



AG'WANERMIUT KASITAAQ

FROM THE CHAIR

Cama'i Tribal Members,

It was a pleasure to see everyone at NVA's Annual Meeting, where we welcomed 24 in-person and 15 attending virtually. I would like to thank you for re-electing me to serve another term on the council. I would also like to congratulate my fellow council members, Natasha Hayden and Kenneth Nelson Jr., who were re-elected to serve 3-year terms.

This summer, the Afognak Native Corporation hosted another record-breaking fundraising event for the Native Village of Port Lions and the Native Village of Afognak, the Annual Afognak Native Corporation Golf Tournament. We are grateful to ANC for the funding that comes to NVA from the tournament. We use the funds to support our Dig Afognak Cultural Camp. And speaking of Dig Afognak camp, we were able to host a full schedule of camp sessions this year and were quite happy to share this wonderful experience with all participants.

This is an exciting time for NVA, as we learn to operate Mal'uk farms without grant funding (see the Mal'uk Farms article on page 5), adapt to owning a new property and business (see the Cost Savers article on page 4), and transition our new Tribal Administrator into the role. This summer we welcomed Candace Branson to our team as our new Tribal Administrator. Her leadership will assist the council and staff in carrying out our mission and goals.

My fellow council members and I are always happy to hear from you so please feel free to reach out to share any comments or questions you may have about our tribe. Our contact information can be found on our website (www.afognak.org) under Governance.



Contact Us

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Calendar of Events

October 18th
Alaska Day
Office Closed

November 23rd-24th
Thanksgiving
Office Closed

December 25th-26th
Christmas
Office Closed

Dig Afognak 2023

This year we hosted four camps with meaningful cultural experience for Dig Afognak participants, despite the poor weather and many bears.

In early June we hosted Koniag Camp, with 10 youth and 5 adults. Activities included skin sewing, yoga, glass ball beading and we played Alutiiq bingo and outdoor games.

In mid-June we hosted Harvest and Survivor Camp with 34 kids and 6 adults. We had many guest speakers and teachers host sessions on navigation techniques, fire starting tips, cold water & boating safety, shelter building, and learned what it means to be a VPSO.

Language and Music Camp in mid-July was our biggest camp, with 36 Kids and 9 adults. Dehrich Chya and Max Pyles taught Alutiiq dance. We learned all about Zentangles, with Alutiiq words and meanings. We did a beach cleanup and KANA Prevention team shared bullying prevention curriculum. It was inspiring to see the kids learn dances and proudly share them at the closing.

Our last camp of the year was our Afognak Shareholder camp, which hosted 30 participants. There was a lot of early morning visiting with returning shareholders, who had great stories to tell. This camp went on multiple beach walks and did some hunting. We learned about ANC shareholder services and the corporation.

NVA would like to say Quyanaasinaq to all those who helped, volunteered, and donated to Dig Afognak.



Newly Funded Grants

Kodiak Island Borough Non-profit Grant – NVA was awarded \$4,675 that will support utility expenses for Mal'uk Farms.

Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums – NVA was awarded \$6,000 to support Campfire Staff to teach survival skills at Dig Afognak in 2023.

First Alaskans Institute – NVA was awarded \$ 11,000 to support Artists & Culture Bearer Stipends, Elder Honorariums, and activity supplies for Dig Afognak this year.

Institute of Museum and Library Services – NVA was awarded \$10,000 to support the Library Manager wages, Culture Bearer stipends, library materials and supplies for FY23-24 for the Nadia Mullan Alutiiq Heritage Library.

Capital Funds Project – NVA was awarded \$167,504 to support program costs as outlined in our proposal including Tribal Library, technology upgrades, and medical supplies and equipment for Dig Afognak.

Local Tribal Administrator's Consistency Fund - NVA was awarded \$284,000.00 for governmental operations.



Afognak Native Corporation -2024 Future Leaders Summit

Afognak Native Corporation is committed to providing professional development opportunities to its Shareholders. The goal of the Future Leaders Summit is to prepare young shareholders for life after high school and to support resilient Native youth in their development and transition to adulthood in a culturally appropriate manner.

