

## FALL NEWSLETTER



### Message from the Chairman & C.E.O.

I would like to wish you an abundant harvest and a happy fall season! This is the one-year anniversary of the Azachorok Inc. Kusilvak Newsletter and there is much to celebrate in this edition. We have an amazing leadership team on the Board and are on track to double the amount of revenue for Azachorok Inc. We have been committed to transparent and open corporate practices and have invested thousands of dollars into Mountain Village in higher education funding and partnerships with local entities. We also made a contribution to the local Orthodox Church which provides a great presence in the community.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and we accomplish our goal of keeping you informed about the progress of Azachorok Incorporated.

In this newsletter you will find:

- The Vice Chair Report
- The Elder Spotlight
- Corporate Priorities for the next two years
- Update on the Kusilvak Initiative

I'm also pleased to announce the election of Peter "Matt" Andrews who has been elected as the Treasurer of Azachorok Inc. by the Board of Directors. He replaces outgoing Director Francis Hess. We thank Francis for his many

years of service.

As a local business owner and mayor of Mountain Village, Peter Andrews is a great asset to the corporation.

I am also very humbled in expressing my sincere gratitude for all those who supported me and helped me in the re-election process. This year's turnout further inspires me to move forward and accomplish the goals set forth for Azachorok.

Some of these goals include paying any substantial debt and growing the dividend fund account while increasing employee benefits. In 2013, the Board of Directors had a strategy session with the following goals:

- \$2M Permanent Dividend Fund for Shareholders
- Acquisition of Small Business Companies to Apply 8(a) Certificate(s)
- Financial Stability & Employee Benefits

So far in 2016, we have already acquired Accurate Machine Computer Defense Technologies now certified as an 8a contractor.

For the time being, we are busy on many meaningful ventures. Take a peek inside the newsletter to learn more.

Best regards,

Loren Peterson  
Chairman & C.E.O.

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Elder Spotlight

### Rachel Long

“Keetulqiaqah” (meaning ‘pass me by’) was born in Pilot Station on September 6th, 1932 and has lived in Mountain Village since the age of two. Teddy and Angela Landlord adopted her when her biological mother died shortly after she was born, giving her the name ‘Rachel Rose Landlord’. Rachel grew up alongside her brother James and sister Theresa.



On October 15, 1951 she married her longtime sweetheart Ignatius Long. Together they had 11 sons and daughters: Susie (deceased), Nick, Barney, Jacob, unnamed twins (deceased), Christopher Nick (given to Pete & Emma Peterson), Christopher Robert, Ignatius Jr,

Danny, and Shirley (adopted from Lena Moses).

Throughout her 70+ years of living in Mountain Village, Rachel witnessed many changes. One of her main concerns is ever-increasing drug and alcohol use. She says substance abuse is a threat to cultural identity. “Drugs and alcohol are killing our people and taking away the subsistence lifestyle we live by with language and food,” said Rachel.

Rachel says one change she hopes to see is more local residents employed in local jobs rather than outsiders. “This is our community and therefore we should be given first priority. And when we do work, do it with respect and courtesy while always striving to do our best to serve and love one another.”

#### **Question: What is the Kusilvak Economic Development & Advocacy Alliance?**

**Answer: It’s Azachorok’s Initiative to Increase Economic Opportunities for the Region**

## ***Kusilvak Economic Development & Advocacy Alliance***

According to an October 2013 report in Alaska Economic Trends, the Kusilvak Region’s per capita income was about \$22,000 in 2011—among the lowest in the country—and about a third of the Denali Borough’s per capita income of \$66,000. About half the jobs in our region are created or funded by government, and with diminishing state dollars, job opportunities and available income in our communities are likely to further decline.

Recently, there has been momentum building in the region to establish a multi-community organization that serves tribes, cities, and village corporations collectively to enhance economic development while protecting the resources we all depend on to maintain our way of life.

