

# THE Eider Pointer



## UNANGAM TUNUU



Tataam ukugaan  
ixamnaku!

"Good to see you again!"

*Ounalashka Corporation  
Mission Statement*

**To continue as a prosperous corporation through excellence in management and business development, to benefit Shareholders, thereby, strengthening Unangan culture, education and to be a premier corporation.**

### Community Spotlight | P3

*Sacred Sea Studios:  
Crafting Tradition and  
Entrepreneurship*



## Message from the Chairman



Aang, Ounalashka Shareholders and descendants,

Over the past few months, the Board has been diligently engaged in several key areas. We ended 2023 with the approval of the Capital and Operating Budgets for 2024 and began interviewing candidates to participate in our new mentorship program that aims to nurture talent within our organization. We also authorized a significant charitable contribution of \$200,000.00 to the Edna P. McCurdy Scholarship Foundation. OC continues its commitment to supporting educational excellence for our Shareholders and descendants.

OC is also committed to supporting the community. In December, the Board approved charitable contributions totaling approximately \$200,000.00 to various non-profits. These contributions allow us to extend our impact on local initiatives and partnerships.

One notable incident was the response to the M/V Genius Star XI incident. The Vietnamese cargo ship experienced a fire in its cargo hold containing large lithium batteries, prompting a reroute to Dutch Harbor. OC communicated daily to coordinate safety efforts with the Coast Guard, the City, Central Command, and the Qawalangin Tribe to ensure the protection of our people and the waters surrounding our lands. Despite the challenges posed by this incident, we are grateful for the coordinated efforts of all involved parties.

As we navigate recent events and opportunities, the Board remains vigilant in monitoring fishing regulations and ANCSA-related policies that may impact our community and OC. We continue to collaborate with state and federal lobbyists to advocate for our collective interests.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to announce that our Spring Planning Session will commence on April 22, 2024 in Anchorage. This session provides an opportunity for the Board to review policies, bylaws, and strategic goals, as well as to work on the lands planning project.

Finally, I am delighted to share updates from the Ounalashka Settlement Trust (OST), which declared distributions for the past year, including two Elders Benefit Distributions. The distributions for the past year were as follows: 1st Quarter \$9.00/unit; 2nd Quarter \$8.00/unit; 3rd Quarter \$15.00/unit; 4th Quarter \$40.00/unit. In addition, OST declared two Elders Benefit Distributions: June 2023 \$500.00/per eligible Elder; December 2023 \$500.00/per eligible Elder.

I extend my sincere appreciation for your ongoing support and engagement. As we continue our journey together, rest assured that we remain committed to sustainable growth, responsible management, and community development.

*Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.*  
**Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



## Message from the President

Aang! Aang! OC Shareholders!

We hope this newsletter finds you well after the holiday season. Winter persists here in Unalaska – the wind is blowing snow past my window as I write this, it sounds as loud as a freight train, and I love it! Our Aleutian winters offer precious opportunities to slow down, reconnect with loved ones, and plan for the seasons ahead.

Planning is exactly what your OC Team has been doing this past winter. At the December meeting, the Board of Directors approved both the Capital and Operating budgets – the Board’s investment in our infrastructure is key to sustaining OC’s role as a reliable and strong business partner in Unalaska. With these budgets now in place, our team is actively mobilizing to execute

outlined projects: some are being put out to bid, while many others will be taken care of in-house. Based on the work I am seeing so far, our team is going to have a very productive work season.

In addition to budget work, the OC Team is gearing up to support the Board’s upcoming spring planning session, during which the Board will conduct comprehensive review and refinement of board and corporate policies, employee manuals, bylaws, and ongoing initiatives such as the OC Lands Plan in collaboration with R&M Consultants. It will be an exciting session for the Board and Management Team.

On the personnel front, you will notice a few new names on our staff list! We want to extend a warm welcome to Thomas Wray, our new Operations Manager. Tom comes to OC from Texas with a decade of invaluable experience working

alongside other smaller Alaskan communities. Tom’s fresh ideas, expertise, and dedication to providing a safe and productive work environment have been a wonderful addition to the OC family.

