



# Shareholder

A quarterly newsletter from Sealaska

**SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION:**

2017 SEALASKA ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

→ Voting Information Inside

## Exercise Your Right to Vote as a Sealaska Shareholder

“The right to vote is precious,” said Sealaska Board Chair Joe Nelson. “The exercise of that right is powerful. The board and management team is asking shareholders to demonstrate that power by casting your vote in 2017.” (Read more from Chair Nelson on page 3).

Approximately 57 percent of shareholders participated in the 2016 Sealaska election. The Sealaska directors would like to see at least a 60% turnout in the 2017 Sealaska election. Sealaska board and management recently met with shareholders in nine communities across Alaska and in Seattle, WA. During the community meeting in Angoon, we asked shareholders why they vote, see below.

### WHY SHAREHOLDERS VOTE

*“I vote for Sealaska to contribute to the community as well as lift up the faces of my people.”*

**Nicole George, Angoon, Alaska**

*“I vote because I want my voice to be heard.”*

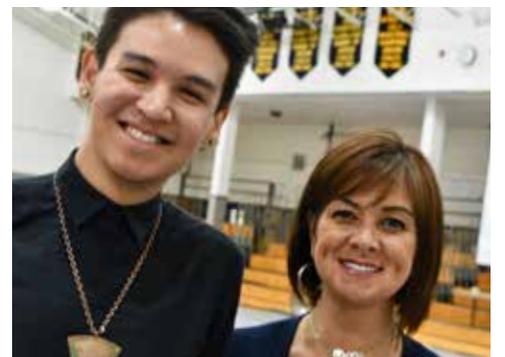
**David Russell-Jensen, Sealaska Board Youth Advisor**

*“I vote because I want to see the most opinions and the most people on the board of directors.”*

**William Jim, Angoon, Alaska**

*“I vote so I can know more about Sealaska, and I want to learn more about it and for the kids’ scholarships.”*

**Frances Johnson, Angoon, Alaska**



## London takes Miss Alaska Title to Top 10

Sealaska shareholder Alyssa London is not only Miss Alaska USA, she recently placed in the top 10 at the Miss USA competition in Las Vegas. Here are some quick facts about her journey.

- London is the very first person of Tlingit heritage to ever hold the Miss Alaska title and place in the top 10 in the Miss USA competition. She became the fifth woman from Alaska to place at Miss USA.
- Her dress (featured left) is designed by Tlingit artist and Sealaska shareholder Preston Singletary and features her clan’s killerwhale crest. The Tlingit robe unfolds into a beautiful evening gown.
- When she came on stage at the Miss USA competition, she said “*Tlingit áyá xát,*” meaning, “I am Tlingit.” This aired live on national television.
- London is a former Sealaska intern and also served as the Sealaska Board Youth Advisor 2014-2015.
- Her Tlingit name is *Yáx Yeidi*, which was given to her by the late tribal leader Clarence Jackson and means “precious child.” She is Eagle Killerwhale with family originally from Angoon.

# Combining Native Values with Passion for Science

## Sunrise Patterson, Sealaska Environmental Services

Victoria Sunrise Patterson remembered the 4th of July celebrations in Craig, Alaska with a smile. There were potato sack races with 25 cents as the prize, parades through town and fireworks. “We had fireworks, but it’s always so cloudy that the clouds just changed colors,” she said with a laugh.

Craig is where Sunrise spent her childhood summers. The rest of the year, she grew up in Puyallup, Washington attending Chief Leschi Schools. She remembers planting trees along the Puyallup River in sixth grade to keep the temperatures down for spawning salmon. It was here that she connected her Native heritage to a love of science and the environment.

Her passion of caring for the environment led to her college degree in biology. With help from Sealaska scholarships, she graduated from Tacoma Community College and Pacific Lutheran University. Now, caring for the environment is her job. She is an environmental technician with Sealaska Environmental Services, one of Sealaska’s businesses.

She got that job because of a phone call. She contacted Sealaska’s Seattle area office several months after she graduated, saying, “I’m a shareholder. I recently graduated, and I found out that you have an internship that I didn’t previously know about. I’m wondering if you have any jobs, or if there’s any reason I can’t do an internship after I graduate.”

