

Shareholder

A bimonthly newsletter from Sealaska Corporation



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 Desiree Littlefield, Juneau
 Amber Baguya, Juneau
 Lila Woeber, Juneau
 Lacey Woeber, Juneau
 Harley D. Seifert, Juneau
 Jonathan J. Cook, Juneau
 Alper Johnson, Juneau
 Jade Araujo, Arlington, VA
 Maya Araujo, Arlington, VA
 James G. Brouillette, III, Juneau
 Alexis Williams, Juneau
 Tyler Painter, Chugiak
 Steven Willburn, Chugiak
 Krystin Willburn, Chugiak
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 Jessica L. Blankenship, Juneau
 Cecilia A. Blankenship, Juneau
 Tyrel B. Wentz, Anchorage
 Jasmin T. Wentz, Anchorage
 Mariah N. Parent, Seattle, WA
 Kristin Parent, Seattle, WA
 Daniel R. Parent, Seattle, WA
 Richard Parent, Seattle, WA
 Dennis Osbekoff, Sitka
 Jayden Strickland, Douglas
 Kyliana Strickland, Douglas

Sealaska Announces Dividend

The Sealaska Board of Directors has approved a dividend that will be paid to shareholders on April 18 from Permanent Fund earnings and 7(j) revenues. Urban and At-Large shareholders will receive \$3 per share and Village shareholders will receive \$2.37 per share. Under ANCSA, a direct 7(j) payment will be made to each Village corporation. The 63-cents per-share 7(j) distribution is taxable and should be reported by Urban and At-Large shareholders on their 2003 IRS 1040 tax form.

The \$2.37 per share being paid to all shareholders is from the Sealaska Permanent Fund, according to Board Chairman Albert Kookesh. "We had strong profitability in 2002 that led to significant returns on our Permanent Fund investments," said Kookesh. "We last paid dividends in 2000 from the

Permanent Fund. The Board believes it's important to pay a shareholder dividend above and beyond our dividend policy in recognition of shareholder patience and support over these past two years."

According to Kookesh, the Sealaska Permanent Fund Dividend Policy provides that shareholders will receive 50 percent of a five-year average of earnings, after inflation proofing. "Seventy-eight cents of the \$2.37 per share being paid exceeds the Permanent Fund Dividend Policy," said Kookesh. "This 78 cents equates to \$1.2 million. This additional dividend payment will reduce the Permanent Fund and will affect the long-term growth of the Fund. However, if Permanent Fund performance goals are met, the Fund should reach the \$100-million benchmark by the end of 2010."

