

# THE ALEUTIAN CURRENT

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Photo Submitted By Savanna Yatchmeneff

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## BOARD ELECTION RESULTS Page 4

Congratulations to O. Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory, our newly elected Board Member! And to Dr. Gary Ferguson II and Kyle Foster for being reelected.



## SHAREHOLDER OF THE YEAR Page 7

Congratulations to Ilidor Philemonof, our Shareholder of the Year! Read more of Ilidor's accomplishments for our Unangaꔁ people and his commitment to teaching Unangam Tunuu on page 7.



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT Page 12

We are honored to present our first Unangaꔁ Business Spotlight - Grid Electric! Read more about TAC Shareholder Jeanie Campbell's business on page 12.



## INTERN SPOTLIGHT Page 9

TAC descendant McKale Hill recaps his summer internship at Strata-G Solutions. Read more about McKale's internship experience on page 9.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ang Unanga Family,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019; we couldn't have

been more pleased with the turnout. Over 300 shareholders and descendants attended! A special "thank you" to The Aleut Corporation staff and board members, the Unanga Dancers, and Mary Kelsay (MEKA) for all their hard work in making the 50th Annual Meeting a success.

Congratulations to returning board members Dr. Gary Ferguson II and Kyle Foster on being re-elected, and welcome back to Patty Lekanoff-Gregory as our newest board member. Sincere gratitude to all the candidates who put their names forward and for their willingness to serve our people.

As some of you are already aware, the Board of Directors made the difficult decision to withdraw from the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) after the AFN Annual Convention in October. AFN approved a resolution that could significantly impact Area M commercial fishing. The resolution was drafted in response to declining salmon runs in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region and incorrectly asserts that Area M bycatch is a driver of these declines.

The resolution should have never made it to the floor at AFN due to its divisive nature. When the Aleut Caucus moved to counter the resolution, AFN did not follow established process and procedure. As a result, our Aleut Caucus was denied the opportunity to fully speak on the resolution, its impact on our communities, or work towards an acceptable compromise.

While we sympathize deeply with our AYK neighbors, our region relies on Area M fish to feed and support our families. We did not make this decision lightly, however the disrespect to our region and our people cannot be ignored. We believe that staying in AFN would send the wrong message and would not support the goals of our people, fisheries, or region.

Despite these challenges, we continue to build towards the future. Over the last several months, we've made some important changes at our subsidiaries:

- **Chase Berenson** is the new General Manager of Aleut Enterprise, LLC. Chase brings a background in technology and business development, and will help our AE businesses meet short- and long-term goals in support of our overall mission and vision.
- We established a Lands Department under TAC to focus on regional land use, mineral exploration, renewable energy, and environmental clean-up. **Ben Leon-Guerrero** has transferred over from Aleut Real Estate to TAC, leading the new department.
- **Manny Rodriguez** joined Aleut Real Estate as our Real Estate Manager, to focus on and grow our commercial portfolio.

Reconnecting with family and friends during our in-region visits was a highlight for me this year. And getting to visit with many of you at the Annual Meeting was a reminder of just how valuable our Unanga community is. As we enter the holiday season, I hope you're able to spend time making memories with family and loved ones. I wish you and yours Happy Holidays!

Qaġaasakung,

**Skoey Vergen**  
President & CEO



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

This past year has been exciting, and celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our corporation with shareholders and descendants at our Annual Meeting was the perfect high note on which to end. Thank you all for celebrating in your own unique ways and helping us reflect on our past even as we Transition to the Future. We wish our entire Unanga family safe and Happy Holidays during this festive season!



## BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Dear Shareholders & Descendants,

This year's 50th Annual Meeting of Shareholders was an incredible experience for the entire Board, and we hope that it was as enjoyable for all of you! We were thrilled to be able to

return to an in-person Annual Meeting to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. On behalf of the Board, a sincere "thank you" to those of you who attended and to the amazing staff who helped facilitate the day's activities.

A true highlight of the Annual Meeting for me was Mary Kelsay and Geneviève Salamone's "For Our Sisters" Red Dress Showcase" during the reception. Their collaboration highlighted the importance of speaking out about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The presentation was powerful, and it was an honor to be able to host these amazing women.

We are pleased to announce that next year's 51st Annual Meeting of Shareholders will take place in Seattle on October 14th, 2023. More details to come as we begin planning for next year. Bringing the Annual Meeting to the Pacific Northwest has been a goal of the Board's for quite some time, and we are excited to make it a reality next year.

It is also my distinct pleasure to share that during our 50th Annual Meeting, after all votes were counted, TAC shareholders elected three individuals returning to the Board. Dr. Gary Ferguson II and Kyle Foster were reelected to the Board, and Patty Lekanoff-Gregory was elected to rejoin our board.



▲ Image A: For Our Sister's performance at TAC's Annual Meeting of Shareholders!



▲ Image C: Board members at the 50th Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

Congratulations to all three of our Directors, and a big "thank you" to Melvin and Nichole for running. We are grateful to all our candidates for their time and willingness to serve the shareholders..

As Skoey explained, TAC is withdrawing from the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN). The Board made the difficult decision after a very controversial resolution on Area M bycatch passed over the objections of the Aleut Caucus, and without the opportunity for us to meaningfully participate. We appreciated hearing from shareholders throughout the Annual Meeting on that decision, and we will continue to advocate in all spaces we can for our people and our region.

The cold and darkness of Alaska winter are settling in, but I hope that you'll be surrounded by the warmth and light of loved ones during the holidays. As I look back on the year, I'm proud of what we've accomplished for our people. The current reality is changing, and the future before us is bright with opportunity.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I wish you safe and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

**Jenifer Nelson**  
Chairman of the Board



▲ Image B: Thank you Debra Mack for 21 years of service to TAC's shareholders!

