The 2019 TCC Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors meeting took place March 11th-14th at the Westmark Hotel and Conference Center in Fairbanks.

This year’s theme was ‘Ch’egwhtsen’; Living our Values in a Changing World,’ which recognizes our continued efforts to preserve our way of life and live our values as Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes. The theme provided an opportunity for our tribal leaders, delegates, and community partners, to discuss the challenges and successes in our region.

Julie Roberts-Hyslop of Tanana was this year’s keynote speaker. She spoke about the importance of passing our culture to the youth and the need to preserve it in changing times.

Delegates and guests heard from panel speakers who discussed topics such as airline services in the Interior; child protection and family wellness; housing needs and what TCC is doing to overcome challenges; job opportunities; Tok Clinic and CAIHC expansion; fire services, trainings, and BLM/AFS Type 2 Wildland Fire Contract crews; creating excellence in medical services; patient travel process, escorts, and lodging; climate change and river erosion; and more.

Continued on page 4.

A Special Thank You from Chief Joseph

Last fall, TCC sent out backpacks full of school supplies to a few of our rural villages. Chief Joseph received multiple thank you letters from the kids. We would like to send a special thank you to these kids!
MISSION STATEMENT
Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

VISION
Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes

TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
Donald Honea Sr./Ruby
1st Traditional Chief
Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village
2nd Traditional Chief
Victor Joseph/Tanana
Chief/Chairman
Charlene Stern/Arctic Village
Vice President
Jerry Isaac/Tanacross
Secretary/Treasurer
William "Chaaiy" Albert/Northway
Upper Tanana
Nick Alexia Sr./Nikolai
Upper Kuskokwim
Nancy James/Fort Yukon
Yukon Flats
Eugene Paul/Holy Cross
Lower Yukon
Frank Thompson/ Evansville
Yukon Tanana
Norman ‘Carl’ Burgett/ Huslia
Yukon Koyukuk
Peter Demoski/Nulato
Elder Advisor
Jolie Murray/Beaver
Youth Advisor

CHIEF’S REPORT

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

This year’s Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors meeting theme was “Ch’eghwtsen’; Living our Values in a Changing World”, which recognizes our continued efforts to preserve our way of life and live our values as Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes. The theme provided an opportunity for our tribal leaders, delegates, and community partners, to discuss the challenges and successes in our region. I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who made this year’s convention a strong, successful, and informative event.

We heard from several amazing speakers, including our keynote speaker, Julie Roberts-Hyslop of Tanana. Julie spoke towards our theme of “Ch’eghwtsen’” with a focus on passing our culture to our youth and the importance of preserving it in spite of the challenges in front of us.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Charlene Stern of Arctic Village for being elected to serve as the TCC Vice President, as well as Nancy James of Fort Yukon and Frank Thompson of Evansville for being re-elected to serve as the subregional representatives on the Executive Board. Additionally, the youth re-elected Jolie Murray of Beaver for another term as youth representative. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

A special thank you to outgoing Vice President Julie Roberts-Hyslop of Tanana who served on the Executive Board since 2005 for all the work and contributions she made for our tribes and tribal members. She was re-elected to serve as the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) representative for another year.

Also during our convention, education was a big concern among our leaders, in large part due to the Governor’s proposed budget. Our full Board of Directors passed Resolution 2019-10 that urges our state legislators to reject the proposed budget and make no further cuts to state operations. Other concerns were cuts to Medicaid and the impact it will have on our health services and the longevity of the Power Cost Equalization designated fund.

Housing was identified as the number one need in our villages in the Rural Community Needs Survey that was completed in 2018. In fact it scored higher than the next top three combined; Employment and Training, Public Safety/Substance Abuse, and Patient Travel. TCC will be working on creative ways to combine funding, utilize sawmills and resource development, and training local labor to build homes. Furthermore, we are working with Senator Lisa Murkowski’s office in hopes of organizing a statewide housing summit as she recognizes the housing crisis and need throughout rural Alaska.