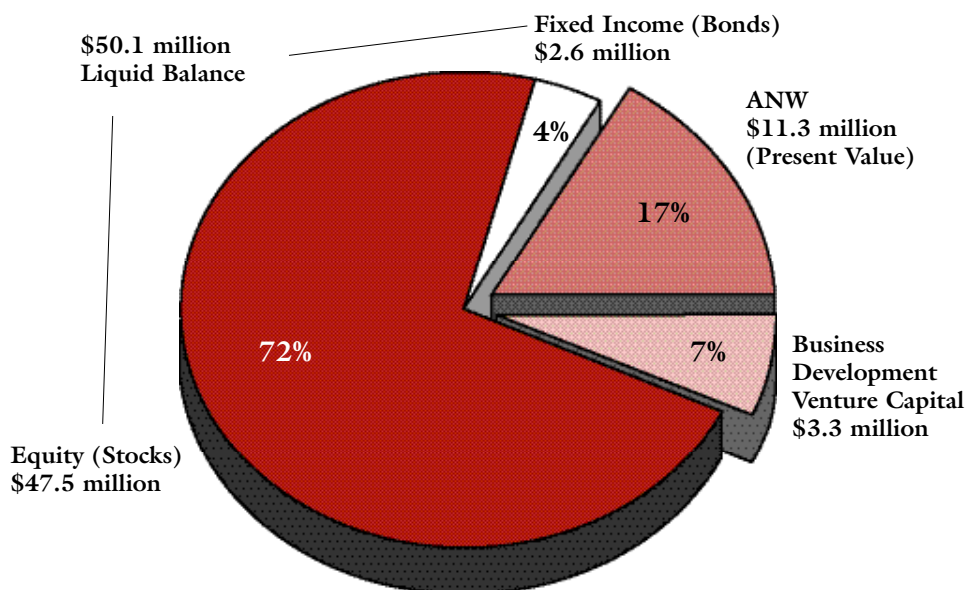
Sealaska matured several

investments in 2002 that contributed to the Permanent Fund returns, including Alaska Native Wireless and the San Pasqual's *Valley View Casino*. "The Board of Directors has approved the independent audit of Sealaska's 2002 financials, which will be published in the May annual report," said Sealaska President and CEO Chris McNeil Jr. Consolidated net earnings will be \$40.5 million for the 2002 fiscal year.

"Our forecasts show a reduction in dividends in 2004 and 2005 from decreasing 7(j) revenues from other regional corporations. We forecast that annual dividends should increase thereafter," he said.

The record date of the dividend will be April 4 and direct deposit and mailed checks will be issued on April 18.

Permanent Fund Balance and Allocation \$64.7 Million



For more information and forms for gifting stock, please contact Sealaska Shareholder Records, (907) 586-1512 or toll free (800) 848-5921. Download forms from www.sealaska.com.

- April 2003 dividend: \$3.7 million
- Value after April 2003 dividend: \$61.10
- \$38.5 million cash returned to PF from ANW in 2002
- ANW \$15-million interest-bearing bond will mature in 2007 (present value: \$11.3 million)
- Sealaska Board committed to increase fund to \$100 million by the end of 2010 while providing annual dividends from earnings (revised from 2009 goal)
- Growth investment strategy: Diversify from heavy dependence on passive investments (stocks and bonds) to active business developments (enterprise capital)



President's Letter: Sealaska Shareholder

The Sealaska Board of Directors and I are very pleased to announce that Sealaska Corporation has returned to financial health. Our independently audited financial statements will report that Sealaska has earned \$40.5 million in fiscal year 2002. This is a substantial improvement over the cumulative \$144 million losses that Sealaska suffered in fiscal years 2001 and 2000.



The Sealaska management team was able to make profits in 2002 by working closely with the Board of Directors to develop a new strategic plan and then have the discipline and skill to successfully implement it. We contained our losses at TriQuest by selling and liquidating major sections of the business and then establishing a successful partnership with another plastics company to operate our Guadalajara, Mexico operation. We successfully accelerated our investments with Alaska Native Wireless and with the San Pasqual Tribe gaming operation and negotiated solu-

tions favorable to Sealaska. We cut operating costs. This brought Sealaska back to health.

Now the Sealaska management team must leverage these successes to implement the Sealaska strategic plan. We must carefully develop new business opportunities in which Sealaska has a competitive business advantage. This will include our ANCSA preferences in federal contracting under 8(a) and supplier diversity as a minority company. We didn't have profits or the cash to issue dividends for the past two years. The Board suspended, but did not repeal, its dividend policies. The Board fully expected to be able to reinstate the Sealaska shareholder dividend policies when Sealaska returned to profitability. Now Sealaska has returned to profitability and the dividend policies are back in place. And, there will be a dividend distribution in FY 2003 from the Permanent Fund.

The Permanent Fund was created for shareholders' long-term benefit. We have made a running start at rebuilding it from FY 2002 profits. In order to grow the Permanent Fund to \$100 mil-

lion by the end of 2010 it will require new corporate profits, strong management of the Permanent Fund and a very disciplined implementation of Permanent Fund policies.

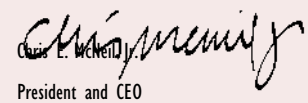
This year we have good news with strong profits, but we still have challenges ahead. Under the Board's Permanent Fund policy, shareholder distributions are calculated on a formula that includes a five-year average, with inflation-proofing. Because of our recent losses, it's likely that the distributions from the Permanent Fund may be lower over the next several years. Additionally, it's well-known that the stock and bond markets are not strong because of general decline in the economy, and more recently, the uncertain impacts of terrorism, the war with Iraq and the mystery illness SARS. Even in this uncertain economy, we have a well-diversified Permanent Fund, with rigorous and sound management.

