

NATIVE TRIBE OF KANATAK



Volume 17, Issue 4

April 2012

News from the Kanatak Tribal Council

The council met for a BIA roads meeting on March 28 and approved the bicycle safety program that Frieda Byars and Darion McGowan outlined. Following council approval, a questionnaire was sent to the membership to assess tribal bicycle needs. Please return this questionnaire as soon as possible! Ideally, they would like to have the forms by the end of April.

At the April 15 council meeting, after some discussion the tribal council approved an election ordinance, a copy of which will be in the May newsletter for the memberships' knowledge. On March 19, the tribe received 50% of FY 2012 draw-down funding through BBNA; the remaining 50% should be available within the next month or so. The tribal administrator has also submitted the appropriate paperwork for office reimbursements for the past two quarters. The tribal council approved using Charlene Moss Realty to act as the rental agency for both Kanatak rental properties; the first should rent for \$900 per month plus utilities and the second \$750 plus utilities. Tribal members could rent the properties at a discounted rate, but would have to abide by the same stipulations as others on a minimum 6-month lease. By the way, the renovation of the property that shares a wall with the tribal office is nearly complete; they're waiting on one piece of cabinetry that required custom sizing.

In other business, there was a discussion of salmon fishing/dip-netting this summer in July on the Kenai; more help, especially tribal members who are willing to fish and fillet salmon, is needed and additional funds need to be budgeted for processing equipment; contact the office, if interested. It was suggested that the tribe consider building a salmon smokehouse on the tribal property. It was also suggested that the tribe consider hosting a BBQ/property clean-up in May, as is the custom throughout Alaska. The council approved selling the boat *Little Star* and discussed several ways to find potential buyers.

The council approved one membership application.

The next council meeting is scheduled for the second Sunday in May, at 2:00 pm AKDT / 6:00 pm ESDT. Please attend. Your thoughts and comments are valued. If you wish to attend via telephone, here's the info: Call-in number = 1-866-895-5510 Passcode = 868521#

Additional details regarding council meetings can always be found on the Kanatak website (<http://www.kanatak.com>) under NEWS in the meeting minutes for the various dates. Previous newsletters and program applications are there, too. Check it out!

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**Today is
the
day!!!
Join now!**

Yes, it makes a humorous photo: Gordon and Nick Shanigan comparing bellies!

But whether you call them love-handles, beer-bellies, muffin-tops, biker-holds, middle-age spread or plain ol' paunches, too much weight around the abdomen is just not healthy or attractive. *Now is the time to join the other 10 tribal members and do something about it.*

Kanatak's own *Biggest Loser*

Winner = person with the highest percentage of weight loss

1st place winner = \$3,000

2nd place winner = \$1,500

3rd place winner = \$500

Visit <http://www.kanatak.com> or contact Tess McGowan for details. Ends in October 2012.

It's never too late to lose weight!

Kanatak, Historically Speaking...

Beginning at the turn of the twentieth century through the 1950's, the actions of these various oil seekers in the Kanatak area were driven by outside forces that had nothing to do with the local community or ecosystems. Those who attempted to capitalize on Kanatak's oil knew that their aim was to extract the resource entirely, and then leave. They came to extract wealth and, consequently, saw Alaska as little more than a storehouse of commodities. As Alaska historian Stephen Haycox points out, these newcomers "did not go to the frontier to live a subsistence lifestyle in the wilderness, they went for the money." Thus, unlike Alaska Commercial Company agents, Orthodox priests, or Russian fur-traders, who, along with the Alutiiq, basically lived dependent upon the natural resources, in Kanatak, oil prospectors found the local trade networks mainly irrelevant in their quest for oil. For they imported all necessary needs and constructed a boomtown that replicated the material, institutional, and ideological characteristics of the American culture they left behind.