The goal of Kusilvak Economic Development & Advocacy (KEDAA) is to project a unified voice to enhance economic opportunities while preserving Alaska Native culture in the Lower Yukon and coastal communities. We believe the Alliance can contribute solutions to boost Alaska’s most socioeconomically depressed region. We are spearheading and heavily investing in this initiative because it fits perfectly with Azachorok’s mission.

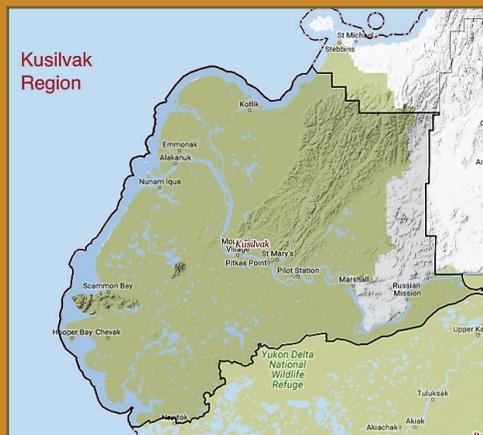
Some examples of activities that KEDAA could help facilitate or initiate include:

- Innovative energy development, including energy efficient, low cost housing
- Assessing and bundling capital projects to increase attractiveness to investors
- Advocating for subsistence rights
- Tourism
- Food security

To advance this initiative and provide more structure to this budding organization, we plan to hold a multi-community gathering and summit in 2017 to share and refine the vision, create an organizational structure, and develop a realistic budget and work plan into the future.

Along with promoting economic development, KEDAA would aim to stay updated on proposed legislation that could impact our region and alert people about such issues. Under this advocacy concept, the Kusilvak Alliance could be a vehicle for local leaders and their delegates to communicate with regional, state and national leaders for the best interests of the region.

Azachorok is interested in developing an appropriate structure with other local entities so all stakeholders can mutually benefit from the organization and collective effort. Stay tuned for more ways to get involved!





## Vice Chair Report

Greetings and salutations! After two terms on the board of Azachorok Inc, I am incredibly pleased at where we are at as a corporation. With new leadership we have expanded several programs that serve our community directly. Below, you will learn about our scholarship

program and Elder's Advisory Committee.

As always, if you have any ideas to improve our corporation, I would love to hear them. I look forward to serving our shareholders in the years to come.

## Elders Advisory Committee

Beyond investing in our youth, it is important to respect and learn from our elders. That's why we are extremely excited to announce the formation of the Elders Advisory Committee. We appreciate the service of Mathew Waskey, Carol Myre and Lucy Peterson, who are the inaugural members.

The committee will advise the board on a range of issues involving cultural and ethical issues. Elders will also have the option of participating in the Elder and Youth Conference at AFN to be part of the discussion on issues impacting Alaska Native tribes. We are excited to be engaging with our elders and utilizing their advice as we evolve and grow.

## Scholarship Program

In early 2016, we launched the Azachorok Scholarship Program with the goal of supporting higher education in our community. The program awards recipients twice a year, in the Spring and Fall. It's a small and yet very meaningful investment to us. Our hope is to have our youth bring back their talent and education to create more jobs back home.

Sincerely,

Joyce Brown, Vice Chairwoman

## Elders Advisory Committee 2016

Carol Myre



*"We are excited to be engaging with our elders and utilizing their advice as we evolve and grow."*

Lucy Peterson



Mathew Waskey Sr.



## North Star Market



We are an **Alaska Native** owned grocery store that is new and innovative with our test store in **Kotzebue, Alaska**. We are developing a model to transform rural Alaska grocery store operations into an Alaska based business that partners with **local communities**. We hope to be in your community in the near future.

