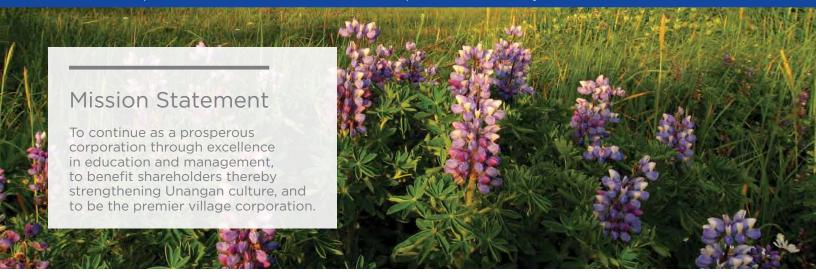
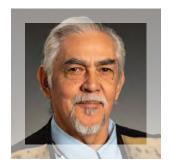


News and helpful information for the Ounalashka Corporation community

**APRIL 2023** 





## MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.

Aang, Ounalashka shareholders and descendants,

We have had a very busy start to 2023! Your Board of Directors has been meeting often, sometimes twice a week, to keep a good handle on all the ongoing projects and updates that have taken place within OC over the last several months.

We have been meeting to screen and interview potential candidates for a permanent CEO for OC. We are aiming to find a qualified shareholder to lead our Native corporation who will live locally to personally oversee the day-to-day and big-picture operations of our corporation. The CEO is also involved in overseeing our local subsidiaries and will

be working to develop exciting new opportunities for shareholders on and off our island.

Recently, the Board has been very excited to usher in projects for our new 8(a) company, OC Environmental Services, LLC. OCE has already won its first contract for environmental remediation and is set to begin work this summer cleaning up local waste sites dating all the way back to WWII. Additionally, OCCP, our joint venture with Chena Power, is engaged in the development of a geothermal power plant which will play a very important role in bringing more industry investment to our community and delivering cheap, reliable, and locally sourced electricity to you.

(Continues on page 7)

# IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS	2
FEATURED DIRECTOR	4
BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT	5
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT	6
EDNA P. MCCURDY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION	6
SHAREHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS	ç

#### We want to hear from you! OC wants to continue to promote and recognize our shareholders and descendants. We have many exceptional shareholders who have a variety of talents and expertise. Are you a shareholder or descendant artist, entrepreneur, business owner or recent Edna P. McCurdy Scholarship graduate? Email us at shareholderinfo@ ounalashka.com to be featured in the Eider Pointer, online, and at our 50th Annual Meeting! Ounalashka Corporation reserves the right to alter or edit any submissions prior to publication.

### OUNALASHKA CORPORATION

## **Board & Staff**

#### **BOARD**

Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr. (2022-2025)

Brian D. Rankin (2022-2025)

Margaret A. Lekanoff (2021-2024)

Janice L. Krukoff (2021-2024)

Nicholai E. Lekanoff (2021-2024)

O. Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory (2020-2023)

Dennis Robinson (2022-2025)

Wendy A. Svarny-Hawthorne (2020-2023)

Michael R. Tutiakoff (2020-2023)

#### **OFFICERS**

Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr. — Chair

Brian D. Rankin - Vice Chair

Margaret A. Lekanoff — Secretary/Treasurer

Natalie A. Cale — Interim CEO/COO/General Counsel

Denise Rankin - President/Lands, Property & Leasing Manager

#### **STAFF**

Natalie A. Cale — Interim CEO/COO/General Counsel

Denise Rankin — President/Lands, Property & Leasing Manager

Eren Fernandez — Senior Accountant

Laresa Syverson — Technical Lands Manager

Maricel Tungul — Residential Property & Leasing Coordinator

Sandra Rukovishnikoff – Shareholder Affairs Manager

John Rukovishnikoff — Operations & Maintenance Manager

Donna Van Flein — Corporate Affairs Coordinator

Kayla Lopez — Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

Anastasia "Sasha" Rankin — Shareholder Affairs Coordinator

Mico Sevilla — Property & Leasing Assistant

Emil Berikoff - Maintenance Tech II

Levi Vernon — Senior Accountant Trainee

Aqua Bereskin — Accounting Assistant

Bong Orteza — Maintenance Technician

Wagner Lekanoff — Security Officer

Luke Shaishnikoff — Maintenance Technician

John Jason Bereskin - Security Officer



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Denise Rankin

Aang! Aang!

