Happy HOLIDAYS

From all of us here at Gana-A’Yoo, Limited, we would like to express our best wishes for a healthy, happy holiday season and a new year filled with peace, joy and hope.

Open BOARD SEATS

The Gana-A’Yoo, Limited Board of Directors seeks to fill three open board seats. This year’s election requires one director owning class D (Kaltag) stock. Voting shareholders 18 or older are encouraged to consider serving on the board. In order to be listed on the proxy, interested shareholders must submit a director’s questionnaire by Monday, January 27, 2020. Forms may be downloaded at ganaayoo.com, and may be submitted by email to csommer@ganaayoo.com, via fax to 907.569.9699, or by mail to Gana-A’Yoo, Limited, 1001 E Benson Blvd., Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

The following current directors’ terms expire in May 2020:

* Urban seat currently held by Betty Griffin, Kaltag stock
* Urban seat currently held by Melissa McGinty, Nulato stock
* Rural seat currently held by Thomas Neglaska, Kaltag stock

Director eligibility requirements:

* Must be a Gana-A’Yoo, Limited shareholder holding voting stock
* Must be at least 18 years of age

The Board of Directors asked the management to research and analyze how the establishment of a settlement trust could benefit Gana-A’Yoo shareholders. This federal tax provision, which allows Alaska Native corporations to establish settlement trusts, has the potential to secure long-term sustainability of the corporation by growing shareholder equity through tax savings. This is in direct alignment with our strategic target to increase shareholder equity. To date, over 30 Alaska Native corporations have taken advantage of this provision. As our net income grows, we continue to look for savings for the company, and the establishment of a trust helps us move towards that goal.

Shareholder/descendant hire and development is also a priority for the board and management, and I am pleased to report that shareholder/descendant hire has increased by almost 27% since last year. To date, three shareholder/descendants have “been on ice,” traveling to and working with Gana-A’Yoo Service Corporation in Antarctica, supporting the National Science Foundation. Gordon Reisland, a Gana-A’Yoo descendant, is there now.

The comfortable nights of winter are a great time for reflection. I often think about those role models that have made an impact on me. Solid figures in my life. Each year the Gana-A’Yoo board and shareholder relations committee recognizes and honors a shareholder and student of the year. If you know a shareholder or descendant “making waves,” please nominate. Nominators do not have to be shareholders. I encourage shareholders to reach out with questions. Contact me at info@ganaayoo.com or 907.569.9599.

2019 is shaping up to be our best year yet. Stay tuned for more details!

Be well,
Dena Sommer-Pedebone, CEO
Shareholders will have the opportunity to vote on whether to create a settlement trust at the Gana-A’Yoo, Limited annual meeting on May 22, 2020.

A settlement trust is organized under the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and Alaska state law to provide benefits to the shareholders of an Alaska Native corporation. The purpose of a settlement trust is to promote the health, education and welfare of the beneficiaries, and to preserve the heritage and culture of Alaska Natives. A settlement trust accomplishes its purpose by making distributions to its beneficiaries.

Individuals who own shares of Gana-A’Yoo will be beneficiaries if the settlement trust passes the vote.

While Gana-A’Yoo shareholders are not currently required to pay federal income tax on dividends received from the corporation, eventually they will be required to.

With a settlement trust, the corporation, Gana-A’Yoo, will be able to take a tax deduction for its contributions to the settlement trust, resulting in savings for the corporation and ensuring that beneficiary dividends remain tax free for shareholders.

Village Spotlight

GGAAL DOH
A historical monument came to its end in Kaltag in October when local volunteers tore down the community hall. The iconic structure was becoming hazardous as it started to deteriorate. The hall was designed by Plasker Nickoli Sr., Goodwin Semaken Sr. and Dave Sheets, and was completed in 1977. It was possibly the first octagon-shaped community center built in rural Alaska and its design was replicated in other villages; in fact, Nickoli went on to assist Huslia, Hughes and Alikaket with their community halls. The top of the hall was preserved and is planned to be utilized in a gazeebo-type structure at the Kaltag ballpark. Work will commence on a new community hall in early 2020, made possible with donations and support from Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Open Enrollment