Sunrise’s internship took her throughout Puget Sound and up to Adak, Alaska where she sampled well water for a few weeks in the summer. Immediately after the internship ended, she was hired on full time.

Sunrise said the work of Sealaska Environmental Services is important because they hold people accountable for the damage they have done to the environment.

“I think Sealaska Environmental is here to stay, for one, because we’re good at what we do. There’s going to be clean up work no matter what – you know, like some chemicals that weren’t considered a contaminant 10 years ago, they’re now finding don’t degrade,” she said. “There’s always going to be a career in environmental work.”

Ultimately, the profits of Sealaska Environmental Services and other Sealaska businesses go toward serving the Sealaska community. This includes funding cultural preservation.

“That is my job – to make my company money – because my company will serve the Sealaska community which then in turn preserves the Alaska Native heritage,” she said. “It gives you a sense of purpose when you serve your own community.”

Sunrise is eagle wolf *Yanyeidi* of *Hít Tlein* of the *Taaku* people. Her Tlingit name is *Saatleindu.oo*.

From college scholarships to a professional internship to full time work, Sealaska has helped people like Sunrise develop careers in meaningful fields like environmental work.

**To learn more about Sunrise see the cover of the 2016 annual report. She also tells her story in a video on Sealaska’s YouTube channel.**



# Letter from Board Chair Joe Nelson



Joe Nelson, Board Chair

## Dear Shareholders,

I am pleased to announce the 2016 Sealaska Annual report and 2017 proxy materials have been mailed.

- The 2016 annual report contains our audited financials. We are proud to post \$14.03 million in net income.

- The 2017 proxy materials include the proxy statement with statements

from the board slate and independent candidates, information how to vote, and more.

After reading the documents, Sealaska Directors and management ask you to demonstrate our collective identity and power by completing your proxy card. Together, we are charting Sealaska's future by choosing four directors and determining the outcome of a shareholder resolution.

The board and I continue to examine the election process and how we can inspire more shareholders to vote as well as opt for online voting via MySealaska. Sealaska invests in technology that provides shareholders an easy and secure option to vote. About one-fifth of shareholders voted last year online. In total, about 57% of our total shareholder base submitted a proxy card in 2016.

We need your help to ensure our families and friends understand how they can vote. Here are the options to vote.

**Option 1 - Vote the Blue Paper Proxy Card**, sign and submit to the Inspector of Elections. We respectfully ask you to help us increase voter participation by submitting your proxy and reminding your relatives to do the same.

**Option 2 - Vote Online** via MySealaska.com. Online voting is safe, secure and cost effective for Sealaska.

**Option 3 - Vote in Person** at the 2017 annual meeting in Hydaburg.

**As a friendly reminder, vote early.** Remember to vote before June 9, 2017 to be eligible for Early Bird Prizes.

Sealaska is stronger when we all stand up to be counted. Thank you, in advance, for participating in Sealaska's 2017 election. I look forward to joining you in Hydaburg or via webcast for the annual meeting on Saturday, June 24th.

Sincerely,

Joe Nelson  
Sealaska Board Chair

## Vote NO on the Shareholder Resolution

**THE SEALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A "NO" VOTE**



- Fewer board seats actually makes it more difficult for new or independent nominees to be elected.
- With more than 22,000 shareholders, reducing the size of the board limits opportunities for broad representation of shareholder interests.
- With 13 board members, the board includes a broad array of director experience and areas of expertise to guide the direction of the corporation.
- The size of the Sealaska Board is in alignment with the average size of other Alaska Native Regional Corporations (13), despite the fact that Sealaska has the largest number of shareholders.

### Resolution needs to meet voting standard

This is a binding shareholder resolution. If adopted it will amend the Corporation's bylaws. In order to pass, the resolution must have the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the outstanding voting shares of the Corporation. As of the record date on April 17 for the 2017 annual meeting, there were 2,034,433 outstanding shares of voting stock. Therefore, the resolution requires 1,017,217 Yes or affirmative shares voted in order to pass.

