



# SHAREHOLDER NEWS

FALL | 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### **GREETINGS!**

Fall is definitely in the air with winter fast approaching. While the weather was gloomy this summer one bright spot was a significantly stronger salmon season in Chignik than the past several years. Both early and late run sockeye escapement goals were met with a strong sockeye harvest exceeding 1 million, the first time since 2016. Chignik River Chinook salmon, like many chinook populations across the state, have continued to struggle. With 2023 as the lowest king escapement on record and recent Stock of Management Concern designation, subsistence fishing for kings was restricted. Even with historically low prices this season, it was heartening to see stronger sockeye returns.

Once again, Far West hosted another successful Annual Meeting of Shareholders on September 16, 2023. Thank you to all of the shareholders to participated in voting and those who were able to attend in person and online this year. We were particularly encouraged by the online participation and will continue to look for ways to make online attendance easier for our shareholders.

This year the Board of Directors dedicated time developing an updated strategic plan, with a concerted focus and emphasis on increasing Far West's value to our shareholders, through improved communication and engagement, providing meaningful benefits through the Shareholder Settlement Trust, and renewing and strengthening our bonds and connections in our village.

As we approach the holiday season, we wish you good health and valued time with family and friends. We look forward to the renewed purpose and energy that the New Year will bring!

***Thank you all for your support,***



Marit Carlson-Van Dort | President & CEO

# ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

## ELECTION RESULTS

### NOMINEES

A. Rena Carlson	6923.782
B. Eugene Carlson	6923.782
C. Verdean Zivica	5570.6868
D. Write-in	50
Total: 10,821.8058	

### PROXY WINNERS

\$1200.00 Early Bird Prize – Sonya Ayson	\$200.00 – Brenda Pedersen
\$750.00 – Derrick Macauly	\$200.00 – Demitri Pedersen
\$300.00 – Jared Skonberg	\$150.00 – Sandra Stepanoff
\$300.00 – Ruel Carlson	\$150.00 – Carol Pedersen
\$200.00 – Nikolai Macauly	\$150.00 – Meta Carlson
\$200.00 – Sylvia Rose Bravo	\$150.00 – Talon Regan

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## SUBSIDIARY UPDATE

**Angayut, LLC** nearly doubled its contract revenue in 2022 over 2021 and is on track to exceed last year's performance by year end. As we enter the final years of Angayut's 8(a) eligibility we're focusing on increasing our competitive capabilities and strategically using our excellent past contract performance to create a strong position for our newest subsidiary Far West Services, LLC (FWS) to enter the SBA 8(a) program. Far West Services 8(a) application is pending with the SBA and we're hopeful for certification by the end of the year.

# NEWS FROM CHIGNIK

## ▶ UAF GROUP RECEIVES PHILANTHROPIC GRANT TO AID CHIGNIK REGION COMMUNITIES

A huge congratulations to the Chignik Bay Tribal Council for spearheading the effort in applying for and being awarded the grant to address the need for baseline data collection and climate change impact analysis in our communities! Quyaana!

"A University of Alaska Fairbanks coastal organization has received a \$590,000 philanthropic grant to map rapidly changing watersheds of the Chignik region on the Alaska Peninsula.

The project is in part a response to the region's repeated salmon fishery collapses, which researchers say are partly due to alterations to fish habitat by shoreline changes and other geomorphic factors.

The region has seen extreme high-water levels related to more frequent storm flooding, causing increased erosion that has affected subsistence fishing areas and community infrastructure.

The grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation will also support local workforce development, provide student research opportunities, and contribute to expansion of the Chignik Intertribal Coalition, which is co-leading the project. The coalition includes Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Ivanof Bay and Perryville."

<https://www.uaf.edu/news/uaf-led-group-receives-philanthropic-grant-to-aid-chignik-region-communities.php>

## ▶ DANGEROUS LEVELS OF TOXINS FOUND IN CHIGNIK LAGOON CLAMS AND SAND POINT MUSSELS

The Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation issued an emergency harvest warning on June 7 reporting high levels of toxins in razor clams in Chignik Lagoon and blue mussels in Sand Point. The shellfish are unsafe to eat and could cause paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). Some of these toxins are 1,000 times more potent than cyanide, and can cause severe illness and death, according to the health corporation's environmental health department.

