

THE ALEUTIAN CURRENT



June 2019 • vol. 53 • issue 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President/CEO 02
 Chair Report 03
 TAC in Business: Top 40 Under 40 04
 Shareholder Corner 05
 Shareholder Spotlight 06
 TAF Update 08
 TAC Board Spotlight 10
 Aleut Marketplace Fellowship 11



Congratulations, Graduates and Spring Scholarship Recipients! See pages 8 & 9 for the most recent awardees.

SHAREHOLDER CORNER

Did you hear from us? Learn how to log in to the Shareholder Portal and update your contact information so we can keep you up-to-date on things like disbursement issues, and upcoming events.



SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

Searching for your birth family can be a journey. Renee' Frerichs shares her story of learning about her heritage, finding her family, and owning her indigenous identity.



CASH FOR GOOD GRADES

Deadlines for Cash for Good Grades and Attendance are rapidly approaching! Find more details inside, or visit aleutcorp.com/youthincentive for more information.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Slachxisaadaġ malgakuġ. The weather is nice, and summer is finally here! With the change of seasons, the geese are flocking to the pond outside Aleut Plaza where our Annual Aleut Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 22 from 12:00-3:00pm. Please come join us for this fun event hosted by the Corporation and Foundation if you are in town.

When the federal government signed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) on December 18, 1971, the settlement created thirteen Alaska Native Corporations and extinguished aboriginal title to 365 million acres of land in Alaska. With the creation of ANCSA, Congress conveyed 44 million acres and paid \$962 million to Alaska Native Corporations. Under ANCSA, Alaska Natives were required to form corporations organized to promote the economic and social development of Alaska Native people.

Although some shareholders believe that Alaska Native Corporations merely have a responsibility to provide dividends to shareholders, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act charged the thirteen Alaska Native Corporations with the responsibility of protecting subsistence rights, providing social services and promoting Native government.

The Aleut Corporation's mission to "maximize dividends and opportunities

for our shareholders and descendants" is in line with the requirements of ANCSA. As such, we not only provide dividends to our 4,000 shareholders; we also provide opportunities for social development through nonprofits that provide education funding, work training, health care, and other needed services from cradle to grave.

We recently held our annual Village Corporation Roundtable which was well-attended by our region's leadership. During this meeting, we reported on happenings within each of our entities, as well as discussed legislative and regional priorities. Our Aleut region has come together to collaboratively address issues that impact our region such as transportation, education, and broadband to mention a few. Together, we have taken steps to address cuts to the State budget, as well as write letters to support efforts which address poor air transportation in the Aleut region and cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System.

As you're reading this, I hope to have completed my annual Village Visits scheduled for June 1 – June 4. It is one of my favorite times of the year because I enjoy visiting our communities and listening to our shareholders and descendants. Please look for pictures



from this trip in the next Aleutian Current. I hope the weather cooperates and we're able to keep to the following schedule:

JUNE 1ST - AKUTAN
JUNE 2ND - ST GEORGE
JUNE 3RD - ATKA
JUNE 4TH - NIKOLSKI

I hope you and your family are looking forward to time spent fishing, planting, hunting and enjoying activities with your loved ones. I'd like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Thomas Mack

Thomas Mack

President/CEO

CHAIR REPORT

Aang Shareholders,

The month of May is always filled with wonderful excitement as we congratulate our many shareholder and descendant graduates. The Aleut Foundation is funded at its highest level ever in the history of the Aleut Corporation and your board is very proud of those who further their careers through specialized training, certifications, or academic degrees. Today's Aleut people are more educated than ever before, and your board is proud of all who further their potential through this important effort.

Celebration during graduation is not just for the student, it is for the family as well. Many sacrifices are made within the family

structure as individuals within that family pursue their educational goals. We want to encourage all to take the time to celebrate the accomplishments of your graduates. It is quite an accomplishment and your board wishes to extend a heartfelt congratulations to each of you!

Happy spring and congratulations to all our graduates.

Sharon Guenther Lind

Sharon Lind

Chairman of the Board



The annual Village Corporation Roundtable.



Aleut Corporation President/CEO Thomas Mack (front right) with members of the Arctic Economic Council. Thomas serves as the AEC Executive Committee's Vice Chair.