There are two other sources of shareholder distributions. The first is the Section 7(i) distributions from other regional corporations. The second is profits from Sealaska's opera-

tions, such as STC and TriQuest. Other regional corporations have informally advised Sealaska that their future 7(i) distributions will diminish. We won't know how much less until April 2004.

What does this mean? It means that in order to increase shareholder distributions, Sealaska must simultaneously increase Permanent Fund profits and earn greatly increased profits from new Sealaska active development companies. It will also be a huge challenge to make up for the loss of 7(i) distributions from other corporations.

I have greatly appreciated shareholders' patience with Sealaska through these challenging times. We are very optimistic that we can develop an even better future for Sealaska.


Chris Mendenhall
President and CEO

Lund and Three Others Honored as "Women of Distinction"

The 7th Annual AWARE Women of Distinction dinner was held March 15 to honor four distinguished women who have made significant contributions to improving the lives of women and children in Juneau. This year's honorees were Merry Ellefson, Margaret Pugh, Tish Griffin Satre and Sealaska Director Ethel Lund.

"The ceremony is a way for us to affirm the extraordinary effort and enduring commitment these wonderful women of our community have given us," AWARE representatives state.

Lund was "stunned, honored and somewhat embarrassed at all the fuss," when told she was selected. Ironically, Lund almost did not choose the path that ultimately made such a positive impact on the lives of so many Alaskan women and children. Watching her mother's long struggle with illness left Lund with little desire for a career tending to the sick. But in the summer following her high school graduation Lund was persuaded to take a job in the Mt. Edgecumbe hospital children's ward. "I was so inspired by the children's

strength in the face of illness," stated Lund. Following her experience at Mt. Edgecumbe she enrolled at the Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing in Portland, Oregon.

Lund has since worked to change the structure of health care for the Native population. She was instrumental in the move to greater tribal control of its health care services through SEARHC and championed the creation of the nationally recognized Raven's Way Program, offering substance abuse programs for Native Youth.

"Ethel Lund has truly earned the honor of being named a Woman of Distinction. Her dedication to the health care of the Native people and her selfless service are an example for us all," SEARHC President Ken Brewer said.

Lund joins 28 other Women of Distinction, including Sealaska shareholders Freda Westman, Myra Munson, Dorothy Thornton, Marie Olson, Stella Martin and Toni Mallot.

Cultural Corner

Highlights From SHI

Sealaska Heritage Institute has posted copies of old black-and-white photographs donated by shareholder Ben Paul on its Web site. However, SHI needs your help in identifying the people, places and events por-



trayed in these photos. The pictures were snapped by Ben's father, William Paul Jr., from the 1940s

to the 1950s. Can you identify the people, places and events depicted in the images? Check out the collection on the SHI Web site at www.sealaskaheritage.org and drop us a line if you can help.

A Juneau woman's efforts to perpetuate the Tlingit language have caught the eye of a queen.

Tlingit Bessie Cooley has received the Golden Jubilee Medal, an award given to people who have made significant contributions to Canada over the past 50 years. Cooley is originally from Teslin, Yukon Territory, but moved to Juneau in December to accept a job at Sealaska Heritage Institute.

The awards are part of the Golden Jubilee, a celebration of



the 50-year anniversary of the Queen of England's accession to the throne. The queen also serves as Canada's head of state under that country's system of constitutional monarchy.

Cooley was nominated for the award by Canadian Jim Smarch, a longtime friend who was inspired by Cooley's efforts to revitalize the Tlingit language. Cooley is a fluent speaker of Tlingit and worked for five years as an interpreter for the Yukon territorial government. But Cooley wanted to do more. She wanted to help pass on the endangered language to others.

