



KOOTZNOOWOO

News



CORPORATION RECEIVES \$168,625 IN CARES ACT FUNDING

When Congress passed the CARES Act and it was signed into law in March 2020, \$8 billion was set aside for tribal entities, which included nearly half a billion dollars for Alaska Native Corporations.

Shortly afterwards, several Lower 48 tribes filed a lawsuit challenging ANC's eligibility to receive those funds. The case reached all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court who ruled in June 2021 in a 6-3 decision that it was in fact Congress' intent to include ANC's in the CARES

Act and, therefore, ANC's were eligible to receive the funding.

The U.S. Department of Treasury was responsible for determining the amount each ANC received. Out of the funds set aside for ANC's, Kootznoowoo, Inc. was allocated only \$168,625.

Per an article published on September 3, 2021, by *Coast Alaska*, "According to the Treasury one of the factors [in determining each corporation's disbursement was] the number of employees the corporation and its subsidiaries have."

"Even though we didn't get a large allocation of funding, we are still committed to ensuring that every Kootznoowoo shareholder has an opportunity to receive a portion of the CARES Act money the corporation received," said Board chair Melissa M. Kookesh.

At the September board meeting, the Board of Directors reviewed and approved a plan from management that allows for each shareholder who applies to receive a flat \$125 in pandemic relief.

Applications for the Kootznoowoo CARES program will open on **October 1 and will close on **November 1, 2021.****

Shareholders will be able to apply for CARES Act funding through the online Kootznoowoo Shareholder portal. To avoid any delays, **those not signed-up for the portal should visit www.MyKootznoowoo.com and register before the application period opening on October 1.**

Shareholders must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to receive the funding:

- ◆ Be a Kootznoowoo shareholder as of October 1, 2021.
- ◆ Be a U.S. citizen.
- ◆ Must be able to self-certify that they've experienced a negative financial impact (including increased costs or loss of income) of at least \$125.
- ◆ Expenses or income loss must be between March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melissa M. Kookesh
Board Chair

Edwell John Jr.
Vice Chair

H. Jean Houge
Secretary

Frank Jack III
Treasurer

Ella Bennett
Director

Harold Frank Jr.
Director

Albert Howard
Director



Melissa M. Kookesh
Chairwoman of the Board

Dear Shareholders,

Over the past year and a half, we have seen our lives change in many ways as a result of Covid-19. No one has remained untouched by the pandemic. In light of all Alaska Native Corporation's victory at the Supreme Court in our fight to receive CARES funding, there have been many questions as to how much Kootznoowoo, Inc. will receive and how it will be distributed.

This past August, we received notification from the U.S. Department of Treasury that our corporation will receive \$168,625 of CARES funding. While we were initially hopeful that Kootznoowoo's allocation would be enough to provide meaningful covid-relief to shareholders, we are very disappointed in the small allocation we received especially compared to other village corporations. However, the Board is still committed to getting CARES funding to shareholders and at the September board meeting approved management's plan to provide \$125 to each shareholder who applies. I encourage all shareholders who are in need of financial assistance as a result of covid to also contact the Angoon Community Association and Tlingit & Haida as they may have other resources available to those who have been impacted by the pandemic.

As a corporation, we have also once again found ourselves in the midst of an executive transition. We are pleased that Jonathan Wunrow, who had been contracting with Kootznoowoo since 2019 to provide grant and project management support has agreed to step in as our new Interim President & CEO. Jonathan has extensive experience working with Alaska Native tribal organizations as a consultant, program director, and program development specialist. The Board is confident that he will successfully manage the helm as we begin the executive search process.

Finally, as we have entered the comforting chill of fall, soon the calming rest of the winter season will be upon us and we will continue to strive to move forward despite the challenges that we face. We remain committed to our priority of growth and prosperity for your corporation and wish you health and safety during these challenging times. *Gunalchéesh.*

CARES DISBURSEMENT FAQ's

Q: I'm an original shareholder with 100 shares. Why am I getting the same amount as a non-original shareholder with less shares?

A: *The CARES Act funding is not considered a distribution, and language in the legislation prohibits ANC's from disbursing the CARES funds on a per capita or per share basis.*

Q: What if the additional expenses I incurred due to covid is more than \$125?

A: *Unfortunately, because Kootznoowoo's CARES allotment from the U.S. Treasury was so small, we are limited in the amount that we can provide to each shareholder. We encourage you to contact any tribal organization or other Native corporation in which you are enrolled to see if additional funding opportunities are available for you.*

Q: After I complete my CARES funding application, when can I expect to receive my \$125 payment?