KEY BOARD ACTIONS

- Approved amended Fisheries Committee Charter.
- Adopted Resolution 01-2019, regarding first tier subsidiary company management.
- Approved Budget & Finance Committee recommendation to change the Permanent Fund asset allocation.
- Adopted Resolution 02-2019, updating officers of the corporation.
- Approved the Aleut Corporation's role in the arbitration that deals with carbon credits.

TAC REPRESENTS AT TOP 40 UNDER 40 AWARDS

The Alaska Journal of Commerce announced its annual Top 40 Under 40 earlier this year, and two members of the Aleut Corporation family were recipients of this prestigious recognition. Aleut Corporation CFO Clayton Bourne (39) and Senior Vice President, Mt. McKinley Bank in Fairbanks shareholder P. Jeremy Pletnikoff (38) were honored along with 38 other young Alaskans for their demonstration of professional excellence and commitment to community.

“Choosing the Top Forty class is always a tough task, and Alaskans didn’t make it any easier this year,” Journal Managing Editor Andrew Jensen said. “We’re happy to have representation from the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska’s Gateway City in Ketchikan, Southcentral, the Interior and members from Northwest Alaska who call Nome and Kotzebue home.”

This year’s selection committee chose the class from the largest group ever nominated: 152 individuals and nearly 800 total pages of supporting materials.

Clayton and Jeremy were honored along with the other members of the 2019 Top 40 Class at an awards banquet in March of this year. Congratulations, Jeremy and Clayton!



P. Jeremy Pletnikoff,
Mt. McKinley Bank
Senior Vice President
& TAC Shareholder



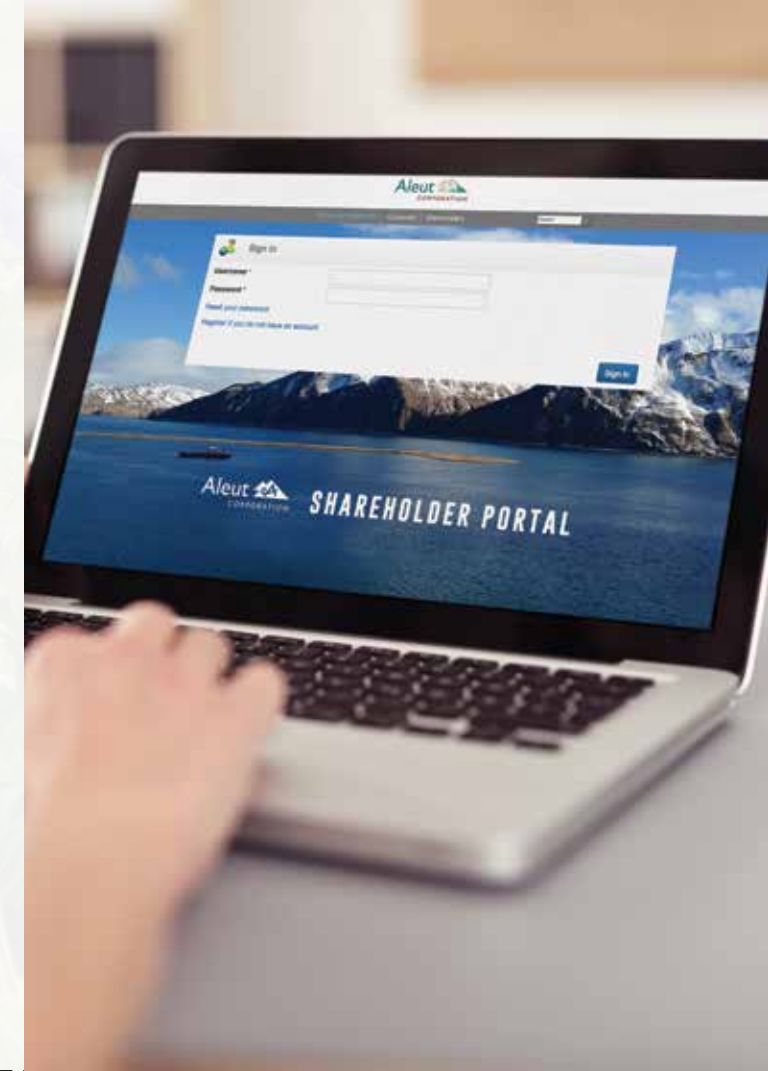
Clayton Bourne,
Aleut Corporation CFO

SHAREHOLDER CORNER

IMPORTANCE OF HAVING UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR SHAREHOLDERS...