<https://www.kdlg.org/health/2023-06-12/dangerous-levels-of-toxins-found-in-chignik-lagoon-clams-and-sand-point-mussels>

***Get medical help immediately if you experience nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and tingling or burning lips, gums, tongue, face, neck, arms, legs, and toes, shortness of breath, dry mouth, a choking feeling, confused or slurred speech, and lack of coordination.***

We encourage local harvesters of shellfish to learn about PSP and ways to minimize risk through species identification, testing, and safe handling, storing and cooking practices. A great resource is the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Food Safety & Sanitation's Shellfish Program.

<https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/shellfish/recreational-harvesting/>

# BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION NEWS

CREATE/UPDATE YOUR STOCK WILL! It is important to have a stock will on file to ensure that YOU, and no one else, decide to whom you want your shares to go. You'll also be entered to win up to \$500 every quarter! The next deadline to win is November 15! Easily update your direct deposit and ensure you have a stock will on file that's been updated within the last five years by logging into your myBBNC account at mybbnc.net. Questions or need to create or update your stock will? Contact Shareholder Services at shareholders@bbnc.net or (907) 278-3602.

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## NATIVE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### ▶ BLACKBULL NATIVE STORE

"This small Midtown Anchorage business caters to Alaska Natives and rural residents. Much of the merchandise invokes a sense of nostalgia among customers, said co-owner Daphne Nicholai, who grew up in a village near Bethel. The Blackbull Native Store just turned a year old. It is an Alaska Native-owned business, selling Native-made or designed items you won't find in other stores in Alaska's largest city, everything from steam bath supplies to spruce tip salt to Eskimo ice cream."

<https://www.alaskasnewssource.com/2023/07/08/anchorage-store-supplies-essentials-alaska-native-village-life/>

The store at 501 W. International Airport Road, Unit 30, is located in the Geneva Woods strip mall. It's open daily from noon to 6PM.

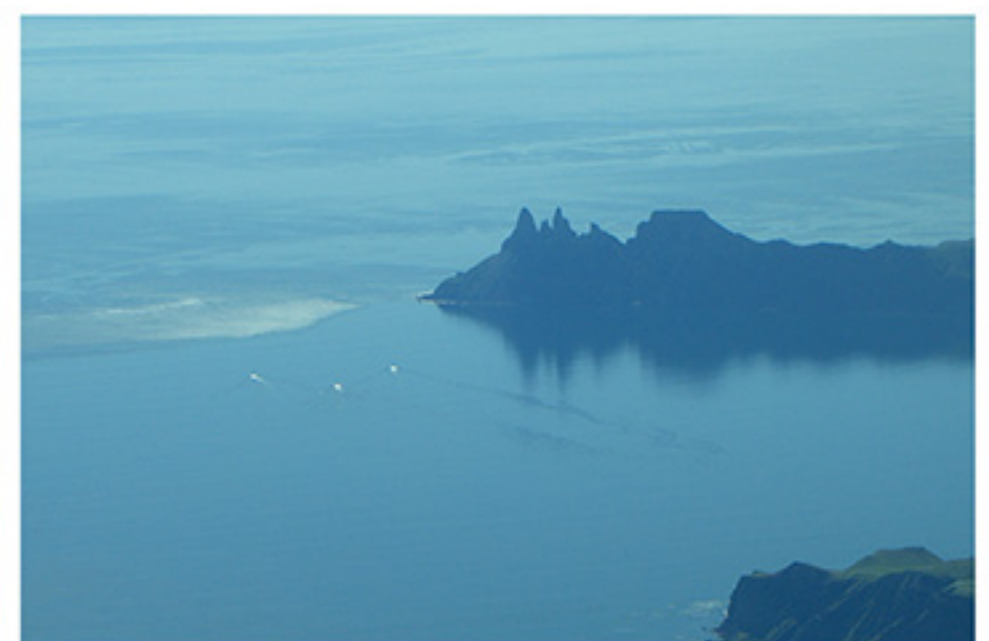
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## MEMORY ETERNAL | IN MEMORIAM

**Bruce Anderson**

**Mary Napouk**

**James Skonberg**



## CELEBRATING NATIVE ART

“Alvin Amason (b. 1948) is an Alutiiq (Sugpiaq) painter and sculptor living in Anchorage, Alaska. As a young person, he decided to pursue a career as an artist. He studied in Washington and Arizona for his artistic training and returned in the 1980s to his home state where he continues to live, teach, and create work. Amason combines painting and sculptural techniques, often attaching three dimensional elements to canvas. Amason’s work draws upon his Sugpiaq culture and experiences as a child. Many of his artworks include representations of Alaska’s wildlife reflecting an understanding of animals, which he gained while hunting with his grandfather on Kodiak Island.