# SEALASKA ENDORSED B



## SIDNEY EDENSHAW

### Hydaburg, AK

It has been an honor to serve you as a director. I have lived my life in Hydaburg and see firsthand each day the difference Sealaska makes in the lives of community members. The board and our new CEO have achieved important milestones. Successfully passing Sealaska's land legislation and focusing our

operations on what is core to our people provides lasting benefit to shareholders and our communities.

I have life-long experience in the fishing and timber industries—two sectors critical to Sealaska's short- and long-term goals for profits, meaningful job creation and shareholder programs. I am eager to continue my contribution on the board as Sealaska implements new models for our timber resources and develops new investments in natural food resources.

My experience in tribal government, our ANCSA corporations and ground operations in areas vital to our village economies give me a unique perspective and vision. Our combined effort makes our villages vibrant and honors the hard work of our Elders to strengthen our place on this land. I take this responsibility seriously and am committed to fight for what is best for our people.

I humbly ask for your vote to continue this important work on behalf of shareholders.

**PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION:** Commercial Fisherman, owner of the F/V Jerilyn, and the Walking Boss Dispatcher for Southeast Stevedoring.

**AFFILIATIONS:** Sid is currently the president of Hydaburg's Tribal Association. He is a member of Hydaburg ANB Camp 6, is president of the tribe's nonprofit foundation, XKKF, and is a Tlingit & Haida Hydaburg Delegate. Recently, Sid was appointed to serve on the Shell Fish Preservation Alliance. Sid is Haida and of the *Sgajuuga.ahl* clan.



## MORGAN HOWARD

### Kirkland, WA

It is with great commitment and passion that I submit my name to serve on the Sealaska board of directors. I have a deep, personal connection to Sealaska's mission and to serve in this leadership position fulfills an obligation to my grandparents and our ancestors.

As an entrepreneur and business owner, I have been working with Alaska Native corporations for the last 30 years. I will bring decades of business and public relations experience to create positive change for Sealaska.

My promise to you is clear. I will always protect our Native land, preserve our heritage, strive to increase shareholder employment, provide scholarships, fight for subsistence rights and improve communication to shareholders.

At Sealaska, our challenge is great—we must be a successful profit-making business and provide important shareholder benefits. It's not enough to just do one or the other, as a leading Native institution we must do both.

Only through profitable operations can we deliver on our social missions and only through hard work can we make a positive impact. I am asking for your vote so I can add my talent to the collective strength of our board and create real change for our shareholders today and tomorrow.

**PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION:** Owner of Morgan Howard Communications, LLC.

**AFFILIATIONS:** Seattle Chapter of CCTHITA, Treasurer and Delegate; Alaska Native Village CEO Association, Founding Member; Alaska Innovation and Entrepreneurship Group, Founding Member; and Fledge.Co start-up mentor. Morgan is Tlingit, Eagle moiety, *Teikweidí* clan, Brown Bear House, and *K'ineix Kwáan* (people of Copper River Clan) *yádi* (child of).

## 2017 Sealaska Annual Meeting Saturday, June 24, 2017 • Hydaburg, Alaska

**LOCATION:** Hydaburg High School Gymnasium

**TIME:** 1 p.m. (Alaska Daylight Time)

Native artist market, shareholder fair and other activities begin as early as 10 a.m.

**Streaming live from our webcast all day.**

## ANNUAL MEETING PRIZES

Vote your proxy so it is received by fax, mail or through online voting by June 22, 2017, or vote at the annual meeting.

1 <sup>st</sup>	\$2,500	for 3 winners
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$1,500	for 1 winner
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$1,000	for 1 winner
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$500	for 1 winner
<b>PLUS</b>	\$1,500	for 1 webcast winner

# BOARD SLATE NOMINEES



## ROSS SOBOLLEFF

### Juneau, AK

I respectfully ask for your vote to continue working to move Sealaska forward in business and profits.

I was elected in 2014 as an independent candidate with help of many friends and supporters to focus Sealaska on business issues, and increase profits from operations and investments, rather than relying on ANCSA Section 7(i) revenues. I continue to work to focus board and management on Sealaska as a business.