The 51st Annual Meeting of Shareholders is just five months away! A year does seem to go by so fast these days. Stay tuned for mailed notices in March, requesting nominees to join our OC Board. Serving on the OC Board is a great way for Shareholders to be involved with our amazing corporation.

Exciting developments also await on the digital front with the recent launch of our revamped OC website. We have been eagerly awaiting its arrival, and hope you enjoy its updated features, which include but are not limited to, new highlights, newsletter posts, photos, and forms.

Additionally, a link to your OC Shareholder Portal is

available front-and-center on the updated website, and we urge Shareholders to use the Portal to keep their vital contact information up to date. We are actively recruiting for a Shareholder Affairs Coordinator, and ensuring that your contact information is up to date will minimize any delays in turnaround you might experience during this period of transition. Please know we are all pitching in to get Shareholder requests turned around as quickly as possible, and we do apologize for any delays.

In closing, we would like to thank you, our OC family of Shareholders, for your continued belief in the OC mission and vision. Together, we will continue to have a corporation we can all be proud of for generations to come.

With warm regards,

**Denise M. Rankin**  
PRESIDENT

## Unsettled Estates

OC is diligently reaching out to heirs to help settle estates. Please look at the list that is not in progress, if you know any of the relatives of the deceased, please provide the information to OC at [Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com](mailto:Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com) or 907 581-1276.

### IN PROGRESS:

LEON FREDERICK ANDERSON, JR.  
GAIL SWENENES COLLINS  
MICHAEL P. FOX

JOHN LESLIE GALAKTIONOFF  
JOHN GALAKTIONOFF  
JIMMIE DOUGLAS MCCONNELL  
AUDRA PAULINE MELLO  
CHARLES PETERSON  
MARIE LOUISE TICKETT  
MURIEL JEANNETTE TUMBLOO  
MATRONA MAY SHAISHNIKOFF  
ALEXEY FRED STEPETIN  
BERT JAMES STUTSMAN  
EMIL VINBERG

**UNSETTLED: NEED INFORMATION**  
ARIELLE A. AUBURN

**Attention, Ounalashka Corporation Shareholders & Descendants: Ounalashka Corporation has over \$90,000 in unclaimed estates (deceased Shareholders) and uncashed dividends.**

WILLIAM EMIL BERIKOFF JR.  
LOUISE AMY BRADLEY  
DEANNA LYNN COLBERT  
JOHANNES M. DEBAKKER  
JALUA ANN EDISON  
DEBRA ANN FINE-MOORE  
RICHARD GARY GALAKTIANOFF  
DAWN HUTCHINSON  
JOANNE JEPPESEN  
JOHANNA JOSEPH  
CHRISTOPHER I MELOVDOC  
FRED W. MULKEIT  
CHARLES ALFRED NUNN SR.  
RITA PEREZ  
PAUL ALLEN REEDY

VASSA ALEXIS ROBERTSON  
ALEX SIFSOF  
ARNOLD SIFSOF  
LAWRENECE D. SIFSOF  
BERT JAMES SUTSMAN, SR

**If you believe you are an heir/beneficiary or know an individual who is, please contact the Shareholder Affairs Department immediately. Email [Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com](mailto:Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com) or call (907) 581-1276.**



## Sacred Sea Studios: Anfesia Tutiakoff Crafting Tradition and Entrepreneurship

Anfesia's journey into the world of craftsmanship began shortly after her college years, when she started showcasing her creations at the bustling Saturday Markets in Anchorage. Armed with a passion for crafting and an eye for innovation, she gradually expanded her repertoire from jewelry to include an array of accessories and fashion items like hats, purses, vests, slippers, and coats. Drawing inspiration from the rich natural resources of her surroundings, Anfesia incorporates materials like gut, fur, beach wood, and glass into her designs, imbuing each piece with a unique sense of place and identity.