The prospectors who came to Kanatak never consciously intended to destroy a culture or an ecosystem, but, rather, their aim was to discover oil. In *Crude Dreams*, author and oilman Jack Roderick writes, "Like the gold prospector, the oil explorer has a peculiar mind-set. He or she believes that tomorrow the mother lode will be found." "Tomorrow," however, never arrived for those oil explorers who spent over sixty years prospecting along what was believed at the time to be one of Alaska's most promising sites—the oil fields of Cold Bay. These hopeful prospectors simply didn't know that however obvious these seeps seemed, they were often inaccurate indicators of recoverable subsurface petroleum reservoirs.

At the time, scientific and popular belief held that oil lay within the earth like a lake or basin. Today, geologists know that oil is found in porous rock—sandstone or limestone usually. Crude oil, or commercial grade crude oil, can only be found as it flows through these interconnected porous spaces. Although scientists remain puzzled as to why the layers of rock below Kanatak never produced commercial sized deposits, geologist Robert Blodgett offered the following multi-layered explanation: "*One*, local volcanism generated a "void filling mineral" possibly occupying the space in which oil would have normally been reserved; *two*, the technology used by turn-of-the-century oil drillers never reached depths that modern day rigs can descend; and *three*, they simply were drilling in the wrong places."

In the end, this seemingly oil-rich region did not result in the prosperous boomtown for which prospectors hoped. Despite the close attention of both the federal government and some of the most powerful business interests in the world, Kanatak disappeared from the world-view. With several failed attempts to strike the "mother lode," Kanatak became not unlike the numerous ghost towns hidden in the mountains and valleys of the American West. Still, the fate of Alaska's first fossil fuel economy, albeit minuscule by later standards, offers a glimpse of things to come.



Despite Kanatak's oil boom/bust cycle, local Native residents continued their customary hunting, fishing, and trapping activities around Portage Bay. Their subsistence camps dotted the region. During the summer months, many residents left Kanatak for cannery work or commercial fishing at Egegik, Kodiak, and Chignik. When the commercial season ended, the residents maintained a large summer fish camp at Becharof Lake. In addition, important social ties were maintained with other villages on the lower Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak.

Alaska Native History or How Did We Get Here?

A Delegate for Alaska The campaign for a representative voice in the nation's capital paid off in 1906, when Congress finally allowed Alaskans to have one non-voting member in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Some Congressmen supported the addition because Alaska was becoming more famous as a result of the gold rush and so it required more attention. As President Roosevelt put it in a message to Congress, he preferred an elective delegate "whose business it shall be to speak with authority." From then on Alaska was a "territory," not a district as it had been called in the past.

The early delegates made it a priority to seek a locally elected legislature to expand the voice of Alaskans, and to allow for a truly representative government, not one that was controlled so much by federal appointees. The most influential and effective delegate during those early years was James Wickersham. He was 43 when he came to Alaska to serve as a district court judge, appointed by President McKinley. Wickersham served in Eagle, Nome, Fairbanks and Valdez before resigning in 1907. For thirty years Wickersham was the most important political leader in Alaska.

Wickersham won the election and became a delegate in 1908. He gained public support with warnings that the corporate power of J.P. Morgan and the Guggenheims was trying to dominate mining and transportation in Alaska. Morgan was the leading banker in the United States, and the Guggenheims had made fortunes in the Colorado copper mines. They teamed up to build the first major standard-gauge railroad in Alaska and to develop a rich copper deposit in the Wrangell Mountains. They also controlled most of the ships that sailed to Alaska. "The central political issue in Alaska, as Wickersham phrased it, was whether the territory would have Government Rule or Guggenheim rule," historian Terrence Cole wrote.

Wickersham introduced many bills to create a territorial legislature, arguing that since the non-Native population had grown to more than 25,000, Alaska deserved a right given to other territories a century earlier, when they had a population one-fifth the size. One of the main arguments on the other side came from Alaska's appointed governor, Walter Clark, who said the territory could not afford a legislature. His views were in sync with those of the large companies that feared new taxes and claimed it was far better to have continued federal control than to have even limited self-government. "A large portion of the agitation for territorial government comes from the saloon element in Alaska, which is desirous of decreasing the burdens now imposed on that business and at the same time obtain a greater liberty than they now have in the conduct of their business," said the previous governor W.B. Hoggatt.