## WELCOME TO NEW & REELECTED BOARD MEMBERS!

Congratulations to O. Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory, our newly elected Board Member! And to Dr. Gary Ferguson II and Kyle Foster for being reelected.

Thank you to Debra Mack for your 21 years on The Aleut Corporation's Board of Directors.



**DR. GARY L. FERGUSON II**  
Vice-Chair



**KYLE N. FOSTER**  
Treasurer



**OKALENA PATRICIA LEKANOFF-GREGORY**  
Director



## CONNECTED

'Connected' shares the importance and value of subsistence living on Akutan through the perspective of shareholder, Josephine Shangin.



Scan the QR Code to watch this short film.

## THE BATTLE WE FOUGHT

While we are still hard at work editing the TAC@50 documentary, we are excited to share a teaser that debuted at the Annual Meeting. Scheduled to be released in early 2023, this is a brief taste of what to expect.



Scan the QR Code to watch the teaser.

## THANK YOU MARY KELSAY (MEKA) FOR PRESENTING 'FOR OUR SISTERS' featuring Geneviève Salamone.



▲ Image: For Our Sisters painted by Dustin Newman.



# 50 YEARS Annual Meeting

We had such a great turnout for the 50th Annual Meeting of Shareholders! It was so great to gather in-person this year. We had over 300 shareholders and descendants in attendance this year, with an additional 100+ shareholders joining virtually.

Congratulations to our reelected board members Dr. Gary Ferguson II and Kyle Foster, and welcome to Patty Lekanoff-Gregory. We should say, 'Welcome Back' as Patty rejoins TAC's Board after previously serving in 2013-2015.

Thank you to all our shareholders who voted in TAC's Board election and congratulations to all our early-bird and voting prize winners. Participating in Board elections is crucial to the success of your corporation.

The Unanga Artist Booths were a hit and such a fantastic addition to the meeting. Thank you to all our vendors who participated and to our shareholders who came to shop. The Unanga Dancers always put on a great show and Mary Kelsay's MEKA Red Dress Collaboration Showcase was a powerful end to the evening's reception.

# WELCOME TO NEW SHAREHOLDERS!

The following shareholders have received The Aleut Corporation stock through inheritance or gifting:

Chase Roth	Lucas Peters	Isabelle Ferdinand
Grant Roth	Laurietta Morris	Elizabeth Richardson
Houston Roth	Alex Emanoff	Robert Pletnikoff
Brooks Roth	Christl Aston	Robert Curtis
Jimmy Wilson	Megan Russell	Jacob Totemoff
Jeffery Wilson	Nadine Lind	Shane Williams
Rudolph Demoski	Nadia Odomin	Robert Williams
Ted Negus	Nailene Lind	Amanda Tcheripanoff
Peter Mercurtief	Charlene Lind	Susan Ricardez
Kendall O'Sullivan	Darren Johnson	Ronald Tumbloo
Walter Alexander	Shannon Johnson	Emma Lekanof
Steven Ysais	Aurora Duskin	Jack Foster
Sherry Roehl	Dakota Mobeck	Fiona Smith
Anton Krukoff	Lia Roehl	Grant Hope
Nikolai Krukoff	Alexandra Holmberg	Alexandra Hope
Andrew Peters	Amy Ferdinand	Eric Sperb



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SHAREHOLDER OF THE YEAR, ILIDOR PHILEMONOF!

Our 2022 Shareholder of the Year is Mr. Ilidor "Ed" Philemonof. Mr. Philemonof has spent his lifetime leading, working, and advocating for the Aleut people, their culture, Language, and community. He's held positions of leadership with organizations like the Aleut League, the Aleutian Planning Commission, the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), St. George Tanaq Corporation, St. Innocent Cathedral, and the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA).

Having been part of APIA's Cultural Heritage Advisory Board since 1998, Ilidor was instrumental in the development of APIA's Cultural Heritage Department and has been involved ever since, providing guidance, support, advocacy, and mentorship.

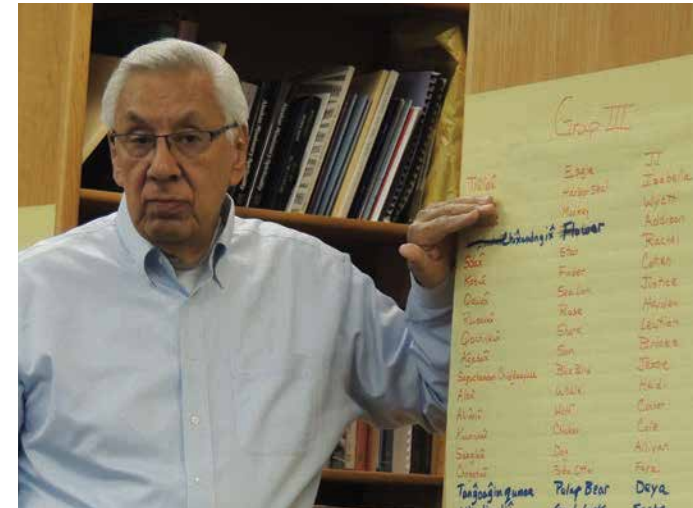
Ilidor has always been involved with the Aleut Community, but his passion is for preserving Unangam Tunuu (our Aleut language). He has worked tirelessly to revitalize Unangam Tunuu out of his love for the Aleut community.

Ilidor was born April 13, 1942, to Isaac Philemonof and Erena Mercurtief. He is the second oldest of six siblings – Father Paul Mercurtief, Edna Floyd, Dimitri Philemonof, Irene Melovidov and Maria Stowe.

He has three children, Ilidor Philemonof II, Isaac Philemonof, and Alexis Philemonof and four grandchildren, Ilidor, Lucas, Ryland, and Gracie.

