

# SEALASKA Shareholder



A quarterly newsletter from Sealaska

Q1

## Sealaska Enlists Damen Bell-Holter to Inspire Youth

Former professional basketball player and Hydaburg local Damen Bell-Holter is teaming up with Sealaska to strengthen and expand our community engagement work with youth and young adults. Damen grew up in Hydaburg playing high school basketball at Mt. Edgecumbe, going on to play Division One college basketball and professionally in the U.S. and Europe.

Since leaving basketball, Damen has pursued his passion of giving back to his community, serving as a role model for kids, inspiring them to realize their full potential and reach for a brighter future. Damen has built a following with

Sealaska youth, already working with Sealaska Heritage Institute, SEARHC and Tlingit & Haida interacting with kids through school visits and his basketball camps. He is returning to his hometown to host a basketball camp in late April.

Damen said, "I'm excited to be on board with Sealaska and am extremely grateful to be able to work within a corporation that works with our people. I look forward to uplifting our youth and having a hand in our communities."

Damen's proven ability to get across important topics that

resonate with our youth will be an asset to Sealaska's community engagement efforts.

Check out Sealaska.com for updated information on events and activities Damen hosts.



Damen Bell-Holter, Sealaska  
Director of Community and  
Youth Programming

## Sealaska Businesses Lead the Way For Financial Success

The 2018 spring distribution total is \$23.1 million. That's more than the entirety of the distributions made in 2017, which was \$22.5 million.

Sealaska's businesses continue to drive Sealaska's financial improvement, and all three operational groups were profitable and expect continued growth. Total improvement in sustainable business income over the last five years is greater than \$22 million, and 2017 net income results will be one of Sealaska's highest in its history.

"Sealaska expects this milestone success in our businesses to continue, and we are proud that we are growing businesses with ties to our Native values," said CEO Anthony Mallott.

The board of directors is dedicat-

ed to assuring that Sealaska's financial success will lead to stable and growing dividends and increased commitments to programs and services that our shareholders value.

"The board is excited to see dividends and our total distributions increasing, while also recognizing that direct payments to shareholders are not the only way we impact shareholders or communities," said Board Chair Joe Nelson. "Sealaska commits \$1.5 million each year to preserve and restore Native Alaskan culture through ongoing support to Sealaska Heritage Institute. During Celebration years, we contribute another \$125,000 to support the biennial event. We also provide \$500,000 in annual scholarships for more than 300 students. Earlier this year, Sealas-

ka made its final payment in a \$1 million commitment to the Healing Hand Foundation. The board and management are proud that Sealaska is financially strong and able to make consistent and meaningful contributions to efforts our shareholders care about."

The spring distribution sources include \$5.6 million from operations and the Permanent Fund and \$17.5 million from ANSCA Section 7(i).

### Lookout for the 2017 Annual Report

Read about our audited financial results in the 2017 annual report, mailed to shareholders in early May.

## Sealaska Will Protect Thousands of Acres of Forest in Southeast Alaska for over 110 Years

In mid-March, Sealaska received approval from the California Air Resource Board (CARB) to designate 165,000 acres of forested land for use as a carbon bank. The Sealaska Native Alaskan Forestry Project was issued approximately 11.0 million carbon credit offsets (CCOs) by CARB. The Air Resource Board is the "clean air agency" for the California government and manages California's cap and trade and carbon credit offset program. Sealaska entered a purchase agreement of the credits with a compliance entity.

The Sealaska Native Alaskan Forestry Project is the first Alaska project to be issued carbon offset credits. It's also the second largest amount of credits issued to a single organization. As a protective measure for any possible natural-causing carbon destruction, like forest fires, the total number of sellable credits is approximately 9.3 million.

Sealaska set aside 165,000 acres of land for the project. Trees from the lands will store--or bank--carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through a process called carbon sequestration.

Sealaska's carbon project came about as a result of discussions and input from our local Southeast Alaska communities about the future of our forestry operations and maximizing the full potential of our people. We listened to their needs and concerns and believe that the carbon bank is an innovative solution that creates value for our Sealaska shareholders now and into the future.

The project includes sensitive areas such as watersheds that serve as important sources of drinking water for our traditional communities in Hydaburg and Hoonah and critical habitat for salmon and other wildlife throughout Sealaska lands. We chose watersheds and fish habitat areas because we are committed to the health and productivity of our ocean waters and marine environment, which reinforces our new strategic direction.

The proceeds from the carbon credits will be invested back into Sealaska shareholders, businesses and communities for generations to come. Sealaska is in a financially strong position. We will utilize our carbon credit proceeds, our growing cash from

our business successes, as well as the strength of natural resource and investment income to strategically plan to increase the value we deliver to our shareholders.