The topic of opening enrollment to descendants of original Gana-A’Yoo shareholders has been under discussion the last few years, per the request of shareholders. While the majority of shareholders support opening enrollment, a large percentage have expressed concern about the impact of opening enrollment on dividends and voting strength.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was and continues to be an experiment. There are a few comparable examples in northern Canada to ANCSA, but otherwise throughout the rest of the world we Alaska Natives are in a unique circumstance. The main point is that we as a collective own most of our traditional lands without any government oversight. Since the implementation of ANCSA in the 1970s, we have managed and stewarded our lands successfully, thanks to the ANCSA corporation leaders of the day. This leads us to an important question: Who will be our ANCSA corporation leaders 10, 20, 30 and more years from now? Who will be the managers and stewards of our traditional lands that we have proudly held and now owned for millennia? I believe the more inclusive we are of our youth, the more successful they will be as ANCSA corporation leaders, and subsequently managers and stewards of our lands when the day comes. There is much more to ANCSA corporations than a profit margin and shareholder dividends; we have a greater responsibility to our lands and to our youth, who will one day be our leaders after the leaders of today have had their time.

Employee Spotlight

Gana-A’Yoo recognizes the corporate office’s longest-serving employee, shareholder Crystal Sommer. Sommer started as a temporary employee after graduating from the University of Alaska Anchorage with her Bachelor of Arts in psychology in May 2010. She has served as administrative assistant and office manager/shareholder relations, managing shareholder relations and records, coordinating meetings and events, serving as a Gana-A’Yoo Foundation liaison, and assisting the CEO. She has worked in three different office locations under two different CEOs throughout her tenure. “I am lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from and work for former CEO Betty Huntington and current CEO Dena Sommer-Pedebone,” she said. Sommer is the daughter of shareholders Christopher and Albertha Sommer, and inherited shares from her maternal grandfather, Edward Pitka. She enjoys traveling, biking, skiing, watching shows, looking at restaurant menus, and spoiling her nieces and nephews, who lovingly refer to her as “Auntie Claus.” Sommer is one of the notaries in the office who can help shareholders with updating stock wills and records.

Employee Spotlight

“Open enrollment, our family of companies, and the Gana-A’Yoo Foundation. The next shareholder information meeting will take place in Fairbanks in March. Thank you to all those who attended the shareholder information meeting in October in Fairbanks. Congratulations to the $50 cash door prize winners: Brenna Cruger, Paula Curran, Darrell Hildebrand, Colleen Stickman and Mike Tanner. I enjoy working for Gana-A’Yoo and our shareholders. I love our company’s mission, vision and values, and am grateful for our work environment that promotes corporate and personal growth.”

Crystal Sommer

We would like to hear from you, our shareholders, on how you feel about this topic. Please direct questions, concerns and comments to the corporate office or on social media to have your voice heard today.
The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation Board of Directors selected Austyn Pedebone for the 2019 Student of the Year award. The annual award recognizes a shareholder or descendant of an original shareholder who has graduated from grade school through college and has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities. Pedebone was selected based on her leadership qualities, educational goals, and cultural and community involvement. Pedebone attended the University of Alaska Anchorage majoring in business management with a minor in entrepreneurship and English. John Maxwell said, “Leadership isn’t about titles, positions or flowcharts; it is about one life influencing another.” Maxwell’s quote describes Pedebone’s style of leadership. From an early age, she has been nominated and held leadership roles in varsity flag football as the captain and has been named “most inspirational” for her motivational efforts toward her teammates on and off the field. Additionally, her strong work ethic became apparent at a young age when she became a dance instructor to young children, and she was recently recognized by her employer as a young person to grow within the company through their institutional advancement program. Pedebone’s dedication and love of learning is reflected in her commendable grade point average, which she has demonstrated throughout high school and college. Her future aspirations include earning her PhD and owning her own business focusing on philanthropy and nonprofit work for marginalized communities. She volunteers at Elders’ events at Centennial Village in Anchorage and regularly attends community gatherings, including potlatches and the Alaska Federation of Natives.

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation offers short-term and vocational funding awards in addition to competitive and general scholarships. Short-term and vocational applications are accepted throughout the year. The Foundation’s mission is to enrich and enhance educational opportunities for Tleeyegge Hu’taane’ (the people of the land) for Gana-A’Yoo shareholders and descendants, as we are adapting to our environment. We realize that secondary and post-secondary schools, regardless of the type of institution, can present economic difficulty, and we would like to see all students succeed. Education is the key to the future and the Foundation would like to encourage success rates. Vocational schools are an excellent way to gain technical skills for trades and allow students to directly enter the workforce. Please call the corporate office if you have any questions or would like to know more about scholarships offered.

