



Box 2053 Nome Alaska 99762 phone (907) 443-4985 fax (907) 443-5189

Annual Meeting Held in Nome

The VOS annual meeting convened in Nome this year. After not being able to establish a quorum for the past two years, the VOS annual meeting was called to order at 6 PM with 13 in attendance, or, 15% of the membership qualified to vote as required by the constitution. Reports from the President, Vice President, Tribal and Environmental Coordinators were provided along with door prizes throughout the evening.

Our eldest and youngest members were in attendance—Francis Wright, age 95 and Sophia Piscoya, age 8 months.

The best part of the meeting, according to grantwriter Deilah Johnson, “everyone had some something to say!”

Save the Date!

DECEMBER 1, 2013

3:00—5:30 PM

The Tribal Council invites you to its VOS Tribal Membership Gathering in Anchorage at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel located at 4901 Spenard Road in Room A from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Reports and Refreshments for all!



L to R standing: Autumn & Deilah Johnson, Benny, Mia and Andy Piscoya, Cynthia Curran Olanna, Cameron Piscoya, Richard Schulling, Jack & Brian James.

L to R sitting: Amber Gray, Helen Curran Larsen, Tim Stettinger, Francis Wright, Verna Silvernail, Kirsten Timbers, Elizabeth Curran Johnson and Sara James.

President's Report by Kirsten Timbers

2013 AT A GLANCE

The Village of Solomon has concluded another very exciting year! First and foremost, we were pleased that tribal member Tim Stettinger was the selected applicant for Bering Strait Regional Housing Authority's home acquisition program. He was able to move into his 3 bedroom home here in Nome last December. We have also for the third year in a row held our tribal youth spirit camp in Solomon with the help of Helen Bohn and Nicole Curran as our camp coordinators. And, we held our second Anchorage based Solomon Tribal Membership meeting during AFN time last year. We were able to visit with tribal members, provide door prizes and give brief reports.

LEDP Commitment: We have also been working diligently on meeting the needs in our LEDP. Our second priority was to hold more tribal gatherings. We held one in June here in Nome, another in Solomon in celebration of another successful youth camp in August and our last gathering of the year will be held in early December this year in Anchorage. We are entering our second year of a 2 year grant with EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency. This grant funds our Environmental Coordinator position occupied by Richard Schulling. Deilah Johnson has also been employed this past year through Kawerak's Grant Writer Program. She has been working diligently on applying for a variety of grants on our behalf to meet our LEDP.

Elder and Youth Seats: In an effort to engage our youth and elders we added advisory seats to the tribal council two years ago. These were initially nonvoting seats, however, after considering their valuable contributions the Tribal Council supported the idea to include them as voting members. This was put to the membership for a vote this election and passed.

Tribal Enrollment Essential: As you may have heard, beginning January 1, 2014, every American must demonstrate health coverage under the Affordable Care Act. This means if you do not already have coverage (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, Denali KidCare or private insurance) you will be required to purchase health insurance or face a penalty when filing your taxes. Alaska Native and American Indian people are exempt from the requirement to purchase insurance if they can show evidence of:

- a) Enrollment in a federally recognized tribe, or
- b) Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) shareholder status.

Please contact Tribal Coordinator Liz Johnson at the office if you have any questions or need assistance in getting your family members enrolled.

Shared Office Space: The Village of Solomon will be sharing its office space with Solomon Native Corporation (SNC) this upcoming year. SNC will not have staff presence in the office so VOS has agreed to field telephone calls, forward messages, provide storage space for their records and allow use of office for their board meetings.

Conclusion

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to the VOS. I look forward to the coming year and providing continued service to our members.

Solomon Bed & Breakfast Update by Brian James

The Solomon Bed & Breakfast continues to host staff retreats from organizations like Norton Sound Health Corporation (CAMP department) and individual guests from all over the world, and guests that have stayed with us before, including birders. The state of Alaska's DOT crew stayed last spring to get a head start on opening the road from Solomon. The year prior the entire facility was rented out to a construction company that was rebuilding the Bonanza Bridge.

Last summer the Tribal Council passed the following policy onto guests of the B&B to keep the community center open to our tribal membership that was in Solomon over the summer months:

NOTICE TO SOLOMON B&B GUESTS

As owners and operators of the Solomon Community Center/Bed & Breakfast, it is the Village of Solomon's policy to inform guests and visitors that our Tribal Members have access to the Solomon Community Center/BNB primary gathering areas at any time the Solomon B&B is open for business (from 7:30 am till 6:00 pm).