Sealaska is moving into our second strategic plan, having recently achieved sustainable profits, before counting 7(i) revenues. In the past, Sealaska's investments were largely one-time investments that sometimes paid off, but often cost us dearly. Now, the strategic plan is about building sustainable profits from interrelated investments and operations.

It took hard work, patience and commitment of Sealaska's management and board to achieve this turnaround and focused strategic direction.

Achieving success as a board member depends largely on your ability to work with other board members to move Sealaska forward, while keeping a focus on your own initiatives. I have learned much and built relationships so that I can continue making positive changes.

I want to continue to work for you. I ask for your vote. Please take the time to vote: we need every hand to move Sealaska forward, to honor elders, benefit this generation, and build a strong economic foundation for future generations.

Thank you.

**PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION:** Writer, small business owner, commercial fisherman

**AFFILIATIONS:** Ross is Haida and Tlingit, Eagle/Sgalans, Killisnoo and Howkan.



## EDWARD K. THOMAS

### Kingston, WA

I grew up as a commercial fisherman from Craig. I skippered my own boat for 12 of my 27 years seining. I attended my first ANB/ANS Grand Camp Convention as a delegate from Craig to the Hydaburg Convention in the early 1960s. I attended my first Tlingit & Haida Convention in Wrangell in 1973 as a delegate from Ketchikan and was elected President in 1984.

I dedicated my adult life to fighting for the rights of our people. I very much appreciate shareholders electing me to Sealaska every three years since 1993. I was first elected on my own proxy; I pledged to improve our director election process. When I was elected, Sealaska had paid proxy collectors in each major community, now Sealaska makes payment directly to shareholders when they vote; independents were not provided time to speak at community meetings (we made our

speech during the Q&A part of the agenda); independents had to pay for the development and distribution of their own proxies, now they are put on the management proxy OR they still have the right to do their own proxy; and independent candidate campaign statements are included in proxy material sent by Sealaska to shareholders. Thank you for your continued support.

**PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION:** Retired

**AFFILIATIONS:** Ed is the former president of Ketchikan ANB Camp #14, a former 1st vice-president ANB Grand Camp and the parliamentarian of the 2016 ANB Convention; former executive director of the Ketchikan Indian Education Program; served as the elected secretary of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and parliamentarian; former board member of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), member of the Council for the Advancement of Alaska Natives; chair, AFN Tribal Relations Committee; chair, AFN Convention Committee; and the parliamentarian of the 2016 AFN Convention. He is *Sukteeneidí* (Dog Salmon) and *Kaagwaantaan* (Wolf) *yádi* (child of).



2017 COMMUNITY MEETINGS: join us on Flickr at Sealaska Kwaan and on the Sealaska Facebook page to view photo albums of each community.

# Independent Nominees

**The Independent Nominees are not endorsed by Sealaska, nor has the information provided by each independent candidate been confirmed by Sealaska.**



**Douglas Chilton**  
Juneau, Alaska

My Tlingit name is *Vaa nak.ch*. I am *Yeil* (Raven) of the *Deisheetaan* (Beaver) clan from the *Yeil Hit* (Raven House) of Angoon. It is my privilege to ask for your support for me to serve on your Sealaska Board of Directors.

I have spent years dedicated to serving and educating our people to the arts and traditions of our culture. I have volunteered teaching carving at the Lemon Creek Correctional Center and in the Juneau School District. I am founder of the One People Canoe Society whose efforts have renewed interest in Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures throughout Southeast Alaska, and I've donated countless of hours of my time teaching paddle making classes in nearly every community in our region.

I own and operate an Alaska Native arts business. As a business entrepreneur I understand and have capitalized on the values of integrity, transparency, trust and communication. I understand that our Shareholders are people, whom we should be walking alongside. The decisions of the board of directors should make a tangible difference in the lives of our shareholders.

I am honored to ask for your vote and assure you I will continue to be a committed voice for our shareholders in the board room.



