

ANB/ANS SEEKS FUNDING FOR BUILDING RENOVATION AND TEEN CENTER

For nearly 60 years, the ANB/ANS Hall in Angoon has been an important gathering place for the community. Whether a social gathering, basketball game, Christmas program, funeral, potlatch, or meeting, the ANB/ANS Hall has been a vital part of bringing Angoon together. The Hall, which was built in the 1960's was the result of a collaborative effort by members of the ANB and Community of Angoon.

Over the years, the condition of the building has deteriorated. However, ANS President Chenara Johnson hopes to revitalize the Hall so it can continue serving Angoon. Her vision includes the complete renovation of the rest rooms and kitchen. In addition, she would also like to develop a teen center.

"The teen center is very important because Angoon currently doesn't have a positive, safe space for local youth to gather," said Chenara.

To gain input and support for the project, Chenara organized a Youth Advisory Committee made up of ten local youth. "They have been amazing partners who are equally committed to making the teen center project a reality."



The Youth Committee completed a deep cleaning of the building, assisted with the demolition of the rest rooms, and are planning to create a list of the activities they would like to see hosted at the teen center. Once completed the youth will manage the center.

"I realize that it's going to take a lot of effort, time, and money to complete this project," said

Chenara, "However, I am optimistic that if we work together with the same spirit demonstrated by the community when the Hall was first built, we can be successful!"

Chenara petitioned Kootznoowoo to help raise funds to renovate the building. In November, Kootznoowoo's Interim President & CEO, Jonathan Wunrow and Shareholder Relations Specialist, Kirsten Slate travelled to Angoon to help launch the project.

To date, Kootznoowoo has raised \$70,000 in grant funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Crossett Fund, and has submitted proposals for an additional \$65,000. Renovation work will begin in the spring.

SAVE THE DATE

49th Annual Meeting of Shareholders Friday, June 3, 2022

Meeting may be held in Angoon or via webcast.



Shareholder
Chenara Johnson

Letter From The Chair



Dear Shareholders.

This past December, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act celebrated 50 years since it was signed into law. As we look back and reflect on all that has happened since then, we can also take this opportunity to look forward to the next 50 years and beyond.

At Kootznوو, we continue to strive for financial viability, economic benefits and opportunities for shareholders, as well as building community partnerships within Angoon, the region, and across the state. I am pleased to report that at the December meeting, the Board unanimously approved a resolution to add \$12,500 to the Elder Trust to help adjust for inflation and the potential of being underfunded. We remain committed to maintaining the Trust as it is a vitally important benefit that our forefathers created to provide additional financial support to our precious elders.

In efforts to strengthen the Board's financial oversight, we re-established the Finance Committee. This committee, whose members include myself as Chair, and Directors Edwell John Jr., Jean Hogue, Frank Jack III, and Harold Frank Jr., will meet regularly to examine the Corporation's finances and discuss financial-related matters.

One of the most pressing issues faced by the Corporation is our heavy dependence over the past decade on 7j revenue sharing. This important natural resource sharing component of ANCSA, was created to protect village corporations from going bankrupt. It has helped carry Kootznوو through some heavy financial challenges. However, many experts have sounded the alarm and warned that 7j is hanging on a cliff with perhaps only eight years left where it can provide revenue sharing to ANCSA corporations. It is vitally important that we ensure sustainability for our corporation and future generations of shareholders outside of this revenue.

With that looming potential deadline in mind, we have been working hard to establish financial independence from 7j. We began our strategic planning process in 2019, before the pandemic hit, and began wrapping up this process at the beginning of this year. Our plan is to accomplish this through setting both short- and long-term business development goals that will diversify our businesses through new ventures and a strong portfolio of 8a businesses.

We were very disappointed in the small amount of funding Kootznوو received from the CARES Act, and the battle to maintain our status as an ANCSA Corporation which had also been placed in jeopardy. We were still pleased that nearly 800 shareholders were able to take advantage of the \$125 payment that we were able to payout to all of those who had requested the assistance. With the CARES Act funding made available through other tribal organizations and Alaska Native Corporations, we are hopeful that at least some of your financial burden from COVID may have been lifted.

Finally, as we continue to move through the coronavirus pandemic, we are not sure as to whether we will be holding our annual meeting in person or online. The health and safety of our shareholders, the Community of Angoon, and Kootznوو's staff remain our top priority, and we want to make a decision in the best interest of everyone involved. Regardless though, we do miss meeting with you in person and look forward to returning to the time when we can safely be together at our annual meeting.