"I feel I have to help," said Cooley, who left home at the age of 52 to attend college and to master the craft of writing Tlingit. Cooley earned an associate's degree in Native Language Education from Yukon College and the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1998, and later a bachelor's degree in Alaska Native Studies with a minor in Tlingit language from UAF in 2000.

"What really intrigued me was her courage," Smarch said. "After raising her family, she went back to school. It had to be scary and very frightening to be gone away from home."

Sealaska Heritage Institute hired Cooley in December 2002 to help develop Tlingit immersion curriculum.

"Bessie is a key member of our Tlingit curriculum development team," said SHI President Rosita Worl. "She is one of the very few people who is a fluent speaker of Tlingit and has earned college degrees and certificates in the areas of Tlingit language and Alaska Native Studies."

Metz and Beasley Join Sealaska

Sealaska recently announced two new employees, Michelle Metz and Dorothy Beasley. Metz, Eagle/Porpoise Chookeneidi, is a descendant of Sealaska shareholder Carol Watts. Metz was hired as an



administrative assistant for the Sealaska Natural Resources division. She most recently served as the assistant to the president at Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Tribes of Alaska.

Metz, raised in Juneau, is a graduate of University of Alaska Southeast and holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology, Alaska Native Studies. "I have a special connection to our traditional way of life having spent all my summers growing up in Idaho Inlet with my grandparents," Metz said. "I know they would have been proud that I am working for Sealaska and helping Sealaska in the Natural Resources Department."

Beasley joins Sealaska for the second time and is serving as the executive administrator to the CEO,



CFO and executive vice president. Beasley has had a 25-year career in business and corporate management and most recently was the owner and manager of Midnight Sun Office Support. Prior to operating her own business, Beasley was the office manager and paralegal for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. In 1973, she became Sealaska's first executive assistant and worked for five years developing office policies and procedures, serving as the primary contact for shareholders and establishing a talent bank to facilitate shareholder hiring.

Beasley is a graduate of Mt. Edgecumbe High School and has studied business and accounting at University of Alaska Juneau, Shoreline Community College and the University of Washington.

Beasley is a Sealaska shareholder and is a Raven/Coho.

Sealaska pays tribute to shareholders who have recently passed on:

Martha O. Apok (94)	Vera Gilbert (92)	Sheryl Roberta Nelson (43)
Armando King Arce (26)	William C. Grobe Jr. (80)	Adrienne S. Nore (23)
Audrey Isabel Beaston (74)	Daniel J. Gross Sr. (83)	Aage Olsen (78)
Lavina Lucille Bethune (70)	Martha Louise Hadley (47)	Alexius Peter Oskolkoff (46)
Vera Ellen Cameron (43)	Alice Joyce Hanlon (50)	William Ernest Paddock (69)
Richard Carle	Ida Kadashan (96)	Dorothy Rhodes (42)
Richard Thomas Cavanaugh (68)	Robert E. Lee Jr. (56)	Roland Lee Simmons (63)
Eva Davis (93)	James Lincoln (71)	Margaret Simpson (68)
Renee Geraldine Douglas (57)	Nancy Littlefield (88)	William E. Smith (88)
John Cloud Egan (85)	Freda Anne Llanos (77)	Frances Kathryn Swink (59)
Carl C. Elliott (81)	Sharlene Alice McKay (57)	Eleanor June Thomas (75)
Dorothy June Enbusk (56)	Thomas Patrick Melvin (42)	Robert E.H. Witzdam (70)
Raymond F. Flynn (69)		

Alaska Native Veterans May Get Land

Alaska Congressman Don Young introduced the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act to the U.S. House of Representatives on February 26. The bill, H.R. 951, will amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and provide equitable treatment of Alaska Native Vietnam veterans in their acquisition of land under the Native Allotment Act.

To become law, the bill must pass through the House Committee on Resources and receive subsequent approval by the full House of Representatives. The bill also will require the approval of the Senate and the president.