**Jon Duncan**  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Fellow Shareholders, my name is Jon Baird Duncan. My Tlingit name is *Gooch Tlein*. I am Eagle *Dak'aweidi* from the Killerwhale Chasing a Seal House. I was born and raised in Juneau. My parents are former Senator Jim Duncan and the late Carol Aceveda. I am a descendant of Gladys & Roy Aceveda and Billy & Fannie Friday of Kake.

Not considering 7(i) revenue sharing from other ANCs, Sealaska has struggled with profitability for years. In turn, the long-term viability of the corporation is uncertain. We must maximize operational net income by growing & diversifying revenues and controlling costs.

It is imperative we elect qualified Board members with the education and professional background necessary to set the right strategic direction of the company.

My qualifications:

- Corporate Business Experience: 27+ years of holding executive management, sales and business development positions ranging from high-profile start-ups to Fortune 500 multi-nationals in Silicon Valley
- Education: M.B.A., St. Mary's College of California, College Honors; B.A. in Politics, University of California, Santa Cruz, College Honors
- Successfully and profitably led Sealaska subsidiary MBS for 5 years
- Non-Profit: Chairman, One Nation Walking Together

I humbly request your **directed** vote!

*Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa, Nt'oyaxsn.*

[www.jonbduncan.com](http://www.jonbduncan.com), @jonbduncan



**Bradley Fleutsch**  
Lamy, New Mexico

Dear Shareholder,

I have four primary goals for Sealaska:

- Support for Landless and Veteran Allotments
- Transparency
- Election reform
- Business reform

Sealaska must provide more support and leadership to finally resolve the Landless and Veteran Allotment land claims.

Transparency starts with reporting of financial performance. I will push for in-depth quarterly reporting with opportunities for shareholders to interact with the Chairman, CEO, CFO. For far too long shareholders have been left out of the management of Sealaska and its poor financial performance is a result.

Election reform means three changes to the by-laws: Elimination of discretionary voting, implementation of term limits and reducing the size of Sealaska's Board from 13 to 9.

Business reform starts with operations and stopping the losses which Sealaska has experienced every year since 2004. 2012's new strategic plan and management shake-up have produced five more years of losses from operations. Sealaska has 360,000 acres of land, which hold the promise to create income, jobs and wealth in and for our communities, if only someone with vision was there to lead.

Shareholders, I want to be your voice in the Sealaska boardroom and pledge to work for you to the best of my abilities.



**Nicole Hallingstad**  
Arlington, Virginia

PLEASE VOTE DIRECTED FOR NICOLE HALLINGSTAD.

Shareholders, Sealaska is OUR corporation. YOU have the power to choose our Directors. Shareholders should feel that the board is acting in the best interest of ALL shareholders. Many of you talked with me during last year's election and I learned so much from you. Shareholders also learned a lot about me and what I stand for. Thank you for those conversations.

My priorities are the same and I will keep fighting for:

- Term Limits on Directors
- Burial Assistance for Shareholder Families
- Lower Director Compensation
- Landless Recognition and Rights
- Higher Profits for Bigger Dividends

With enough shareholders voting, we can keep making change. We can move forward, away from the decisions and performance of the past. Shareholders deserve much better. I have the business experience, the vision for a profitable future, and the determination to make hard decisions and stand by them.

I am Tlingit Raven, *T'akdeintaan*, born and raised in Petersburg, Alaska. I humbly ask for your vote, to serve all shareholders.

VOTE DIRECTED FOR NICOLE HALLINGSTAD!

*Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa, T'oyaxsism*



**Adrian  
Lecornu**

**Anchorage, Alaska**

Sealaska has been an economic force for Southeast Alaska for decades. In the last few years, the corporation has stumbled along. The recovery of our corporation depends on the need to adjust to the changing economy and management methods. I believe that the transformation of our corporation needs to be undertaken with consideration and the management team's vision and insight. I have many years of experience with ANCSA corporations and policy work to call upon. I hope to engage with shareholders on the path forward.



**Cory  
Mann**

**Juneau, Alaska**

My values are sustainability and education for our shareholders. Education is the key to our success and for future generations.

I have been an international entrepreneur since 1994 working in various countries and employing 1,000+ people at a time.

I envision Sealaska working with Tlingit & Haida, and possibly other ANCs in a new 8(a) business in construction in Southeast Alaska. This would employ our shareholders immediately and provide a better quality of life.