A: *Payments will be made by direct deposit or via a mailed hard copy check and paid out each Friday throughout the application period as follows:*

- October 15
- October 22
- October 29
- November 5

DO YOU HAVE A TESTAMENTARY DISPOSITION ON FILE?

“A Testamentary Disposition is one of the most important documents for shareholders to have in their records,” said Office Manager Susettna King.

A Testamentary is a legal document similar to a Last Will & Testament that directs the corporation on who a shareholder wants to receive their shares upon their passing and in what amount. Of Kootznoowoo’s 1,108 shareholders, currently only 172 have completed a Testamentary.

“Shareholders who don’t have one on file run

the risk of their shares going to someone they might not want them to go too when they pass per Alaska intestate law,” continued Susettna.

Only shareholders over the age of 18 can complete a Testamentary. Forms are available online at the Kootznoowoo website or Shareholder portal. Shareholders may also request for a form to be mailed to them.

Shareholders who have questions or need assistance completing their Testamentary should contact Shareholder Services at (907) 790-2992 or email info@kootznoowoo.com.

TESTAMENTARY FAQ'S

Q: What if I complete a Testamentary but change my mind on who I want to receive my shares?

A: Your Testamentary can be changed by you at any time. All you need to do is complete a new Testamentary with the updated beneficiaries. Only the most recently dated Testamentary is valid.

Q: What if I already have a Last Will & Testament that specifies who I want to leave all my possessions too?

A: Often the language in a Last Will & Testament is too generic to be enforceable as the language to ANCSA shares has to be specific towards those shares. In order to ensure your final wishes are honored, it's best to have a completed Testamentary Disposition and on file in your records at the corporate office.

Q: What happens if I don't have a Testamentary Disposition or Will that specify who I'd like to get my shares?

A: In that case, your shares will be divided according to Alaska Intestate Succession Law and it's possible that your shares could go to someone not of your choosing.

Q: I have Power of Attorney for my family member who told me who they want to get their shares. Can I complete their Testamentary for them?

A: No. Only the shareholder can complete the Testamentary which must have their original signature and be notarized in order to be valid. Power of Attorney's, custodians, or legal guardians cannot complete a Testamentary on behalf of the shareholder.

THAYER CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT UPDATE

Throughout the past few years, the Thayer Creek Hydroelectric Project has continued to move forward. In 2021, the project has reached several additional project milestones.

“This project is truly a team effort and we are committed to helping the community of Angoon with reaching reliable and affordable energy in the future,” said Project Manager Devany Plentovich. “Kootznoowoo is working closely with several different partners who are all committed to seeing this project one day become a reality for Angoon. We refer to this group as ‘Team Thayer’.”

In addition to Kootznoowoo, “Team Thayer” includes the Angoon Community Association, the Inside



Melissa M. Kookesh presented at the National Hydro Association’s yearly meeting in Anchorage.

Passage Electric Cooperative, the City of Angoon, Southeast Conference, Renewable Energy Alaska Project, and Sustainable Southeast Partnership.

The greatest challenge we have for the hydroelectric project is funding,” said Board Chair Melissa M. Kookesh. “The current price tag is very high. We estimate costs of around \$8 million for construction of the hydro facility and an additional

\$12 million for an access road, dock, and transmission lines. Team Thayer is working hard to apply for grants and identify additional funding opportunities that can help us meet the project’s financial goals.”

Recent Hydroelectric accomplishments and highlights include:

- Grant Amendments were finalized with the Alaska Energy Authority.
- Engineering Firm HDR was tasked with completing several project items by the end of 2021 which includes updating resource plans, submitting permit applications, and reviewing marine structures and electrical system designs to develop a consolidated project 95% plans and specification set.
- Project team members met with Littoral Power Systems, Inc. to discuss modular turbine power plants as a potential technical solution for Thayer Creek.

KCEF NAMES 2021-22 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Kootznoowoo Cultural & Education Foundation (KCEF) which is overseen by Chair Carmaleeda Estrada, Konrad Frank as Vice Chair, and Shgen George as Secretary has announced that nine recipients have been awarded scholarships for the 2021-22 academic year.

“KCEF is proud to be able to provide scholarship support to Kootznoowoo shareholders and descendants,” said Carmaleeda Estrada. “This year, each recipient will each receive a \$500 scholarship to help offset their educational expenses.”

To be eligible for a KCEF scholarship, applicants must be an Alaska Native Kootznoowoo shareholder or descendant, enrolled in a full-time college or vocational program, and have an overall G.P.A. of at least a 2.0.