Wickersham countered such arguments by saying it was disgraceful to deny Alaskans self-government "while the big interests are permitted from day-to-day to gather to themselves the advantages and undeveloped resources of the land." He said a legislature would be like a policeman on the ground, keeping Alaska's resources from being stolen by the big companies.

Though he had no vote in Congress, Wickersham worked tirelessly after his election in 1908 to get a territorial legislature for Alaska. Helped by political changes in the makeup of Congress, the Organic Act of 1912 finally cleared the House and Senate in 1912, allowing for an elected legislature. President William Howard Taft chose to sign the legislation on August 24, 1912, Wickersham's 55th birthday.



Dedication of Court Building in Fairbanks by Judge Wickersham, 1904.

Alutiiq Use of Shells

The state of Alaska has more shoreline than the rest of the Lower 49 states combined! Consequently, it should be no surprise that much of the shoreline around the Alaska Peninsula and Kanatak is covered with intertidal organisms. Most beaches have dense concentrations of shellfish, marine invertebrates, and plants. The region's rocky shores are home to thick patches of barnacles, mussels, chitons, limpets, snails, and sea urchins, while sandy beaches hold clams, cockles, and tellins. In fact, those who read their Kanatak newsletters closely will recall that one of Sophia Kalamkoff Rane's memories of Kanatak was digging clams (March 2012, page 3)! Typically in Alaska, only the exposed cobble beaches on outer coasts, and areas with heavy fresh water drainage, are devoid of intertidal fauna.



mussels

In addition to food, this abundance of shellfish provided the Alutiiq people with raw material. In the prehistoric era, shells were used as both cutting and scraping tools and they were fashioned into decorative beads. A collection of worked shell pieces illustrates the process of creating beads from clam shell. First the shell was broken into small pieces. These pieces were ground into circular disk with the aid of a sandstone abrader. The final step was to drill a hole in the center of the disk.



Portion of a dentalium shell necklace

Some shells were particularly coveted for decoration. Dentalium shells, the curved, white, tusk-shaped shells of scaphopods were obtained in trade with the people of Southeast Alaska. They were used to decorate clothing and worn as earrings and nose pins, and were considered extremely valuable. Historic sources indicate that a pair of delicate dentalium shells could be traded for an **entire** squirrel skin parka.

Some may wonder how modern-day people conjure up such knowledge about their ancient ancestors. Believe it or not, shells (and other items) speak – at least

that's what archaeologists think. In the piles of shells left by ancient peoples, there are clues to the past. Archaeologists can extract amazing details from old garbage, identifying what people ate, finding the season when resources were harvested, reconstructing butchery patterns, and even noting changes in climate. For example, a recent excavation of ancient Alutiiq garbage (also known as midden) was dated to 1,000 years ago. The layer was composed almost entirely of shells. Butter clams were the most common shell remains, but there were also mussels, chitons, cockles, sea urchins, and a variety of snails. Fish bones were only a small portion of this layer and included the remains of cod and salmon. Only a few mammal and bird bones were found. Because Alutiiq people likely avoided clams and mussels in summer months when the risk of paralytic shellfish poisoning was high, and when other food was abundant, the large number of clams and mussels suggest this layer represents a winter settlement. So that's how it's done.

Keeping Body and Soul Together, the Native Way

Regardless of where Kanatak tribal members live, Mother Nature routinely throws natural disasters out there to stir the pot of life. Here in Alaska, those natural disasters include horrific storms with possible power outages, flooding, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes with accompanying tsunamis. In other places, tornados and hurricanes may be added to the list. Prepare for the likelihood of these disasters with a specific, rehearsed plan for your family. Needless to say, it's also in the best interest of tribal members to be prepared with an emergency kit should such a natural disaster strike!