For 110 years and multiple generations, the acres will be untouched by large-scale commercial harvesting. Sealaska shareholders will still have access to all of Sealaska's land for subsistence and natural harvesting including the lands in the project. Sealaska can still access the lands for cultural needs, such as logs to donate for totem poles and other community cultural projects. Sealaska can still pursue non-timber development opportunities.

Sealaska will still maintain an active and healthy working forest on our remaining timberlands. Harvesting timber sustainably produces net income to Sealaska and jobs and economic activity within the Southeast Alaska region. Our vision is for present and future generations of shareholders to have the ability to benefit from our land. Sealaska will continue to find opportunities to create the greatest financial, community and cultural benefit from Sealaska lands.

## Letter from Board Chair Joe Nelson

The board of directors met at the end of March. We are all excited about Sealaska's financial performance. The results will be published in the 2017 annual report, showing one of our most successful operating years to date. We set a high bar for our management team, and we proved to ourselves that we can be successful. We will continue to work hard.

Now, we are all engaging in thoughtful discussion about how to be prudent with this success and build on it -- all the while, being responsive to shareholders' needs.

We sent out a survey in January that asked shareholders what support they wanted most from Sealaska. If you participated in the survey, I want to personally thank you. Thanks to your feedback, we are expanding the schol-

arship program and funds. We are also in hearty discussion about adding burial benefits for shareholders, among other things.

### We want to hear more from you.

Sealaska events, like the community meetings and Celebration, are places where shareholders can connect with each other. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I invite you to participate however you can. Together, we can shape the future of the company. It is my sincere desire for Sealaska to reconnect with shareholders who have chosen to disconnect over the years. We are only going to be at our best when we have everybody on the same page moving forward together. There is always room for differences, but we work through differences every day in



every relationship. The critical piece is agreeing that we are stronger together.

When you see your directors at the community meetings in May, please share your story on an individual basis. We do not always have the solutions at our fingertips, but working together, we can make positive things happen.

Sincerely,  
Joe Nelson, Board Chair

## Investing In Education: Strengthening Our Future

Sealaska's scholarship program is getting a \$10 million boost--the first increase to the Scholarship Endowment Fund since its inception.

Earlier this year, Sealaska asked our shareholders where we should focus our funding efforts with our financial success. Education was the primary issue by a two-to-one margin.

Here are some of your responses:

"Education is important, and for us to continue to the next generations, we need to have our children educated."

"We should have scholarships that promote our youths' ability and the opportunity to stay in Alaska and continue Sealaska's future."

Sealaska began its scholarship program in 1981. The average yearly cost to attend college at that time was around \$3500. A scholarship from Sealaska helped cover a significant portion of that tuition. Now, a year at college costs on average \$28,000. Sealaska recognizes the cost of education has been growing exponentially, and we want our scholarship program to keep pace. To date, Sealaska has awarded approximately 11,000 scholarships totaling \$16.4 million.

Helping to fund shareholder education doesn't stop with college. College is just one path people take toward a career. Vocational and trade schools, job training certificates and endorsements are all options Sealaska is considering funding.

Sealaska's original investment in the Scholarship Endowment totaled \$2.5 million. Due in part to inflation proofing, the additional funds bring the total to \$15.7 million. Scholarships are paid from the earnings from the fund along with timber revenue.

Our communities and businesses need leaders trained with the necessary education, skills and experience. Scholarships are just one way to help our people realize their full potential and pursue new opportunities.

Talia Davis is a current Sealaska scholarship recipient and interned with Sealaska Timber last summer.



# The Road to WRANGELL

## Home of the 2018 Annual Meeting

### About Wrangell

The Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) is a federally recognized tribe of the Stikine River region, with its charter approved by the Dept. of the Interior in 1942. The Tribe consists of roughly 600 tribal members, governed by the WCA Tribal Council. The tribe manages Chief Shakes Island, Shakes Island Tribal Tours, and the WCA Cultural Center. Programs operated under the WCA umbrella include WCAT Roads, IGAP and Fisheries. WCA provides social services, employment and educational opportunities for the Tribe and community.



## 2018 Annual Meeting Saturday, June 23, 2018

Wrangell High School Gymnasium  
312 Reid Street • Wrangell, Alaska

- Annual Meeting gavel at 1 PM (Alaska Time)
- Webcast begins at 10 AM (Alaska Time)



## Honoring Our Wrangell Shareholders

**Sandy Churchill** - Alaska Head Start Association (AHSA) 2016 Lead Teacher of the Year

**Tis Peterman** - The United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group coordinator

**Carter Hammer** - Wrangell has one swimmer participating in Alaska's Special Olympics, but some folks are looking to bring in more athletes and coaches of all abilities. Carter joined Special Olympics Alaska.