It's been a great first year serving shareholders and descendants as your President. I have been your neighbor in Unalaska for nearly 50 years, and as you know, this is the 50th anniversary of our Native corporation. As an original shareholder, I grew up watching our Elders grow Ounalashka Corporation. OC really is an integral part of our lives here in Unalaska, and while the search for a permanent CEO continues, your Board and management are working hard. OC is busier than ever, and it is a pleasure to be able to update you on all that's happening in this edition of the Eider Pointer.

Largely due to pandemic disruptions and staff turnover, OC has hired a lot of folks in recent months – about half of our current staff members are new to OC! They are doing a great job, and we're very happy to have a terrific team working for our shareholders and planning for OC's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The Shareholder Affairs Department has been working hard to process and close out the backlog of unsettled estates. Shareholders, please sign onto our portal to make sure your information is up to date, especially your address and any wills, change of address, or other important documentation!

The OC Finance Department has also been working long hours on a conversion from the old accounting software to a new more efficient program while simultaneously preparing for and working with the auditors for the yearly audit. The department continues its training to support the growth of OC and its subsidiaries.

The Maintenance Department has been very busy these last few months. There are several buildings that the Board approved for continued renovations. A lot of our buildings are older, and the Board approved a capital budget that includes repairing the roofing on some, the siding on a few, and other updates or repairs. We have two open positions in the Maintenance Department, so please submit your application if you want to work for a great company (It's us!).

After a year of hard work, Laresa in the Lands Department has finished implementing some much-needed repairs and upgrades to the Department's GIS tools. It will be a fantastic resource for many different areas of the corporation, and we are so excited to be able to start populating that data.

We signed an extension of the management agreement between The Aleut Corporation (TAC) and Little Brazil Corporation, which manages the subsurface estate for our regional corporation at Ugadaga Quarry. Additionally, OC participated in last year's round table of TAC village corporations, where we discussed the importance of collaboration and working directly with TAC. We are already starting to see the fruits of that conversation, with upcoming records training and future opportunities for continued collaboration with other village corporations whose shareholders share many of the same concerns for the future as ours. Similarly, we are also seeing benefits from our trilateral agreement and excellent teamwork with the Tribe and City, which Chairman Tutiakoff mentioned.

Lastly, we are trying to get photos of shareholders and our previous Board members, but we've had a hard time finding those. In the year of our 50th anniversary, we very much want to honor the ones who came before us by displaying photos of original Board members and other early leaders in our building so the people who planted these roots are not forgotten. If there's a story family members can share with us, we'd really appreciate that – even if it's after the Annual Meeting.

Remember: Please update your shareholder records information. We're updating our website to make it a better and more shareholder-friendly experience. So please be on the lookout for that.

I am very much looking forward to our 50th Annual Meeting this July 1, and I can't wait to celebrate with shareholders who attend!

Thank you, and be safe,

enis M Rate

Denise Rankin PRESIDENT



### **NEW EMPLOYEE**

# **SPOTLIGHTS**

Shareholder Affairs Manager Sandra Rukovishnikoff and Operations & Maintenance Manager John Rukovishnikoff

Aang! Aang! to our new Shareholder Affairs Manager, Sandra Rukovishnikoff and our new Operations and Maintenance Manager, John Rukovishnikoff!