1964 Good Friday earthquake in Anchorage = magnitude 9.2, shook for nearly 5 minutes!

Here's a checklist for a basic emergency kit:

- ◆ Water, one gallon per person per day for at least seven days, for drinking and sanitation.
- ◆ Food, at least a seven-day supply of non-perishable food.
- ◆ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio with a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.
- ◆ First-aid kit.
- ◆ Cold weather or inclement weather gear and blankets/sleeping bags.
- ◆ Dust mask to filter contaminated air & plastic sheeting and duct tape to create a shelter in place.
- ◆ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- ◆ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- ◆ Can opener.
- ◆ Indoor-safe heat source, such as hand warmers, sterno, or propane/butane.
- ◆ Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.

Other items to consider:

Prescription medications and glasses, infant formula and diapers, important family documents, fire extinguisher, plastic cutlery, emergency whistle, complete change of clothing for cold-weather climate, water/food for pets.

Tribal Happenings *Celebrating those special moments in our lives...*



Happy birthday to these Kanatak tribal members

who have birthdays in **April:**

- April 7: Destin Yovino (6)
- April 15: Patrick Lind (51)
- April 18: James Baehm (21)
- April 20: Samantha Shanigan (33)
- April 25: Daniel Forshey (51)
- April 25: Maria Yovino (27)
- April 28: Tony Forshey (59)
- April 29: Gage Wagner (20)
- April 30: Misty Apalone (30)

***Renae Booher sent this photo of her two children, Issac and Blake, as well as herself enjoying choose-respect chowder in Pennsylvania. She said, "We love this chowder." Her hubby Devon took the photo.



***Sophia Kalmakoff Rane shared these photos of her daughter Dawn Rane attempting to throw a football through a 10-inch hole at a Chicago sporting event:



***Jessica Forshey reported that her dad Daniel Forshey will be celebrating his 51st birthday on April 25. Jessica said, "My dad means a lot to me and I think it would be a really nice surprise for him to read the newsletter and see this in there. Maybe ask people to wish him a happy birthday; I would really appreciate it." Jessica also sent the photo below of Daniel Forshey and wrote: "Here is a picture of my dad when he was little; I always loved this picture of him."



Choose-Respect *Chowder in support...*



Savannah Shanigan peels a carrot and helps make choose-respect chowder.



In Pennsylvania, Don and Mason McGowan and president Henry Forshey enjoy salmon choose-respect chowder for dinner.



Tribal administrator and council member Shawn Shanigan eats chowder while on the job at the tribal office.



Samantha Shanigan fills a bowl full of chowder at the tribal office in Wasilla, Alaska.



Kanatak Kids Bicycle Safety 101



As the weather warms up and the snow melts, it's time to think of riding bicycles. Hurray! Here are some tips for safe riding from Frieda Byars and Darion McGowan of the Kanatak Bicycle Safety Program. Be sure to return the survey that you recently received in the mail or as a pdf file via e-mail about your family's bicycling needs.

Please read over (and talk with your children) about the following **Bicycle Safety Tips** to help them understand the rules of the road, and what they should be watching for and expecting while riding their bikes.

BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

1. Bikers should always stop to look for traffic when entering the road—especially from a driveway, alley, or curb.
2. Always ride on the right side. Remember to go with the flow of traffic, never against it.
3. When riding with a friend, always ride in a single file, one behind the other.
4. Learn to be able to look behind you and keep the bicycle steady as you are going from place to place.
5. Always use proper hand signals, so bicycles and cars behind you will know what you are going to do.
6. Obey all traffic signs and signals. Walk your bicycle across busy intersections.
7. Look behind you before you change lanes or turn off the road you are on.
8. Watch out for road conditions that could cause you to lose control of your bicycle.
9. Ride at least three feet away from parked cars, and don't follow too close behind moving cars.
10. Listen for cars that are approaching behind you. Keep control of your bike and don't make any sudden moves or turns that would put you in danger with approaching cars.
11. Always be prepared to stop by keeping your hands on or close to the brakes.
12. Wear clothing that is brightly colored and easy to see—wear seasonal clothing: light-weight for the heat and layers which can be removed in cold weather, as you warm up from physical exertion.



ALWAYS...ALWAYS...ALWAYS...ALWAYS...ALWAYS...ALWAYS — Wear your Bicycle Helmet!!