On June 24, 1942, during World War II, when he was just two months old, Ilidor and his family were forced to leave their home and were interned at Funter Bay in southeast Alaska. It is believed Ilidor may have been one of if not the youngest individual(s) of over 800 Aleuts interned. He was two and a half years old when he and his family returned to St. George. He is now the youngest living survivor.

Ilidor has dedicated his life to preserving the Aleut culture and enhancing the lives of the Aleut people. The Aleut Corporation is grateful of all the hard work Ilidor has done to preserve the Unangax̂ culture and help our shareholders. Congratulations!



## IMPORTANT DATES CALENDAR

DECEMBER 25  
Christmas Day

DECEMBER 31  
New Year's Eve

JANUARY 1  
New Year's Day

JANUARY 7  
Orthodox Christmas

JANUARY 14  
Orthodox New Year's

JANUARY 16  
Martin Luther King Day

FEBRUARY 2  
Groundhog Day

FEBRUARY 3  
Cash For Good Grades - Report Card Deadline

FEBRUARY 12  
Lincoln's Birthday

FEBRUARY 14  
Valentine's Day

FEBRUARY 16  
Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

FEBRUARY 20  
Presidents Day *TAC Office Closed*

MARCH 12  
Daylight Saving Begins *Spring Forward*

MARCH 17  
St. Patrick's Day

MARCH 25  
Informational Shareholder Meeting *San Diego*

MARCH 27  
Seward's Day



## STUDENT OF THE YEAR!

Our 2022 Student of the Year is Mia McWilliams, a senior at California State University, East Bay and is expected to graduate in May of 2023.

Upon graduation, Mia would love to work for her tribe as a CPA or even own her own accounting firm based in Unalaska. Mia states that most CPA's and accounting firms of Alaska are in Anchorage and wants to provide local accounting services.

She believes while working for or in the tribe, she would be able to help start or maintain much needed programs for the community. Such as providing better healthcare, educating tribal members in finance by offering free online seminar courses and creating an accounting internship for local high school students.

Mia's excellence in Academia, her past and continuous volunteer work, her in-depth community involvement, and her plans to serve our Unangax̂ people made her stand out amongst her peers in The Aleut Foundation's 2022-2023 student cohort.

Mia McWilliams was raised in Unalaska to Tatsuro McWilliams and Alicia Kochuten. Her grandparents are Victor & Augie Kochuten and Brian & Fumiko McWilliams. She also has three sisters Alanna Kochuten, Mika pi McWilliams and Naya McWilliams.

Mia attended Unalaska City High School and graduated in 2019. During that summer she completed an internship with her tribe Qawalangin. Mia hopes to continue to give back to the community of Unalaska upon completion of her studies. She knew the first step towards reaching her career goals was to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting at California State University, East Bay. Mia plans to continue her education at the same university to earn her Master of Science degree in accounting.

While attending the university, Mia is currently involved in their EXCEL program. This program helps undergraduates accomplish their academic and personal goals with in-depth long-term academic support. Previously, she was also involved in their on-campus club, Sustain East Bay. Off campus, she participates in an online Honor Society and local community events. For example, Mia has served as an alternate for the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska Elections Committee the past two years, as well as attending some tribal meetings and numerous craft nights.

She also has volunteered for the Unalaska Parks Culture Recreation, Iliuliuk Family & Health Services, International Longshore & Warehouse Union and San Francisco SPCA animal shelter. Mia continuously volunteers throughout the year as it allows her to acquire useful leadership skills and make connections with people she may not see on a daily basis.



## INTERN SPOTLIGHT MCKALE HILL AT STRATA-G

### INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE EXIT PROJECT

My name is McKale Hill, and I am from Anchorage. I grew up in both Alaska

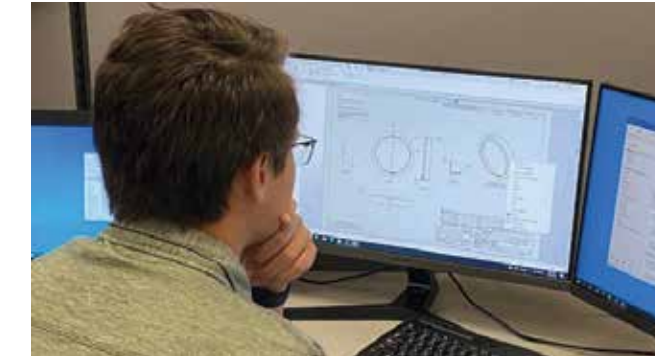
and Hawaii and I am now attending the University of Alaska Anchorage. I am going for a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in mathematics and I expect to graduate in May 2023.

I chose to take an internship with The Aleut Corporation (TAC) because I wanted to further my work experience in the engineering world and see what opportunities I could have out of state, while still being a part of the Alaskan community. I interned with Strata-G Solutions in Huntsville, Alabama, a TAC subsidiary.

Through my internship, I learned how important it is to think of how a product will be manufactured before designing it. At Strata-G, products get designed and manufactured on site, so you can talk directly to the manufacturers who will work on your design. This allows for real-time feedback on how to improve the design. I also learned that it can be efficient to make a tool that can speed up the process of making another part. My main project was to model a tool that will make the manufacturing process of a future project easier and faster. The most beneficial part of this internship was the overall work experience I gained in the engineering field. I've learned great general knowledge that I will be able to apply in my future work.



McKale with Kevin Cook, CFO and Carolyn Scarborough, Director of Corporate Services & HR of SGS



One challenge I faced during this internship was learning how to start a project on my own. I needed to find out where to start in modeling a large tool with many components by myself. I was able to push through this challenge by asking questions that will lead me in the right direction and by being confident in what I was doing.

