Happy Holidays, Shareholders!

The year has quickly gone by and we are nearing 2019. The season has been considerably warm. This may result in a delay of the freeze up of our Yukon highway. However, the snow has arrived, along with a few other exciting natural events as many of you experienced while in Anchorage.

Gana-A’Yoo, Limited has had a great year. We continually reach for higher goals, and with that often comes change. Management recently hired Kelly Brooks as our chief operating officer. Kelly has many years of experience working with Alaska Native corporations, and we are lucky to have her at Gana-A’Yoo. The company continues to grow to ensure our success for our future generations. The Board of Directors held a successful meeting amidst a 7.0 earthquake last month. For several minutes all board members and employees were under desks and tables or in doorways. The few minutes that it lasted seemed much longer, but everyone handled the event as smoothly as possible. After ensuring all family members were safe and checking in with each other, we continued the board meeting.

The Gana-A’Yoo Foundation recently met, and we are excited about what lies ahead. Janelle Huntington, Leann Sommer and I serve on the Foundation board. As past scholarship recipients, we are excited about the prospects of growing the organization and we are willing to do the work. We would like to thank past Foundation board members who have laid the groundwork for where we are at today. Stay tuned for future projects and how you can be involved to ensure the success of all shareholders and their descendants with Gana-A’Yoo’s future growth in mind.

Our prior success can often be attributed to many of our board members who have had the forethought to see ahead. One board member, Michael “Mickey” Stickman, served the board for over 20 years. We wish Mickey many years of success in his retirement and would like him to know that we may call on him a time or two to reference some of his historical knowledge.

As 2018 comes to a close, the Gana-A’Yoo board and employees wish you and yours an ever-fruitful 2019 and may the fires always burn warm.

Blessings always,
Sharon Hildebrand

Open Board Seats

The Gana-A’Yoo, Limited Board of Directors are seeking to fill three open seats on the board. This year’s election requires one director owning class B (Koyukuk) stock and two elected seats must be rural residents. Shareholders are encouraged to consider running for the board. In order to be listed on the proxy, interested shareholders must submit a director’s questionnaire (download the form at www.ganaayoo.com) by Sunday, February 17, 2019.

>>continues on page 2
What began as a seemingly normal Gana-A’Yoo, Limited Board of Directors meeting on November 30, 2018, will likely go down in the Gana-A’Yoo history books. The board meeting was called to order Friday morning and, in typical fashion, should have commenced with the traditional safety and culture moment. Little did staff and directors realize that day’s safety moment would become a real-life emergency drill that would last for an entire minute and a half, feeling like an eternity for some who experienced the terrifying ordeal. The magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit southcentral Alaska at 8:29 a.m. The epicenter was reportedly 10 miles north of Anchorage at a depth of 27 miles. Board members, employees and executives hit the floor in the conference room and around the office, which is located on the second floor of a three-story building. As the shaking continued, one board member reminded others to get under desks and tables. Many wondered how the building would stay together through such strong force; many wanted to be out of the building. One executive commented he was relieved and thankful for the recent move to a new, more modern commercial building in the last few months. Anchorage structures fared well through the large earthquake as well as the subsequent aftershocks. The Gana-A’Yoo corporate office did see books, binders and bookshelves fall, as well as furniture that moved. One hour after the initial shock wore off, and after everyone was able to contact their families and it was confirmed that the building was safe, the board and Gana-A’Yoo employees gathered their wits and continued on with the board meeting.

“We experienced were very unsettling to the soul. It really drives to the heart of our most basic existential feelings as this is something I would think all creatures fear. It is very hard to relate to other perils in life, and although it was a ‘bucket list’ experience, it is one that I really do not want to repeat.”

– Reinhard Mueller, Vice President – Business Development, Gana-A’Yoo, Limited

“The earthquake was terrifying. I remember trying to find peace while the entire building shook violently. I am so thankful everyone is OK.”

– Janelle Huntington, HR Generalist, Gana-A’Yoo, Limited

Q&A WITH GANA-A’YOO’S CEO

DENADOLELE SOMMER-PEDEBONE took the reins as chief executive officer for Gana-A’Yoo, Limited six months ago.

Q: How are you adjusting to life as a CEO?

A: Prior co-workers of mine have commented how visibly happier I look now than the five years we worked together. Recently my 15-year-old daughter, Sunny, commented to her dad that, “Even though mom works a lot, she is happier at her new job.” When you are passionate about your work, it doesn’t feel like work.