There are few positions within our corporation more essential than the ones responsible for the successful day-to-day maintenance and oversight of our operations and our shareholder programs, so it was important that we filled these roles with individuals who have good values and a strong desire to serve our community – we are thrilled to welcome both Sandra and John to Unalaska and to our staff.

Born and raised on St. Paul Island, both Sandra and John bring years of important experience to OC. John comes to Unalaska after 31 years of working in industrial mechanics at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage in addition to his 21 years of service in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. And Sandra, after raising three children and working for more than 20 years in administration and healthcare, recently completed a bachelor's degree in business administration/management with a minor in health management administration. She is currently in her second term on the Tanadgusix Corporation Board of Directors.





Returning to the Aleutians after so many years in Anchorage was a true homecoming for both Sandra and John.

"You forget how much you miss it until you're back on the ocean again," says John.

"It is so good to smell the Bering Sea again," Sandra adds. "The first thing I did when I got off the plane was turn towards the wind, like

I do when I go home to St. Paul, closed my eyes and smelled the fresh Bering Sea air. It's a smell you will never forget, and you long for the smell."

With a laugh, John says, "I'm especially looking forward to walking the beach, hiking, halibut fishing, halibut fishing, and, did I mention halibut fishing?" He adds, "My mom is from Unalaska, I have family here and have always wanted to be a part of this community. It is awesome to finally be here."

For Sandra, connecting with the land is also a welcome bonus to life in Unalaska. She says, "I am really looking forward to fishing and berry picking. I hope to find someone to teach me how to cold-smoke salmon!"

In the meantime, Sandra and John are busy getting to work in their respective departments.

As Manager of Shareholder Affairs, Sandra says, "My top priority is to have all documents scanned into the shareholder data base as soon as the Shareholder Affairs Department receives the information so we have all documents in one area as well as a backup. I want to work with our shareholders young and older to let them know what is available, such as the Edna P. McCurdy



Scholarship Program as well as other programs that will help with financials for school. I can assist with filling out forms and help get articles (pamphlets) for schools that may be of interest, or just sit and listen. I want to sit and connect with our Elders over Aladix and Chaayux. I would love to meet with them and assist with questions about benefit programs."

Sandra adds, "I'm looking forward to meeting and serving our shareholders and their families. Today, what I see is Ounalashka Corporation growing and thriving to its full potential. I also see the youth stepping up and creating opportunities for the community."

Meanwhile, John will be busy working with his maintenance team. He says, "I'm not one to sit in the office much, so I'm looking forward to working along with the crew when I can. I've been doing this work for a long time, but I am still always learning – so that will be my priority here: learning from my team and sharing my own experience and knowledge with them to support our work. This is an exciting time for OC, with so many new contracts and projects on the horizon. I just want to do a good job here and serve as a mentor to youth."

If you would like to meet with either John or Sandra or John to ask questions or just say hello, you can find Sandra at OC's corporate office or call her at (907) 581-1276, and you can find John either at the OC maintenance office or on-site working with his team. Both will be in attendance at this year's Annual Meeting.

Welcome to OC, Sandra and John!





### A MEMBER OF NINE

INSIGHTS FROM OUR LONGEST-SERVING BOARD MEMBER

Margaret Lekanoff

For 34 years, Margaret Lekanoff has served our people as a member of the Board of Directors. Her first term began in 1980, just a few years after Ounalaskha Corporation was founded. Throughout her time as a Director, she has helped guide OC through significant growth and many challenges. Margaret plans to retire when her term expires next year, and she has a few thoughts for the shareholder who will take her seat.

"Continuity brings expertise," she says. "It's important to attend every meeting, to be involved."

For Margaret, her expertise stems from decades of collaboration with mentors – her experience on the Board taught her when to look to others for guidance and to have confidence in the contributions of her fellow leaders. When she was first elected, Margaret counted on AB Rankin as her mentor. "She taught me how to be a Board member," Margaret says. "She explained to me that my number-one job is always to represent shareholders."