Since receiving the authorization from our tribal leadership we have been planning the incorporations of Ch’eghwtsen’ (True Love) and our new guiding principal; “assessable and trusted world class services provided with unconditional love compassion dignity and respect – HEAR Me”. We’ll be using the Baldrige Framework process to implement Ch’eghwtsen’ and our guiding principal throughout TCC’s services. These changes will improve our overall business practices and outcomes while improving the quality of services you receive, Healthy, Strong Unified Tribes.

Ana Bassee,
Victor Joseph
Chief/Chairman
In 1933 at a fish camp just below Koyukuk on the Yukon River, a champion was born. That champion was George Attla Jr. George was raised in a subsistence lifestyle – fishing and hunting off the land with his family. George grew up to become known as a champion of Dog mushing, of the traditional lifestyle, and for Native Alaskans.

By the 1950’s George had already became a legendary open-class sprint dog racer. His name is known and respected throughout the world. Known as the “Huslia Hustler” Attla Jr. won countless races and was even inducted into the first Alaska Sports Hall of Fame and later famed the Best Musher of the 20th Century.

Governor Steve Cowper proclaimed April 29th, 1988 as “George Attla Day” and Tanana Chiefs Conference felt it was important to recognize his accomplishments and name April 29th as “George Attla Day”.

Submitted by the Beaver Village Council in 2015, the Full Board of Directors passed resolution 2015-01 to honor him each year on that day. All TCC calendars now read “George Attla Day” on April 29th and it will remain a time to honor a true Alaskan champion.
Continued from Page 1.

TCC’s Emerging Leaders were able to coach and guide this year’s Youth Delegates during Convention. The Emerging Leaders held a panel with the youth that focused on education, culture, and drug and alcohol free communities. This year there were three Executive Board seats up for election. Nancy James of Fort Yukon was re-elected as the Yukon Flats Subregion representative, Frank Thompson of Evansville was re-elected as the Yukon Tanana Subregion representative, and Dr. Charlene Stern of Arctic Village was elected as the new Vice President.

TCC would like to thank our previous Vice President, Julie Roberts-Hyslop of Tanana for her years on the Executive Board. TCC held an “Honoring and Awards Dinner” on Saturday before the meetings began, to recognize individuals throughout the region who go above and beyond. This year, we honored the TCC Employees of the Year, Utility Manager of the Year, Operator of the Year, and three Patti Hyslop Leadership in Sobriety award recipients.

As always, during the first two days of the convention, there is a health fair to reach those who have questions or would like more information on our services.
2019 Annual Convention Potlatch

Each year, after the TCC convention has ended, TCC holds a potlatch for the community to come together and relax after a week of long meetings. After TCC staff are done passing out food and cleaning, there is drumming and dancing for everyone to enjoy.
During the first two days of TCC’s Annual Convention, a Health Fair was held which provided the opportunity for patients to learn about the services offered through TCC’s Health Services Department and to get to know some of our staff and providers.
TCC Employees of the Year

Greg Alexander
Old Minto Recovery Camp
Urban

Kristie Charlie
Tribal Administrator
Rural

Tanana Chiefs Conference employees and tribal members are encouraged to nominate a staff member who has demonstrated consistently high work performance as the 2019 Employee of the Year. Executive Managers then will choose two employees, one employee that is village based and one employee that is Fairbanks based to receive this award.

Award Recipients

Utility Manager of the Year

Nicol Rallo

Operator of the Year

NO PHOTO
Greg Patsy

Patti Hyslop Leadership in Sobriety

Raymond Woods
Shirley Ann Grover
Shirley Kruger
2019 TCC Election Results

**TCC Executive Board of Directors**

**Subregional Positions**
- Yukon Flats Subregion
  - 3 Year Term (2019-2020)
  - Elected: Nancy James
- Yukon Tanana Subregion
  - 3 Year Term (2019-2020)
  - Elected: Frank Thompson

