CEO’s Message

Dear Shareholders,

Happy summer to you! It is hard to believe I have had the privilege and honor to serve as your CEO for a year. Time flies when you are having fun. I enjoy each day I work for our people. I am Dena Sommer-Pedebone, my grandparents are Dorothy Sommer and the late Fred Sommer Sr. of Nulato. My maternal grandma, Audrey Steel O’Leary’s parents were some of the original founders of the city of Eagle, Alaska.

My parents are Dene Sommer and Sonny Sommer and Diane Evans Sommer of Fairbanks. At our annual meeting in Kaltag, Al (Al Boy) Nickoli asked me which of Dorothy and Fred’s daughter I am. When I said, “Sonny,” Al immediately said, “I knew it! You remind me of him.” My husband and I live in Anchorage and have two daughters, Austyn and Sunny. As I learn about our villages and our corporation’s history, I enjoy sharing that knowledge with my daughters. Since they were little girls, I’ve told them stories of my time in Nulato. I believe you must know where you come from in order to know where you are going, and I encourage them and other young people to do the same. One project we are working on at Gana-A’Yoo is open enrollment to descendants born after 1971; you will hear more about this in the coming months.

As I reflect on the last year of change and continued growth for Gana-A’Yoo, the highlights are where I traveled to meet with shareholders and tribal members, and the shareholder events we host in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Recently I had the opportunity to visit Galena, Nulato and Kaltag. I look forward to visiting Koyukuk soon. 2018 was a great year for the corporation, and 2019 is shaping up to be even better. In 2018 we were profitable without natural resource revenue (7i). As a profitable corporation we are helping to ensure the long-term economic stability of our communities. This month our Board of Directors and senior management team held a strategic planning session that focused on “sustainable and profitable growth.” Board Secretary, William Dayton, summed it up perfectly when he shared a story and senior management team held a strategic planning session that focused on “sustainable and profitable growth.” Board Secretary, William Dayton, summed it up perfectly when he shared a story and senior management team held a strategic planning session that focused on “sustainable and profitable growth.” Board Secretary, William Dayton, summed it up perfectly when he shared a story about his mother harvesting birch bark in the spring/early summer to make baskets so she would be prepared for berry picking. “She was strategically planning for berry picking,” he explained. I wish everyone the best in our summer harvesting activities and events. Be safe. I’d like to express my appreciation to Betty Huntington, former CEO, for her knowledge, patience and confidence while transitioning the role of CEO. Thank you to former board members Ida Hildebrand, Ragine Pilot and Michael Stickman; your service and historical background are truly an asset. Also, thank you to all current and former committee members. There are so many important pieces to our corporation: Lands and Resources, Shareholder Development, Investment, and Shareholder Relations. Everyone involved in these areas continues to demonstrate their commitment to ongoing success.

Lastly, keep an eye out for information on upcoming shareholder information meetings in each community. I look forward to seeing you.

Dena Sommer-Pedebone, CEO

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2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Once a year Gana-A’Yoo gathers in one of our four villages for the annual shareholder meeting. The Board of Directors and staff traveled and met in Kaltag on Friday, May 10 at the Kaltag Community Hall. The 2020 annual shareholder meeting will be held in Nulato.

New BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations to newly elected board members Frederick Huntington Sr., Colleen Stickman and incumbent William Dayton. The board and staff recognize the contributions of outgoing board members Ida Hildebrand and Ragine Pilot for their hard work and dedication. Thank you to the candidates who ran for the board this year and thank you to the lovely community of Kaltag for hosting this year’s annual shareholder meeting. And, of course, thank you to the Gana-A’Yoo shareholders for the 61.606 percent quorum, up from last year’s quorum by .977 percent. It is because of your votes that the shareholder meeting is possible.

Outgoing BOARD MEMBERS

Thank you to former director Ida Hildebrand for her nine years of service on the Gana-A’Yoo Board of Directors. Her journey started when shareholders wrote to Hildebrand and asked that she consider candidacy. During her time as a director, Hildebrand said her proudest accomplishments include updating the policies, procedures and ethics code, training for the board, board evaluations, self-evaluations and having directors identify training needs. Hildebrand is excited about the current make-up of the Board of Directors. “When the board works together, they really get things done, have good discussions and are not afraid to ask questions. The current leadership is really magnificent; I really appreciate them,” she said.

