CEO Message

Fall Greetings Shareholders,

This is my favorite time of year, the colors, the smells; dew, ripe cranberries, fresh meat, the chilly morning air. I have fond memories of staying up late on “school nights” to put away moose. Yum!

It is hard to believe the year is winding down. I’ve had the good fortune to be able to spend time with my grandma, Dorothy, over the summer. I love hearing her stories about growing up and what she learned from her grandma, Anna Stickman. Elders are so special.

Our business operates on a federal fiscal year, October 1 – September 30, so we are busy at the office as we close 2019. At a glance it appears to have been a good year. Our newest subsidiary, Yukon Management, LLC’s 8(a) status was approved in July by the Small Business Administration. The 8(a) business development program helps small businesses like us compete in federal contracting opportunities. This type of work provides around 44% of our annual revenue. In addition, the board has directed management to research and begin the steps necessary to develop a settlement trust. The development of a trust provides tax savings to the company, increasing our net income and resources available to shareholders.

Thank you to the Koyukuk tribe and the Tanana Chiefs Conference for inviting me to participate in your culture and wellness camp. I had a great visit. When I told my mom where the camp was, she said that is around where she and my dad got logs to build our house in Nulato over 40 years ago.

One of our shareholders, Shannon Erhart, recently asked what I am most proud of with the corporation. My immediate response was that we are financially stable enough to achieve our vision of promoting healthy communities that thrive and prosper. Our income is in a place that the board approved a donation of $25,000 to each of our schools and an annual donation to each of our tribes.

I look forward to talking to and meeting with shareholders at our upcoming shareholder information meetings. Until then best wishes and happy hunting!

Dena Sommer-Pedebone, CEO
**New EMPLOYEES**

Gana-A’Yoo shareholder Jolene Lestenkof accepted an accounting technician position with Gana-A’Yoo in July. She started in accounts payable and has had the opportunity to train in several different areas of accounting; she is particularly interested in payroll. Lestenkof graduated with honors from Alaska Career College in 2014 and has five years of accounting experience with a variety of companies, including the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the Tribal Government of St. Paul Island, where she worked as an accounting clerk. “I love being able to serve my community and am excited to be working for Gana-A’Yoo,” she said. Her parents are Dimitri Lestenkof of St. George Island and Vera Lestenkof of Koyukuk. In her free time, Lestenkof enjoys going on drives, spending time with her family, binge watching shows and playing video games.

Alexis Sheeder joined the company in April as a project coordinator and is currently working on open enrollment, settlement trust development and records management. Sheeder received her Bachelor of Arts degree in theater from St. Ambrose University and has a background in marketing and project management. Her hobbies include keeping up with marketing trends, making to-do lists, planning and deadlines. “I grew up in Texas, Georgia and Iowa before I made my way to the beautiful state of Alaska. I am enjoying all the state has to offer, including opportunities at various theatre companies and the Anchorage Opera, as well as the beautiful trails in the surrounding area,” she said.

**Subsidiary Spotlight**

KHOTOL SERVICES CORPORATION

Khotol Services Corporation (KSC) successfully completed its third year in in situ soil remedial efforts at the Galena Forward Operating Location for the United States Air Force Civil Engineering Center. For five months, KSC, in partnership with CH2M and Parson Government Service, diligently worked to evacuate petroleum-contaminated soil, cut and cap abandoned fuel pipelines, and transport contaminated soil to the Galena land farm. The excavated area was then backfilled with clean segregated and imported fill. This year, KSC installed a soil vapor extraction and bioventing remediation system which is an in-situ remediation technology that uses indigenous microorganisms to biodegrade organic constituents adsorbed to soils in the unsaturated zone. The company also assisted in the demolition and disposal of several structures and equipment that were previously utilized for soil and groundwater remediation systems. KSC is proud to report 100% shareholder hire for this project this season.

**DEENGE Donations**

The Board of Directors recently approved an annual donation of $1,000 to each of our village tribal organizations. Tribes may use this annual funding at their discretion. “Gana-A’Yoo believes in creating opportunities for our youth; they are our future.”

- Sharon Hildebrand, Board Member

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Gana-A’Yoo leadership is proud to announce a donation of $25,000 to each of our villages’ schools. These funds may be used for secondary-school-level vocational education courses, programs and facilities; direct instruction; childhood early learning and development programs; and/or educational support to childhood early learning and development programs. This donation aligns with Gana-A’Yoo’s vision to continually invest in our people to promote healthy communities and future growth. Best of luck to all students in your academic year.