This year’s scholarship recipients include:

Jade Araujo	Stanford University	Bachelors
Maya Araujo	University of California Los Angeles	Bachelors
Marlis Boord	Fort Lewis College	Bachelors
Lilliana Demmert	Fort Lewis College	Bachelors
Alicia Duncan	Oregon State University	Masters
Talan Jack	Haskell Indian Nations University	Bachelors
Edwell John Jr.	University of Charleston	Doctorate
Shaylianna Kookesh	Fort Lewis College	Bachelors
Katherine Pittman	University of Alaska Southeast	Masters

SHAREHOLDER **NADJA KOOKESH** PROMOTED TO VP AT GOLDBELT

Kootznoowoo shareholder Nadja Kookesh was promoted this past June to the position of Vice President of Human Resources at Goldbelt, Inc.

“The title of Vice President shows the importance of Nadja’s work and the level of seniority her position holds,” said McHugh Pierre, Goldbelt’s President & CEO. “Nadja has years of experience growing with Goldbelt and she brings a unique perspective from her years working with other large businesses.”

Nadja first joined Goldbelt in 1996 as a college intern. After earning a bachelor’s degree in General Studies from Western Washington University, Nadja stayed in the Lower 48 and grew her professional experience with positions at companies that include Microsoft and Amazon. In 2009, Nadja moved back to Alaska and later in 2015, she joined Goldbelt corporate’s Human Resources department.

In her role as Vice President, Nadja is responsible for overseeing the human resource functions for all Goldbelt companies including the corporate office, Alaska operations, and the corporation’s multiple government contracting subsidiaries.



COMMUNITY CANOE PROJECT LAUNCHES IN **ANGOON**

The project will be led by Master Carver Wayne Price who is also a professor of Northwest Coast Art at the University of Alaska Southeast. Beginning in mid-September and continuing through December, Professor Price will use a community-based approach to carving the 30-foot red cedar dugout canoe on a site at Angoon High School. Once completed, the canoe will be donated to the residents of Angoon and could be used for food gathering, youth and family recreational paddling, and for canoe journeys.

“Mr. Ron Gleason, Principal of Angoon High School is also working to develop a curriculum for high school students to be able to participate in the carving project,” said Kirsten. “The project also has additional opportunities for adults to volunteer as apprentices so they too can learn this traditional carving technique from a master carver.”

Last spring, Kootznoowoo, Inc. sought funding from multiple organizations to support a community canoe carving project in Angoon.

“For centuries, hand-carved wooden canoes were the centerpiece of Tlingit transportation, commerce, art, and cultural identity,” said Canoe Project Coordinator Kirsten Slate who has been leading the project and overseeing all planning and logistics. “We are so excited to have the opportunity to reintroduce Tlingit-style canoe carving as an art form and engage the entire community of Angoon, particularly school-aged children and young adults.”





ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Highlights & Results

Kootznoowoo's 48th Annual Meeting of Shareholders was held on Friday, May 28, 2021 and broadcast via webcast.

"We were very sorry that we were once again unable to meet in person for our annual meeting," said Board Chair Melissa M. Kookesh. "But doing our part to help keep everyone safe from covid was a higher priority for the Board. We look forward to the time when we can all be together again in-person."

During the meeting, Ella Bennett was re-elected to another term with 23,545 votes, and Edwell John Jr., who previously served on the Board until 2019 was also elected to a new term with 21,943 votes.

The election was overseen and certified by Lucy Malloy of Altman Rogers & Co., who served as the annual meeting's Inspector of Elections. Edwell John Jr. will fill the board seat of Cooney Starr.

"On behalf of the Board and shareholders, we would like to take a moment to thank and acknowledge Director Cooney Starr who chose not to seek re-election this year," said Chair Kookesh during the meeting. "It has been a pleasure to work with Cooney on the Board. We will forever be thankful and grateful for his commitment to the corporation and for all that he has done to help move Kootznoowoo forward."

At the meeting a memorial tribute and moment of silence was also provided for shareholders who passed on over the prior two years including the loss of Senator Albert M. Kookesh who passed away the morning of the meeting.

"Kootznoowoo has recently experienced some tragic losses that have greatly impacted our community. We are particularly saddened by the recent loss of Geraldine Nelson who is a former Kootznoowoo employee," said Chair Kookesh during the meeting. "I'd also like to acknowledge Frank Sharp and Mark Jack who both had served on the Kootznoowoo Board of Directors and have recently passed. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has suffered a loss."