This opportunity helped me see what economic options are available to me in other areas while also experiencing other cultures. I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing true southern hospitality because of how welcoming everyone was throughout this experience. I have been able to grow socially by being able to talk to everyone within the company and see what a great community that has been built along with it.

This experience complimented my education nicely because the same software that I was taught to use in class is used at Strata-G. This meant I did not have to spend weeks learning how to use a program before I could get any work done. This helped me further my career goals by allowing me to learn more about the work rather than the design software.

After completing my degree, I hope to push myself to become more efficient and seek other opportunities that will broaden my educational and cultural knowledge. TAC has many job opportunities I would be interested in that would help me achieve this goal. I highly recommend taking an internship through TAC and its subsidiaries or partners because of how accommodating they are and how much you will be able to learn.

Strata-G Solutions (SGS) is a TAC subsidiary based in Huntsville, Alabama. SGS delivers comprehensive engineering product solutions that provide full product realization through rapid prototyping, full-rate production, and full system documentation, along with on-site modification and installation services. To learn more about SGS, visit <https://stratag-llc.com>

If you're interested in applying for an internship, please contact The Aleut Foundation.



## SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT ROGER HOLMBERG

It's incredibly human to desire to make a mark on things, or leave a legacy. Leaving one behind doesn't require special qualifications or fame. In many cases, legacies are

built because of passion, and a desire to meaningfully improve the lives of others in a simple way. That positive impact lasts and can inspire and empower others to do the same.

TAC Shareholder Roger Holmberg knows exactly what that can look like. He's seen firsthand the lasting impact The Aleut Corporation has had on generations of UnangaꝔ people. He's also harnessed his love for music and passionate faith to impact the lives of others – efforts that continue today.

"I'm a pastor and international singer, and I've performed concerts and crusades around the world," he said. "My faith is very important to me, and I love to travel and preach and share with as many people as I can."

As TAC celebrates 50 years and charts a path for the future, Roger's story reminds us that seemingly small acts can have a big impact, evolve into larger opportunities, and last far longer than we might have imagined.

### STARTING SMALL

Roger is the 11th of 12 children, and was born on Sanak Island in the Aleutians to Sophie and John Holmberg. While growing up in Sanak and later Sand Point, Roger found a passion for music. He started playing the guitar when he was just 12 years old after his brother bought it for him as a gift.

"I didn't know a lot about music, but I started playing then," he recalled in a recent interview. "I was probably about 20 before I learned from a friend how to play and sing together."

During Roger's later high school years, conversations about Alaska Native Land Claims were beginning to attract attention throughout the state. Those discussions culminated in the enactment 1971's Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act, and the creation of what would become TAC one year later.

### MAKING PROGRESS

As TAC began evolving into the corporation it is today, Roger's journey to music turned into actual journeys around the world. He joined the Christian Faith in 1960 after a missionary visited Sanak and started a children's Bible Story ministry. And when he received that first guitar, it seemed like he'd found his calling.

He started recording music in Cincinnati in 1977, and through

music and faith ministry, made a connection at a pastor's conference 13 years later that launched a new life chapter for him.

"I ended up getting an invitation from the Philippines to minister and play music," Roger explains, "so I went over there in November of 1990 for 12 days, and that's how I got started traveling the world singing and preaching," he said.

His travels since then have taken him to places like Manila, Nairobi, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, and even Amsterdam. And his faith ministry has continued to grow, allowing him to reach millions of people across the globe.

During those years, TAC was growing, too. The founding 5 board members contributed to an evolving corporation that brings in millions of dollars annually in revenue, but also invests much of it back into UnangaꝔ communities through scholarships, dividends, educational opportunities, and more.

"Well, I think they're doing a good job," Roger says of TAC's progress over the years. "My take of it is that we're here to preserve our culture and keep our heritage alive while meeting the needs of native people in our area. It's a satisfying thing to be a part of a corporation like that."

### A LASTING IMPACT

Roger's commitment to faith and ministry has allowed him to make a lasting impact on the lives of countless people across the globe. He believes everyone has an opportunity to find their niche, and create positivity in the world through their gifts.

"I believe every person is born with a gift or talent," he said. "And, you know, people have an amazing ability to do what they are gifted to do. I would encourage young people to find out who they are and what gifts do they have to offer to the world."

Roger's first taste of the positive impact he could have on others was through music and ministry, culminating in the leap of faith that led to his first trip to the Philippines. As he looks towards the future, he hopes he's able to use his talents and music to reach even more people.

The evolution has been similar for TAC. Over the years, the corporation has developed, specialized, and found opportunities in businesses and industries that benefit shareholders and the people of the Aleut region. The future is bright, and Roger hopes that growth and development will continue.

"You know, it's still exciting today that The Aleut Corporation is still in existence," he reflected. "And I think that there's a bright future if we are a corporation that continues doing good business. That's something that I feel very passionate about."

**TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ROGER'S MUSIC AND UPCOMING EVENTS, FOLLOW HIM ON FACEBOOK**  
RogerHolmbergMusic



## SHAREHOLDER ARTIST SPOTLIGHT COCO BY THE SEA



"CoCo By The Sea" isn't just the name of CoCo Rocili's jewelry business – it's also an apt description of where you'll find her. Many of CoCo's custom earrings, necklaces, and keychains are made using materials she finds beachcombing in King Cove, and others are based on the colors, textures, and environment of the Island. Whatever the material is – beads, fish-skin leather, fur, sea glass – it's always something that speaks to her.

"The pandemic is what got me started making jewelry," she explained. "But my twin sister, Jill, was and always has been a big supporter and inspiration for me." CoCo has always loved creating things, and when COVID-19 forced her to spend more time at home than usual, she started using her beachcombing finds to make her pieces. She shared a few photos on social media and received several inquiries and requests to buy her earrings and other jewelry from across the globe.