**Volunteer firefighters** in Wrangell participated in the 27th SCOTT Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle in March. The climb raises funds for blood cancer research.



Sandy Churchill  
Wrangell Headstart Lead Teacher

### CLAN INFORMATION

#### Wolf/Eagle Moiety

##### *Kayaashkeiditaan*

- *Kéet Hít* (KILLER WHALE HOUSE)
- *Kayaashka Hít* (PLATFORM HOUSE)

##### *Naanyaa.aayí*

- *X'atgu Hít* (DOGFISH HOUSE)
- *X'atgu Naasi Hít* (DOGFISH INTESTINE HOUSE)
- *Kóok Hít* (BOX HOUSE)
- *Hít Tlein* (BIG HOUSE)
- *Tatóok Hít* (CAVE HOUSE)
- *Chéx'i Hít* (SHADOW HOUSE)
- *Aan Shooka Hít* (HOUSE AT THE FAR END OF THE OLD VILLAGE)

##### *Sik'nax.ádi*

- *X'aan Hít* (RED CLAY OR FIRE HOUSE)
- *Ank'w Hít* (TSIMSHIAN CANE HOUSE)

##### *Xook'eidí*

- *Shdéen Hít* (STEEL HOUSE)
- *Aandaa Óonaa Hít* (CANNON HOUSE)

#### Raven Moiety

##### *Kaach.ádi*

- *Náalx Hít* (HALIBUT HOUSE)
- *Xíxch'i Hít* (FROG HOUSE)
- *Alkaa Hít* (GAMBLING HOUSE)
- *Gaach Hít* (RUG OR MAT HOUSE)
- *Kaawdliyaayi Hít* (HOUSE LOWERED FROM THE SKY)
- *Yáay Hít* (WHALE HOUSE)

##### *Kaasx'agweidí*

- *Xeitl Hít* (THUNDERBIRD HOUSE)
- *Tl'aadein Hít* (STANDING SIDEWAYS HOUSE)
- *Xíxch'i Xaayi Hít* (FROG'S DEN HOUSE)
- *Taan Hít* (SEA LION HOUSE)

##### *Kiks.ádi*

- *Gagaan Hít* (SUN HOUSE)
- *Tax' Hít* (SNAIL HOUSE)
- *Xíxch'i Hít* (FROG HOUSE)

##### *Taalkweidí*

- *Shaa Hít* (MOUNTAIN HOUSE)
- *Kaxkuyendu Aa Hít* (NAME OF WATER SPIRIT THAT LKAAYAAK'W KILLED)
- *Gil' Hít* (CLIFF HOUSE)

##### *Teeyhíttaan*

- *Teey Hít* (BARK HOUSE)

### LEADERSHIP

#### Wrangell Cooperative Association Tribal President

Richard Oliver

#### Wrangell Landless Representatives

Brad Fluetsch

Leo Barlow

#### Sealaska Directors (current and former) from Wrangell

Richard Rinehart 2013- present

Ethel Lund 1988-2009

Murlin "Mike" G. Everson 1978-1981

Gilbert Gunderson 1972-1987

Sealaska Director  
Richard Rinehart is  
from Wrangell.



# Reflection on a Year of Speaking Her Mind

Q & A with the 2017-2018 Board Youth Advisor Nicole George

Nicole George sat down with Sealaska's Kayla Roberts at a coffee shop in Olympia, Washington to talk about her year as the Board Youth Advisor. She is about to receive her master's from Evergreen State University in environmental science: education and policy, and public administration: tribal policy.



**Q: How has being the Board Youth Advisor benefitted you?**

**A:** Personally, I think I've learned how to be aggressive, and not in a negative sense. I learned to be confident in my personal views and my personal values. I learned how to look at the broader sense and go beyond myself and the people at that table – truly think about the current shareholders and future shareholders and how they would benefit and be affected by my decisions. Not a lot of people have the opportunity to think about the long-term benefits and consequences of their decisions. Sealaska is very

unique because our people have always thought that way.

**Q: How has your relationship to Sealaska changed?**

**A:** I have a deeper appreciation for Sealaska. Whenever I walk into the Sealaska office, I make it a point to not just greet directors but also say “hi” to management and their teams. The accountants and other workers are really the foundation of this corporation, not necessarily the directors themselves. The directors wouldn't be able to do anything without the fabulous work ethic of the corporation as a whole.

