contribute and engage in the many functions of Tribal administration and the programs and events sponsored by the Tribe.

Shareholder Informational Meetings
Please join us for information on your corporation! There will be snacks, cash door prizes, and fun!
- Kaltag: June 30th at 12:30pm at the Kaltag Community Hall
- Nulato: June 30th at 7pm at the Nulato Community Hall
- Koyukuk: July 1st at 12pm at the Koyukuk Community Hall

Share Your Good News
*Hunek Zoo’ Ghu Hoolnek
Another winter has passed and we are so lucky to be with you today to share good news.

Nulato News
The Andrew K. Demoski school in Nulato was selected by the Yukon Kuskokwim School District (YKSD) Regional School Board for filming a documentary about how the YKSD is filled with culture and heritage, helping to improve student achievement! The film crew will be meeting with students, teachers, and community members to help tell the story of education in Nulato. Congratulations to the community of Nulato on being selected for a short film!
What do you plan to do now?
Banks as a DHAT, and to continue talking with high schoolers about the most was to keep my grades while I serve my community. Receiving motivation even more by going to college high school, and from my close friends while I serve my community. Receiving hopes and goals high.

What helped you to succeed?
The thing that helped me succeed is the motivation to be able to give back to my community of Galena, and the surrounding villages. I love encouraging and motivating younger people to pursue a higher education, so I need to be able to show them that it is possible and to not get discouraged. My family and friends were also my key to success because they pushed me to continue my education.

What keeps you goal oriented?
I have always wanted a career in the health field, but I did not know which sub field to go into. The Dental Health Aide Therapist program then showed me that I can receive a certificate/degree while I serve my community. Receiving an education along with that kept my hopes and goals high.

Is there any advice you received, that you would like to share?
I have received a lot of advice from my health science teacher and counselor in high school, and from my close friends and family. One of them that stood out the most was to keep my grades high and to not settle for less than your best. To keep pursuing your education because all of your hard work will pay off in the end.

What do you plan to do now?
My plans for the near future include working at The Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center in Fairbanks as a DHAT, and to continue talking with high schoolers about higher education and to be there for them if they need help. In the year 2021, I plan on furthering my education even more by going to college and getting ready for dental school to become a dentist.

Charity Walk Fundraiser
The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation participated in the 2017 Alaska Visitor Industry Charity Walk on Friday, May 12th in downtown Anchorage and Fairbanks. Both walks were a great success and we’d like to recognize the following participants and contributors: Kimberley Bower, Jenasey Carlo, Louie Carlo, Ashton Ekada, Citlali Elias, Ida Hildebrand, Betty Huntington, Janelle Huntington, Jayce Jordan, Jennine Jordan, Alma Kinney, Annamaria Kinney, Grant Kinney, James Kinney, Jennessa Miller, Betty Olin, Natasha Parker, Daveon Parton, Chazz Parton, Crystal Sommer, Joyelyn Sommer, Larissa Sommer, Leann Sommer, Kenny Sullivan, and Darren Wright. It is because of your generosity that we are able to have a successful program and award scholarships for this school year!

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation Board of Directors selected Tiffany George as Student of the Year. Tiffany spoke at the Annual Shareholder Meeting in Galena and is a current recipient of a Gana-A’Yoo Foundation scholarship. Her parents are Barbara Demoski (Galena) and the late Norman George (Nulato). She graduated from the Sidney Huntington High school in 2015 and is a recent graduate of the ANTHC Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) Educational Program. Tiffany shared some advice for students.

What is the best advice you can provide students preparing for college?
For any young adult attending college or any other training program, I really encourage you to focus and put your school work first because that is the reason why you are there in the first place. Prioritize your assignments by making a to-do-list with due dates, and study hard. By making goals and planning out your steps, you are already making progress to achieve your goal. Set the bar high for yourself and do not settle on an average grade.

For any other training program, I really encourage you to focus and put your school work first because that is the reason why you are there in the first place. Prioritize your assignments by making a to-do-list with due dates, and study hard. By making goals and planning out your steps, you are already making progress to achieve your goal. Set the bar high for yourself and do not settle on an average grade.

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2017 Annual Meeting

Every spring, we gather in one of our four (4) villages for the Gana-A’Yoo Annual Shareholder Meeting. This year, Board members and staff traveled to Galena which was held on May 5th at the Galena Community Hall. Betty Griffin, Melissa McGinty, and Michael Stickman were elected to serve on the Board for a three (3) year term. Gana-A’Yoo management and operations team shared reports on the corporation’s successes for the fiscal year ending on September 30th, 2016. The Board tabled the committee member appointments as well as the Subsidiary Board member appointments until the August 2017 meeting. The Student of the Year was introduced, which was Tiffany George for demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities. The Shareholders of the Year honored were: Albert and Dora Nickoli of Kaltag and Erick Mountain of Nulato for their countless, selfless hours to their communities. At each Annual Meeting, we make it a tradition to recognize our elders and honor them. We thank you for continuing to pass down the traditions and cultural knowledge and values of our people. Thank you to everyone who ran for the Board and we look forward to next year’s Annual Shareholder meeting in Koyukuk!

Ethics and Compliance Program

Gana-A’Yoo is committed to the highest ethical and professional standards. It is an integral part of all aspects of our core values. If you think there is unethical behavior going on, please report it. We have an anonymous hotline in place. Please call the Ethics Hotline at (844) 525-1888 or contact our Ethics Compliance Officer, Jennifer Jordan at (907) 569-9599 ext. 531.