BEFORE YOU RIDE

Make sure your bicycle is properly adjusted for you: **make sure** that handlebars, wheels, and seat are tight and in good condition; **make sure** that your brakes are adjusted and working.

Make sure that you have a way to secure your bicycle while you are in school.

Make sure you know your hand signals and traffic signs.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Do not wear loose clothing, or have shoestrings untied; **Do not** let straps hang from your backpack.

Do not wear headphones, as they will reduce your hearing.

Do not wear inappropriate shoes that could cause you to lose control.

Do not ride in the middle of the street.

Do not expect cars to know what you are going to do.



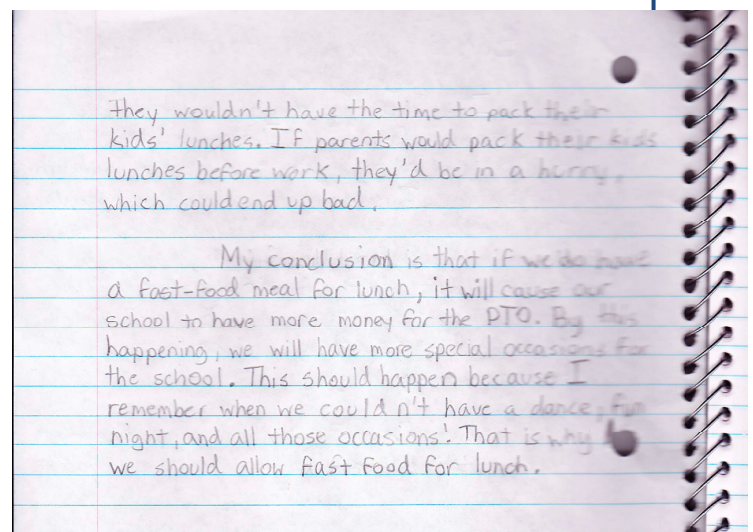
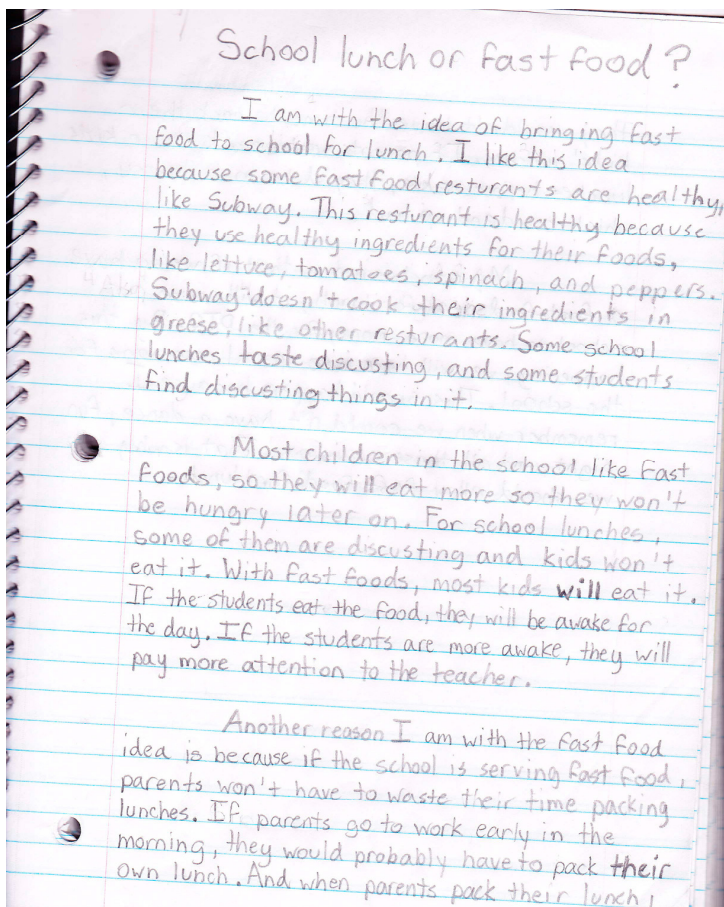
Meet Budding Writer and Cartoonist Mason McGowan

Mason McGowan is one of the younger members of the Native Tribe of Kanatak; he's eleven years old and attends fifth grade at Slatington Elementary School in Slatington, Pennsylvania. Mason is the youngest son of Don and Tess McGowan.