Other meeting highlights included vintage dance performances from 2002's Celebration by the *Xudzi Daa*

Kwaan dancers courtesy of Sealaska Heritage Institute; a keynote address by speaker Brian Kleinhenz of Terra Verde; and various reports from management, the Kootznoowoo Cultural & Education Foundation, and the Kootznoowoo Permanent Fund Settlement Trust.

The meeting adjourned with a congratulatory acknowledgement and celebration to the Angoon boys' and girls' basketball teams for becoming regional champions the night before the annual meeting.

2021 ELECTION RESULTS

1. Ella Bennett	23,545
2. Edwell John Jr.	21,943
3. Albert Howard	21,236
4. Lisa Johnson-Blackhorse	12,569
5. Write-in's	2,153

48th Annual Meeting of Shareholders



ALBERT HOWARD APPOINTED TO FILL VACANT BOARD SEAT

Albert Howard will complete the term of Matthew Kookesh who resigned from the Board in July.

On July 3, 2021, Director Matthew A. Kookesh informed the Kootznoowoo Board via email that he was resigning from the Board. In 2020, Matthew was re-elected to the Board after having previously served four terms on the Board including from 2005-10 as Chair. His term was set to expire in 2023.

According to the Kootznoowoo Bylaw 3.6, "A vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by the vote of a majority of the remaining directors." The Board met on July 8, at a special board meeting and formally accepted the resignation. During the special board meeting, the Board also discussed how to fill Mr. Kookesh's vacant board seat. After discussion, they unanimously agreed to offer the vacant seat to Albert Howard who received the third highest vote count at the 48th Annual Meeting with 21,236 votes.

"I am pleased to announce that Albert has accepted the appointment to fill Director Kookesh's seat," said Board Chair Melissa M. Kookesh. "We welcome him aboard and feel confident that he shares in the Board's dedication to building a strong foundation of businesses for Kootznoowoo that will increase opportunities and benefits for both today and tomorrow's shareholders."

Upon his acceptance of the appointment, Director Howard immediately began serving the remaining two years of Mr. Kookesh's term.

KOOTZNOOWOO'S COVID PRECAUTIONS



Kootznoowoo is observing local mandates at the Corporate Office in Juneau and requiring ALL VISITORS to wear a mask while on the premises.

"We understand that right now there are many varying opinions on masks," said Office Manager Susetna King. "But in order to do our part and protect our shareholders, staff, and community, we are taking these important safety measures and greatly appreciate everyone's support."

Shareholders who are unable to come into the office or who would prefer to receive assistance via distance may contact the Kootznoowoo team at (907) 790-2992 or via email at info@kootznoowoo.com.

Regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Manage your own information on the Kootznoowoo Shareholder Portal.
Register at www.MyKootznoowoo.com. **It's fast, easy, and convenient!**

LOST SHAREHOLDERS

The following shareholders have contact information that is currently invalid. If you know someone on this list or have information about where we can locate them, please contact Shareholder Services at (907) 790-2992 or send an email to info@Kootznowoo.com.

Brian Lee Abbott
Melinda R. Abyo
Melissa Jean Ackley
Jade A. Araujo
Gary Wayne Austin Jr
Thomas Morris Austin
George James Bennett
Amberly A. Brown
Terra Darlene Bruer
Alex Wilson Bucknell
Gertrude Carlin
Micky Compton
Stewart J. D'Cafango
Marian Donthnier

Tabitha Marlene Faber
Delores Elsie Gardipee
Garfield Paul George
Gary John Glover
Cheryle Heather Guest
Harold Kenneth Hepler
Robert G. Hunter
Byron W. Jack
Darvine Anthony James
Pamela A. Jim
Virginia J. Kennedy
Jerusalem A. Kenworthy
Jacob Adam Kompkoff

Nikolai Lucas Kookesh
Janet Austin Lincoln
Sunny Matthews
Felomina G. Mazon
Semion John Mazon
Aliyah Shayanne Merculief
Amelia Merculief
Isiah John Merculief
Kayla Nicole Merculief
Brandon George Merculieff
Joyce Ida Merculieff
Kenneth Robert Olson
Rosiline Peratrovich

Dean Anthony Petersen Sr.
James D. M. Peterson
Kevin Glenn Peterson II
Alexandra Carolyn Pittman
Andrew F. Pittman
Victoria Amber Russel
Triska Marie See
Sherrilyn Nancy Stein
Tawnia C. Tillotson
Genevieve L. Willard
Dorothy M. Williams
Rodney Willis
Lawrence Richard Young

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