The Village of Solomon's Tribal Members shall have access to the main meeting room, business center (for internet use), ADA bathroom including shower/bath and laundry facility as long as it does not interfere with paying guests of the B&B.

There is No Smoking Allowed in any of the buildings/facilities or vehicles that the Village of Solomon owns & operates.

If there are any issues or disputes, please contact the office immediately so that it can be remedied. You may contact the office at (907) 443-4985 or send an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org.

We've housed the Solomon tribal youth camp for the past three years, including while the entire building was rented out. The Tribal Council has made a commitment to ensure that any and all guests at the B&B accommodate our annual youth campers.

A guesthouse was added as an option to stay in Solomon. It is located behind the Solomon community building and offers bunk bed style lodging for four and a shared bathroom in the community center.

The community building has been a constant renovation project to upkeep its originality and elegancy. This year we focused on interior repairs and painting the entire building throughout along with some repairs to the generator house. The summer before last, we focused on exterior painting. We are very pleased to employ our tribal members to work at the B&B to open and close, greet guests and clean. Katie Stettinger and Amy Johnson worked this summer and we've had tribal youth member Alex Gray work with our construction crew for the past two summers.

The Solomon B&B hosted the Arctic Funders this summer which was a group of Foundations that toured the Bering Strait Region including Savoonga and Gambell. They really enjoyed their dinner cooked by the Village of Solomon's very own renowned local chef and tribal member Tim Stettinger.

The Solomon B&B was open during Iditarod two years ago, however, due to generator issues we opted not to open during Iditarod last year. We have since repaired the generator and will be opening this upcoming Iditarod. Solomon has also been the half way point for the Women's snow machine race during the Annual Nome Golovin Race for the past two years.

In conclusion, we hope our tribal membership will utilize their tribal member discount rate at the Solomon Community Center/Bed & Breakfast and stay the night.

Summer Youth Spirit Camp Held in Solomon



L to R: Helen, Brewster, Bronson Bohn, Sydney Adams, Rosalyn Paniptchuk, Autumn Johnson, Bella Bohn, Amber Gray and Wilma Amaktoolik.

Below: Camp coordinator Helen Bohn enjoyed getting to know Sophia Piscocya during youth camp.



Grantwriter Deilah Johnson met with the youth and asked what their thoughts were and how to encourage membership involvement, or, Solomon's #2 village priority: More Solomon Gatherings and Involvement. Here's what they said:

Sydney: Thank you for the youth camp. Pick berries for elders. We appreciate what the Council does. Hunting, four wheeling. Learn traditional foods and make a Solomon song together. Bring in a sewing machine to the youth camp.

Bella: Winter snowball fight, build an igloo, canoeing and hunting.

Nicole: Like to meet the council members. Make and bury a time capsule.

Sherri: Like the council members to be more involved (Amber agreed). Seining fish, cutting and drying fish. Take care of our fish. Spring time outside school. If we had more gatherings, we would participate.

Amber: Cutting fish together, boat ride to White Mountain. Make Eskimo ice cream. More youth at camp.

Helen B: Pre made kuspuks for everyone. Invest in sewing machine. Science based activities climate changing. More education on edible plants. (Sherri agreed). Rangers come out to plan science based activities.

Sherri: Get elders out for edible plants. Make own memory book based on learned plants.

Helen B: Stepping stone each year. Hand prints with year.

Bella: Bring mom and dad to take pictures and hang on wall at Community Center.

Amber: More pictures on the walls in the Community Center.

Sydney: More exercise activities. Hike anvil.



Welcome Newest Tribal Members

Dilyn Grace Tumulak, Sarah Huntsman's daughter

Leona Johnson, Martha Kalerak Anselm's daughter

Lee Johnson, Martha Kalerak Anselm's grandson

Walter Johnson, Jr., Martha Kalerak Anselm's grandson

Solomon's Village Priorities

Tribal members had the opportunity to voice their opinions and participate in the annual review and re-prioritizing of its Village Priorities. Results were as follows:

1. Community Power/electricity (wind, solar and diesel backup)
2. Emergency Communication
3. Waste Management
4. Salmon Enhancement
5. More Solomon Gatherings and Involvement
6. Full Operation of the B&B/Community Center
7. Assess Effects of Climate Change
8. Driveway Improvements to Campsite
9. Community Potable Water
10. Boat Harbor
11. Airstrip Improvement

List the top three priorities that you want the tribal council to address this year.

1. Community power
Boat harbor
Full Operation of the B&B/community center
2. Full Operations of B&B/community center
Airstrip improvement
3. Airstrip Improvement
Full Operations of B&B/community center.

Is there a subject of concern that is not listed on the priorities list?