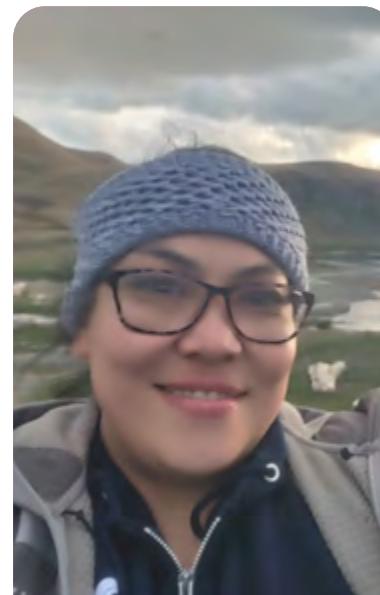
Central to Anfesia's artistic philosophy is a deep respect for tradition and sustainability, instilled in her by her mother, Dottie, whose large collection of sea glass was gathered under the principle of "if it's not done, throw it back." Guided by her mother's wisdom, Anfesia has practiced wielding patience as a central tool of her craft, ensuring that every creation meets the highest standards of quality and integrity.

Beyond her role as a skilled

artisan, Anfesia is also a passionate advocate for entrepreneurship and cultural preservation and celebration. As the Cultural Director of the Qawalangin Tribe, she dedicates her time to teaching others the traditional crafts that have been passed down through generations of Unanga. Through events like Craft Night, she empowers members of the Unalaska community to explore their creativity and pursue their goals of entrepreneurship.

Anfesia's commitment to her craft extends beyond the confines of her studio. In 2021, she was invited on her first hunting trip with family and other local hunters, learning firsthand the art of processing materials from the animals she hunted. This hands-on approach not only deepened her connection to her work but also underscored her commitment to sustainability and ethical sourcing.

As Sacred Sea Studios continues to evolve, Anfesia remains focused on elevating her craft to new heights. With plans to invest in a leather-sewing machine, she looks forward to exploring new avenues of creativity and bringing



## Shareholder Features

### Missing Shareholder Information

The following Shareholders have mail returned to the OC office:

- ROBERT KENNETH DALEY
- BARBARA BRENDA SHELKOFF
- MICHAEL EDWARD SWETZOF
- GEORGE WILLIAM COTTRELL
- KEVIN M. NUNN
- KELLI DENISE WIGGINS
- AMAZIAH MICHEAL YATCHMENOFF
- DANIEL JOSEPH MILLS
- DARRYL DUANE ALLEMAN
- ASHLEY LAUREL SWETZOF
- PADRIC ALLEN DALEY
- JORDON JOSEPH KAHIKINA

**If you see a relative or friend on this list, please have them contact us at [Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com](mailto:Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com) or (907) 581-1276**  
**Qağaasakung!**

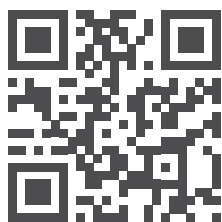
# Need to talk?

988 connects you to Careline, Alaska's suicide and crisis lifeline. If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat [988Lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org). When you call 988, you will be connected with a trained Alaska Careline crisis counselor who can help.

Learn more about Careline at [carelinealaska.com](https://carelinealaska.com) or about 988 in Alaska at [988.alaska.gov](https://988.alaska.gov).



## Check out OC's new website!



Scan here or visit [www.ounalashka.com](https://www.ounalashka.com)



## Empowering Alaska's Energy Future: Laresa Syverson Joins Inaugural Arctic Energy Ambassador Cohort

In a groundbreaking stride toward energy security and sustainability in Alaska, the Alaska Municipal League, in collaboration with the Arctic Energy Office and the Denali Commission, have announced the inaugural cohort of Arctic Energy Ambassadors (AEA). Appointed as representative for the Aleutian region, Laresa Syverson, Ounalashka Corporation's Technical Lands Manager, has already been busy working to advance the energy landscape in Unalaska and beyond. Laresa's commitment to fostering clean energy initiatives and driving positive change in her community is clear, and we are happy to extend our congratulations to Laresa for her appointment to the AEA.