Congress repealed the original Native Allotment Act of 1906 when it approved ANCSA in 1971. Congress then amended ANCSA in 1998 to give certain Alaska Native veterans an opportunity to apply for allotments in accordance with the 1906 Allotment Act. The final rule allowed qualified Alaska Native veterans an 18-month period—from July 31, 2000 to January 31, 2002—to file applications under the 1906 act.

Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict and did not have an opportunity to apply for their Native allotments due to their absence for military service. Even though a prior ANCSA amendment gave Alaska Native Vietnam veterans an opportunity to apply for an allotment for the lands that they or their families could show historic use and occupancy, the amendment contained three major obstacles.

First, veterans could only apply for land that was vacant and unserved when their use first began. Second, veterans could only apply if they served in active military duty from January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971. Lastly, veterans had to prove they used the desired land in a continuous and independent manner for five or more years.

“This is an issue of fairness, which is long overdue for my Alaska Native Vietnam veterans. My goal is to have Congress rectify this inequity. This would fulfill our promise to all Alaska Vietnam veterans and allow them to obtain their

Native allotment,” Congressman Young said.

If passed, the bill would increase available land by authorizing these veterans to apply for property that is federally owned and vacant. The military service date also would be extended to August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975—dates covering the entire Vietnam War. Also, this bill would replace existing use and occupancy requirements with legislative approval of allotment applications. The current bill still requires that the allotments may be selected only from lands that were vacant, inappropriate and unreserved on the date when the eligible person first used and occupied those lands.

“More than 300 Sealaska shareholders served in the military during the Vietnam conflict,” said Sealaska Chairman Albert Kookesh. Due to its potential importance to our veteran shareholders, Sealaska will continue to monitor the progress of this legislation and related regulations while keeping Native veterans informed of their rights in the *Shareholder*.

Congressman Young expects his legislation to pass with the current Congress, according to Cynthia Ahwinona, an aide to Congressman Young. “The congressman is adamantly committed to having the bill passed,” Ahwinona said. “We are confident that we have the supporting votes needed to pass the bill. However, we would like to show the broad support of our constituents.”

Letters of support should be faxed to Ranking Minority Member Nick Rahall, Committee on Resources, at (202) 225-1931.

Shareholders and representatives of deceased Vietnam veteran shareholders who would like to learn more about the original act should visit the U.S. Department of Interior’s Bureau of Land Management Web site at www.ak.blm.gov. Additional information on H.R. 951 can be found at www.house.gov/donyoung.



Traditional Scholars assist SHI with Tlingit Warrior Ways Project. See the next issue of the

for a full feature.

Sealaska Board and Management Visit Communities

Members of the Sealaska Board and management team held shareholder community meetings in March in Anchorage, Yakutat, Ketchikan, Juneau and Seattle. The purpose of the meetings was to report on Sealaska business activities in 2002 and share the company's strategic-growth plan and answer shareholders' questions.

"Our goal is to meet with as many shareholders face-to-face on an annual basis through the

community meetings," said Director Rosita Worl, Chair of the Shareholder Relations Committee. "The interaction is invaluable and gives us the opportunity to feel the pulse of our shareholders; to understand their concerns and ideas for their corporation."

The community-meeting season starts with the mailing of the *Shareholder* to all shareholder households. "We outline the meeting material with-

in the newsletter and hold meetings in communities that have the largest concentration of shareholders," said Worl. "We rotate, on an annual basis, smaller communities as well."

The 2004 meeting schedule has yet to be



determined, according to Worl. However, a commitment to visit Prince of Whales Island was made at the request of shareholders. Other shareholder questions and comments from the meetings will be posted on the Sealaska corporate Web site in mid-April.

The Board of Directors

would like to extend appreciation to JOM St. Elias Dancers, Leeng'it Koost'I Dancers and the All Nations Children for their performances and to all who contributed to the catering and set up of each meeting.

Jim Connor Elected STC President

The Sealaska Timber Corporation Board of Directors elected Jim Connor as the President and CEO of Sealaska Timber Corporation (STC). Connor completed a 29-year career with British Columbia-based MacMillan Bloedel, most recently serving as its vice president of Re-Engineering-Solid Wood.