Gunalchéesh,



M. Kookesh

Melissa M. Kookesh

Letter From Interim President & CEO



Dear Shareholders,

In August 2021, I joined Kootznoowoo as its Interim President & CEO. Since then, I have been focused on examining and understanding the corporation's businesses; getting a handle on the money coming in and the money going out; and implementing ways to work in a more efficient, ethical, and financially sound manner. My focus has been, in large part, on making sure we are doing the best possible job with what we currently have in place, so that we have a strong foundation upon which to grow.

During my first few months, I completed a thorough review of Kootznoowoo's finances and worked closely with our bookkeeper to create monthly financial reports for each corporate entity that are both accurate and easier to read. These monthly reports allow for real-time management decisions and adjustments to be made. I also developed a detailed 2022 budget for each program that is based on conservative income projections.

Overall, we have an excellent team of very dedicated staff and contractors who do all of their work with the Shareholders and health of the Corporation in mind. We have created some staff efficiencies and cancelled contracts with several individuals and entities to clarify roles and responsibilities and improve our bottom line. We completed a thorough review of the employee benefit package and implemented an improved package that includes increased annual leave, expanded

bereavement leave, and improved 401(k) contributions.

One major development is the decision to dissolve Chatham Properties. Over the past two-plus years, Chatham Properties has not performed in a way that was profitable. So, in consultation with the Small Business Administration, we decided to dissolve the business. The Board of Directors is in the process of learning from our past experiences and then determining whether to launch one or more 8a businesses moving forward.

I remain committed to spending time in Angoon to build collaborative relationships with the Tribe, City, and school district. While in Angoon, I have made myself available to meet with shareholders and community members to get a better understanding of the role Kootznoowoo can play in helping to strengthen the community. I also regularly meet with Tribal administrative staff and Tribal Council members, as well as the City of Angoon's mayor and staff to discuss areas of mutual concern. I believe that this in-person time in Angoon is an important part of Kootznoowoo's responsibility for being a willing partner in addressing community infrastructure and economic development needs.

Finally, as we continue on into 2022, I'm optimistic. There are many opportunities in front of us that include: finalizing and then implementing the Corporation's Strategic Plan; completing our negotiations with the Department of Transportation on land sales for the Angoon Airport and exploring ways to prepare a local workforce for the employment opportunities that airport construction will bring; working with the community, U.S. Forest Service, tour operators, and others to explore economic development opportunities; establishing a new 8a business model; strengthening our partnership with the Kootznoowoo Cultural and Educational Foundation; finding creative ways for the three buildings we own to be profitable; and to always move forward in ways that are grounded in Tlingit values and that benefit our shareholders.

Best Wishes,

Jon Wunrow

Jonathan Wunrow

CANOE CARVING PROJECT UPDATE

The Canoe Carving Project which began in late fall with the arrival of a 30-foot cedar log in Angoon, has resumed at the Angoon High School. The project, which is being led by Master Carver Wayne Price, has enabled local youth to learn the traditional Tlingit art form of canoe carving. Along with Price, students from Angoon, and two apprentices worked on the canoe into December before having to break for the holidays and harsher winter weather.

“Dugouts were part of our history for thousands of years, they shouldn’t just be passed on into history,” Price said in an October 2021, article of the *Juneau Empire*. “There’s a resurgence being created with the work we’re doing, being the healing medicine of dugout canoes.”

In addition to the continued carving, the next phase of the project is going to be the steaming process, which according to Cherri Price, Wayne’s wife who works closely with him on scheduling and logistics is “the birth of the dugout canoe.” The process involves using superheated lava rocks to steam open the inside of the boat.

It’s been such a rewarding experience for the youth of Angoon who have been helping Wayne throughout the fall. They have been experiencing all aspects of canoe carving including learning how to use an adze, other carving tools, and keeping the area clean.



“The community has been so welcoming.

Community members of all ages, not just students, come by to say hello,” said Cherri. “They sing for Wayne, chat with him, ask questions, and enjoy the smell of the red cedar, which is such a treat.”

The project is expected to be finished by mid-April. Once the canoe is complete, a dedication ceremony will be planned so that the canoe can be used by the community

The art of canoe carving is priceless and stems from “traditional and ancient wisdom,” said Cherri. “Wayne taught himself to carve canoes because there wasn’t anyone to teach him. He was the renaissance man who brought canoes back and it’s important to pass along that knowledge.”