Discovering the lessons and morals imbedded in the stories from their parents, grandparents, and mentors will help participants better understand where their traditions and values come from. Having a clearer picture of who they are will lead to a happier and more fulfilling professional and personal life.

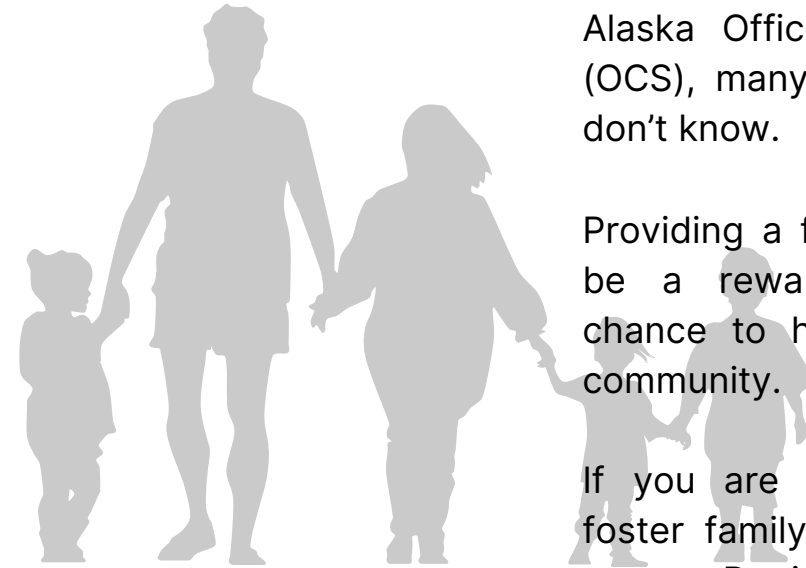
The dates of the Summit will be February 17th and 18th 2024, in Anchorage. Applications will be available after the first of the year. More information will be available soon on my.afognak.com.

When someone is asked, “What culture do you come from?” many will answer the question with a listing of their heritage. I’m half Eskimo and something; I’m Filipino; I’m German, Italian, Chinese, and Hawaiian. Heritage is a single aspect of culture. Students will be introduced to aspects of culture they are presently unaware they demonstrate every day. When a person is grounded in cultural understanding why and how they make decisions becomes more apparent.



Call For Foster Families

Alaskan children all over the state are placed in the temporary care of the Alaska Office of Children’s Services (OCS), many times with someone they don’t know.



Providing a foster home to a child can be a rewarding experience, and a chance to help those in need in our community.

If you are interested in becoming a foster family for a native child, please contact Denise, at (907) 486-6357.

Nadia Mullan Alutiiq Heritage Library

Book of the Month

Slow Scrape by Tanya Lukin-Linklater

In this expansive and undulating meditation on time, relations, origin, and colonization, Lukin Linklater guides and leads, all the while allowing us freedom to participate. When she writes, “Spend time with the work. Be generous. Generous-ness as potentiality, as a becoming, I listen. I will follow the score. With her, I am becoming.”

-From the intro by Layli Long Soldier



Scholarship Opportunities

KEF SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

Timeline of Annual Deadlines



FEBRUARY 1

- KEF General Scholarship Early Bird Deadline

MARCH 1

- NVA Scholarship Opens
- NVOPL Scholarship Opens
- TNV Scholarship Opens

MARCH 15

- KEF General Scholarship closes
- Koniag Angayuk Scholarship/Internship closes
- KEF Step-Up Scholarship closes

JUNE 1

- Native Village of Afognak (NVA) Ag'wanermiut Liitut closes
- Native Village of Port Lions (NVPL) Rhea Mae Knagin closes
- Margaret "Agnguarta" Roberts Memorial (TNV) Scholarship

JUNE 30

- Official Transcripts Due for all KEF students

AUGUST 15

- Change of School forms due

OCTOBER 31

- Spring Only/Step-Up Scholarship closes
- Official Transcripts due for Spring Only students

NOVEMBER 15

- Koniag Angayuk Scholarship/Internship Opens

DECEMBER 15

- KEF General Scholarship/Step-Up Opens
- Transcripts due for continuing KEF General Students
- Change of School forms due

NO DEADLINE:

- Career Development
- Vocational Scholarship



IGAP Highlights



Since April 2023, Native Village of Afognak has collected over 75 pounds of household batteries for proper disposal. This is 75 lbs that will not go to our landfill, which means less chemicals in our land and waters, and they can be broken down to their core components and made in to new batteries. Great job everyone!