Environmental Issues

Gravesite Erosion

More involvement from Tribal Council towards tribal members

Vandalism, littering, speeding through Solomon in vehicles.

Communication is essential for tribal members both near and far. Has the tribal council done a good job in communicating with you?

Yes 6.

No 1. Don't see or hear much from distance tribal members.

Solomon's Vision & Values

Solomon tribal members sought to develop priorities for future projects and activities which the community can use to enhance the local economy and build on the identified cultural strengths, economic opportunities, and current community assets over the next five years.

Based on this, the overall community vision was developed. By 2015 Solomon will:

- Have VOS and SNC working together for capacity building and creating new projects
- Enhance local economy while staying true to subsistence traditions
- Empower ourselves and each other as a community to enhance and strengthen our social and economic future
- Strive for unity
- Engage and empower our youth to be leaders
- Utilize our elders and youth to revitalize our culture and traditional values.

Values applied to community development:

- Practice positive communication with each other and outside agencies
- Ensure proper cleanup and project oversight
- Utilize and create own tribal membership expertise
- Seek and secure other financial resources
- Be culturally sensitive to our community
- Utilize our own natural resources

For a copy of the Village of Solomon's Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP), please call the office at 443-4985.



Council members Kirsten Timbers, Benny Piscocya, Liz Johnson, and Cameron Piscocya chat during the summer tribal gathering in Solomon.

Become a Foster Parent

By Kawerak staff

Open your home and become a foster parent today! Some people believe that they are not able to become foster parents due to the size of their home or because they are not married. This is a misconception. Other misconceptions include: the need for a big home, to be married, earning a lot of money, having a full time job, owning your own home and accepting any child brought to you. Foster parents can be licensed to care for a specific number of children and can specify an age range or gender. Foster parents can be a single person, earn a small amount of income, have a part-time job and can be renting their home or apartment. Contact Kawerak's Children and Family Services for more information about opening your home to a foster child.

Alaska Native children in need of care are best served in Alaska Native foster homes. Foster families are temporary and the goal of children in care is to have them reunited back to their family as soon as possible. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and under the codes of most tribes demand the use of extended family whenever possible. Extended family care is the most valuable substitute care available to Indian Child Welfare programs. If family is not available, it is important for children to be in the care of people of their own tribe or region. Currently, if foster homes are not available, especially for larger sibling groups, children are sent to Kotzebue, Barrow or Anchorage.

Since I've been working as a foster care recruiter, I have heard people say they do not want to become attached with the foster child because of the hurt they would go through when the child leaves their home. However, it is better for a child to have a brief attachment with a foster parent for however long or short it may be that could last long after they leave the foster home. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact Stacy Nassuk, foster care recruiter at 907-443-6229 or toll free at 1(800) 478-5153. Thank you!

August Tribal Election Results

Seat "E":	Brian James	22
Seat "F":	Amy Johnson	25
Seat "G":	Katie Stettinger	25

Amendment I to revise "Qualifications for Council Members" so that Seats E, F, and G are "open" seats in which tribal members outside of the Nome/Solomon area eligible for election to these seats.

Yes 21 No 4

Amendment II to revise "Voting Procedures," Paragraph (9) "Determining Outcome" so that candidates running for the Tribal Council run for specific seats.

Yes 22 No 3

ICWA Services Available

What is Indian Child Welfare Act? (ICWA): The Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 United States Code Sections 1901-1963. ICWA was passed in 1978 in response to the high number of Native children who were removed from their families and tribes by non-tribal public and private agencies, and placed in non-Native foster homes or made available for non-Native adoption.

How does ICWA work? The main goal of ICWA is the protection of Native children. This includes assisting in family reunification, adoptions, and alternative placement of children. The program also ensures that Tribal Councils are represented in Court proceedings. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies when a state court determines that a Native child is involved in a proceeding. This includes child custody proceedings, foster care placement, termination of parental rights, pre-adoptive and adoptive placements. A tribal court or tribe may properly exercise their rights in any and all of these types of proceedings.

Contact the Village of Solomon at 443-4985 for additional information.

Environmental Coordinator Report by Richard Schulling

Hello to all Tribal Members, hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer. It's been a busy summer for us here in the Village Office. So far as being the IGAP Coordinator I've been going thru all kinds of trainings that pertains to this position. 7 generations was the first training on how to start a Tribal Environmental Plan, which has to do with our Environmental Issues in and around Solomon. Solid Waste Management training has to do with how much Solid Waste we as a Tribe & guest of the B&B generate while in Solomon so we can come up with a solution to store Trash while in Solomon instead of storing it in shed's or in back of pick-ups. The last plan is called a QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) and it has to do with the Water Quality that's going on in our Streams and River. As of this past summer I've been monitoring Manila and Big Hurrah Creeks. This involves with Water Data on Temperature, PH levels, Conductivity and D.O (dissolved oxygen) in the creeks. Also as in the picture above I'm also learning how to identify different aquatic life in our streams. All this is practice for next year as I've only completed 2 out of 3 phases in this training. The last phase will be in the spring of 2014. Then I'll be certified to enter all data into state wide data base for all to observe.