ANNUAL MEETING - CALENDAR

March 7: Deadline to submit Resolution Proposal Statements

March 21: Deadline to seek removal of a director

April 4: Record Date

April 13: Proxy & Annual Report Mailing. Voting opens



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: KIRSTEN SLATE

In the early fall of 2020, Kirsten Slate joined the corporate Kootznoowoo team. Initially hired to provide reception coverage and administrative support, Kirsten immediately began taking on additional assignments, and within three months was promoted to Shareholder Relations Specialist.

In that role, she tackled many important assignments including working on reducing the lost shareholder list and reconciling past-owed payment. “When I started this project, we had 118 lost shareholders,” said Kirsten. “By taking the time to look for our lost shareholders and reaching out to them and finding them on social media, we are down to only 45. By getting our shareholder records system current, we were able to reconcile a quarter of million dollars in past owed payments to shareholders.”

Another role that Kirsten has taken on is as the Carving Canoe Project Manager. “From the beginning, there were a lot of bumps that we had to overcome,” said Kirsten. “Getting a 10,000 pound log to Angoon during winter was not easy, but it has been a rewarding journey.”

Kirsten was born in upstate New York while her parents served in the army. Her family moved back to Yakutat, where her mother was from when Kirsten was just a few months old. Three and a half years ago, she moved to Juneau for new training and career opportunities. Kirsten completed a certification in Construction Management from the University of Alaska Southeast, and later received a dental assistant certification from the Southeast Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC). After working at SEARHC, the coronavirus pandemic hit, changing her course. Eventually, Kirsten found her way to Kootznoowoo.

“What drives me to come to work everyday is knowing that it’s going to be different, challenging, and rewarding in so many ways,” said Kirsten. “I enjoy working with the Kootznoowoo office staff and being able to help the Kootznoowoo shareholders and the community of Angoon, however I can.”



Kirsten and her daughter
Lainayah.

ARTISAN WORKSHOP PROJECT AWARDED GRANT FUNDING

Kootznoowoo, Inc. was recently awarded \$63,000 in grants to be combined with a \$20,000 grant that the City of Angoon received. The funding will renovate a city-owned building into an artist workshop that will be used by local carvers, weavers, and others to study and create art, and to offer classes for community members.

“The City and Corporation are

collaborating to breathe life into this building, that was originally constructed to be a museum, so that it can be used by community artisans and students,” said Jon Wunrow, Kootznoowoo’s Interim President & CEO.

Now that funding is in place, next steps include hiring local sports teams to do a thorough cleaning of the inside and outside

of the building and bringing in an electrician and plumber to complete needed electrical, plumbing, and furnace work.

Kootznoowoo is seeking additional grant funds to pay instructors, purchase tools and supplies, install a television and internet to deliver distance classes, and to cover the costs of utilities.

Angoon Hydro Project DID YOU KNOW?

In 2020, Angoon burned about 120,000 gallons of diesel fuel for electrical generators.

The Angoon Hydro Project at Thayer Creek will reduce the amount by 90% to about 1,200 gallons per year.



MAKING THE MOST OF MYKOOTZNOOWOO

After being launched in 2020, and getting off to a slow start, over the past year the MyKootznoowoo Shareholder Portal has experienced significant growth. In February 2021, only 387 shareholders had registered for MyKootznoowoo. However, today nearly 700 shareholders (or more than 63% of all shareholders) have registered for the portal.

"I think at first shareholders may have been apprehensive about using MyKootznoowoo because they were so used to calling the corporate office when they needed something," said Office Manager Susettna King. "But now that shareholders have seen how much more convenient and easy it is to use the portal, many prefer it."

Unlike the Corporate Office, which is limited to workdays and regular office hours, the MyKootznoowoo Portal is available to shareholders 24-7. Shareholders can login anytime to personally manage their shareholder information including:

- Updating contact information such as mailing address, phone, and email
- Reviewing the status of their distribution payment
- Adding or deleting Direct Deposit
- Checking to see if they have a Testamentary Disposition on file

Other features of the portal include a news section where shareholders can stay up-to-date on the latest news and communications from the corporation, shareholder forms, and information on unsettled estates and lost shareholders.