In August 2023 NVA staff, Dig Afognak staff, and Interns did a clean up of Dig Afognak and were able to clean up over 7,800 lbs of trash from our camp. Thank you to staff and Interns and Kodiak Water Taxi and Transport for assisting with bringing it back for us.

Did you Know?

Air Facts

- An average American breathes 2 gallons of air per minute, which means around 3,400 gallons of air each day.
- Inhaling air pollution takes away at least 1-2 years of a typical human life.
- It has effects as small as burning eyes and itchy throat to as large as breathing problems and death.





Tribal Administrator Introduction

Cama'i,
 I want to take a moment to introduce myself to you. My parents are Steve and Martha Branson, and my mom's parents were Edna and Phil Ferris Sr. My great grandparents were Martha and Nick Shuravloff Sr. I am a member of the Sun'aq Tribe and my husband, David Tucker is an ANC Shareholder. I am an Alutiiq language learner-speaker and a member of the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers. I bring my experience working at the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak as their Program Services Director and First Alaskans Institute as their Advancement Director with me to NVA, along with my love for our Alutiiq culture.

I have a love for community building, action planning and leading a team. I believe we stay prepared for the challenging times and the seasons of intense activity through effective management of day-to-day activities and uplifting staff as we work together to achieve our goals. NVA has strong cultural and youth programs that remind our community of our strength and beauty as Alutiiq People. I appreciate that NVA has continued to advocate for our people on many fronts and focuses on building unity among our partners. I look forward to working with the staff and council to serve NVA's Tribal Members.



New Business Opportunity

Our Tribal Member households received a letter last month, outlining our recent investment in Cost Savers. This project will aid the development of Mal'uk farms into a larger operation, able to serve more people with increased diversity of produce, and increase NVA's financial security. We now own the land that Cost Savers is on as well as the lot next door to it. We also purchased the Cost Savers store operation in partnership with the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

The retail store will become a part of our Food Security Plan to provide for Kodiak Island tribes and villages in the case of a natural disaster or emergency. The store currently has open positions that we encourage you to apply for. This acquisition was made with a long-term focus on food security, emergency preparedness, and an opportunity to scale-up our farm operation to increase yield and variety.





Mal'uk Farms

Mal'uk Farms is our hydroponic operation which was originally grant funded by Kodiak Archipelago Leadership Institute (KALI). The grant ended on September 30th, 2023, and the farm is moving to a self-sustaining operating model in partnership with Tangirnaq Native Village. We operate a container growing system (CGS) and hydroponic growing cabinets at our office. These hydroponic growing systems produce herbs and 1,200-1,800 heads of lettuce monthly. We are then able to sell the produce on the Qik'rtaq Food Hub. We are selling lettuce and herbs each week, and if there is unsold produce on harvest day, it is sold to the Kodiak Island Housing Authority, to be given out to housing participants, and to the Nuniaq restaurant.

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up!



KALI has secured another grant for native families to cover the cost of produce by receiving a \$100 monthly credit on the Qik'rtaq Food Hub, where you can order your produce. This is a great opportunity to get locally grown produce for free for the next two years. You can sign up to receive weekly notices of produce sales and your \$100 monthly credit.

Elders & Youth Conference

Each year First Alaskans Institute hosts the Statewide Elders & Youth Conference the week of AFN. This is their 40th Anniversary of uplifting our Elders & youth from across the state. The conference invites Elders & Youth who want to learn and immerse in a gathering that centers our Elders and our youth in Native ways of knowing and being. They invite schools, groups, families, and others willing to be immersed in Indigenous excellence and community! Attendees from Kodiak Island will be in attendance, and we hope to see more Elders and youth from our region attend in coming year. To learn more contact info@firstalaskans.org.



Marci Orth and Evelyn Russell crafting at Elders & Youth, 2022