"A friend suggested I start a business – that idea hadn't occurred to me until that point, but I started it the next day," CoCo reminisced. Within a week of launching, she'd done her first giveaway and already had over 1,000 followers on social media.

Despite the quick success and sudden interest, CoCo stays grounded. She spends plenty of time "by the sea", finding inspiration from just walking on the beach and incorporating the colors and textures of King Cove into her artwork. Nearly anything can inspire her – she discovered some crab pots during one beachcombing expedition, and ended up incorporating beads of the same color as the pots into her next pieces.

Other items are even more special. "I've also had people just give me things that I incorporate into jewelry; one elder in my family who was a dear part of our community, he would stop

me on the road just to give me some porcupine quills," she said fondly. "That means everything to me. Fishing, hunting, and subsistence are deeply important to my culture and to use materials from that is a big part of who I am."

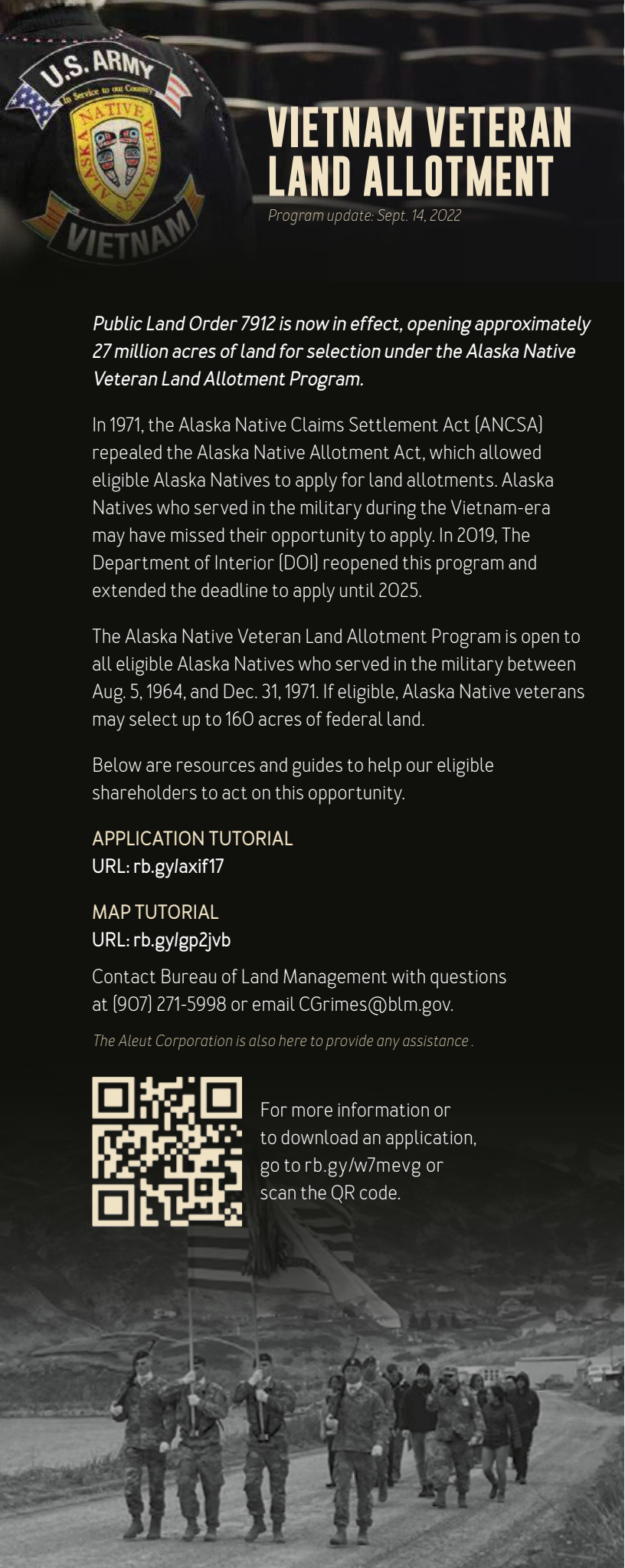
In addition to drawing inspiration from her sister and the community and people of King Cove, CoCo says the Alaska Native artist community constantly amazes her. "I've met so many amazing artists from Alaska – we've learned from each other, done trades, helped one another; Alaska might be a large state, but we're a very tight-knit community."

CoCo recently hit the 50-state milestone: at least one person from all 50 states has purchased a piece of jewelry from her. She takes great pride and joy in knowing that people all over the world have found her work as beautiful as she finds King Cove. "I put my heart into all of the jewelry I create, and the most rewarding thing is to see someone in a store wearing something I created, or to hear from a friend that they saw someone wearing one of my pieces."

**BUSINESS:** CoCo By The Sea

**FIND ME ON:** Instagram - @akcocobythesea  
Facebook - akcocobythesea

**TRIBE/HOMETOWN:** Agdaagux; King Cove



## VIETNAM VETERAN LAND ALLOTMENT

Program update: Sept. 14, 2022

*Public Land Order 7912 is now in effect, opening approximately 27 million acres of land for selection under the Alaska Native Veteran Land Allotment Program.*

In 1971, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) repealed the Alaska Native Allotment Act, which allowed eligible Alaska Natives to apply for land allotments. Alaska Natives who served in the military during the Vietnam-era may have missed their opportunity to apply. In 2019, The Department of Interior (DOI) reopened this program and extended the deadline to apply until 2025.

The Alaska Native Veteran Land Allotment Program is open to all eligible Alaska Natives who served in the military between Aug. 5, 1964, and Dec. 31, 1971. If eligible, Alaska Native veterans may select up to 160 acres of federal land.