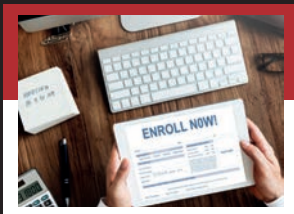
"The portal even includes a map with a live count of where Kootznoowoo shareholders live throughout Alaska and the Lower 48," shared Susettna.

In 2020 and 2021, the portal was utilized for the yearly Annual Meeting of Shareholders which was broadcast to shareholders via the portal. "MyKootznoowoo was a great asset that enabled shareholders to participate in the Annual Meeting even though we were not able to host it in person," said Board Chair Melissa M. Kookesh. "Because shareholders were distanced as a result of the pandemic, they were still able to chat with each other online, win door prizes, and enjoy the meeting."

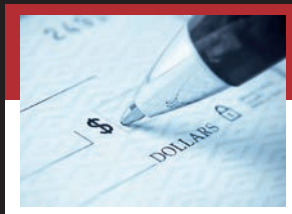


Shareholders who are not yet signed-up can register at
www.MyKootznoowoo.com

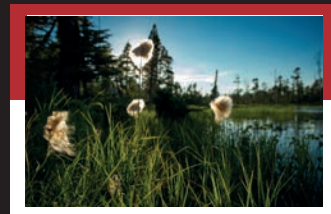
SHAREHOLDER SNAPSHOT



**697 enrolled on
the Shareholder Portal**



**592 signed-up for
Direct Deposit**



**152 have a Testamentary
Disposition on file**

IN MEMORY— HONORING THOSE WHO PASSED IN 2021

Kootznoowoo, Inc. sends our thoughts and prayers to everyone who has suffered a loss. We take this opportunity to honor our shareholders who passed away in 2021, and recognize that though they are no longer with us in body, they will always be with us in spirit.



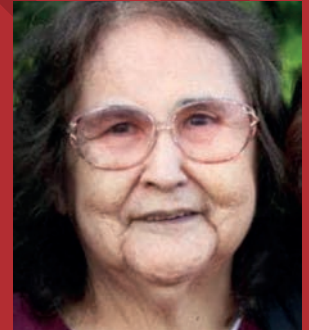
Stanley F. Brown



Bernard De Asis



Katherine Felipe



Barbara E. Johnson



Lawrence C. Joseph



Albert M. Kookesh



Theodosy T. Merculief



Geraldine B. Nelson



Rosaline G. Walker



Peggie Williams



REMAINING OFFICE CLOSURES IN 2022

Memorial Day – May 30
Independence Day – July 4
Labor Day – Sept. 5
Indigenous Peoples Day – Oct. 10

Veterans Day – Nov. 11
Walter Soboleff Day – Nov. 14
Thanksgiving Day – Nov. 23
Christmas Day – Dec. 26 (OBS)



LOST SHAREHOLDERS LIST

Brian Lee Abbott
Jade A. Araujo
Thomas Morris Austin
Laura Nicole Blankenship
Terra Darlene Bruer
Alex Wilson Bucknell
Gertrude Carlin
Mickey Compton
Marian Donthnier
Anita Louise Duncan-Peters
Elise Delores Gardipee
Cheryle Heather Guest

Harold Kenneth Hepler
Byron W. Jack
Lawrence J. Jackson Jr.
Sharolee Cordelia James
Paula Maggie James-Jack
Matthew Archie Kahklen
Virginia J. Kennedy
Jerusalem A. Kenworthy
ShaMeaka C-M King
Nikolai Lucas Kookesh
Janet Austin Lincoln
Carl G. Lindstrom

Joshua Elliott Martin
Sunny Matthews
Felomina G. Mazon
Isiah John Mercurief III
Aliyah Shayanne Mercurief
Amelia Mercurief
Kayla Nicole Mercurief
Wayne B. Nelson
Kenneth Robert Olson
Rosiline Peratrovich
James D. M. Peterson
Alexandra C. Pittman

Andrew F. Pittman
Victoria Amber Russel
Melanie J. Samato-Long
Triska Marie See
Michael Martin Sokimi Jr.
Pheobe Esther Sokimi
Tawnia C. Tillotson
Tallon Colt Westlake
Kevin Lawrence Willard
Dorothy M. Williams
Lawrence Richard Young

IT CAN PAY TO BE FOUND!

In 2021, of the 72 shareholders who were “lost” and updated their contact information, more than \$110,000 was paid out to them in past-owed distributions!