**VILLAGE Spotlight**

A memorial potlatch was held in Galena August 29 – 31 in honor of Miranda Beasley, Alan Evans, Mike Evans, Angela and Sidney Huntington, Laura Pitka, Jennie Silas, Harley and Hazel Strassburg, and Greg Williams. The community and guests that traveled from near and far celebrated the life of their loved ones throughout several days of singing, eating, dancing and gift giving.

“I don’t speak our language fluently; I don’t even sing in the shower — but composing a song in Dena’ak’e and singing it for my grandma at the potlatch was truly one of the most healing processes I’ve ever experienced. I would like to encourage our youth to take a leap, ask how and listen. It is us who will carry on potlatch tradition.”

- Mariah Pitka-Jenkins

**OUR VOICE**
The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation’s goal is to financially support all eligible students who wish to seek higher education. This year’s scholarship committee was comprised of Betty Grittin (Katig), Sharon Hildebrand (Nulato), Janelle Huntington (Koyukuk) and Leann Sommer (Galena). The committee met in July and awarded scholarships to the following students:

**General scholarships**
Brooke Baker
Lisa Baker
Samantha Blake
Tatiana Evans-Beals
Bethany Green
Elizabeth Green
Alecia Hewett
Roderick Huntington
Shay Jensen
Jeffrey Kaufman
Kelsey McLean

Kelsey McLean is attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks and working towards her degree in business administration. “I have always felt that expanding my knowledge is essential to achieve goals and be successful, and I believe I could have deviated from making poor choices later in life had I continued to value education above all else. I wish to dedicate my time and efforts to making a difference in my Native community by setting a standard for the others who find themselves in what was once my situation and showing them there is hope for a more meaningful existence through right living. I want to motivate others to learn from mistakes they have made, similar to mine, and to never give up on themselves.”

Darlene Olin-Martin
Maria Pelkola
Darlene Olin-Martin
Charles Pitka
Shirley Sam
Shyanne Saunders is in her junior year at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she is studying Korean language and Korean studies. Saunders spent her summer in South Korea advancing her Korean speaking, reading and writing abilities. She expects to graduate in 2021 with her Bachelor of Arts degree. “After graduation, I will fulfill my year-long internship at the Korean University. I am interested in translation work or working as a teaching assistant for English classes. I love to help people express themselves and to guide them in making explorations in life and language.”

Autumn Williams
If you would like to read further scholarship recipients’ essays, visit www.ganaayoo.com.foundation.

**Short-term scholarships**
Josephine Ambridge
Rose Deniski
Erin Patsy
Cody Radman
Angela Rutman
Darlene Sommer

Darlene Sommer

**Competitive scholarships**
Students who receive the Gana-A’Yoo Foundation’s competitive scholarships are also recipients of the general scholarship.

Tirzah Bryant, $1,000. Bryant is in her second year at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in wildlife biology and conservation. She said that she dreams of becoming a wildlife biologist because it makes her feel connected to the land she grew up on. “Flying over the land my grandparents and great grandparents grew up trapping and hunting on is a very special feeling,” she said.

Laura Ekada, $1,000
Rachel Evans, $1,500
Rachel Thurmund, $1,500
Lillian DeWilde, $2,000. DeWilde is in her second year of graduate school at the University of Alaska Anchorage and teaches special education at the Sidney C. Huntington School in Galena. “My grandma, Madeline Solomon, lived in Galena and devoted her life towards educating children. Earning my Type B Certification for Educational Leadership from the University of Alaska Anchorage will be an achievement two generations in the making. As a learner and teacher, my responsibility is to foster the bridge between our youngest and oldest generations, so that the former may continue down the path of excellence built by those who came before them. It is thanks to many Elder mentors that I can break the trail a little bit wider, so the path may be a little bit easier to tread,” she said.

Sheena Twitchell, $2,000

**Internships**
Cheyanne Cheverie is the granddaughter of shareholders Cathy and the late Alan Evans, the daughter of Thomas Cheverie and shareholder Sheila Evans, and the sister of Preston Cheverie. She started her internship in August and will remain at the Anchorage corporate office through 2019, at which time she plans to attend Fort Lewis College in Colorado. Her internship is a temporary, full-time position in which she will learn, participate, contribute and engage in various departments.