I've been trying to educate Tribal members on the importance of recycling product such as Aluminum cans, #1 Bottle plastics (Pop Bottles, Milks jugs, Water Bottles) on these you can look on bottom of bottle and only the ones with a triangle with a #1 inside of it is the ones to recycle. Also Batteries (car, ATV, household), Paper, and Glass. For Tribe Members in Nome the Recycling Center is located across from Car Quest in the Cargo Vans. They take all above except glass which has to go to Nome Landfill. For Tribe Members in Anchorage the places to go are the Parking lots of any CARR's Grocery Store, Fred Meyer or the Mid-Town Recycling Center located on 1211 East 68th St. These bins below are the ones I have for household recycling if your household would like one please call me so I can deliver here in Nome or send in mail to tribe Members outside of Nome. For the Tribe Members in Nome I pick up recyclables every two weeks just call office when needed. Richard Schulling 907-443-4985 or rschulling22@gmail.com.

For this upcoming year there's a lot of work to be done such as getting all three major plans in draft form so the Village Council and our E.P.A. Region Tribal Coordinator Todd Bender can edit and approve of all contents in the plans. Also this Spring I'll be finishing up the last phase of Water Quality training. When the ice melts next Spring I'm planning a float trip from East Fork of Solomon River to the mouth to document and take pictures of Barrels and old Mining equipment, an any other Environmental Issues along our River system.

This next year training and conferences that I'll a Tribal Coordinator, Council member will be attending. The first one is The Tribal leaders Summit in Spokane WA. Which has to do with Region 10 that is all of the North West States. It'll be on Issues all these states have (Solid Waste, Water Quality, Climate, and Energy Recourses). This will take place in the beginning of October. The next one is ATCEM (Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management) in November at Anchorage. As with all trainings and conferences there will be a written report to the Village Council on what we learned and got out of all the information we received during attendance.

That's about it for now on the progress that's happening with the IGAP Grant and work that's been done. If any Tribe Member has any questions about this program please feel free to call me in the office from m-f 8am-5pm or e-mail.

Richard Schulling
IGAP Coordinator

Nome City Recycle Center

The Nome Recycle Center, located on Warren Place, accepts newspaper and office paper, including colored and shredded. We encourage you to reuse what paper you can.

Lead-acid batteries are accepted at Car Quest and can be dropped off for free at the west end outside of the last connex van.

Used toner cartridges may also be left in the designated box on the shelf.

All aluminum cans are accepted but NO TIN cans.

Florescent bulbs and tubes are accepted.

Cell phones and electronic waste are collected at this site by other entities.

The Nome City Landfill, located at 3.0 mile Beam Road is open and FREE to the public every Saturday.

Segregated piles and bins at landfill for:

Wood, glass, metals, copier, aluminum cans, cardboard and burnables and refrigerators and freezers.

For more information go to www.nomealaska.org or call (907) 443-6663.

CACHE for College and Higher Education Available

The Bering Straits Foundation, Sitnasuak Foundation, Kawerak, Inc., Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation and Norton Sound Health Corporation have partnered to ease the process of applying for scholarships for the people of our region.

The application is called "CACHE" which stands for "Combined Application for College and Higher Education." This application is for individuals going into accredited college or vocational education programs, who meet the eligibility requirements of the organizations they apply to. For more information, visit the Bering Straits Foundation website at www.beringstraits.com.

Tribal Enrollment Essential

By ANTHC and SCF Public Relations

Beginning January 1, 2014, every American must demonstrate health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act. This means if you do not already have coverage (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, Denali KidCare or private insurance) you will be required to purchase health insurance or face a penalty when filing your taxes. The tax penalty could be as much as \$695 per adult and \$347.50 per child.

Alaska Native and American Indian people are exempt from the requirement to purchase insurance if they can show evidence of:

a) Enrollment in a federally recognized tribe,

or

b) Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) shareholder status.

Even with this exemption, Alaska Native and American Indian people may choose to purchase insurance. Alaskans will have a new option of purchasing health insurance through the federal marketplace as early as October 2013 for plan coverage effective January 1, 2014. Some Alaskans will qualify for premium subsidies based on income. For instance, an individual earning up to \$57,400 or a family of four earning up to \$117,760 may receive financial assistance when purchasing insurance.