We recently experienced a printing error on the checks sent to Class B shareholders for the 7(j) distribution. As soon as it was discovered, our accounting and shareholder departments acted quickly to get replacement checks mailed. What was the quickest way to inform our shareholders of this information? We sent an email to all Class B shareholders with emails on file and made phone calls to phone numbers on file, many of which were no longer in service. We need your help to keep your information current. We have a shareholder portal that contains all contact information.

You can register at <https://portal.aleutcorp.com>, or please cut the attached contact card and return it with your updated information.



CASH FOR GOOD GRADES & ATTENDANCE!*

TAC will draw three names per category for \$100 cash prizes. Drawings every semester!

TWO CHANCES TO WIN!

- Excellent GPA (3.5 GPA or above)
- Outstanding attendance (90% attendance)

TO SUBMIT YOUR REPORT CARD, YOU CAN:

- Scan and email it to records@aleutcorp.com
- Fax it to 907-563-4328 (if you fax it, please call to ensure the fax was received)
- Mail/deliver it to 4000 Old Seward Highway, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503
- For official rules and deadlines visit aleutcorp.com/youthincentive



SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION CUT OUT THIS CONTACT CARD AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR UPDATED INFORMATION

SHAREHOLDER NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ MESSAGE PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

THE ALEUT CORPORATION
4000 OLD SEWARD HIGHWAY
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

PHONE: (907) 561-4300
FAX: (907) 563-4328
TOLL FREE: 1-800-232-4882



SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT: RENEE' FRERICHS

OCCUPATION:

Business Owner & Blogger

LINEAGE:

Mother Margaret "Lynn" McNeil; Grandparents Simeon and Marian Dirks; Great-grandparents: George Dirks and Mary Sorokin; Great-great-grandparents Henry and Natalia Fedocia (Snigaroff) Dirks, and Boris and Eudokia Sorokin.

In a way, Renee' Frerichs' path to discovering her Aleut heritage has brought her family full circle. Adoptions, family separations and physical distance from the Aleut region created circumstances that, in many cases, could have meant lost relationships and connections. But thanks to a supportive adoptive family, her own patience and tenacity and the incredible assistance of Alaska Native people she didn't even know, Renee' has reconnected with her Aleut family and will get to meet her grandmother Marian in person for the first time at the end of May.

"My whole life, I had always wondered about my heritage and my people," Renee' said during a phone conversation from her home in Natchitoches, Louisiana. "Being able to reconnect with my family and learn about my heritage has really brought me peace, and helped me own my indigenous identity."

THE FIRST STEPS

Renee' was born Mary Ann McNeil in Omaha, Nebraska. She was adopted as a baby and was raised in Steamboat Rock, Iowa. Renee' says her adoptive parents were incredibly open with her about her history, which helped her eventually learn more about her heritage.

"My adoptive parents never lied to me. They were the ones who told me that my adoption paperwork listed my nationality as 'Aleutian Indian', and encouraged me to learn more about my people," she reminisced. "My adoptive grandparents were also

super supportive; they bought me moccasins and an Alaska Native doll, sort of a symbol of them recognizing my need to connect with my heritage. Even though finding information was challenging, they all made it very clear that they wanted me to be able to access my indigenouness."

"BEING ABLE TO RECONNECT WITH MY FAMILY AND LEARN ABOUT MY HERITAGE HAS REALLY BROUGHT ME PEACE, & HELPED ME OWN MY INDIGENOUS IDENTITY."

Her parents also worked to help Renee' meet her birth family. Unfortunately, her mother, Margaret "Lynn" McNeil, had passed away in 1986 after a car accident. Lynn had also been adopted, and very little information about her heritage could be found at that time.

It's important to note that much of Renee's search for information on her heritage and family began before the internet was in wide use. Instead of typing search terms into Google, Renee's search consisted of researching familial connections, navigating the labyrinth of federal and state agencies to obtain birth and adoption records and trying to find what information she could about the Aleut People. It was challenging, and there were moments she considered giving up.

JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Fortunately, she didn't have to navigate that path alone. In addition to her adoptive family, many other people came to aid Renee' on the journey.

"When I was in my late teens stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, a Yaqui artist named Ray Bacasegua Valdez took me under his wing and became a mentor to me," she remembers. "I'll always be grateful to him." Even though Ray wasn't Aleut, he helped Renee' better understand what it meant to be indigenous, and how to live in a post-colonial world.