Thank you to former director Ragine Pilot for her 24 years of service on the Gana-A’Yoo Board of Directors. Pilot served during the turn of the century and has been a solid figure on the board, working through changes that saw transitions between chief executive officers to the move of the corporate headquarters from Galena to Fairbanks to Anchorage. When she started in the mid 1990s, Gana-A’Yoo was dabbling its feet in government contracting; today our corporation receives more than 40 percent of our revenue through government contracting and oversees the management of six subsidiaries. Pilot has worked to effectively balance living off the land at her camp on the Koyukuk River while simultaneously directing our community by sitting on the Louden Tribal Council for more than a decade, serving as an election judge for Gana-A’Yoo, Limited’s annual meeting, volunteering for community events, including cleaning the church and organizing the Gana-A’Yoo Foundation fundraiser walk held in Galena each summer.

Thank you, Ms. Huntington, for your continued devotion to your family, friends and community.

GUEST SPEAKER

Violet Burnham was our guest speaker at this year’s annual shareholder meeting; she spoke of the System of Care (SOC) program, a Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) initiative. When the pilot program was created in 2016, it focused specifically on behavioral health services for youth. However, it was quickly realized that our close-knit communities and our culture has a history of coming together to help families in need and that now serves as a baseline for the program. Through culturally appropriate community events, group meetings and activities, the program aims to teach communication, team building, critical thinking, socializing and other coping skills that create awareness and compassion for those experiencing mental health challenges. TCC’s Behavioral Health department is a recipient of a grant that carries out the SOC program through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration; the funding is available through September 2020.

Shareholder OF THE YEAR

Joyce Huntington of Galena is the daughter of the late Edward and Laura Pitka; her husband was the late Stanley Huntington. She raised her children Heather (Gutierrez), Tyler, Raymond and the late Daniel Huntington in the house she and her late husband built in Galena overlooking Alexander’s Lake. Her grandchildren are Danielle, Trevon, Jase, Hayden, Jaiden, Kaysen and Kyleah.

At an early age, Huntington’s life necessitated her to become fiercely independent; this has been demonstrated not only through her daily life as she raised her young children as a single parent but also in relatively recent years as she took on responsibilities for her ailing mother who suffered from dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

Huntington has developed and demonstrated her leadership skills in the community by sitting on the Louden Tribal Council for more than a decade, serving as an election judge for Gana-A’Yoo, Limited’s annual meeting, and volunteering for community events, including cleaning the church and organizing the Gana-A’Yoo Foundation fundraiser walk held in Galena each summer.

“I am satisfied knowing that our company is doing the best they can for our people.”

– Ida Hildebrand

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to the Gana-A’Yoo community, Joyce Huntington.

Thank you to former director Ragine Pilot for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you to the lovely community of Kaltag for hosting this year’s annual shareholder meeting.
WALK FOR CHARITY

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation was a beneficiary of the 2019 Fairbanks Visitor Industry Walk for Charity on May 10 in the Golden Heart City. The 4K “graze” through downtown was an evening filled with fun, food and philanthropy. We would like to thank participants and contributors: Marie and Marilyn Andon, Harrison and Jeffrey Cramer, Matthew Haynes, Anthony and Sharon Hildebrand, Susan Paskvan, and Albertha, Christopher, Crystal and Larissa Sommer. It is because of your generosity that we can have a successful program and award scholarships to our students.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Nicole (Nikki) Fennimore is the granddaughter of Bruce and Carrie Fennimore, the sister of Nate Fennimore, the granddaughter of Jenny and Dave Pelkoa, and the granddaughter of Alma and LeRoy Fennimore of Wrangell.

Fennimore explained that she got through school by asking questions. Most people want to help you learn how to ask. Most people want to help you and see you succeed; take advantage of that.

KOYUKUK CULTURE AND WELLNESS CAMP

The Tanana Chiefs Conference and Koyukuk tribe will hold a Culture and Wellness Camp on the Koyukuk River, September 1 – 7. The culture camps promote healthy parenting and assist families to attain and maintain self-sufficiency through cultural and wellness activities. For more information, call 907.452.8251 ext. 3288.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

The 2019 Foundation general and competitive scholarship deadline was June 15. For those who did not receive the general scholarship, the next deadline is September 30 for the spring scholarship. Short-term and vocational scholarship applications are accepted throughout the year. For more information, visit the Gana-A’Yoo Foundation website at www.ganaayoo.com/foundation.