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation Board of Directors intends to recognize an outstanding student at a 2020 shareholder meeting. If you know a student between 7th grade and college please consider nominating him or her for the Gana-A’Yoo 2020 Student of the Year award. The candidate will be selected based on leadership qualities, cultural and community involvement, and educational goals. Nominees must be either a Gana-A’Yoo shareholder or a descendant of an original shareholder. Nominations are due on Friday, January 24, 2020.

The Gana-A’Yoo shareholder committee is seeking nominations for the 2020 Shareholder of the Year award, which recognizes a shareholder for an outstanding achievement. Since 2012, Gana-A’Yoo has presented Shareholder of the Year awards during the annual shareholder meeting. Nominees must be a Gana-A’Yoo shareholder who is involved in community service and whose involvement has directly affected Alaska Natives. The Shareholder of the Year shows a strong commitment to helping others in order to make our communities a healthier and safer place to live. Please submit nominations by Friday, January 24, 2020.

Nomination forms are available at the village tribal offices in Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag, and online at www.ganaayoo.com. Contact the corporate office at 907.569.9599 or records@ganaayoo.com with questions or concerns.

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation offers scholarships and funding opportunities in Antarctica. Visit www.ganaayoo.com/opportunities to learn more. After applying, please call the corporate office at 907.569.9599.

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation has been a gateway to securing three food procurement contracts that depend on our station to carry out their work. The ASC team also manages the retail stores and supports the scientific field camps on the continent. The dedication and hard work of our employees and managers have paid off in the last seven years. Our team was honored this year for their services being awarded to be part of the flag-raising ceremony that signifies the opening of the summer science season at McMurdo Station and the kick off for many of the international programs that depend on our station to carry out their work. The ASC team has been a gateway to securing three food procurement contracts (GSC and Kaiyuh Services, LLC), food inspection contracts (GSC), the Ground Penetrating Radar Contract (Gana-A’Yoo Services Corporation Mechanical, or GSCM), and the South Pole HVAC Contract (GSCM). The ASC team was also integral in the acquisition of Best Recycling, which led to the creation of Six Mile, LLC. The culminating success of contracts, since inception in 2010, is anticipated to yield close to $100 million in total revenue for Gana-A’Yoo. Program manager, Mike Gay, supports and directs the management team in the performance of the contract, which has six years remaining. Gay has successfully communicated Gana-A’Yoo’s mission, vision and values to his team. This marks the fifth season we have been lucky to share the South Pole experience with Gana-A’Yoo shareholders or descendants, Gordon Reisland, a shareholder descendant from Galena, is working as the retail materials person this 2019 - 2020 season in McMurdo.

The support of the Antarctic mission is far reaching, servicing the Palmer, McMurdo and South Pole stations, as well as two research vessels and over 40 field camps. Our team also supports logistics in Punta Arena, Chile; Christchurch, New Zealand; Port Hueneite, California; and Centennial, Colorado. We are proud of the success of our Antarctic support contract and the team that makes it all possible. Gana-A’Yoo, in partnership with ESS, has employment opportunities in Antarctica. Visit ganaayoo.com/opportunities to learn more. After applying, please call the corporate office at 907.569.9599.

Gana-A’Yoo Services Corporation (GSC) and Eurest Support Services Alaska (ESS) have subcontracted to Leidos for the camp support services on the continent of Antarctica. Our teams provide food, janitorial, lodging, laundry, post office, beverage and administrative services. The team also manages the retail stores and supports the scientific field camps on the continent.

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation Board of Directors is seeking nominations for the 2020 Student of the Year. The Foundation’s mission is to enrich and enhance educational opportunities for Tleeyegge Hu’taane’ (the people of the land) for Gana-A’Yoo shareholders and descendants, as we are adapting to our environment. We realize that secondary and post-secondary schools, regardless of the type of institution, can present economic difficulty, and we would like to see all students succeed. Education is the key to the future and the Foundation would like to encourage success rates. Vocational schools are an excellent way to gain technical skills for trades and allow students to directly enter the workforce. Please call the corporate office if you have any questions or would like to know more about scholarships offered.