Below are resources and guides to help our eligible shareholders to act on this opportunity.

### APPLICATION TUTORIAL

URL: [rb.gylaxif7](https://rb.gylaxif7)

### MAP TUTORIAL

URL: [rb.gylp2jvb](https://rb.gylp2jvb)

Contact Bureau of Land Management with questions at (907) 271-5998 or email [CGrimes@blm.gov](mailto:CGrimes@blm.gov).

*The Aleut Corporation is also here to provide any assistance.*



For more information or to download an application, go to [rb.gylw7mevg](https://rb.gylw7mevg) or scan the QR code.



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT GRID ELECTRIC CORPORATION

Jeanie Campbell stays busy. As the CEO and majority owner of Shreveport, LA-headquartered Grid Electric Corporation, she spends time managing her business operations, on the phone

with prospective customers, and traveling across the country to be boots-on-the ground response when power outages occur.

"We're not an electric utility company; rather, we support the local, state, and federal governments in disaster relief, and day-to-day operations," she says. "After a disaster or power outage, we're the first ones there – and possibly the last ones to leave, depending on the damage."

The business is incredibly unique and has grown significantly since Jeanie started it in August 2020. It's a success story, too – not just about an Alaska Native woman breaking barriers in a largely male-dominated industry, but also about the power of perseverance, and making the most of opportunity and passion.

### POWERING (BACK) ON

For most people in the United States, power outages are temporary; the lights will eventually come back on. But it's companies and teams like Jeanie's who make that happen, ensuring utilities, government agencies, and telecommunication companies have a complete understanding of the scope of an outage, and what equipment and resources will be necessary to restore power. In addition to working in Dallas, New York, and Louisiana, her company participated in the response to the recent Hurricane Ian in Florida, providing utility companies with crucial information as they began to rebuild and restore power after the devastating storm.



*PHOTO: Damage to homes and power lines during Hurricane Ian in Florida earlier this year.*



"My company helps provide damage assessment teams that go out during storms, similar to Ian," Jeanie explains. "We let utilities know what the actual damage is, and what will be needed to restore power to communities. And that first look we do is critical – If the line company or power company has incorrect information, it will take even more time to restore power."

Grid Electric's work isn't just limited to storm response, though. They also provide day-to-day operation support for governments and telecommunications companies, like Comcast and AT&T. That includes everything from powerline construction and maintenance to safety and training.

"We are starting to bid on work for tribal governments in Alaska, too, which is very exciting," Jeanie says. "In reality, we touch anything and everything in the electric utilities space – solar, renewable energy, fiber, communication towers. Anything that keeps people on the grid is our specialty."

### POWERING THROUGH

Jeanie's journey began in Alaska's oil and gas industry. Early in her career, she had no idea she'd be running a national electric utility support business. So how did she end up starting and running Grid Electric?

"I get asked that question all the time as a young indigenous woman in a male-dominated industry," she recalls, laughing. "I started my career as an administrative assistant supporting drilling and well completion in Alaska, and was privileged to be mentored by quite a few great managers who taught me about the industry."

The oil industry shifted in 2012, and she decided to move to Florida and took a bit of time off before going back to school. Jeanie received a special honor scholarship through The Aleut Corporation, and while at school, ended up working in the power industry.

"When I got into the power industry initially, much like in Alaska, I had a few really great mentors who helped me through this

*PHOTO: Grid Electric employees in a meeting before assessing damage for Hurricane Elsa.*

industry. I networked and worked really, really hard, and was eventually able to start my business – and my first employer was my very first client!"

Jeanie started Grid Electric with just eight small damage assessment teams and now has up to 200 people responding in a major storm or power event.

"The most fulfilling part of all of it has been being able to grow," Jeanie says introspectively. "I started off as an office assistant, and now I'm running a company with reach across the country and helping mentor and grow new people in our industry. That's incredibly meaningful to me."

### POWERING FORWARD

As Jeanie looks to continue expanding Grid Electric, she's excited about the opportunities to work with and support other Indigenous entrepreneurs, paying forward some of the same mentorship and counsel she's received over the years.

"Since I started Grid, we've built partnerships with other Native business owners, some of whom are actively working on storm response with us right now," she says. "Together, we're able to support each other as Native business owners, and also support rural areas and villages on Native lands. It's a huge part of where I came from and who I am."

She's excited about forthcoming partnership and future work in Alaska and is even open to the potential of internships and other opportunities to help train future generations.

"Our model is about bringing people together. The electric utility sector can be kind of old fashioned, but we're changing for the better, and being a part of that means a lot to me. And we have to keep the trade going to keep the lights on!"



# HISTORIC MOMENT

Check out this word search from the 1977 Aleutian Current!

Can you find the following corporations hidden in the box of letters? Some are written backwards and vertically.

Akutan	Ahtna
Atxam	Aleut
Belkofski	Arctic Slope
Chaluka	Bering Straits
False Pass	Bristol Bay
King Cove	Calista
Nelson Lagoon	Chugach
Ounalashka	Cook Inlet
St. George Tanaq	Doyon
Sanak	Koniag
Shumagin	Nana
Tanadgusix	Sealaska
Unga	Thirteenth

B A S S X I S U G D A N A T C H U L A K A S I  
 K E N A Q V A K S A L A E S G M I N A I T S E  
 O B R I S T O L B A Y L I S A T A O L K I A O  
 N S H I N O Y O D E N X Q T I H E N I S N A U  
 I A K A N A S N A I K S U Z A I E E A F T H N  
 A A I K U G T A K N A K T A K R C Z A O M B A  
 G O N N E L S O N L A G O O N T H P S K E I L  
 C H G I A L O T U K A F A L P E U A L L S A A  
 K I C G O C Y A R E Q A N A T E G R O E G T S  
 T N O A L A G H O A T X A M O N A N O B E S H  
 U E V H O U N T A L I A S K H T C A S T O I K  
 E L E U N G A N T A N T A Q S H H A K G G L A  
 L S G H E U T A E P O L S C I T C R A I U A Q  
 A O S S A P E S L A F I S T O L I S T N S C H

