

# the council

*Dena' Nena' Henash • Our Land Speaks*

Vol. 41, No. 3

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

MARCH 2017

## PRESERVING OUR Way of Life

2017  
ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 2017 Tanana Chiefs Conference Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting will be held this year March 13th through the 16th in Fairbanks at the Westmark.

This year's theme was chosen with careful thought and consideration. TCC Chief/Chairman Victor Joseph said, "This year's convention theme is 'Preserving Our Way of Life.' This theme was selected because right now is the time we must stand up to the challenges we face and grab a

hold of the opportunities in front of us." We would like to focus our attention on ensuring that we continue to preserve our way of life, our traditions, language, and our culture that we cherish.

We are pleased to announce that we will have two keynote speakers this year. Peter Demoski of Nulato and Courtney Agnes of Tanana.

This year there will also be three seats up for election for our Executive

Board of Directors: Upper Tanana Representative, Yukon Koyukuk Representative, and Chief/Chairman.

We are also happy to have youth from our many subregions attend this year's convention as delegates where they can learn with hands-on experience in many panels.



[Learn More About Our Keynotes on Page #7](#)

## LEGACY OF OUR ELDERS

We are pleased to announce that in March 2017 we will officially premiere the 'Legacy of Our Elders' project, which documents the lives of 18 Athabascan elders throughout the TCC region.

The project will debut in March 2017 with an official event and premiere.

**In This  
Issue:**

**Culture  
Camps**  
Page 3

**ESSA  
Summit**  
Page 4

**Convention  
Agenda**  
Page 6

**Keynote  
Speakers**  
Page 7

## 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



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

## TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Donald Honea Sr./Ruby  
*1st Traditional Chief*

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village  
*2nd Traditional Chief*

Victor Joseph/ Tanana  
*Chief/Chairman*

Julie Roberts-Hyslop/Tanana  
*Vice President*

Pollock 'PJ' Simon, Jr. /Allakaket  
*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*

Leo Lolnitz/Koyukuk  
*Yukon Koyukuk*

Peter Demoski/Nulato  
*Elder Advisor*

Isaac Ticknor/Anvik  
*Youth Advisor*

## CHIEF'S REPORT

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

This Council letter is special to me as it marks the end of my first term as your TCC president and what a great three years it's been. Looking back we've accomplished a lot, we strengthened our organization to meet the needs of the people we serve while pushing more resources to our tribal communities. As always, TCC management and our Executive Board consistently review and update the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan to ensure that it remains in alignment with the needs and concerns of our tribes. As I look over the accomplishments of the past year, I can see that our departments and programs made huge strides towards accomplishing our 2016 objectives.

Here are just a few highlights of our strategic plan achievements:

- Our overall revenues have increased from \$150 million in FY2014 to \$188 million for FY2017
- We refinanced the bonds for the new Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center through the State of Alaska Bond Bank, lowering the interest rate from 8% to 2.5%, and shortening the term from 30 years to 15 years, saving TCC \$68 million.
- We opened the only Community Health Aide Training Center in Interior Alaska.
- Our native hire rate increased by 6% in 2016, to a total of 68%.
- TCC finished 2016 with a total of 909 employees, which was an increase of 58 employees over 2015. There were 15 employees added in Fairbanks and 43 employees added in village based locations. This changed the total jobs breakdown from a 70% Fairbanks based and 30% village split to a 67.6% Fairbanks based (decrease of 2.4%) and 32.4% (2.4% increase) village based.
- TCC was awarded a grant from the Administration for Native Americans to develop a Cultural Wellness Camp Program throughout the region.

A full report on our accomplishments will be made available in March, during our annual convention, and will also be released onto our website at [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org).

I'm proud to say that during the past three years, every initiative we embarked upon was driven by the unified voice of our Tribal leadership, our traditional Native values, and our mission and vision. While there is always room to modify our plan at the direction of the Tribes, we've been following a strategic plan for the past two years which contains goals collectively created and agreed upon by all of our Tribes and TCC's Executive Board. These goals define what Tribes believe is important in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their organizations and communities. I can assure you, no matter what challenges Tribes may face, we have a clear plan, we all know where we are headed and with your voice and direction, we will keep creating new and innovative ways to get there.