STC, based in Ketchikan, Alaska, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sealaska Corporation and has managed the harvesting and marketing of Sealaska's timber assets since 1981. Sealaska is the largest landowner in Southeast Alaska with

over 290,000 acres throughout the region.

"We were fortunate to have a very talented pool of candidates to select from for this important position," Sealaska President and CEO, Chris McNeil Jr. said. "Jim Connor is a terrific fit for STC. He has broad experience in logging and log export industries and was a proven leader during his career with MacMillan Bloedel. He will also assist Sealaska in redeveloping its strategic position in a rapidly changing industry."

Connor replaces Rick Harris as the STC chief executive. "Rick Harris has been a man-

ager within Sealaska's Natural Resource division since 1980. He was recently promoted to Executive Vice President of Sealaska and will refocus his energy on implementing the corporation's strategic growth plan," McNeil said.

STC's harvest plan for 2003 includes Hoonah, Kake, Soda Bay, Grace Harbor, Coco View and Dall Island, totaling an anticipated 100 million board feet of timber product.

STC also recently announced the promotion of Ross Stevens to Senior Vice President of Marketing and Doug Morris to Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Stevens has been with STC since 1988 and Morris since 1995.

For more information on STC visit their Web site at www.sealaskatimber.com.



Synergy Systems Receives Microsoft Premier Status

Synergy Systems, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Sealaska, is a full-service prototype and limited-run manufacturing facility located in Redmond, Wash. Synergy, for 15 years, has been building relationships with some of the most prestigious companies in the world, such as Microsoft, Hewlett Packard, Philips, Qualcomm and General Dynamics. Sealaska purchased Synergy in 2001.



Using a wide variety of modern technologies, Synergy supplies high-quality parts and manufacturing solutions in a time frame that suits its customers' rigorous demands. With specialties that include model-making, rapid and conventional prototyping, machining, prototype injection molding, cast urethane and high-quality finishing, Synergy is able to provide unrivaled skill to keep up with

today's manufacturing markets.

Synergy's expertise and pride in workmanship has led to recent recognition from their customers.

Microsoft, establishing a new vendor program,

awarded Synergy its "Premiere Status," making Synergy one of only 177 vendors to receive the award out of Microsoft's 53,000 vendors. An official Premiere Status plaque was presented to Synergy Systems President Don Williams. "Synergy has a long history of providing excellent service to Microsoft," Williams said. "We were honored to receive such a prestigious award."

Synergy engineers worked extensively with Microsoft's Head Designer on the Xbox gaming station, helping them bring their product to market. Multiple iterations of the Xbox and accompanying game pads were machined at Synergy before Microsoft decided on a final design. Once the design was completed, Synergy machined a model for use in Microsoft's Xbox marketing

campaign.

Synergy recently completed a handheld video player project for Microsoft. Microsoft Founder and President Bill Gates introduced the new product on "The Today Show" and "Good Morning America." Microsoft's Software Group worked closely with Synergy and a local design house to engineer the handheld video player capable of holding seven hours of video in its 10GB micro-hard drive. Synergy machined three functional models of the unit and assembled the electronics, once again providing Microsoft with high-quality work and a rapid turn-around solution.

To learn more about Synergy Systems, please visit its Web site at www.synergyproto.com.

GOTNV 2002 Inspires Native Turnout at Polls



It is estimated that Native Alaskans constitute 14 percent of the statewide adult population. If all Natives voted during a normal turnout year, 25 percent of the electorate at the polls would be Native. In 2002, the Native turnout at the polls fell far short of this scenario. However, the 53.7 percent of ANCSA shareholders voting outperformed the statewide turnout of 50.5 percent. (Over 58 percent of eligible Sealaska shareholders voted in 2002.)

The excellent Native representation at the polls was the result of the Get Out the Native Vote 2002 campaign (GOTNV). GOTNV realized a startling trend of decreased turnout at the polls each year. Voter turnout reached a high of 83 percent in 1992 but had fallen to a disappointing 50 percent by 1998. Close political races are the norm in Alaska. GOTNV, with its success in educating and motivating Native people to the polls, helped decide races all across the state.