Call for NOMINATIONS

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation Board of Directors intends to recognize an outstanding student at a 2020 shareholder meeting. If you know a student between 7th grade and college, please consider nominating him or her for the Gana-A’Yoo 2020 Student of the Year award. The candidate will be selected based on leadership qualities, cultural and community involvement, and educational goals. Nominees must be either a Gana-A’Yoo shareholder or a descendant of an original shareholder. Nominations are due on Friday, January 24, 2020.

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Our condolences to the family and friends of:

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

WHERE ARE YOU?

Nathan Angel
Michael R.C. Baranda
Vienna L. Boe
Brook D. Bryant
Duane Burnham
Diane R. Carlo
Walter Carlo
Leanne F. Dapcevich
Andrew Dayton
Thomas T. Debo
Verna L. Demoski
Melissa Diaz
Dewayne Drake
Norman Drake
Tyler Drake
John C.I. Ekada
Minnie Ekada
Lloyd T. Esmaika
Pamela A. Esmaika
Veronica M. Frese
Jacklyn E. Gabrielson
Lance R. Gurtler
Dorothy Henry
Kody Henry
Matthew Henry
Roger Henry
Vincent Henry
Tobi Hower
Daphne M. Jensen
Isabelle K. Kallio
Daniel Kennedy
Robert J. Kennedy
Rose Kennedy
Corina M. Kriska
Bradley McGinty
Marvin C. Mountain

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation is a nonprofit organization primarily funded through Gana-A’Yoo, Limited. In order to remain compliant and maintain its nonprofit status, a certain percentage of funding must come through private donations.

The 2019 fiscal year was a success and, in fact, exceeded the Foundation’s donation goal. The target was $8,000 and, thanks to the generous donations of individuals and organizations, we achieved 102% of that goal. If you would like to donate, contact the corporate office today! The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation accepts donations year-round.

CONTACT US
Toll-Free | 1.888.656.1606
Anchorage | 907.569.9599
Galena | 907.656.1606
web | ganaayoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Kimberly Bower | Chair
Melissa McGinty | President
Betty Griffin | Vice-President
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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DEC
25 Merry Christmas!
Gana-A’Yoo offices closed

JAN
1 Happy New Year!
Gana-A’Yoo offices closed
20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Gana-A’Yoo offices closed
21 Student of the Year and Shareholder of the Year nominations due
22 Board of Director candidate questionnaire deadline

FEB
17 Presidents Day
Gana-A’Yoo offices closed
21 Board of Directors meeting
Anchorage, AK

MAR
16-19 Tanana Chiefs Conference
annual convention
Fairbanks, AK
19 Gana-A’Yoo shareholder information meeting
Fairbanks, AK
20 Doyon, Limited annual meeting
Fairbanks, AK

WHERE ARE YOU?

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Nathan Angel
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Vienna L. Boe
Brook D. Bryant
Duane Burnham
Diane R. Carlo
Walter Carlo
Leanne F. Dapcevich
Andrew Dayton
Thomas T. Debo
Verna L. Demoski
Melissa Diaz
Dewayne Drake
Norman Drake
Tyler Drake
John C.I. Ekada
Minnie Ekada
Lloyd T. Esmaika
Pamela A. Esmaika
Veronica M. Frese
Jacklyn E. Gabrielson
Lance R. Gurtler
Dorothy Henry
Kody Henry
Matthew Henry
Roger Henry
Vincent Henry
Tobi Hower
Daphne M. Jensen
Isabelle K. Kallio
Daniel Kennedy
Robert J. Kennedy
Rose Kennedy
Corina M. Kriska
Bradley McGinty
Marvin C. Mountain

CONDOLENCES
Our condolences to the family and friends of:
Alda Frank, 92, Galena Stock
Yolanda Sophie Sam, 87, Koyukuk Stock

Photo BANK

Gana-A’Yoo is creating a photo bank! If you would like to submit photos, please email them to newsletter@ganaayoo.com.

In addition to the photo bank we would also like to hear from you, our shareholders and descendants, with stories of interest that can be archived. Historical or present-day stories from our ancestral lands are of interest. By submitting stories or photos, you are giving Gana-A’Yoo permission to use them.