## INTRO TO OUR VILLAGE CORPORATIONS BELKOFSKI CORPORATION

**NAME OF CORPORATION:**  
Belkofski Corporation

**LOCATION:**  
King Cove, Alaska

**NUMBER OF SHAREHOLDERS:**  
70

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
The Belkofski Corporation was organized in 1972 after passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). It is a for-profit-corporation organized under State law. Belkofski Corporation is responsible for administering the land and money distributed to its shareholders under ANCSA.

**LEADERSHIP:**  
Kaye Mack, President

**LINES OF BUSINESS:**  
Guided Bear Hunting

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
Makrina Mack *Vice President*  
Mary Jane Donaldson *Sec. Treasurer*  
James Kenezuroff *Board Member*

**CONTACT INFO:**  
P.O. Box 46  
King Cove, Alaska 99612  
Phone: (907) 497-2513  
belkofskicorporation@hotmail.com

# APPLE PICKING

A few of The Aleut Corporation staff went to Clark's Orchard earlier this year to pick some apples!



# TAF UPDATE

Aang Aangi! Kristuusaġ Aġakuġ!

Celebrating the success of our students is one of our favorite things at The Aleut Foundation.

This year The Aleut Foundation Board of Directors selected four students for our Special Honors Scholarships. Congratulations goes to Mia McWilliams, Valene Peratrovich, Jeffery Kauffman and Brittany Gardner! Mia McWilliams was also selected as The Aleut Corporation's Student of the Year! We are so proud of all our students that have received scholarships; keep reading for a full list of all our scholarship recipients for Fall 2022. At the time of printing, we have not yet processed our Spring 2023 recipients. Their names will be listed in the next Aleutian Current.

The Aleut Foundation would like to make sure families know to register your descendants with The Aleut Corporation. Registered descendants are eligible for all our programs here at The Aleut Foundation. Early next year, The Aleut Corporation and The Aleut Foundation (TAF) are transitioning three programs to TAF. We will be administering Cash for Good Grades, Youth Advance Scholarships, and internships. Keep a close eye on our website and Facebook page for more information.

Reminder for our communities: we have community development grants available. For those in region, there are resources for board training. Reach out to The Aleut Foundation and we can work with your group to pursue training and provide funding.

As we move into 2023, we will have new programs available, and we are excited about the new opportunities for our students and families.

Slum Tagadagan Qaġataa!

**Julie Toomey**  
Executive Director  
The Aleut Foundation



# FALL 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## HONORS

Cole Austin, Finance - *University of Arizona*  
 Julieanne Renee Berikoff, Nursing - *Northwest Nazarene University*  
 Mitchell Bourdukofsky, Computer Sciences - *Oregon State University*  
 Johannes DeBakker, Business - *Saint Martin's University*  
 Jennifer Delia, Native Studies Leadership - *Northwest Indian College*  
 Lauren Denham, Political Science - *Texas Christian University*  
 Logan Dushkin, Mechanical Engineering - *Colorado School of Mines*  
 Kyrie Dyakanoff, Nursing - *Northern Arizona University*  
 Rosalyn Elgarico, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Anna Emanoff, Psychology - *Penn State University*  
 Micah Fouts, Human Services - *John Brown University*  
 Avery Fouts, Business - *Lipscomb University*  
 Anna Gould, Medical Billing - *Everett Community College*  
 Jake Harris, Fire Science - *Glendale Community College*  
 Carson Harris, Mechanical Engineering - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Julia Johannessen, Advertising and PR - *University of Oregon*  
 Carter Johnson, Chemical Engineering - *Arizona State University*  
 Megan Kashevarof, Social Work - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Selah Kone, Psychology - *University of Hawaii at Manoa*  
 Raietta Kuzakin, Nursing - *Whatcom Community College*  
 Brayden Leggett, Physics - *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*  
 Alexandra Mangrum-Prokopiof, Theater, Art & Architecture History - *Miami University*  
 Delanie Maxon, Business - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Danielle Mercutief, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Gianna Pallotta, Business - *San Diego Mesa College*  
 Taylor Pierce, Nursing - *Grand Canyon University*  
 Benjamin Raugust, Cognitive Science - *University of California Davis*  
 William Rutledge, Business - *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
 Anna Rutledge, Biological Sciences - *Liberty University*  
 Torin Schroeder, Economics - *Fort Lewis College*  
 Sophia Strange, Business - *University of Phoenix*  
 Samantha Torres-Taylor, English - *University of San Diego*  
 Adin Williams, Dance - *University of Colorado Boulder*

## EXCEPTIONAL

Tatiana Beers, Art - *Brigham Young University Idaho*  
 Ryan Clayton, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Rachel Denham, Speech Pathology - *University of Oregon*  
 Sophia Dupras, History - *College of William and Mary*  
 Aurora Duskin, Computer Sciences - *Montana State University*  
 Michael Ferguson, Combined Media - *Peninsula College*  
 Nichole Gordon, Business - *University of Washington*  
 Nicole Gould, Undeclared - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Lucas Helmich, Business - *Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville*  
 Alice Johnston, AAS Physical Therapist Assistant - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Caleb Kelly, Education - *Loyola University Maryland*  
 Elaina Mack, Kinesiology - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Maxim Malavansky Jr., Business - *The University of Anchorage Alaska*