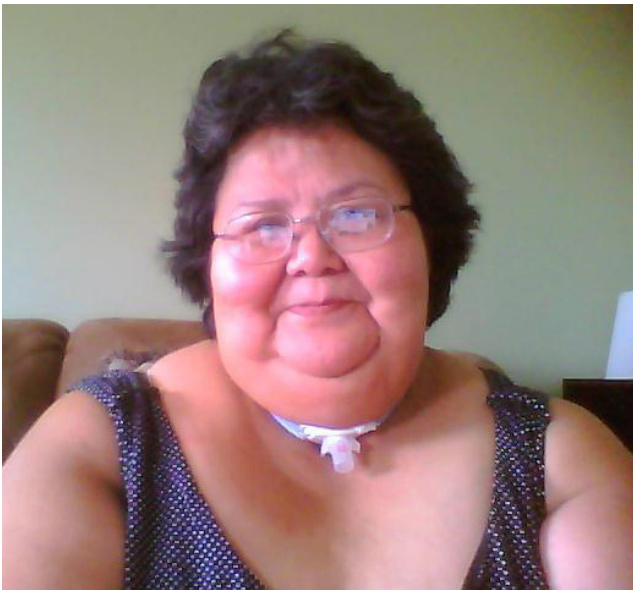


Mason enjoys both art and writing. He combined the two interests when he created a superhero that he calls *Tie Guy*. His superhero character is just a ordinary, regular Joe who works in an office—until there's an issue. When trouble happens, *Tie Guy* turns into a crime-fighting superhero who steps in to save the day. Instead of the traditional superhero cape, *Tie Guy* has a necktie that helps him fly, as well as allows other super-human powers.

Mason has also created his own newspaper entitled *The Kid Chronicles*, wherein he writes about local and celebrity news. Recently, Mason's teacher asked him to write an article about the pros and cons of serving fast food in the school cafeteria. Here's what he wrote:



Right-Clicked *Photos of tribal members*



Diane Johnson

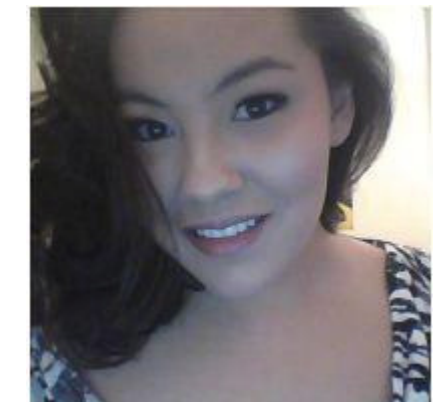
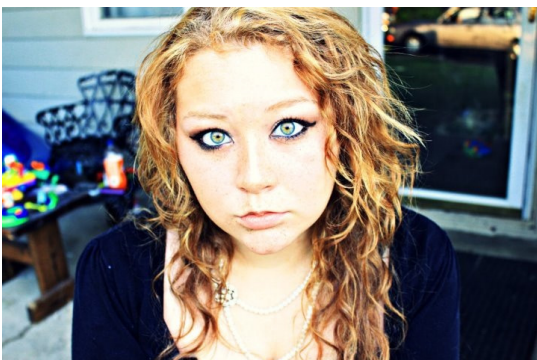


Alex (Tiny) Stailey with granddaughter Rashell Ruby and 3 great-grandchildren.



Nikki Shanigan, Joe Kalamakoff and Kathy Lakoduk

Right:
Tjarec Johnson



Left: Jessica Forshey

Middle: James (Jimmy) Starkloff

Above: Heather Kalmakoff



Programs Available through Kanatak



Do you need help with housing?