GOTNV efforts began with identifying target groups and establishing statistics regarding individual voter frequency. The organization focused on indi-

viduals who vote two or three times out of every four elections. Direct mail and phone calls were utilized to educate shareholders of the importance of participating in the statewide votes. The group also attended many public events to encourage voter registration. An astonishing 73 percent of targeted shareholders voted in 2002, a significant increase over previous years.

For the coming year GOTNV states: "This year there will be no candidate forum (at AFN) or political tension about endorsements, but we are needed to register, educate and motivate." The organization will also concentrate on fund raising for a

2004 campaign.

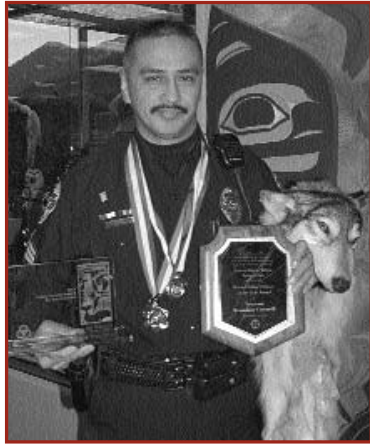
The group is also developing youth outreach and is working with Native Student Services at many of the universities to help register young Native Alaskans. GOTNV will also be working closely with Native nonprofits to identify Natives that are not ANCSA shareholders.

GOTNV stated in a February 2003 report: "We will respect the 501(c)3 status of organizations and work to register voters in a non-partisan manner." For more information about the organization, visit its Web site at www.aknativevote.com. Remember, your vote does count.

Shareholders At Work

As the Juneau Tlingit Dancers entered the halls of Celebration 2002, a familiar cry—the howl of the wolf—carried over the crowd. Ben Coronell and his trademark cry and accompanying dance are breathtaking. “It is not a performance,” says Coronell. “It’s a dance to honor the spirits living within the blanket,” referring to the 150-year old Chilkat blanket he wears that was once owned by his grandfather.

Coronell, a Sealaska shareholder and lifelong Juneau resident, is a sergeant in the Juneau Police Department. He is a direct descendant of Chief Kowee, who became Juneau’s first Tlingit peace officer in 1884. “My grandfather and parents always had an amazing work ethic. My grandfather always told me, ‘Our ancestors are watching us. You have to do what is right, even when nobody is looking.’ I took his words seriously and in the late 70s I saw a need to bridge a cultural gap in the community. My opportunity to contribute



to the community was in the police force.”

Coronell has served for 24 years with the Juneau police. His quiet demeanor, sense of humor and his respect for all people has contributed to his successful career. He has received a Medal of Life Saving and a Medal of Bravery. However, Coronell’s focus is far from recognition and the limelight. “The job is not about medals and awards. You cannot become distracted from your commitment to public safety and public service.”

Organizations have started to realize Coronell’s contribution and in 2002 he received special recognition from the Juneau

Glacier Valley Rotary Club and the Alaska Federation of Natives. He received the Juneau Glacier Valley Rotary Police Officer of the Year Award at a special ceremony at Rotary Park on September 11, 2002. “It was special to me as nominations for the award came from the public,” Coronell said.

In October, he was honored at the Alaska Federation of Natives annual convention in Anchorage. Coronell was one of two individuals, from a total of 19 nominees, to receive a 2002 AFN Public Service Award. He was recognized as a role model for Native youth, volunteering much of his spare time to culture camps, bicycle safety programs, basketball camps and programs dedicated to lowering minor drinking. Coronell told the AFN attendees, “I see Alaska as a big canoe and each one of us is a paddler. If I don’t help someone every day, I am not paddling. I want to continue to help move our people forward.”

As he looks towards the end of his police career he is planning a transition from one form

of public service to another, politics. Coronell, Eagle/Wolf Yaneidi, lives with wife Penny, daughter Aurora, 18, and son Jordan, 11.