Carly Mast, Undeclared - *Green River College*  
 Tamara Odden, Biology - *Loyola University Maryland*  
 William Robert, Geological Sciences - *University of Maine Farmington*  
 Tristan Robinson, Music - *Arizona State University*  
 Darin Robinson, Business - *Oregon State University*  
 Christian Ruiz, Mechanical Engineering - *Washington State University*  
 Hardy Sperle, Wildland Fire Management - *Southwestern Oklahoma State University*  
 Justin Spiller, Undeclared - *University of Washington*  
 Payten Stroud, Education - *University of Alaska Southeast*  
 Destiny Tetoff, Criminal Justice & Political Science - *San Francisco State University*  
 TeShonda Thomas, Biological Sciences - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Kameron Werner, Religion - *Multnomah University*  
 Heidi White, Sports Science - *Boise State University*  
 Jonas Williams, Computer Sciences - *Boise State University*

## ACHIEVEMENT

Vega Britt, Psychology - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Grace Dushkin, Nursing - *The College of S. Scholastica*  
 Cole Evanoff, Psychology - *Arizona Christian University*  
 Felicia Johnson, Environmental Science - *University of Alaska Southeast*  
 Kayla Kashevarof, Accounting - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Savanna Maxon, Biology - *Adrian College*  
 Mariah McCullum, Marine Biology - *University of Southeast Alaska*  
 Domenic Pallotta, Business - *Arizona State University*  
 Hunter Pieropan, Computer Sciences - *Point Loma Nazarene University*  
 Briley Waddill, Business - *Harding University*  
 Breanna Warner, Occupational Therapy - *Spokane Falls Community College*  
 Monica Yatchmeneff, Business - *University of Alaska Southeast*

## MERIT

Daniela Krukoff, Pharmacy - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Brynne Nelson, Psychology - *University of Providence*  
 Joseph O'Brien, Exercise Science - *Trinity Bible College*

## PART-TIME

Emily Osterback, Art - *Cornell College*  
 Ada Causey, Geological Sciences - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*  
 Kyra Dushkin, Nursing - *Mohave Community College*  
 Audrey Foster, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Christina Galanin, Psychology - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Shaynese Havens, Undeclared - *Pueblo Community College*  
 Roxana Kashatok, Business - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Georgia Kashevarof, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Jake LaConte, Communication - *University of Missouri Columbia*  
 Sean Laramie, Nursing - *St. Charles Community College*  
 Addison Lutchen, Education - *University of Nebraska at Kearney*  
 Jaycee Mack-Neff, Power Technology - *University of Alaska Southeast*  
 Kimberly Miles, Criminal Justice - *Wayland Baptist University of Anchorage*  
 Lisa Nevzoroff, Mathematics - *University of Anchorage Alaska*  
 Oxenia O'Domin, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Edith Schliebe, Education - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*  
 LaVonna Thomas, Social Work - *Walden University*

Matilda Tutiahoff, Art - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Alexandria Weis, Design - *Fort Hays State University*  
 Serena Wohlwend, Architecture - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

## GRADUATE

Darling Anderson, Rural Development - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*  
 Elise Beers, Film - *American Film Institute*  
 Caleb Beers, Medicine - *New York Medical College*  
 Sarah Dushkin, Business - *Southern New Hampshire University*  
 Sharayah Foster, AK Native Executive Leadership Program - *APU*  
 Natasha Harris, Operations and Technology Management - *University of Portland*  
 Jordan Jenckes, Geological Sciences - *University of Alaska Fairbanks Anchorage*  
 Dustin Mack, Education - *Western Governors University*  
 Marisa Mack, Business - *Western Governors University*  
 Kayla Marcoulter, Nursing - *Gonzaga University*  
 Anna Melovidov, Business - *University of Phoenix*  
 Concepcion Melovidov, Fisheries - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*  
 Alexis Mercutief, Human Development - *Oregon State University*  
 Kasie Murphy, Nursing - *Sierra College*  
 Stephanie Myer, Psychology - *Pacifica Graduate Institute CA*  
 Christina Newhall, Linguistics - *University of Arizona*  
 Lauren Peters, History - *University of California Davis*  
 Amanda Poe, Psychology - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Taytum Robinson, Diagnostic Medical Sonography - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Robin Rutledge, Psychology - *Liberty University*  
 Melissa Scott, Medicine - *The University of TN Health Science Center*  
 Madeline Snigaroff, Linguistics - *University of Chicago*  
 Kallin Spiller, Communication - *University of Hawaii at Manoa*  
 Haliehana Stepetin, Native American Studies - *University of California Davis*  
 Luke Stowe, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Joanne Wathen, Education - *Saint Mary's College*  
 Elexa Yee, Biochemistry - *University of California Santa Barbara*

## WORKING

Desiree Mobeck, Social Work - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*  
 Bronte Smith, Outdoor Studies - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Daniel Calugan, Undeclared - *University of Alaska Anchorage*  
 Justin Lay, Architecture - *Oklahoma State University*  
 Jasmine Wilson, Business - *Alaska Pacific University*  
 Brianna Gray, Indigenous Studies - *University of Alaska Fairbanks*

## ALICE PETRIVELLI BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Mia McWilliams, Business - *California State University*

## ANDREW GRONHOLDT ARTS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Valene Peratrovich, Combined Media - *Salt Lake Community College*

## GABE STEPETIN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP

Jeffery Kauffman, Finance - *Grand Canyon University*

## LILLIE HOPE-MCGARVEY HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP

Brittany Gardner, Biological Sciences - *University of Alaska Anchorage*

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**Shareholder Tip:** Make sure your stock will is current or that you have one on file!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chairman

KYLE FOSTER  
Treasurer

SHARON GUENTHER LIND, PH.D.  
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