Margaret has accompanied the Board through many of its most influential moments over the decades. She says, "For me, it is about guiding our future towards the right direction. We have a strong Board and a strong corporation. Celebrating 50 years since incorporation is a significant accomplishment."

Throughout her service, Margaret has learned that working with other Board members and management as a unified team is crucial to identifying, understanding, and finding solutions for our shareholders and our businesses.

Now 76 years old, Margaret tells us,

"I LEARNED THAT I AM NOT A BOARD OF ONE. I AM A MEMBER OF NINE."



### OC ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

OC's NEW 8(a)

OC Environmental Services LLC (OCE) is OC's new 8(a) company that is bidding on federal contracts for environmental remediation to clean up the lands in Unalaska and elsewhere.

OCE was awarded its first multi-year prime government contract to remove contaminated soil in Unalaska Valley. OCE went from start-up to contract award in just 18 months through Project Manager Natalie Cale's leadership, the OC's Board's direction and support, and by partnering with another Alaska Native 8(a), Alaska Peninsula Corporation (APC).

APC is our partner and mentor in the contracting world of environmental cleanup. Under the guidance of Natalie and APC CEO David McAlister, OCE is working on a significant project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Together, APC and OCE have submitted the workplan for approval, and we intend to start fieldwork in May 2023 and complete all work by May 2024. Through our partnership with APC, the growing OCE staff, and continued direction from the OC Board, OCE will continue to advance and acquire additional federal contract work. OCE will do its best to hire locally and subcontract equipment from OC and other local contractors as needed.

One of OCE's primary goals is to bring OC, the Qawalangin Tribe, local landowners, and the City of Unalaska together with USACE to finally clean up the contaminated Formerly Used Defense Sites in and around Unalaska.

OCE has four staff members representing the business: Project Manager Natalie Cale, Site Superintendent Michael Tutiakoff, Lead Environmental Scientist Michael Pelka, and Environmental Scientist Jarred King. With this team, the future is bright!







# BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

**OUR VERY OWN ARCTIC FELLOW** 

Anastasia "Sasha" Rankin

Sasha was recently selected as a 2023 recipient of the Arctic Resilient Communities Youth Fellowship (ARC-YF), a nine-month fellowship funded by the Canadian Government to empower Arctic & Northern youth serve a direct role in sustainable development and benefit from the prosperity of resilient Arctic communities. As a recipient of this prestigious fellowship, Sasha will be traveling to Greenland, Canada, and throughout Alaska as she explores sustainable development and community resilience in a hands-on environment.

We are proud of your accomplishments and your representation of our community.

**CONGRATULATIONS, SASHA!** 

# EDNA P. MCCURDY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Edna P. McCurdy Scholarship Foundation is funded 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

Contact Information

Email: shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com

Phone: 1-907-581-1276

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

#### **College or University**

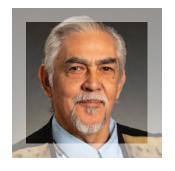
- Fall application deadline July 31
- Winter/Spring application deadline November 30
- Summer application deadline April 30

#### **Trade School**

• Deadline - 60 days prior to class start date

#### **Career Development**

• Deadline - 15 days prior to class start date



# MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.

(Continued from cover)

As we have all seen in recent years, home-heating oil and other petroleum products have gotten more and more expensive, so our geothermal project has many potential benefits for us all.

Our Trilateral - Ounalashka Corporation, the City of Unalaska, and the Qawalangin Tribe - has been working together on important issues that affect virtually everyone, including putting together a plan to begin teaching ANCSA and Alaska Native history in our schools. After our successful trip to Washington, D.C., this winter, the Trilateral most recently traveled to Juneau to meet with Senator Hoffman and Representative Edgemon to advocate for our community. Afterwards, we met with Governor Dunleavy in Anchorage.