Q: What has been your favorite day so far at Gana-A’Yoo, Limited?

A: Every day is amazing; there is hardly ever a dull moment. If I had to choose, I would say anytime I am able to meet with shareholders and visit our communities.

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: I work with an amazing team and I am learning every day. We, the board and employees, were very fortunate to have a transition period with Betty Huntington, the former CEO. Betty has a lot of historical knowledge of the company and Gana-A’Yoo communities and residents, and she has a great network of business partners. Having her here was extremely helpful.

Q: What do you like most about Gana-A’Yoo?

A: Our mission. It speaks to the versatility of our people and our company. The Board of Directors are very supportive by allowing me to make the necessary business decisions to get us to our strategic targets.

Q: Do you feel a difference in working for a company that you are a shareholder descendant of compared to working for past companies?

A: There is a wonderful difference in working for a company where I belong. I am passionate about ensuring Gana-A’Yoo’s success for our shareholders and descendants. When you are passionate about what you do, you are more motivated to succeed, inspire others, and dedicated to your work. The history of Gana-A’Yoo and Alaska Native village corporations is commendable; to think that our leaders back in the 1970s carved this path with economic prosperity for our people in mind is awe inspiring.

Q: What kind of advice do you have for future generations of shareholder-descendants who may aspire to hold a CEO position?

A: You can do anything; the world is yours and be patient.

BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Gana-A’Yoo, Limited Board of Directors and management team will appoint a new member to fill outgoing director Michael Stickman’s remaining term, which will expire in May 2020. Over the 20 years Stickman has served as a board member, he has held several officer roles, including board chair. Rural shareholders interested in carrying out Stickman’s term should submit a letter of interest with qualifications and fill out a director’s questionnaire by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Visit the Gana-A’Yoo website, www.ganaayoo.com, for the questionnaire form or contact Crystal Sommer at 907.569.9599 or csommer@ganaayoo.com for more information.
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS Announced
Gana-A’Yoo Foundation would like to announce the Foundation’s 2018 winter general scholarship recipients: Laura Ekada, Tatiana Evans-Beals and Austyn Pedebone. Short-term and vocational scholarship applications are accepted throughout the year. Please visit the Gana-A’Yoo website and go to the Foundation page for more information.

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The Foundation board includes new director Sharon Hildebrand (Nulato), term ends September 2019; Janelle Huntington (Koyukuk), term ends September 2020; and new director Leann Sommer (Galena), term ends September 2021.

KAIYUH SERVICES, LLC CONTRACT
Kaiyuh Services, LLC is in year three of a five-year roads and grounds contract at Fort McCoy military reserve near Sparta, Wisconsin. The roads and grounds team is responsible for maintenance and care of all roads and grounds at Fort McCoy, which spans approximately 65,000 acres. Project managers Jon Pauly and Brad Knoll manage the crews that range from 10 employees during the winter months to 22 employees during the summer. Kaiyuh owns, operates and maintains approximately 60 different pieces of equipment that range from lawn mowers to agriculture tractors to large snow plows and motor graders.

Welcome NEW EMPLOYEES
Gana-A’Yoo, Limited would like to welcome new employees Kelly Brooks, Meigan Fautanu, Arthur McKinney, David Plains and Jennifer Swanson.

KELLY BROOKS, chief operating officer for the Gana-A’Yoo Family of Companies, is responsible for managing all operational aspects of the company. Brooks has worked in corporate finance for the last 25 years; 18 of those she has worked for an Alaska Native regional corporation and six of those she has served as the vice president of finance. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in finance and a Master of Business Administration, and her career background includes strategic/long-range planning, risk management, cash management and process improvement.

MEIGAN FAUTANU, payroll accountant, joins the team with a background in payroll, projects and human resources. She has her payroll certification and is currently working on receiving her CPP (Certified Payroll Professional). Fautanu grew up in Anchorage and Las Vegas and is a shareholder of Tatitlek Corporation, where she was employed for the last 12 years prior to joining the Gana-A’Yoo team. She loves balancing numbers, problem solving, fishing, camping and traveling. She and her husband of 18 years have an 8-year-old son; the three of them enjoy all Alaska has to offer.

“I have heard such great things about Gana-A’Yoo. My time here has already been amazing. I am impressed with the team here; they have been kind and welcoming.” – Meigan Fautanu

DAVID PLAINS, of Khotol Services Corporation, recently accepted the position of general manager. Plains was hired by Khotol a year ago as a project superintendent. Plains received his Bachelor of Science degree from Central Missouri State University in construction engineering technology and has been working on government contracts for nearly 30 years. Plains grew up and continues to live in Marshall, Missouri, with his wife of 25 years. Together they raised their son, who recently started his first year of college. Plains enjoys fishing, hunting and watching college football.