For more information on the Affordable Care Act, please visit www.healthcare.gov.

Car Wash in Nome by Solomon's Youth

Bronson Bohn holds his car wash sign in front of the Nome Trading Store in Nome.

L to R: Rosalyn Paniptchuk, Amy Johnson with Roofus (Greg Timbers pet) and Greg Timbers waiting to get his car washed.

Below is Deilah Johnson washing a vehicle.

Jobs Available At Village of Solomon

The Village of Solomon prefers to hire qualified tribal members when hiring for jobs at VOS. Upcoming jobs available next summer is a carpenter, maintenance and laborer workers to open and close the Solomon Community Center. During youth camp, two camp coordinators will also be hired. Contact the VOS office for more details.



Group Photo L to R: Nicole Curran, Amber Gray, Amy Johnson, Sherri Lewis, Deilah Johnson, Wilma Amaktoolik, Cameron and Sophia Piscoya (centered), Rosalyn Paniptchuk, Autumn Johnson held by Sydney Adams. Bottom and kneeling are Bronson, Bella, Helen and Brewster Bohn.

Tribal Coordinator Report by Liz Curran Johnson

The VOS has 131 tribal members to date. It is important for tribal members to remember to call or write the VOS for any changes in contact information. The VOS tribal council is continuing to reach out to its tribal membership through newsletters and mailing addresses need to be current.

The VOS office continues to issue tribal ID cards. The tribal membership card can be used as a form of ID. The United States Government and the State of Alaska recognizes tribal enrollment cards as a form of identification when asked to show a form of identification.

We also have VOS t-shirts for tribal members. Kawerak's general assistance program is offering slippers and girls t-shirts, which are at the office for the taking.

The Village of Solomon is updating their tribal membership database this year. This includes providing a family tree which is now a required document to be filled out with our tribal enrollment application. Once VOS receives the family tree filled out, your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 dollar gift certificate. Here's what you have to do:

1. Fill one out for everyone in your family.
2. Mail, fax or scan and email and send to the Village of Solomon's office by December 1, 2013.

If you need more copies of the chart, please contact the office and more copies will be mailed or emailed to you.



For questions, please email the tribal coordinator at tc.sol@kawerak.org or call the office at 443-4985 or 1-877-443-4985 for those that live outside of Nome.

Lastly, we have Inupiat dictionaries available to anyone who wants one.



Tribal member Natalie Walker sporting a Solomon t-shirt this summer.



Jaxson Huntsman from Anchorage, shows off his fish he caught on the Kenai River this summer.

Tribal Council Reorganizes at the October Meeting

The Tribal Council held its election of officers and reorganized at its October Tribal Council meeting. The Council meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm at the VOS office. Tribal members are encouraged to attend these meetings. Those who do not live in Nome are welcome to attend via teleconference. Contact the tribal coordinator for the teleconference number and pass code information and an agenda will be emailed to you. Here's how to reach your tribal council through email:

<i>Position Held</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Contact Information</i>
President	Kirsten Timbers	oonga4me@hotmail.com
Vice President	Brian James	bjames@kawerak.org
Treasurer	Cameron Piscoya	capiscoya@gmail.com
Secretary	Benny Piscoya	Big_ben_e@hotmail.com
Member	Liz Curran Johnson	tc.sol@kawerak.org
Elder Rep	Katie Stettinger	No email available
Youth Rep	Amy Johnson	No email available

Go Green!

Find out what you can do to help make a difference in our environment everyday! Whether you're at home, on the go, in the office, or at school, there are many opportunities to go green by Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling.

Quick Tips:

Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or funny papers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper. Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.

Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the amount of virgin paper used during the holidays. Remember to recycle any paper cards you receive. You can also try sending electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.

After holiday festivities, put leftovers in recyclable containers, and share them with family, friends, or others. Donate whole, untouched leftovers from parties to a local food bank or homeless shelter.

Bake cookies or other goodies and package them in reusable and/or recyclable containers as gifts. Homemade goodies show how much you care and help you avoid packaging waste.

To help prevent waste from cutting down and disposing live trees, you can buy a potted tree and plant it after the holidays.

After the holidays, look for ways to recycle your tree instead of sending it to a landfill.

Many battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run.

Consider the durability of a product before you buy it as a gift. Cheaper, less durable items often wear out quickly, creating waste and costing you money.

For more information visit <http://www.epa.gov/waste/wycd/index.htm>



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Tribal Membership Newsletter