**Q: Take us inside the boardroom. What is expected of you as the Board Youth Advisor?**

**A:** My first meeting, I was so nervous. After two meetings, I started to get the hang of things. I got familiar with how everyone functions – you find out who the jokester is and who asks all the questions. You get a feel for how the chair runs his meeting. Joe [Nelson] likes to call on people, especially the Board Youth Advisor. So always be prepared to give some sort of comment.

**Q: What's your advice for future Board Youth Advisors?**

**A:** Do something that is productive and useful for you, and don't feel guilty about it. You have a life outside of school and the boardroom, and the directors don't expect you to stop living that life just because you have this new responsibility.

**The application opens January 1.**

## IN MEMORY

Sealaska pays tribute to shareholders who have recently walked into the forest.

James A. Beers — Gresham, OR (65)

Ronald L. Bertram Jr. — Wasilla, AK (51)

Agnes M. Borden — Anchorage, AK (67)

Richard P. Branda — Ketchikan, AK (55)

Willis D. Cavanaugh — Kake, AK (59)

Delfin Cesar — Juneau, AK (78)

Anthony D. Choquette — Anchorage, AK (49)

Warren H. Coffelt — Anacortes, WA (83)

Florence M. Crolley — Juneau, AK (84)

David D. Dailey — Anchorage, AK (73)

Roland C. Dalton — Juneau, AK (85)

Nora Dauenhauer — Juneau, AK (90)

George Davis — Juneau, AK (90)

Agnes D' Cafango — Juneau, AK (52)

Elizabeth Denny — Ketchikan, AK (93)

Beulah E. Dickson — Sitka, AK (79)

Fran N. Eakin — Oklahoma City, OK (75)

Hilary O. Egan — Saint Paul, MI (97)

Patrick M. Emery — Ketchikan, AK (67)

Vanessa L. Fletcher — Central, AK (55)

David A. Frank — Angoon, AK (69)

Floyd W. Frank Sr. — Ketchikan, AK (91)

Margaret E. Gamble — Juneau, AK (92)

Juliette Rae Gardner — Ketchikan, AK (52)

Elizabeth K. Gatz — Tonkawa, OK (62)

Emma Guerrero — Pueblo, CO (93)

Alexander Hatzipetros — Elkridge, MD (31)

Percy E. Hope — Sitka, AK (87)

Rachel E. Hotch — Haines, AK (87)

Harold I. Howard — Seattle, WA (67)

Machelle J. Jackson — Gresham, OR (56)

Harold W. Johns Sr. — Juneau, AK (76)

Albert M. Karls — Everett, WA (78)

Alice M. Kitka — Sitka, AK (50)

Leilani N. Kito — Petersburg, AK (79)

Henry B. Larue — Lady Lake, FL (90)

Jewell A. Laviolette — Beaverton, OR (60)

Sandra D. Loftus — Marysville, WA (70)

Lorraine R. Lopez — Anchorage, AK (73)

Marlene Ida. Lorrigan — Buckley, WA (71)

Bernard E. Lundin — Bainbridge Island, WA (90)

Bernadine E. Marshall — Mt Vernon, WA (74)

Thomas F. Martinez Jr. — Juneau, AK (54)

Dennis A. Mathews — Gresham, OR (82)

Georgia E. Miller — Seattle, WA (70)

Mamie Miller — Clearlake, CA (81)

Clarence S. Milton III — Juneau, AK (37)

Betty Monjay — Tillamook, OR (81)

Florence B. Moore — Brier, WA (83)

Thomas Moran — Eaton Rapids, MI (80)

Joshua K. Morris — Anchorage, AK (31)

Theodore Mukpik — Sitka, AK (72)

Ruth I. Nelson — Juneau, AK (84)

Frederick O. Olsen — Des Moines, WA (80)

Andrew J.P. Ortiz — San Jose, CA (28)

Robert B. Paddock — Bremerton, WA (55)

Mary E. Paulson — Lynnwood, WA (93)

David A. Perreault — Redding, CA (63)

Milton G. Phillips — Anchorage, AK (68)

Walter Pratt — Juneau, AK (86)

Linda Friday Ravensong — Lynnwood, WA (63)

Hilda D. Roberts — Anchorage, AK (75)

Raymond Roberts — Ketchikan, AK (89)

Mary Jolene Rodriguez — Sitka, AK (58)

Nikki E. Schaefer — Fairbanks, AK (50)

Irene Shea — Gales Ferry, CT (64)

Levi C.L. Shearer — Sitka, AK (26)

Leonard C. Skeek — Petersburg, AK (86)

Crawford D. Smith Jr. — Brodheadsville, PA (66)

Carol Lynn Snoddy — Wrangell, AK (67)

Marc A. Stokes — Seattle, WA (56)

Violet E. Tadlock — Spring, TX (95)

Earl Thompson — Redmond, OR (95)

Stephen G. Weitzel — Juneau, AK (45)

Randall C. Wells Sr. — Fairfield, CA (70)

Leona Williams — Juneau, AK (77)

Tamara L. Williams — Ketchikan, AK (61)

Please note that Sealaska will publish shareholder names only after the Shareholder Relations Department has received proper documentation.