JENNIFER SWANSON, accounts payable accountant, is responsible for processing and paying all invoices due to our vendors. Swanson previously worked with Gana-A’Yoo Services Corporation in Denver, Colorado, for the Antarctica program. She worked in human resources/finance, a job that took her to Antarctica in 2017. Her background is in transportation/logistics – specialty cargo, project logistics. Swanson made the move north to Alaska to enjoy a less densely populated state and to seek recreational opportunities such as hiking, kayaking and snowshoeing.

ARTHUR (ART) MCKINNEY joined Gana-A’Yoo in May of this year and recently assumed the role of general manager for Kaiyuh Information Technologies, LLC. His academic background includes a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, an associate of applied science in intelligence studies and a Master of Arts in international relations. McKinney’s background includes more than 20 years in the defense sector. He is a U.S. Army Special Forces veteran and now serves as a U.S. Army Reserve military intelligence warrant officer. McKinney lives in Kansas City, Kansas, with his wife, Tara, and their five children. He is proud to be part of the Gana-A’Yoo family and is passionate about serving our shareholders.

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Doyon, Limited held its first-ever special meeting of shareholders on November 16, 2018, in Fairbanks, Alaska. A special vote took place and Doyon shareholders voted in favor to create the Doyon Settlement Trust (DST) under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

A quorum of 59.4 percent was established, and 92.6 percent of the quorum voted yes to create the DST. DST distributions will now replace Doyon dividends issued to its shareholders. The advantage in establishing the DST is that shareholders will no longer have to pay taxes on distributions made through the DST.

DOYON SETTLEMENT TRUST (DST) Created

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Gana-A’Yoo, Limited

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

CONTACT US

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Anchorage | 907.569.9599
Galena | 907.656.1606
web | ganaayoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kimberly Bower | Chair
Melissa McGinty | President
Betty Griffin | Vice-President and Secretary
Shay Huntington McEwen | Treasurer
William Dayton | Director
Ida Hildebrand | Director
Sharon Hildebrand | Director
Ragine Pilot | Director
Vacant | Director

EDITOR

Larissa Sommer
newsletter@ganaayoo.com

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of:

Patrick J. Kinsella, 64
Nulato stock

Francis P. Semaken, 70
Kaltag stock

Steven A. Stickman, 53
Nulato 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:

Dwayne Drake
Glenn S. Duncan
Adam Goodwin
Brandi Gorsche

Lance R. Gurtler
Billi J. Jones
Matthew Keech
Daniel Kennedy
Rose Kennedy
Jason Lauesen
Jeremiah Lauesen
Timothy McDardle Jr.
Timothy McDardle Sr.
Luan McCaul
Avery D.E. Moses
Jason Nollner

Sally A. Semaken
Darren J. Silas
Rachel L. Silas
Allen J. Solomon
Anthony J. Solomon
Donald A. J. Stickman
Alphonse E.M. Stockton
Robert D. Towne
William J. Walsh
Esther N. Warner

1 Happy New Year! Gana-A’Yoo offices closed
15 Board of Directors candidate questionnaire due for vacant seat
21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Gana-A’Yoo offices closed
10 Student of the Year and Shareholder of the Year nominations
15 Board of Directors candidate questionnaire due
18 Presidents Day Gana-A’Yoo offices closed
22 Board of Directors meeting Anchorage, AK

11-14 Tanana Chiefs Conference annual convention Fairbanks, AK
13 Gana-A’Yoo shareholder informational meeting Fairbanks, AK La Quinta Inn & Suites, 5 - 7 p.m.
15 Doyon, Limited annual meeting Fairbanks, AK

Gana-A’Yoo offices closed

15 Board of Directors candidate questionnaire due for vacant seat

18 Presidents Day Gana-A’Yoo offices closed

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Doyon, Limited held its first-ever special meeting of shareholders on November 16, 2018, in Fairbanks, Alaska. A special vote took place and Doyon shareholders voted in favor to create the Doyon Settlement Trust (DST) under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

A quorum of 59.4 percent was established, and 92.6 percent of the quorum voted yes to create the DST. DST distributions will now replace Doyon dividends issued to its shareholders. The advantage in establishing the DST is that shareholders will no longer have to pay taxes on distributions made through the DST.

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