If you are a member in good standing with the Native Tribe of Kanatak and meet certain income requirements, you may be eligible for assistance from the Bristol Bay Housing Authority. The income requirements are established by HUD and vary depending on the place of residence and the number of family members. For example, to meet the income eligibility standards in the Mat-Su borough, where Wasilla is located, the yearly income for a family of three can be no more than \$54,450; yet, if that same family of three resided in the Anchorage area, that maximum would be \$58,000.

Through BBHA, there are currently programs for rental assistance, utility vouchers, home repairs, down-payment assistance for home purchase and crime prevention/youth or cultural activities. There is also the option for the Kanatak tribal council to assess the memberships' housing needs and create other programs in the future, subject to federal guidelines and BBHA approval.

To apply, you **must** fill out an 18-page application which includes supplying proof of income, such as yearly income tax forms. The application is available at the BBHA website: <http://www.bbha.org/apply.htm> Phone numbers for contact with either the King Salmon or Dillingham offices are also available at the above-listed website.

Once your application is complete, mail it to this address:

Bristol Bay Housing Authority

PO Box 50

Dillingham, Alaska 99576

Do NOT mail your application to the Kanatak tribal office!



Native Tribe of Kanatak

The following programs are available for the membership:

Education Program: Funds to be awarded to eligible tribal members seeking higher education and/or specific job-skill training required for employment/certification.

Tribal Youth Activity Program: Funds to be awarded to eligible tribal members between the ages of 1-18 for extra-curricular activities, such as school sports, boy/girl scouts, summer or sports camps, music lessons, dance lessons, etc.

Emergency Assistance Program: Funds for tribal members' unexpected emergencies that threaten basic quality of life, such as fire damage, leaking roof, non-functioning furnace, water heater, etc. (Low-income members should seek this assistance through BBHA.)

Wellness Program: Funds for education and promotion of healthy living, including weight-loss, suicide prevention, alcohol/drug prevention and tobacco-use prevention.

Tribal Burial Assistance Program: Funds to be awarded to help with final expenses of tribal members who were in good standing with the tribe at the time of passing; maximum award per deceased member = \$1,500.

Tribal Social Activity Fund: Funds for 2 activities directors to create and organize quarterly tribal social activities in both Alaska and the Lower 48.

Culture Program: Funds to promote culture and communication among tribal members.

Bicycle Safety Program: Details to follow survey.

These programs generally require the following:

- *completed tribal membership/enrollment (member in good-standing)*
- *completed application for program*
- *documentation of need/amount, bids where requested, and proof/receipts of expenditures*
- *name/address of 3rd party to whom checks will be issued; as a rule, checks are not issued directly to tribal members.*

Contact the executive director, tribal administrator or Kanatak tribal council for additional information about these programs.

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As always, the goal of the Kanatak newsletter is to be all-inclusive. If you or your family have not been featured in the newsletter, PLEASE consider submitting photos, articles or information about yourselves. For example, if you have a special interest, hobby, talent or vocation, I'd be tickled to call you and interview you for the *Struttin' our Stuff* section. I just need your phone number! You'll find my contact info on page 13.

If you've been reading the Kanatak history section of the newsletter, you know that the history is in the 1940-1950 range. Some of you may have memories or family histories about this time (and subsequent years) to share. In particular, if you look at the January 2012 issue, page 3, you'll likely find yourself, parents or grandparents listed there. Do you have memories or information that you can share with the entire tribe? If you were not alive at that time, what do you know and can tell us about your parents/grandparents? Can you draw up a family tree that shows your connection to Kanatak? Please share with us all. As always, the goal is to be as all-inclusive as possible with the history of Kanatak and the tribe.

Finally, addresses are an issue. I recently mailed some freebies from the *choose-respect* campaign—a number of which came back as undeliverable. PLEASE make sure that you have an accurate mailing address on file with the Native Tribe of Kanatak; for example, before we know it, it will be time to mail election info again! Also, the fastest, most cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to get information to tribal members is via e-mail addresses. If you are receiving a paper copy of this newsletter and have an e-mail address, PLEASE send that to us! (Contact info on page 13.)

Thanks so much, folks. It's always such a pleasure to hear from you all.

Jeanette