After a brief tour in the Air Force in the mid-1990s, Renee' worked in a number of positions, including as a surgical assistant, tattoo parlor owner and artist, and in the entertainment and technology industries. When the need arose for a coroner intern in Natchitoches, she jumped at the opportunity to put her medical training to even more use. She worked her way up to the assistant coroner position, and it was there she developed her current business: the Beaux Beauty Blog. She got her next lead thanks to that endeavor.

"Through my website, I met Katrina (Dolchok) Jacuk, who happened to be an Aleut attorney who helps reunite Native families," Renee' explained. "She's the one who guided me through the whole process of trying to find my family and obtaining my documentation."

Katrina put Renee' in touch with Alaska Native genealogists, and showed pictures of her mother at the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage last year. Through the process and contacts made at AFN, Renee' was able to learn more about her mother's birth family, and also discovered that she was eligible to be an Aleut shareholder.

"Earlier in my search, I had petitioned the Nebraska government for a copy of my birth certificate," Renee' said. "Initially, they thought I'd be declined, but I ended up getting a copy of my original birth certificate in the mail a few months later. My cousin from my mother's adoptive family knew I was looking and when she heard I'd obtained my original birth certificate, she called me."

Renee's birth mother was an original shareholder in the Aleut Corporation. When she passed away in 1986, her adoptive family declined to accept the shares, feeling that they should go to an Alaska Native. Renee' was next in line to receive them as long as she had the documentation. She didn't have the documentation at that time - but now that she did, her mother's adoptive family was incredibly supportive, and helped her obtain the shares.

OWNING HER IDENTITY

Today, Renee' devotes most of her time to her very successful website, beauxbeautyblog.com. She originally came up with the idea during her days working in the coroner's office as a way to impart some of the knowledge gained throughout her career.

"I DON'T KNOW OF ANY OTHER ORDEAL OR PROCESS WHERE I'VE EXPERIENCED SO MANY HARDWORKING & HELPFUL PEOPLE. I'VE NEVER BEFORE BEEN SO PROUD OF WHO I AM, & WHO & WHERE I CAME FROM."

As her journey has continued, she's started writing and more on the blog about indigenous issues. She says the process of obtaining her mother's shares and learning her family history helped her better understand and manifest her Aleut identity and heritage.

Renee' credits her patience with the process as well as the kindness of Alaska Native Peoples with helping her find her family and her identity. "Not only were the Alaska Natives I've encountered wonderful, but any time I needed help or questions answered, they've all been amazing."

To others looking to find their families or establish their heritage, Renee' says it's important to never stop trying. There are lots of walls and barriers - but there are also incredibly kind people who can help through every step of the way.

"I don't know of any other ordeal or process where I've experienced so many hardworking and helpful people. I've never before been so proud of who I am, and who and where I came from.

"From the bottom of my heart, qagaasachxuzakuq."

Our shareholders have incredible stories - and we want to help tell them. Have a suggestion for a shareholder to be featured in a future spotlight?

Email info@aleutcorp.com with their name and contact information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 GRADUATES!

The Aleut Foundation is pleased to announce the following graduates who are scholarship recipients:

- Marina Crow - Bachelor of Arts Degree, Elementary Education
- Sarah Dushkin - Associate of Arts Degree, General Programs
- Alexandra George - Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
- Jessica Harpole - Bachelor of Arts, Global Logistics & Supply Chain
- Taylor Kauffman - Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education
- Chantae Kochuten - Associates of Applied Science, Accounting
- Lisa Mack - Ph.D., Indigenous Studies
- Ashley Mercurief - Certificate, Pre-Nursing Qualifications
- Gunnar Nelson - Certificate, Aviation Maintenance Technology, Powerplant
- April Pelkey - Associate of Applied Business, Management
- Cameron Samuelson - Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration
- Rachael Yatchmeneff - Bachelor of Arts, Management

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Aleut Foundation provides an Advanced College Credit Scholarship for those students taking college courses while in high school. We have had three students who, when they graduated high school, also earned their associate degree.

2019 AFN TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS

August 31 is the deadline to apply for Travel Scholarships to attend the AFN Convention that is being held October 14-19, 2019 in Fairbanks, Alaska. The Elders and Youth Conference will be held the first part of the week with the regular AFN Convention being held Thursday-Saturday. To be considered, please submit a one-page essay to The Aleut Foundation on why you wish to attend AFN.