Laresa's vision for her work aligns with the program's overarching goals. She expresses her desire to learn about quality-of-life goals

for regional communities and how energy and security plans can support them. Furthermore, she seeks to explore avenues where the priorities of Unangam Tanangin (the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Region), intersect with the broader administration's goals.

Reflecting on her journey and the influential figures in her life, Laresa draws inspiration from a lineage of strong women who have advocated for progress in our region. She shares, "I have been influenced by many Elders in Unalaska, for the right way to live in both a traditional world and ever-changing political and economic landscape."

Laresa also shared how grateful she is for the support and encouragement she received from Natalie Cale, Denise Rankin, and the Ounalashka Corporation. She hopes to see more learning

and teaching opportunities like this come to Unalaska and the Aleutian Region.

The Arctic Energy Ambassadors program is designed to cultivate regional, place-based, and collaborative energy leadership. Ambassadors like Laresa will be benefiting from shared resources, knowledge-sharing partnerships, and access to technical assistance, empowering them to drive sustainable energy projects across Alaska.

As Laresa embarks on this energy journey, her appointment signifies a pivotal moment in Alaska's energy landscape. Through her dedication and leadership, she is poised to make meaningful contributions toward a cleaner, more secure energy future for our community and the state at large.

## Bridging the Future: Sasha Rankin on the Arctic Youth Ambassador Program

BY ANASTASIA "SASHA" RANKIN

The Arctic Resilient Communities Youth Fellowship (ARC-YF) has been an incredible opportunity to learn and utilize the empowerment of youth involvement. The program began in January 2023 where our online introduction and classes began. From there we participated in Arctic Encounters in Anchorage, met with government and education leaders in Greenland, and community leaders in Canada.

This program offered youth leaders from across the Arctic a space to discuss our social, environmental, and cultural challenges together. The connections formed with the ARC-YF leaders and learning from their communities firsthand was truly an inspiring experience. The program equipped us with resources and connections to further expand on the issues we wish to tackle. The many Arctic community leaders introduced to the ARC fellows throughout the year provided

a well of knowledge on the insights of government, education, and project management.

The conclusion my fellowship this January arrived far too soon. The graduation ceremony was held in Yellowknife Canada, on Dene lands where the weather held a steady -40° Fahrenheit! Our time spent there was filled with celebration and closing remarks on the past year of hard work and dedication to learning what

makes a resilient community. I hope to bring back to my community all that I have learned during this program, and strongly encourage other Shareholder/descendants no matter what age group to seek out opportunities such as this. From expanding our education to deciding responsible resource development, utilizing our voices as Unanga'x is what makes our community stronger.

## Edna P. McCurdy Scholarship Foundation

The Edna P. McCurdy Scholarship Foundation was established by Ounalashka Corporation and provides funding for tuition, books, housing, and other expenses to Shareholders and registered descendants. These generous scholarships are available to both full-time and part-time students in college, training, technical schools, and career development. The amount awarded for college students is based on GPA and funds available each year. Scholarships up to \$500 per year are awarded for career development.

### TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST BE ENROLLED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

- College full-time (12+ credits)
- College part-time (6+ credits)
- Graduate or doctorate program (9+ credits or full-time as defined by the institution)
- Vocational one- and two-year programs

- Career development or short-term training

### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### College or University

- Fall application deadline – July 31
- Winter/Spring application deadline – November 30
- Summer application deadline – April 30

#### Trade School

- Deadline – 60 days prior to class start date

#### Career Development

- Deadline – 15 days prior to class start date

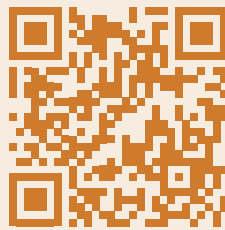
### Contact Information

[Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com](mailto:Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com)  
907-581-1276



## NOW HIRING:

Are you interested in a career or internship with OC or one of our companies? Our businesses offer opportunities for Shareholders and descendants to build their skills, gain real-world experience, and be a part of the OC community. Scan this QR code to see the latest job openings and apply!