Traveling to meet with legislators and other political leaders as an advocate for our community takes a lot of hard work and persuasion, but I can see that our elected leaders listen to us when we speak together as a Trilateral – they are more willing to understand our priorities and to work to create solutions when they see us stand together in unison. It has been a real pleasure working with the Tribe and City and their teams on these important matters, I am happy to share that we're all working very well together.

Outside of the goings-on at OC, GCl's new fiberoptic connection has been a HUGE plus for our community. More reliable access to faster internet has been helpful for schools, community businesses, and anyone else who uses the internet. Even so, we still like to meet people in person.

I hope you're enjoying the increasing sunlight as we see the change of seasons take place. With how busy we have all been these last several months, I am looking forward to the warmer months and coming together with you all to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Native corporation. I hope to see you at our annual meeting on July 1!

From our OC family to yours, be well.

Best.

Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Diacent M. Fath

### **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. 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 or about 988 in Alaska at 988.alaska.gov.



#### Where'd They Go?

If you see a relative or friend on this list, please have them contact us. Qagaasakung! The following shareholders have mail returned to the OC office:

EARL GRANVILLE ROBINSON ATAIRA MA'SHELL RUSSELL MICHAEL EDWARD SWETZOF TIMOTHY J. TUTIAKOFF BI AINE ALEC SHAISHNIKOFF PADRIC ALLEN DALEY
SHELLEA BRIGETTE KUDRIN
DENISE MARIE TARBOX
WILMA M. BORENIN
ANDREW JAMEEL CORDELL YATCHMENOFF

### WE ARE 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!



# **Unsettled Estates**

Attention, Ounalashka Corporation Shareholders & Descendants:

Ounalashka Corporation has over \$90,000 in unclaimed estates (deceased shareholders) and uncashed dividends.

Under Alaska probate laws, OC is required to turn over these unsettled estates to the State of Alaska if we are unable to locate beneficiaries and settle them.

The deadline to resolve these estates has been extended to June 30, 2023.

ACHAYOK, SARAH S. ANDERSON, HARRY J. ANDERSON, LEON F. JR AUBURN, ARIELLE A. COLBERT, DEANNA L. MCCONNELL, JIMMIE D. MELOVIDOV, CHRISTOPHER I. ROBERTSON, VASSA A.

If you believe you are an heir/beneficiary or know an individual who is, please contact Shareholder Affairs Department immediately.

Email: shareholderinfo@ounalashka.com | Phone: (907) 581-1276

### SHAREHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### DIRECT DEPOSIT

OC shareholders, ensure you receive your dividends as quickly as possible! Please read the form carefully, and you must attach a copy of a voided check. 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 wish to inherit.

Most important, not having a Stock Will on file also 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. Since June 3, 2017, non-Natives cannot inherit trust units in the OST.

#### **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 Foundation in establishing proof of eligibility for scholarships.
- Help support and promote artists and entrepreneurs.

# ITS OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

We look forward to seeing you at our bicentennial celebrations on July 1, 2023. Please join us as we honor the work of our former leaders, give thanks for our growth, and work together to ensure a sustainable OC that continues serving our shareholders and descendants for many more generations.

We encourage you to wear your Unangax regalia, and will be awarding a prize to the best dressed.

We are requesting photos of prior board members to help us celebrate OC's roots.

Please email all photos to:

Kayla Lopez at klopez@ounalashka.com





PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 845
ANCHORAGE AK

- Ounalashka.com
- 907-581-1276 907-581-1496 (fax)
- info@ounalashka.com
- PO Box 149Unalaska, Alaska 99685-0149

**Visit us:** 400 Salmon Way, Unalaska, AK 99685

Follow us on Facebook!

@ounalashkacorp

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

UNALASKA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

55 E. BROADWAY AVE, UNALASKA, AK 99685

SATURDAY JULY 1, 2023

10 AM-12 PM REGISTRATION • 1 PM MEETING

**UNANGAM TUNUU PHRASE** 

Gulaayaxtan
"Let's go for a walk"