**Officer Positions**
- **TCC Vice President**
  - 3 Year Term (2019-2020)
  - Elected: Charlene Stern
- **TCC Regional Health Board**
  - Upper Tanana Subregion
    - 3 Year Term (2019-2020)
    - Elected: Sylvia Pitka

**TCC Education Council**

Upper Kuskokwim Subregion
- 3 Year Term (2019-2020)
- Elected: TABLED

Yukon Flats Subregion
- 3 Year Term (2019-2020)
- Elected: TABLED

**Alaska Federation of Native Representative**
- 1 seat
- 1 Year Term (2019-2020)
- Elected: Julie Roberts-Hyslop

**Interior Regional Housing Authority Board of Commissioners**
- Seat C
  - 3 Year Term (2019-2020)
  - Elected: Speedy Sam
- Seat B
  - 3 Year Term (2019-2020)
  - Elected: Leah Woods

2019 Annual Convention

**Keynote Speaker**

**Julie Roberts-Hyslop**

Julie Roberts-Hyslop of Tanana was selected as the 2019 keynote speaker.

Julie started off by demonstrating Ch’eghwtseen’ (True Love) by thanking TCC staff member, Norma Dahl, for all of her hard work and dedication to the Executive Board. Additionally, she recognized her husband and family for their support over the years.

Her keynote speech focused on preserving our culture in spite of the challenges in front of us and the importance of passing our culture to the youth. “Sometimes we face things in our lives that feel like we will never be able to overcome, but we must never give up. Just think of our grandparents and parents, if they had given up.. we would not be here today.”

Her message to the youth was “know that you’re always loved. Know that you are unique. And that we must live our day, each day the best of our ability. We must continue to learn as much as we can. Always strive to be a better person. Be proud of yourself. No one is a failure. Even if others say something to you. Help each other. Even if it’s just one kind word.”

You can watch Julie’s full keynote speech on our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/tananachiefs](http://www.youtube.com/tananachiefs)
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE • THE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Sarah Silas, Minto

This month’s Legacy elder is Sarah Silas of Minto, who was featured in Volume 4 of Legacy of our Elders series. Sarah was born on December 26th, 1924, at a small camp above Ramp. Far from uncommon in those days, many women would give birth while their families were at camps as they hunted, trapped, and fished for a living.

In 1934, Silas and her family moved to Stevens Village, where the school was, in order for the children to get their education. “We didn’t know how to go to school,” recalls Silas. “Recess time, we all went home!” School was new to many of the children in Silas’ generation, as were the English language and Western teaching styles. Up to that point, many of the children were taught at home by their families about their subsistence lifestyles such as how to survive off the land, and how to safety travel to camp in the different seasons.

Silas recalled that the life her and her husband lived was full of hard work to keep the family goes. The happy had four girls and four boys. It was a life that Silas said she enjoyed.

In the 1970’s many people who lived in Old Minto relocated to, what is now the current Minto area. “It was because of the flooding, sometimes we would flood twice in a year.” Silas and her family were one of those who chose to relocate to high, dry ground with plumbing and electricity, a luxury that many didn’t have at the time.

“Speaking in our dialect,” she says, is so important. “You could not learn in English what you can in your own language.” Silas says she makes sure to tell her children and grandchildren the importance of this message.

To hear Sarah’s full story, visit www.tananachiefs.org

TCC’s Legacy of our Elders series documents the lives and stories of Athabascan elders throughout the TCC region. Their interviews are compiled into volumes that include a DVD movie as well as an accompanying book. The books and DVDs highlight the elders and the stories that they want to share. These videos are available on our website at www.tananachiefs.org

Funding for Legacy Project made possible by TCC & The National Park Service.

Future Leaders Come Forward at Annual Convention

During this year’s TCC 2018 Annual Convention and Full Board of Director’s meeting, 12 youth delegates between the ages of 14-18 were selected to attend this year’s convention, two from each subregion. Alongside the youth were the Emerging Leaders, a group of young leaders-in-training between the ages of 18-21, who were there to assist in coaching the youth delegates as they learned about convention and the operation of Tanana Chiefs Conference.