Joe Nelson, Teikweidi (Brown Bear), originally from Yakutat, resides in Juneau and is an attorney with the law offices of Simpson, Tillinghast, Sorensen and Longenbaugh. Nelson received a bachelor’s degree in political science from UCLA, a master’s degree in American Indian Studies from UCLA, and a JD from Loyola Law School.

Nelson received financial assistance from Sealaska Heritage, Yak Tat Kwaan, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and the Yakutat ANB/ANS throughout his scholastic career. During college he also worked in the Sealaska Intern Program with the Sealaska Heritage Institute and with Simpson, Tillinghast, Sorensen and Longenbaugh.

Nelson is also a commercial fisherman, gillnetting out of Yakutat, and is a director for Yak-tat Kwaan, Inc.

Women Honored at Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

In 1988, the Alaska State Legislature passed a bill designating February 16 as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day to honor the ANS Grand President’s pursuit to end discrimination. Elizabeth (Wanamaker) Peratrovich was born July 4, 1911 in Petersburg, Alaska. In 1924, when Peratrovich was 13, the U.S. Congress granted American citizenship to all Native Americans, though equality was far from a reality.

Peratrovich’s fight for Native rights began in 1941

while she served as the grand vice president to the Alaska Native Sisterhood. Her civil rights movement began with a letter to Alaska Governor Ernest Gruening to protest a “No Natives Allowed” sign on a Douglas business. Several years later, Peratrovich was in front of the Senate speaking against the discrimination of Native people. The Anti-Discrimination Act was passed shortly after on February 8, 1945.

On February 16, 2002, a special event was sponsored in

Juneau by ANS Grand Camp, and Camps 2 and 70, Juneau T&H, the Douglas Indian Association and the AFN Wellness Program. *Making a Difference in the Quest for Racial Equality: A Century of Fighting* was organized not only to celebrate the work of Peratrovich, but also to honor four women who exemplify the spirit and energy of Peratrovich.

Sealaska shareholders Mary Cesar, Esther Bailey Clark, Dorothy Thornton and Elizabeth Kitka Walters all

received the Citizenship Award at the ceremony. A legislative citation also was issued honoring the four women’s long-standing service to the ANS and many other community organizations in the spirit of the continued fight for the true equality of all Alaskans.



April

- 10 April 10-12. CCTHITA General Assembly, Sitka
- 17 Board of Directors regular meeting, Juneau
- 18 Good Friday, Sealaska holiday
- 29 Sealaska Annual Meeting record date

May

- 1 SHI Scholarship Award letters mailed
- 11 Mother's Day
- 19 May 19-30. SHI Kusteeyi Workshop, Ketchikan
- 26 Memorial Day, Sealaska holiday

June

- 2 June 2-13. SHI Tlingit immersion retreat, Sitka
- 28 Sealaska 31st Annual Shareholders' Meeting, Mt. Edgecumbe

SHI Strives to Preserve Haida Language

SHI is working with Haida people to preserve the Haida language—the most endangered Native dialect in Southeast Alaska.

SHI Language Projects Manager Jordan Lachler has entered materials from a Haida dictionary into a computer database in hopes of eventually making the material available on the Internet. The new system also will make it easier to publish a new edition of the only published Haida dictionary, first printed in 1977. Fluent speaker Charles Natkong Sr., of Hydaburg, is working on material for the new edition.

Lachler also has set up Web sites for people interested in perpetuating Haida, Tlingit and Tsimshian languages. The pages

include language links and language discussion lists. Addresses are www.haidalanguage.org, www.tlingitlanguage.org and www.tsimshianlanguage.org.

Native people are working hard to save the Haida language, said Lachler, a linguist who has worked to perpetuate Native languages over the past 10 years. However, only a half dozen speakers are left, so the pressure is immense, said Lachler, who met in February with Linda Schrack, Phyllis Almquist, Chuck Natkong, Erma Lawrence, Debi White and the Johnson-O'Malley Program staff in Ketchikan.

"There's a huge amount of work to be done," he said.

www.

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