## SHI Revives Traditional Native Games in Juneau

Sealaska Heritage is co-sponsoring a Native Youth Olympics program for Juneau high schools students in an effort to create a team to compete in the state championships for the first time in nearly 30 years.

The program will grow students' athletic abilities through use of ancient games. The games are

based on hunting and survival skills that allowed the indigenous people of Alaska to work together and to thrive in their homeland for thousands of years.

The program is also co-sponsored by the Juneau School District, Tlingit & Haida Central Council and Woch.Een in collaboration with Goldbelt Heritage.



## Celebration 2018: From a Few Hundred People to Thousands of all Ages Celebrating Vibrant Cultures

In 1982, Sealaska and Sealaska Heritage Institute held the first Celebration, a gathering of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian of Southeast Alaska. It was held at the urging of Elders, who worried the cultures were dying after a period of severe oppression. The Elders also wanted to celebrate that their cultures had survived.

At the first Celebration, only a couple hundred people attended and hardly any children were there. Addressing the crowd, Byron Mallott—then president and CEO of Sealaska, which sponsored the event—called it one of the three most significant days in the lives of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people.

“I think that among us all we sense down deep that we must come together one more time. We must come together as a people and we must stay together. And we must stay together for a purpose. And that purpose is to allow us to continue as long as we shall have children to survive as Tlingit and Haida and Tsimshian people,” Mallott said. They could not have imagined then that Celebration would spark a movement across the region—a renaissance of Native culture.

“How important it has been for the young people,” said Dr. Walter Soboleff in 2007. “The young people love it. They started to have the Elders teach them how to dance. The Elders taught them how to sing. The Elders taught them to appreciate their crest, appreciate their clan, appreciate their tribe.”

children who wear regalia and sing their ancient songs. Native languages are heard throughout the four-day event.

“I admire the amount of work and discipline that the participants put into preparing for this event,” said Sealaska Chair and Sealaska Heritage Trustee ex officio Joe Nelson. “This same discipline has allowed us to thrive in our Southeast Native communities for thousands of years. Celebration is such a big deal that it only happens every two years.”

Celebration 2018 is June 6-9 in Juneau. Everyone is welcome. See all information on Celebration at [www.sealaskaheritage.org](http://www.sealaskaheritage.org)

### UPCOMING CELEBRATION DEADLINES:

Native Fashion Show models, application deadline: **April 27**

Toddler Regalia Review, application deadline: **May 11**

Food contests for black seaweed, soapberries, seal oil and seal crackling (fat), registration deadline: **May 31**

Today, Celebration is one of the largest cultural events in the state, drawing thousands of people. In recent years, it has grown to include associated events, such as juried art shows for adults and youth, a Native Art Market, a Native fashion show, a Toddler Regalia Review, lectures, food contests and Native language demonstrations. Today, Celebration draws people of all ages, including hundreds of

Celebration 2018 takes place in Juneau, Alaska, June 6-9.





# 2018 COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE

*Sealaska will be on the road in May to visit Southeast Alaska and Washington State communities. We look forward to meeting with you!*

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Friday, May 11	Sitka, AK	ANB Hall @ 5PM
Saturday, May 12	Anchorage, AK	Hilton Hotel @ 2PM
Wednesday, May 16*	Juneau, AK	Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall @ 5PM
Thursday, May 17	Haines, AK	ANB Hall @ 5PM
Friday, May 18	Hoonah, AK	High School Gym @ 5PM
Sunday, May 20	Lynnwood, WA	Lynnwood Convention Center @ 2PM
Monday, May 21	SeaTac, WA	Double Tree Hotel @ 6PM
Tuesday, May 22	Klawock, AK	ANB Hall @ 5PM
Wednesday, May 23	Ketchikan, AK	Ted Ferry Civic Center @ 5PM

\*Sealaska will webcast the Juneau community meeting. A link will be made available on MySealaska. Additional details to follow.

Sealaska.com | MySealaska.com | Visit us on Facebook | Twitter @SEALASKA | YouTube @SEALASKAKWAAN

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