The 2018 Youth Delegates were:
• Charles Ambrose, Ruby
• Jennifer Guthrie, Beaver
• Richard Daniel Williams, Fort Yukon
• Kaila Druck, Canyon Village
• Malia Burk-Stevens, Nenana
• Adrianna Charlie, Minto
• Brooke Demientieff, Holy Cross
• Ravyn Walker, Holy Cross
• Nicholas Wulf, Shageluk
• Joshua Nikolai, Nikolai
• Catherine Captai, Tetlin
• Ian Malcolm, Eagle

The youth delegates and emerging leaders had a powerful presence during Convention. Each of the youth delegates had the chance to address the convention and speak about issues that were important to them.
In March, Tanana Chiefs Conference premiered the Legacy of Our Elders Volume 6 and Volume 7.

Two years ago, TCC debuted the Legacy of Our Elders, a documentary project that tells the stories of Athabascan Elders from each of our six subregions, documenting their language, culture, and history.

TCC’s Communications Division secured a National Park Service Tribal Heritage Grant in 2015, which provided funding for this project. Although the grant has since ended, TCC has decided to continue funding the project on our own. Elders are a treasured part of our community and their stories, lives, and experiences are priceless.

These books and DVD’s will continue to be sent to all tribal offices throughout the region, local schools, and are already being used in classrooms at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. All of the videos are available to view for free on the TCC website.

The elders interviewed in Volume 6 are Abraham Henry; Don Stevens; Dora Esai; Isabelle John; Mary Deacon; and Benedict and Eliza Jones.

The elders interviewed in Volume 7 are Ann Alexia; Helen Peters; Irene Roberts; Marie Yaska; Daisy Northway; and Ray Dutchman.

TCC plans to continue this project by interviewing elders throughout the region. Elders are a treasured part of any community and their stories, lives, and experiences are priceless. Their stories of perseverance inspire us and remind us the importance of keeping the Athabascan culture, traditions, and language alive.

TCC would like to thank all of our elders for the gift of their stories. It is a true honor to be able to preserve those gifts. We look forward to hearing more of these stories.
Civil Diversion Agreement &
Restorative Justice Workshop

Tanana Chiefs Conference partnered with the Alaska Department of Law to host the first ever Civil Diversion Agreement Workshop. The workshop was held in Fairbanks on February 12-13, 2019. The collaboration between TCC and the State allowed for the attendance of 5 Alaska State Troopers (from C and D Detachment), 3 Village Police Safety Officers, 2 District Attorneys, 1 Deputy District Attorney, as well as the cohost Rob Henderson the Assistant Attorney General of the Dept. of Law Criminal Division. 10 of the 11 tribes that are currently signed into the agreement from TCC Region were present for the workshop. All the tribes signed into the agreement come from the TCC Region with the exception of 1 agreement. The currently signed on Tribes are Anvik, Arctic Village, Holy Cross, Hughes, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nikolai, Nulato, Ruby, and Tanana, as well as Buckland outside of the TCC Region.

TCC had played a significant role in the drafting of this tribal-state agreements to ensure it was fair and consistent for all tribes to utilize. The CDA Agreements is between a tribal government and the Dept. of Law. The agreement allows individuals that commit specific types of misdemeanors within a tribal community the option to divert their criminal case to the tribe’s Tribal Court for sentencing. This process is beneficial on many levels. The offender makes the option to be sentenced in tribal court, and as long as the offender complies with the tribal courts sentencing, they will NOT receive a criminal charge, and the incidents will not be listed on their criminal history. In addition to preventing criminal charges, the local community gets to be involved in holding the offender accountable, rather than a state judge hundreds of miles away in a foreign court room. Tribal courts have the option to address these cases in multiple different hearing styles including: panel judges sentencing, small justice circle sentencing, and/or community justice circle sentencing. This process taken on by the tribal court is considered a restorative justice practice, restoring the offender, the victim, and the whole community.