SCAN TO APPLY

Connect to MyOC Shareholder Portal

# Log In Today!

Connecting with OC via the MyOC portal is easy, convenient and secure! Once you have logged in, you can check your information and more.



**Step 1** Go to the Ounalashka Corporation website: [ounalashka.com](http://ounalashka.com)



**Step 2** Click on the green "My OC Shareholder Portal" button.



**Step 3** If new to MyOC, click on the word "here."



**Step 4** Follow the instructions on the site.



## Message from the CEO

Dear Shareholders,

As I last reported, 2023 was incredibly busy for OC as we continue to grow/diversify our businesses and update and improve internal policies and procedures. This year is proving to be just as busy. As part of this growth, it is necessary to make changes. I acknowledge that change can be difficult. However, I assure you that these changes needed to be made.

One of these changes resulted in the Board of Directors setting the 51st Annual Meeting for July 13, 2024. The date was selected to allow KPMG enough time to provide audited financials to include in the Formal Packet. In years past, KPMG was able to provide audited financials in time for an early June annual meeting date. However, and as part of OC's growth, we are converting to a new accounting software system. Anytime a conversion of this magnitude occurs, it

takes time. In addition to transferring 50+ years of data, the accounting staff is simultaneously continuing its day-to-day functions for OC and its subsidiaries.

The quickest way forward during this conversion would be to simply transfer all existing data. The problem with this approach is that a lot of the existing data is no longer relevant. As a result, a significant amount of time and effort has been devoted towards ensuring all data transferred is not only accurate, but also current. Because of the time this conversion has taken, the audit prepared by KPMG will be delayed. As a result, this year's meeting is postponed by approximately 6 weeks. The goal is to return to a first Saturday in June in 2025.

The Trilateral had a productive week in Washington D.C., in December and continues to strategize on how we can improve the community. Our priorities include removing numerous abandoned vehicles on the Island, coordinating

priorities with the IRT, preparing for a visit from NORAD and the Coast Guard (scheduled April 17th), and coordinating efforts to maximize grant opportunities. OCE also expanded its business and now provides snow removal services in the off-season. Iqyax, LLC, OC's latest subsidiary, is growing its fleet of vehicles and equipment for rental services.

Unfortunately, the Geothermal Project has not made the progress with DOE that we had hoped. That said, desire for geothermal energy in Unalaska remains high and we continue to look for ways to fund the Project.

I am excited to report that OC's Mentorship Program application resulted in three (3) qualified applicants. All three applicants were accepted into the program and will commence working with OC management in April. The program is specifically designed to offer guidance and development opportunities for qualified Shareholders, with the

ultimate aim of cultivating and advancing individuals into high-level leadership positions such as CEO. The Program also represents a strategic investment in the professional development and advancement of Shareholders, ensuring that the leadership pipeline remains strong, and aligns with OC's commitment to fostering talent from within the Corporation.

Finally, please know that I have an open-door policy. As I tell the Board, Staff, Management, and now you, the Shareholders, if anyone has a question, comment, and/or concern I encourage you to contact me directly. To the extent possible, I will provide a reason/explanation to any decision that is made.

Thank you for your continued trust and support,

*Natalie A. Cale*  
**Natalie A. Cale**  
CEO/COO/GENERAL COUNSEL

## Tea With Elders

*Tea, snacks, and gathering once again.*

The Unalaska Senior Center Elder Tea program has been on hold for almost five years. The COVID pandemic and other hardships made for a long break from the monthly events where Elders gather for tea and conversation. A recent donation from the Qawalangin Tribe has made it possible to get started again.

Please consider this your invite to join the Elders of your community for light snacks and conversation. You may hear some good stories, have some good laughs, or if you are lucky, receive some wisdom and advice. Elder Tea is once a month at the Father Ishmael Senior Center. Please contact Shirl Treiber Lekanoff for more info.