We need to better educate and train our shareholders while still maintaining our culture and traditions in a state that's in a major recession and struggling to balance the budget. I am sure shareholders would much rather have a job over 2 dividends a year.

I would like to see Sealaska become a major shareholder employer in the tourism field which is still growing fast. I have been speaking with private businesses in developing a major tourist resort which could include hot air balloons and much, much more.

Vote for Cory Mann!



**Michael  
Roberts**

**Longmont, Colorado**

Making long-term investment in Sealaska's shareholders can provide reoccurring returns. I know because I am one of those in whom Sealaska and the rest of the Native community invested. This investment has taken many forms—internships at Ketchikan Indian Corp., Sealaska Heritage Foundation scholarships, summer jobs at Saxman Seaport, and accounting and finance experience as Sealaska's Ocean Beauty Seafoods.

I run an organization, First Nations Development Institute, that makes investments—30 to 40 each year totaling \$2 million—in the genius of Indian and Alaska Native people. And I am never surprised by the innovation they bring, and what they are able to accomplish.

I was blessed to have grown up with influences in my life—my hard working father Peter who spent 38 years working at Ketchikan Pulp, and my grandfather Donald who was a lifelong commercial fisherman, from Klawock. They instilled the work ethic and the community values that drive me.

I hope to serve as a Board member to Sealaska as I believe that I have an obligation to bring the many experiences and talents I have been afforded back to the community who has invested so much in me and my success.



**Karen  
Taug**

**Juneau, AK**

My Tlingit name is *Guh Ná Shaá* and I am Raven - Coho. My parents are the late Donald E. Keen and Mary L. (Brown) Lekanof. My maternal grandparents were Lena Fournie Brown and Judson L. Brown.

My business experience has been a professional accounting career in logging, tourism, healthcare and mining. I have gained experience in today's business environment where you need to communicate, have problem solving skills and customer service. My background will positively contribute to Sealaska's goals. I would be committed to strengthening Sealaska's financial position.

As a director, I would like to bring new ideas into the board room to contribute to new opportunities for shareholders. Sealaska's earnings show a majority of its profits continue to come from 7(i) revenue sharing. It is time for change as 7(i) can't be counted on for the long term. It is time to have Sealaska Operational Managers held bottom line accountable.

A strong financial foundation ensures Sealaska will continue to protect our rich culture & languages, our land, and future shareholder distributions & scholarships.

I would be honored to represent you and if elected to the Sealaska Board, I will serve with honesty and integrity, and will represent shareholder owners.

### **\$25 VOTING INCENTIVE**

Any Sealaska shareholder, regardless of the number of shares held, who submits a valid proxy on or before June 22, 2017, or who votes in person at the annual meeting on June 24, 2017, will receive a one-time payment of \$25, which is a special incentive to encourage voting. Those who qualify for the \$25 voting incentive may contribute it directly to the Sealaska Heritage Institute Endowment Fund, if they choose to do so.

## Early Bird Prizes

Vote your proxy on or before 5 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time on Friday, June 9, 2017.\*

### PRIZES:

Grand	<b>\$5,000</b>	for 1 winner
2nd	<b>\$2,500</b>	for 2 winners
3rd	<b>\$1,000</b>	for 5 winners
4th	<b>\$750</b>	for 6 winners
5th	<b>\$500</b>	for 11 winners

**PLUS** Two Round Trip Tickets to Hawaii

\*This applies to all forms of proxy submission: voting by mail, fax, online or in person.

# SEALASKA ANNUAL MEETING

## Saturday, June 24

Hydaburg High School Gymnasium  
Hydaburg, Alaska

Join us via webcast at [Sealaska.com](http://Sealaska.com)  
Fly with Alaska Airlines discount code: ECM X874

[WWW.SEALASKA.COM](http://WWW.SEALASKA.COM)

## Q2 2017

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800.848.5921 toll-free



Our **PURPOSE** is to strengthen our people, culture and homelands.

Our **VISION** is to be an Alaska Native enterprise of excellence built on our core cultural values.

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