**We are accepting  
Scholarship Applications  
[www.azachorok.com](http://www.azachorok.com)  
Deadline: 12/1/2016**

*Applications now available online  
[www.azachorok.com](http://www.azachorok.com)*

*Due December 1, 2016 for Spring 2017 Awards*

*Shareholders and Descendants are eligible*

**Congratulations to our  
Fall 2016 Scholarship  
Recipients!**

Melanie Dela Rosa \$1500.00  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Tasha Redfox \$1500.00  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

## Alaska Federation of Natives Resolutions

Azachorok is committed to being an active and productive member of the broader Alaska Native community. We have submitted three resolutions to Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) this year to improve quality of life in our region and offer adequate representation to the AFN Board.

- **Creating a Clean Energy Working Group** – This resolution urges AFN to advocate for clean energy infrastructure by urging legislators to support amending the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program to include incentives for renewable energy. These incentives would reduce energy costs while aligning better with our cultural values.
- **Creating a Homelessness Task Force** – This resolution urges AFN to call upon all Alaska Native corporations, private non-profits, tribal governments, Alaska housing authorities, and the AFN directors to work together to address the needs of the Alaska Native homeless population. The resolution recommends creating a task force to address the needs of the homeless population. According to a 2015 Beans Café survey in Anchorage, a majority of the people served were Alaska Native. Mortality rates continue to remain high, 22 Alaska Natives were found dead in 2015 and 17 have been found dead in 2016. More must be done to address this epidemic.
- **AFN Co-Chair Representation** – In order to address the many issues impacting Alaska Natives, it is important that the AFN reflects voices from both the public and the private sector equally. This resolution asks AFN to consider modifying the policy of AFN to require one chair for each sector to serve as Co-Chair. This resolution would protect both regional non-profits and regional corporations from being under represented.

### Azachorok Contract Services LLC

Here's an update from Gene Souza, Chief Finance Officer of ACS LLC.

Azachorok Contract Services (ACS), specializes in electronics engineering services for military and business clients. There are a few new updates to report.

The immediate future of ACS is looking quite profitable. We are in the process of pursuing multiple 8A contracts including one worth \$17 million over three years. That would triple the business of our corporation while allowing us to reinvest resources into the community in the form of dividends and programs.

As part of this effort, we have completed the legal documents required for a merger between our company and Accurate Machine Computer Defense Technology (AMCDT) to take place. This merger allows ACS to utilize its 8A certificate. This opens doors for large government contracts and increases the business for our corporation. We hope to complete the merger by the 2nd quarter of 2017.

**ACS recently installed a new fuel pump and credit card reader. This will allow gas and stove oil sales 24 hours a day, 7 seven days a week!**



*Shareholder Bobby Johnson purchasing gas from the new fuel pump with help from station assistant Billy Joe.*

## Supporting Shareholders



Working in partnership to promote a healthy environment and develop economic opportunities for residents of the Yukon Kuskokwim region.

- > Responsible resource development
- > Revenue sharing to all Alaska Natives
- > Drug- and alcohol-free workplace
- > Local hire

To learn more about the project please visit [www.DonlinGold.com](http://www.DonlinGold.com)



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Azachorok Inc. recently became members to the Alaska Native Village Corporation Association. Chairman & CEO Loren Peterson and Vice Chair Joyce Brown participated in the ANVCA legislative fly-in last month in Washington D.C. They joined forces with other Native corporations and advocated on a range of issues affecting Alaska Native communities.



Left to right: ANVCA founder Maver Carey, Joyce Brown, Loren Peterson, U.S. Rep. Don Young, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, and St. Mary's Native Corporation President Nancy Andrew



5701 Silverado Way, Suite L201  
Anchorage, AK 99518

### Our Mission

*Azachorok Incorporated is a for-profit ANCSA Village corporation that invests in sustainable business opportunities for the benefit of shareholders while preserving our traditional subsistence culture and values.*

### Our Vision

*We believe in creating a better tomorrow for our shareholders and community through economic and social opportunities. We also envision our communities living healthy subsistence lifestyles. We balance making profits, seeking opportunities and increasing shareholders value.*

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