**OUNALASHKA CORPORATION**  
**Board & Staff**

**BOARD**

**Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.**  
Chairman  
**Brian D. Rankin**  
Vice-Chair  
**Margaret A. Lekanoff**  
Secretary & Treasurer  
**Janice L. Krukoff**  
**Nicholai E. Lekanoff**  
**Dennis M. Robinson**  
**Shayla R. Shaishnikoff**  
**Wendy A. Svarny-Hawthorne**  
**Michael R. Tutiakoff**

**STAFF**

**Natalie A. Cale**  
CEO/COO/General Counsel  
**Denise M. Rankin**  
President  
**Laresa Syverson**  
Technical Lands Manager  
**Summer Smith**  
Board Secretary  
**Donna Van Flein**  
Corporate Affairs Coordinator  
**Kimberly Johnson**  
Human Resources Manager  
**Eren Fernandez**  
Senior Accountant  
**Levi Vernon**  
Senior Accountant Trainee  
**Laura Danford-Meier**  
Accounts Payable Specialist  
**Kitty Greene**  
Controller  
**Thomas Wray**  
Operations Manager  
**Maricel Tungul**  
Leasing Manager  
**Kristine Balbarino**  
Residential Property & Leasing Coordinator  
**Anastasia "Sasha" Rankin**  
Lands Assistant  
**Shelby Shaishnikoff**  
Leasing Assistant  
**Jared Ingle**  
Maintenance Tech II/Supervisor  
**Emil Berikoff, Jr.**  
Maintenance Tech II  
**John Jason Bereskin**  
Maintenance Technician  
**Duane Johnson**  
Maintenance Technician  
**Eliseo "Bong" Orteza**  
Maintenance Technician  
**Veronika Kadoun**  
Security Officer  
**Josephine Padgett**  
Security Officer



P.O. Box 149  
Unalaska, Alaska 99685-0149

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**OC Headquarters**  
400 Salmon Way,  
Unalaska, AK 99685  
ounalashka.com

**Shareholder Relations**  
(907) 581-1276  
Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com

**Submit ideas, stories & recipes to**  
Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 845  
ANCHORAGE AK

## Shareholder Announcements

### DIRECT DEPOSIT

OC Shareholders, ensure you receive your dividends as quickly as possible! Please read the direct deposit form carefully, and you must attach a copy of a voided check or an official document from your bank. If one is not attached, your form will not be accepted.

### STOCK WILL & ESTATE

Do you have an OC Stock Will on file? Having a Stock Will on file with OC lets you determine who will inherit your stock after your passing. If you pass away without a Stock Will, your stock will be distributed according to Alaska State Law and may be distributed to individuals you do not intend.

Most importantly, not having a Stock Will on file slows

down the stock inheritance process for your heirs and descendants.

### IMPORTANT NOTE!

Ounalashka Settlement Trust (OST) units are distributed pursuant to the transfer of OC stock, provided, however, only if the OC stock is inherited by an Alaska Native or descendant of an Alaska Native. Effective since June 3, 2017, non-Natives cannot inherit trust units in the OST. If any Shareholders will their shares in OC to a non-Native, the intended recipient WILL NOT have any right to vote and WILL NOT receive any distributions (dividends). Essentially, you are giving them nothing.

### DESCENDANTS

With each successive

generation, it is becoming more challenging to document a descendant's relationship to an original Shareholder. Collecting the information now makes the application process easier for both current and future generations.

The information submitted through the registration process is being collected to:

- Improve communications with descendants who may become OC Shareholders in the future through gifting or inheritance.
- Provide information on potential opportunities and activities.
- Aid the Edna P. McCurdy Scholarship Foundation in establishing proof of eligibility for scholarships.
- Help support and promote artists and entrepreneurs.

## We want to hear from you!

OC wants to continue to promote and recognize our Shareholders and descendants. We have many Shareholders who have a variety of talents and expertise. Email us at [Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com](mailto:Shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com) to be featured online and/or in the Eider Pointer. Ounalashka Corporation reserves the right to alter or edit any submissions prior to publication.