Day one of the training consisted of the nuts and bolts of having a CDA agreement and the process for diverting cases from the State Trooper, VPSO, and/ or District Attorney to the Tribal Court. Participants even got to meet a K-9 officer, and were given a visual of his drug sniffing skills, as well as an opportunity to have a close-up look at the different drugs that threaten the safety in our rural communities. The second day of this workshop targeted restorative justice practices with hands on training for tribal court personnel. Tribal Courts in the TCC Region have been operating for time and immemorial, but since the 80's more formal activity has been documented. TCC tribal courts are actively working to heal all parties involved, and agreements like these are just another tool in the tribal courts tool book to do just that. Tribes that do not have a signed agreement and are interested in more information may contact Tribal Development for more information and technical assistance.
We Remember

5K RUN/WALK TO HONOR THOSE WE’VE LOST TO CANCER

Sunday, June 2nd, 2019
Birch Hill Recreational Area
Beginning at 10:00am

ALL are welcome to participate!
More information will become available on how to sign up!

Information on cancer prevention, screening, and support services will be available.
There will also be authentic Alaska Native artwork available for purchase.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE INTERIOR ALASKA CANCER ASSOCIATION
The IACA is an all-volunteer organization, which provides support groups, financial assistance, and resource guidance for Interior Alaskans who are diagnosed with cancer.

HOSTED BY TCC

Alarming number of pre-teens are drinking alcohol - which makes it urgent to find every opportunity to talk to your kids about the dangers of underage drinking.

For more information on alcohol prevention and tips on how-and-when to begin the conversation please contact:
Prevention Through Wellness Program
TCC Division of Wellness & Prevention
(907) 452-8251 1 (800) 478-6822 Ext. 3763
prevention@tananachiefs.org
www.underagedrinking.samsha.gov

Neehiyiyaa Gwizhit Shaook’ii
Talk. They Hear you.
Gwich’in Athabascan

Lyaa Gwinzii Tseeniya!
After the big game
-Gwich’in Athabascan

Lyaa gwantloo li naii ch’inii ts’a’ jyan dighee’iyaa kwaa enjit goots’a gereeheekyaa.

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**BED BUGS**

By Kelly Genskow
TCC Environmental Health Specialist

A Common Problem that No One is Talking About

Bed bugs: they’re a common problem but not one that people usually like talking about. Why? Well, certainly no one likes being bitten by bugs in general, but there’s something more personal about it when they invade our beds and bite while sleeping. There’s also a stigma around bed bugs that somehow having them makes us dirtier; however, bed bugs are not connected to being dirty or unsanitary. They can become a problem for anyone anywhere, even the nicest of hotels or homes. While a lot of clutter in the home does give bed bugs more places to hide once they get in, it’s not the cause of an infestation. It’s also important to know that bed bugs cannot transmit any diseases to people.

If anyone can be at risk for getting a bed bug infestation, then the most important thing to know is how to stop them from getting into your house in the first place! Any time you travel, you should inspect the room where you are sleeping. If there is a luggage rack, check that first for signs of bed bugs, and then leave your luggage there rather than on the bed. You should also check the beds, using a good flashlight. The best places to check are along the seams and edges of the mattresses/box springs and pillows. What you are looking for is possibly live bugs, but more likely black or reddish spots (bed bug poop) and old shells that bed bugs have shed. If you see any signs of bed bugs, ask for a different room. OEH has made videos of how to check a hotel room that you can find at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkuTLzJBYvY or https://www.youtube.com/user/TananaChiefs. Once you get home from your trip, put your clothes straight into a dryer – 30 minutes on high heat will kill all bed bug life stages. You should also leave your suitcase outside your house in an entryway or garage until you check it for any bed bug hitchhikers. Second-hand furniture is another easy way for bed bugs to get into your home – so it’s usually best to avoid taking any.