Alvin Amason paints from his experiences growing up on Kodiak Island, where he was surrounded by the ocean and lived among the animals of Alaska. Everything I Love is Here is drawn from childhood memories and the stories told by his grandparents. Amason’s grandfather was one of the first Alaska Native master bear guides. Brown bears are part of the Kodiak landscape. His grandmother offered memories of food, particularly with her seafood chowder, in which she includes the eyes of the fish. When Amason would ask her why she included the eyes, she would say, “The eyes are good medicine.” In the painting, Amason depicts a humpy (pink) salmon and a dog (chum) salmon, the favorite fish of older generations. Amason recalls looking at the sea otters and seals in the ocean and thinking they just looked like dark spots in a dark ocean. When he asked his grandfather how one could tell a seal from an otter, his grandfather offered: “Seals are one bump, otters are two.”

Otters float on their backs with their feet above the water. The airplane on the right panel is a nod to the bush planes of Alaska and their everyday presence, transporting people and supplies to camps and villages. Amason references pilot Steve Harvey, who has flown a Grunman Widgeon (a World War II era aircraft) for over 30 years—the sound of radial engines overhead became the sound of comfort to Amason, a hum that would indicate home.”



*"I paint Alaskan animals of today. I'm glad I have my heritage, but I don't want to rely on it. Culture just doesn't work if it is put on a shelf, in a jar, in a museum. It is a living thing. Time goes on and cultural elements change."*

*- A. Amason*

Far West is very proud to have Alvin Amason as a shareholder!



<https://www.anchoragemuseum.org/media/15097/art-everything-i-love-is-here-lesson-plan.pdf>

# HISTORY LESSON

## ➤ RESEARCH DISCOVERS BENNY BENSON'S TRUE AGE

“Several Alaska communities claim Benny Benson, who won a contest to design the Alaska flag in 1927. Born in Chignik, he was placed in the Jesse Lee Home in Unalaska as a young child. When the orphanage moved to Seward, Benson also moved there. In later life, he lived in Kodiak. Dr Mike Livingston, formerly a cultural heritage specialist for the Aleutian Pribilof Islands association, conducted research to obtain more accurate information about Bensons’ family history. Livingston discovered that Benson was actually 14 when he submitted the flag design, not 13 as is commonly believed (and Benson himself apparently believed). Birth and baptismal records of a Russian Orthodox priest in Chignik report Bensons birth date as September 12, 1912. The idea that Benson was a year younger seems to have come about in 1940, when he registered to service in World War II. He had no birth certificate on that date. After a panel reviewed the evidence Livingston brought forward, the State of Alaska has corrected Bensons’ official birth certificate.”

*Alaska History News, Vol. 50, No. 2*

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## NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH

November is Native Heritage Month and  
November 24th is National Native Heritage Day!



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## DIRECT DEPOSIT AUTHORIZATION DRAWING!

There are many reasons to turn in a direct deposit authorization form for your settlement trust disbursements. Instead of waiting on a check to come in the mail, you will receive your direct deposit right away. If you move, you won't have to worry if you updated your address with us or not. All you have to do is turn in an authorization form to us before the next disbursement in 2024. There will be a \$100 prize drawing for a shareholder that signs up for direct deposit. Everyone who has a direct deposit authorization form on file is eligible to win!

To get the form: Head on over to [www.farwestak.com](http://www.farwestak.com), hover over "Shareholders", and click on "Forms and Documents". This is where you will find the FWI Settlement Trust Direct Deposit Authorization form. You can fill it on the website, it's as easy as that! Or, if you prefer, you can print out the PDF version and mail, fax, or scan it to us.

<https://farwestak.com/dir-dep/> or call (907) 222-7600

## HONORING THE PAST

In recognition of Veterans Day on November 11th, we'd like to highlight the importance of remembering and recognizing the sacrifices our veterans have made. We honor the contributions of generations of shareholders who set us on our path forward as a corporation and whose service has distinguished us as Alaska Native people, as a state, and as a nation.



*Left to Right: Arthur Skonberg, Axel Carlson Jr., Daniel Skonberg, US Army, Aleutian Islands, WWII*

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## SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION UPDATE

Need to update your contact information, transfer shares or create or update a stock will? Contact Bristol Bay Native Corporation at [www.bbnc.net](http://www.bbnc.net) or call 907-278-3602 or 800-426-3602.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Eugene Carlson**  
*Chair*



**Heather Carlson**  
*Vice Chair*



**Phyllis Carlson**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*



**Rena Carlson**  
*Director*



**Claudia Carlson**  
*Director*