PHONE: [907] 646-1929 or Toll-Free at [800] 232-4882 and asked to be transferred to The Aleut Foundation

FAX: [907] 646-1949

EMAIL: taf@thealeutfoundation.org

WEBSITE: <http://www.thealeutfoundation.org>



2019 SPRING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Aleut Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of 2019 Spring Scholarships:

HONORS

- Jeanie Campbell Columbia Southern University
- Pearl Foster University of Alaska Anchorage
- Karlee Kashatag University of Hawai'i Hilo
- Stefanie Mercurief Feyereisen Capella University
- Larissa Orloff Western Governors University
- Kenesia Price Western Washington University
- Arisa Roe Western Governors University
- Isaiah Wales Duke University

EXCEPTIONAL

- Joshua Beers Bellevue College
- Leslie Gerking Green River College
- Alanna Kochuten California State Maritime Academy
- Denali McGlashan Billy Blue College of Design

GRADUATE

- Michael Baldwin University of Alaska Southeast
- Jourdan Coliman St. Scholastica
- Siri Gillespie Widener University
- Brianna Gray Walden University
- Myron Mercurief, Jr. Western Governors University
- Deborah Schmit Strayer University
- Haliehana Stepetin University of California Davis
- Luke Stowe Alaska Pacific University

WORKING

- Sarah Dushkin University of Alaska Anchorage
- Brand Giordano Lincoln Law School of Sacramento
- Marche Meisler University of Alaska Anchorage
- Letasha Waymack American Public University System

PART-TIME

- Aiden Beers University of Alaska Anchorage
- Denise Berkeley-Salter Amberton University
- Natalia Dyakanoff University of Alaska Southeast
- Katrina Gundersen University of Alaska Southeast
- Hunter Johnson University of Alaska Anchorage
- Douglas Krukoff University of Alaska Anchorage
- Celeste Kukahiko Alaska Pacific University
- Zachary Lestenkof University of Alaska Anchorage
- Tanna Lewis University of Alaska Southeast
- Brandon McIntire Harvard College
- Brandy Mercurief University of Alaska Fairbanks
- Ginger Miles Wayland Baptist University
- Erica Oostra Grand Canyon University
- Sarah Stepetin West Chester University
- LaVonna Thomas Misericordia University
- TeShonda Thomas University of Alaska Anchorage
- Shelby White University of Alaska Southeast

THE ALEUT FOUNDATION UPDATE, JUNE 2019

By: Cynthia Lind, Executive Director

Aang! Summer is finally here, and we are looking forward to a wonderful summer this year. We have been working on the 2019 Summer Scholarships and also working on the 2019-2020 School Year Applications. We have a lot of new students applying this year. These new students have siblings who are also attending college this coming fall and I am sure the older siblings have been passing on their lessons learned to help make the transition go easier. Remember that you can always call our office for any assistance while you are going to school. We look forward to working with you!

I will be participating in the Aleut village visits in early June and look forward to discussing the TAF programs with everyone. We wish you all a safe and great summer!





TAC BOARD SPOTLIGHT: TARA BOURDUKOFSKY

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's & Master's in Psychology

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

16 years corporate governance; 27 years mentoring; 11 years nonprofit management; 30-year career in Education and Social Service. NAIA National Collegiate Volleyball Champions at the University of Hawaii-Hilo

YEARS ON THE BOARD:

17

WHY BEING ON THE BOARD IS IMPORTANT TO YOU:

I was asked by several Elders of St. Paul Island to run for the Aleut Corporation Board of Directors. On the third attempt, I made it onto the Board and have been serving the Unangax people since October 19, 2002.

My name is Tara Leigh Bourdukofsky. My Unanga name is Tiġlaġ and was given to me by my late grandmother Mary N. Bourdukofsky and Fr. Peter Bourdukofsky. I am the oldest of 5 children to Chauncina (Ironwing) and Jason Bourdukofsky Sr. My mother was a member of the Cheyenne River Lakota Nation and my father Jason still lives on St. Paul Island.

Education is a value instilled in me by the two most influential women in my life: my grandmother and my mom. Today, I have earned a bachelor's and master's degree with several decades of working in the Health, Human Services, Social Services, Education, and Alaska Native Corporate leadership world.

Finding and growing my passion into profit has been a life-long journey. This includes providing a vision and guidance for management of the Aleut Corporation which has translated into seeing our Unangax people provided the opportunity to

serve or become employed with the Aleut Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiaries and partner organizations. For the past 30 years, I have enjoyed mentoring, coaching, and building connections with people, resources, and businesses. My focus and area of expertise are on the Unangax culture, board governance, and management in the nonprofit world.