If bed bugs do become a problem in your home, don’t panic, you can get rid of them. First take all items that can go into a clothes dryer and dry them on high heat for at least 30 minutes to kill any hiding bugs. Store and seal the clean items so that they can’t be re-infested – garbage bags or sealable bins can work well for this. Then remove any clutter in the home and vacuum all surfaces and furniture. Remember to immediately seal and dispose of the vacuum bag or contents. Be persistent, you probably won’t get all of the bed bugs the first time, so vacuum regularly. Mattress encasements made specifically for bed bugs can also be helpful. Don’t be tempted to buy over-the-counter chemicals that claim to kill bed bugs; they usually don’t work well and can be more harmful to you and your family.

You can find more detailed tips and information on eradicating bed bugs on our website https://www.tananachiefs.org/health/environmental-health/, or by contacting the Office of Environmental Health.

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TCC visits

ALLAKAKET AND HUGHES

On February 26, 2019, Chief Joseph, Natasha Singh and Tobi Maracle met with Allakaket, Alatna and Hughes, to review the Ambler Road project status, and to present information learned as a result of TCC’s monthly and quarterly meetings with AIDEA. During the meeting, Chief Joseph requested Tribes to provide additional directives, should they require any further or specific assistance from TCC while in pursuit of their position. TCC is currently following the directive, given as a part of a 2018 resolution, to oppose the Ambler Road. On Friday, February 22nd, Gov. Dunleavy reopened work on the Ambler Road Project, as well as others. This announcement emphasizes the focus the new Governor places on mineral develop and we suspect the Ambler Road project will obtain further state funding and political support. Legacy funds were released in the past quarter from the former Walker administration to advance the environmental impact statement process. The Northwest Artic Borough and North Slope Borough signed a joint resolution in relation to the Ambler Road, focused on supporting further permitting and the potential co-ownership of the proposed Ambler Road.
Preparing for Breakup Flooding

Significant flooding has struck many Interior communities in recent years. TCC has been able to provide supplies and support during times of need, even before government and other organizations can by coordinating with both state and federal agencies. TCC has always been willing to assist our tribes during disaster situations. It is important you are prepared before flooding happens.

Spring is in the air, and breakup is just around the corner. Spring flood planning and work can begin now to save you time and worry later. Tanana Chiefs Conference Office of Environmental Health (OEH) offers these tips to help you get ready for possible flooding:

**A MONTH BEFORE BREAKUP:**
- Find the high points around your property and other parts of the village where you can move items above flood level if needed.
- Make a list of any equipment (generators, snow machines, and chainsaws) that will need to be moved to higher ground during a flood.
- Locate any fuel storage that will need to be secured during a flood.
- Start putting together an emergency kit of items needed if you must leave your home.
- Ask your Tribal or City Administrator about the community flood preparations. This may include a local area to evacuate to, designated people to observe the river level and alert the community.

**TWO WEEKS BEFORE BREAKUP:**
- Finish putting together your emergency kit. Remember food, water and medications!
- Remind others to plan for potential flooding, and help if needed.
- Track down available emergency response equipment in the village (boats, flotation devices, and maintenance and rescue tools).
- Get essential facilities (clinic, water treatment plant, electric utility, records storage with the City and/or Tribe, etc.) ready for possible flooding.
- Help identify “at risk” residents of the community. These are the people that need to be evacuated before flooding for medical reasons.
- Identify elders or other people that may need assistance during a flood and help to make sure they are prepared. Remember their medications.

**WHEN A FLOOD WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED:**
- Flood proof the essential facilities and other public buildings.
- Secure fuel tanks, small fuel containers and barrels to keep them from floating away.
- Move all vehicles and equipment to higher ground.
- Move all dry goods and canned food items above the high water level in your home.
- Mattresses and other items that could be damaged by water should be moved above the high water level in your home.
- If a shelter has been identified, move your needed items to this location.
TCC plans to begin construction on the new Tok Subregional Clinic this summer, starting with the demolition of surrounding structures as early as mid-April.

We are excited about this new change that will expand our services to the tribes.