“I am looking forward to gaining experience working for a Native corporation and am excited for the potential opportunity for growth.”

Cheyanne Cheverie

It is hardly ever too soon to begin working and chase after your dreams — Gana-A’Yoo hired intern Sunny Pedebone on an as-needed basis to assist the accounting department while attending high school.
SHAREHOLDER Opportunities

The newly opened Hyatt Place Anchorage-Midtown is offering a corporate rate for Gana-A’Yoo, Limited. Rates, rules and restrictions apply. If you would like to take advantage of our year-round rates, you can make hotel reservations by calling 1.877.874.0562 and referencing the rate code GAYO, or reserve online at http://bit.ly/hyattcorporaterate.

We would like to hear from you! We encourage all shareholders to take advantage of our fall email address drive. If you opt in to receive the Denadalee’s newsletter in an electronic format (instead of a hard copy through the mail), you will be entered in a drawing for a $50 cash prize. To enter the drawing, email records@ganaayoo.com by November 26 and specify that you would like to receive the Gana-A’Yoo newsletter electronically.

Gana-A’Yoo is creating a photo bank. Shareholders are invited to submit photos to newsletter@ganaayoo.com. Photos will be used in marketing materials, the newsletter, for our website, and in presentations to potential clients. Photos can be of shareholders, descendants, old-time photos, events, our villages or any scenic view of our area. Please be sure to reference who took the photo, who is in the photo, or where it came from. By submitting photos, you are giving permission to use them.

Join our photo shoot! Shareholder Charlene Ostbloom will be onsite at the shareholder information meeting on Tuesday, October 15 to take pictures of shareholders and descendants for future publications.

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.

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 L. Ambrose Norman Drake Isabelle K. Kallio
Nathan J. Angel Tyler Drake Robert J. Kennedy
Michael RC Baranda John C.I. Ekada Rose Kennedy
Brook D. Bryant Minnie Ekada Daniel Kennedy
Duane Burnham Lloyd T. Esmaïlka Ronald D. Larrabee
Diane R. Carlo Jacklyn E. Gabrielsson Jason Lauesen
Walter Carlo Adam K. Goodwin Jeremiah Lauesen
Leanne F. Dapcevich Lance R. Gurtler Jolene M. McGinty
Jackie Davis Vincent T. Henry Adam B. McGinty
Jonathan A. Dayton Roger V. Henry Bradley McGinty
Andrew Dayton Matthew Henry Marvin C. Mountain Jr.
Thomas T. Debo Dorothy Henry Edith Nicholas
Verna L. Demoski Kody Henry Victor W. Nicholas
Burke W. Dentler Todd Hower Viola M. Nickoli
Melissa M. Diaz Daphne M. Jensen Jason Nollner
Dewayne Drake II William T. Johnson Rhonda Patsy

Gana-A’Yoo, Limited Board of Directors Meeting Anchorage, AK 8:30 a.m.

CONTACT US

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Anchorage | 907.569.9599
Galena | 907.656.1606
web | ganaayoo.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kimberly Bower | Chair
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William Dayton | Secretary
Shay Huntington McEwen | Treasurer
Sharon Hildebrand | Director
Frederick Huntington Sr. | Director
Thomas Neglaska | Director
Colleen Stickman | Director

EDITOR

Larissa Sommer newsletter@ganaayoo.com

PHOTO BANK

Add your photos to newsletter@ganaayoo.com. Photos will be used in the newsletter, for our website, or in presentations to potential clients. Photos can be of shareholders, descendants, old-time photos, events, or any scenic view of our area.

WINTER CALENDAR

SEPT

Spring Semester General Scholarship Postmark Deadline

OCT

Shareholder Informational Meeting LaQuinta Inn Fairbanks, AK 5 - 7 p.m.

All shareholders and descendants are invited and encouraged to attend.

DEC

Gana-A’Yoo, Limited Board of Directors Meeting Anchorage, AK 8:30 a.m.

Gana-A’Yoo, Limited

1001 E Benson Blvd., Suite 201
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of:

Stanimilus Ambrose, 93, Nulato Stock
Thecla M. Esmaïlka, 69, Nulato Stock
Josephine B. Roberts, 97, Galena Stock

Irene M. Sadowski, 62, Nulato Stock
Sally A. Semaken, 43, Nulato Stock
Francis E. Williams Sr., 84, Galena Stock

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