The Aleut Corporation is a for-profit business established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act with a corporate and social responsibility to the welfare of its shareholders and descendants. Having a financially successful corporation allows us to provide those opportunities. As I continue to learn and lead at the governance level at the Corporation, one area of continuous education for me is on Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A). Our Corporation is on a path of growth through M&As, and as a Board member that excites me. And more recently, I especially like the creativity and innovation coming out of our current Management and staff at TAC.

WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BEING A SHAREHOLDER:

Being an Aleut Corporation shareholder is something very unique in this world! Be proud of it, learn about it, ask questions, and be curious because it is yours for many generations to come!

NEED A JOB? WANT TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?

Then you're in luck! The 2020 US Census is hiring today for positions in Dillingham and every other community in Southwest Alaska.

On average, every Alaskan benefits from about \$3,000 per year in Federal spending. Over the 10-year period between censuses, that is about \$30,000 per person, or \$150,000 for a household of five. Ensuring our state and region receive adequate aid depends on knowing how many people live there, and the Census drives many State and Federal funding formulas, so it is important that we maximize participation in our state, region, and communities.

This is where you come in. The Census will be hiring Enumerators and Field Supervisors for \$25-\$31 per hour for now through next fall. They offer paid training, and have positions ranging from just a few hours a week to 30-40 hours per week, so whether you are looking for a small side-gig, a full-time job, or just have some free time on your hands, please consider applying!



Find out more and apply online at www.2020census.gov/jobs or reach out directly to one of the two Tribal Partnership Specialists the census has working with the communities of House District 37. Charmaine Ramos will be working with communities in the Aleutians while Donna Bach will be working with Dillingham and the rest of the district. Reach them at:

Charmaine Ramos:
Charmaine.V.Ramos@2020census.gov or 907-952-6261

Donna Bach:
Donna.E.Bach@2020census.gov or 323-791-2381

ALEUT MARKETPLACE COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The grand prize winners of the 2019 Aleutian Marketplace Fellowship (AMF) Competition are sisters Haliehana Stepetin and Robin Stepetin of Akutan, Alaska with the family-owned and operated Peanut and the Bean Café. Their café will be unique to Akutan, an Unangax village and home to a large seafood production facility. The cafe will sell coffee, baked goods, art, and merchandise to fishermen, processing workers and local residents. As part of their fellowship year, Haliehana

and Robin have attended the Kaladi Brothers Coffee Barista Training Academy and plan to attend the U.S. Small Business Administration workshop that focuses on Alaska Native / Native American small business development. The sisters are pictured with competition sponsors. The AMF Video played at the APICDA Conference can be viewed by visiting the following link:

<https://youtu.be/dW0I-CTltX0>



Left to right: Becky More, Wells Fargo; Jenifer Nelson, GCI; Luke Fanning, APICDA; Robin Stepetin, Peanut & The Bean; Haliehana Stepetin, Peanut & The Bean; Sharon Lind, Aleut Corporation; and Celine Kaplan, TelAlaska. May 7, 2019.

One Aleut Plaza
4000 Old Seward Highway, Suite 300
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Phone Number: 907.561.4300
Toll-Free: 800.232.4882
Fax Number: 907.563.4328
Email: receptionist@aleutcorp.com
Website: www.aleutcorp.com

Shareholder Affairs

Email: info@aleutcorp.com

Shareholder Records

Email: records@aleutcorp.com

The Aleut Corporation reserves the right to edit and revise
all news items submitted for publication. ©2019

PRSR FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #69
Anchorage, AK

IMPORTANT ALEUT DATES

JUNE 22
Annual Aleut Picnic

JUNE 28
Cash for Good Grades
& Attendance and
Board Nomination
Packets Due

AUGUST 9
Shareholder Award
Nomination

AUGUST 31
TAF Travel Scholarship
Deadline for AFN

SEPTEMBER 23
Early Bird Deadline

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL ALEUT PICNIC
JUNE 22, 2019
NOON - 3PM

This is being held in conjunction with
the Closing Ceremonies of the APIA
Urban Unangax Culture Camp.

There will be a dessert bake-off
so get ready to bring it on!

We are looking for TAF alumni to
help cook, set up and break down,
as well as keeping an eye on the
tables, etc.