Shareholder Opinion Survey

The Gana-A’Yoo Board of Directors and management continue to strive to grow and improve our businesses. In response to shareholder questions about the performance and activities of the company, Dittman Research has been hired to conduct a confidential survey on a range of topics regarding the company. Because our number one question is about descendant enrollment, the survey will include a special section on it. While this is not a vote on enrollment, we hope to get more feedback from shareholders about the topic and other important issues. Please watch out for the survey which will be mailed out mid-July.

Board Challenge for the Gana-A’Yoo Foundation

Board Chair, Ida Hildebrand announced at the Annual Meeting that she would like to challenge all shareholders and staff to match her $300 donation to the Foundation. Board members, Leann Sommer, Sharon Hildebrand, William Dayton, and Michael Stickman accepted her challenge. If you would like to accept this challenge, your contribution will be featured in the next newsletter. Please contact Crystal Sommer at 907-771-6570 or email csommer@ganaayoo.com if you would like to donate to the Foundation. Each and every contribution makes a difference in helping students achieve self-sufficiency through education and career development.

Sharon Hildebrand & Margaret Nollner blessing our meal

Winifred Demoski and DeeDee Carlo

Honoring our elders: Winifred Demoski, Edgar Nollner Jr., & Stanislaus Ambrose

Leann Sommer & Ida Hildebrand

Shareholders at the Annual Meeting
Shareholders of the Year Selected
Since 2012, Gana-A’Yoo has recognized a shareholder at the Annual Meeting for an outstanding achievement. Last year’s “Shareholder of the Year” was Alda Frank of Galena. This year, three (3) shareholders were selected for this award! The shareholders of the year goes to Albert and Dora Nickoli of Kaltag and Erick Mountain of Nulato. Dora Nickolai’s parents are the late Ottie and Mary Mae Semaken. Albert Nickolai’s parents are the late Plasket and Agnes Nickolai. Albert traps, fishes, builds sleds, and lives a subsistence lifestyle. Dora does headwork, knits, crochets, and supports children’s activities. They share the passion of preserving the cultural values within their family and community. The Shareholder Relations Committee selected both Al and Dora for this award because of their abundance of culture and kindness that they share with the community. Erick Mountain was also selected for this award for his commitment to the community. Erick is a mentor to the youth, protector of the elders, and a helpful and conscientious community member. He is always willing to help others and is highly valued by the Nulato community. Erick’s parents are the late Simeon and Josephine Mountain. His children are Irene, Yolanda, Eliza Lorna, and Angel Sam. All three (3) shareholders are involved in community service and their involvement has directly affected Alaska Natives. Albert and Dora Nickolai and Erick Mountain show a strong commitment and sensitivity in the areas of helping others in order to make our communities a healthier and safer place to live. Congratulations to the shareholders of the year!

Congratulations to all the Door Prize, Proxy Drawing, and Raffle Winners!
Thank you for participating and making the 2017 Annual Shareholder Meeting in Galena a success. We enjoy the annual gatherings and look forward to seeing you again next year in Koyukuk. Congratulations to the following Winners!

Early Bird Proxy Drawing Winners:
- $100 Sharon Ann Demoski
- $100 Josephine Marie Ambridge
- $100 George Casmer Albert
- $100 Rita Margaret Esmailka

Door Prize Winners:
- $50 Fred Huntington
- $50 Cecelia Solomon
- $50 Barbara Demoski
- $100 Hazel Loltnez
- $100 Margaret Nollner

Proxy Drawing Winners:
- $100: Lillian Ann Dewilde
- $100: Phillip Esmailka
- $250: Evelyn Ekada
- $250: Leon Kriska
- $1000: Martha Dayton
- $1500 Grand Prize: Mary Peters

Foundation Raffle Winners:
- Grill and Goodies: Roxanne Thurmond
- 30,000 Alaska Airlines Super Saver Mileage Ticket: Martha Dayton
- Samsung Galaxy Tab E Nook: Rita Painter
- Athabaskan Goody Basket: Blonca Tugatuk

Hazel Loltnez, Barbara Demoski, Cecelia Solomon & Crystal Sommer, Margaret Nollner, Fred Huntington Sr.
Our most sincere condolences to the family & friends of:

- Frank Ambrose, Kaltag Stock
- Victor Alexie Jr., Nulato Stock
- Regina Clock, Kaltag Stock
- Berchman Esmailka, Nulato Stock
- Victor George II, Nulato Stock
- Julia Ilsey, Galena and Nulato Stock
- Bernard Kennedy, Galena Stock
- Karon Mc Ardle, Kaltag and Nulato Stock
- Marvin Mountain, Nulato Stock
- Edgar Madros, Kaltag Stock
- Mary McLean, Nulato Stock
- Lavern Noble, Kaltag Stock
- Franklin “Iron Man” Pitka, Koyukuk Stock
- Goodwin Semaken, Kaltag Stock
- Phillip T. Semaken, Kaltag Stock

Current information is needed for these shareholders. Please contact our office if you have information on their whereabouts.

- Susan Baker
- Christopher Chase
- Thomas Debo
- Melissa Diaz
- David Esmailka
- Brandi Gorsche
- Donald Huhndorf
- Josephine Huntington
- Billi Jo Jones
- Matthew Keech
- Rose Kennedy
- Patrick Kinsella
- Deborahann Krol
- Alan Lolnitz
- Jason Lauesen
- Jeremy Lauesen
- Christina Nollner
- Debra Parker
- Starina Pietz
- Susan Pitka
- Shirley Sieting
- Anthony Solomon
- Arlene Sommer
- Luann Strickland
- Robert Towne
- Wink Winkelman
- Emily Worel