SUBSIDIARY SPOTLIGHT

SIX MILE, LLC

Six Mile, LLC, a Gana-A’Yoo subsidiary, held its biennial auction in April to sell surplus items from the United States Antarctic Program’s research stations. Heavy machinery, lab equipment, cold weather gear, vehicle parts and household goods were among the items sold. The auction is held at the Naval Base in Port Hueneme, California; bidding took place online over three days. Proceeds of the auction offset the transportation and disposal costs for the waste that is generated in Antarctica and shipped back to the United States. The next auction will take place in April 2021.

KoyaKuk Culture and Wellness Camp

The Tanana Chiefs Conference and Koyukuk tribe will hold a Culture and Wellness Camp on the Koyukuk River, September 1 – 7. The culture camps promote healthy parenting and assist families to attain and maintain self-sufficiency through cultural and wellness activities. For more information, call 907.452.8251 ext. 3288.
The annual Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference was held in Nulato June 4 – 6; the conference is held every year in one of Interior Alaska’s 42 villages. This year’s theme was “Serving Others: A Traditional Native Value Guiding Us: Honoring Poldine Carlo.” The late Carlo, who was raised in Nulato and was a Gana-A’Yoo, Limited shareholder, assisted in founding Denakkanaaga in the early 1980s. Denakkanaaga is a Denaakk’e word that means “Our People Speak.”

U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States Attorney General William Barr stopped in the community of Galena on his rural Alaska tour in May. Barr met with Alaska Native leaders from around the state to discuss law enforcement challenges in rural Alaska.

OPORTUNITIES

Shareholders are welcome to utilize Gana-A’Yoo, Limited’s computers, fax machine or printers at the Anchorage office. For a full list of job opportunities with Gana-A’Yoo, visit www.ganaayoo.com/opportunities/. Gana-A’Yoo, in partnership with ESS Services, has employment opportunities in Antarctica. After applying, please call the corporate office at 907.569.9599.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of: Agnes S. Dayton, 62 Koyukuk Stock

Mary A. Patsy, 85 Nulato Stock

Evelyn M. Solomon, 43 Nulato & Koyukuk Stock

Cindy VanWezel, 43 Galena Stock

WHERE ARE YOU?

Current information for the following shareholders is requested. Please contact the corporate office if you have any information on their whereabouts:

Sterling Ambrose
Norman Drake
Jason Lausesen
Sally Semaken

Nathan J. Angel
Tyler Drake
Jeremiah Lausesen
Brandon Shank

Matthew Ballantine
Ryan Edwin
Adam McGinty
Joseph Shank

Michael R.C. Baranda
John Ekada
Bradley McGinty
Rachel Silas

Vienna Boe
Minnie Ekada
Jolene McGinty
Bill P. Solomon

Reggie Becker
Lloyd Esmaliklaw
Marvin Mountain
Terrisa Solomon

Jacklyn Gabrielson
Pamela Esmaliklaw
Edith Nicholas
Kelly Sommer

Adam K. Goodwin
Jacklyn Gabrielson
Victor W. Nicholas
Naomi Sommer

Charles Grassco
Lance Gurtler
Jason Nollner
Bridget Stanley

Lloyd Esmaliklaw
Tobi Hower
Alexis Peters
Donald A.J. Stickman

Leanne Dapcevich
Daphne Jensen
Rudolph Peters
Alphonse Stockton

Vienna Boe
Addam T. Johnson
Kenneth Pitka
Luann Strickland

Diane Carlo
Isabelle Kallio
Katherine Quirk
Raeanne Susook

Walter Carlo
Tobi Hower
Katherine Quirk
Sally Semaken

Leanne Dapcevich
Tobi Hower
e

Andrew Dayton
William T. Johnson
Donovan C. Reisland
Sally Semaken

Franklin Dayton
Isabella Kallio
Kayla R. Ridderbush
Kathy A. Schmided

Jonathan Dayton
Daniel Kennedy
Kathy A. Schmiede
Kathy A. Schmiede

Thomas T. Debo
Robert Kennedy
Charles A. Schmiede
Kathy A. Schmiede

Burke W. Dentler
Rose Kennedy
Eugene A. Schmiede
Kathy A. Schmiede

Melissa M. Diaz
Ronald Larrabee
Ken Schmiede
Kathy A. Schmiede

Dewayne Drake II