Last month I attended the NCAI winter session with Executive Board Members in DC. Most of our time was spent talking to US Senators, Congressmen and staffers to explain the state of affairs in our region. It's great to hear that we still have good friends in Congress that are watching out for our best interest. No folks, the world will not end simply because we have a new administration. However, this doesn't mean we won't have our challenges or experience possible funding cuts to programs. What it does mean, is that we cannot be relaxed, unaware, or assume all will be well. The administration has their plans that will cost a lot of money while wanting to cut taxes. Whether you support this position or not, something has to give due to the funding cap. One cannot add spending, reduce revenue, and stay within budget without cutting programs. The recommended approach is to monitor all the potential funding cuts and policy changes and fight for the ones we cannot live without. I'm anticipating being in D.C. a lot over the coming year.

In closing I would like to thank all that have supported me over these past three years; I look forward to continuing to work for our tribes. I also want to give a special thanks to our communications division that has made sure that every Council had a letter from me to you.

I look forward to seeing you all at convention as we continue to work towards our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.



**Ana Bassee',**  
Victor Joseph  
*Chief/Chairman*





## TCC HELPS ESTABLISH SUBREGIONAL *Culture* CAMPS

Culture camps play an important role in the education and preservation of Athabascan traditions, cultures and beliefs. However, the expenses incurred by many of our tribes can hinder our communities from hosting these events.

This is why TCC is excited to now be able to help provide tribes the opportunity to receive funding to host their own culture camps. TCC will be able to provide funding for culture camps in each subregion that includes a wellness and prevention component. At

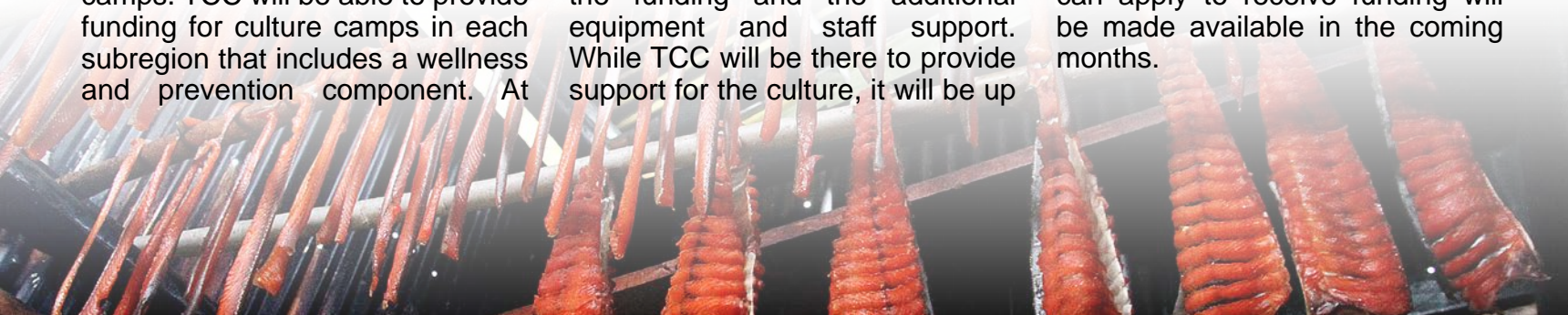
each culture camp, TCC will provide staff, elders, or other experts to host workshops on a variety of wellness and prevention topics such as; suicide prevention, healthy relationships, preventing drug abuse, traditional parenting, and more.

Tanana Chiefs Conference will contract directly with the host village and cover their costs to set-up and put on the camp. TCC will provide the funding and the additional equipment and staff support. While TCC will be there to provide support for the culture, it will be up

to the tribe to determine what you want to offer to your tribal members at the camp; which traditional skills and values you want them to learn; and what things you want them to get more information about.

Tribes will be selected for participation through their subregion as a whole. Each subregion will be allowed two camps per year.

More information on how tribes can apply to receive funding will be made available in the coming months.



### *TCC's Guide to* **NATURAL MEDICINE**



Symptoms: Rose hips are high in Vitamin C, A, B, E, & K. Good for immune system, heart/circulatory systems, **nervous system, anti-inflammatory.**

How to use:

Skin: **Rose hip oil can help with moisturization, and can be used to treat scars and acne**

Burns: **Rose Hip oil can be used as a soothing treatment on skin burns**

Organ Systems: **Can help with the immune, digestive, reproductive, and heart/circulatory/nervous systems.**

Most common uses: **Rose hips are used in a tea, eaten raw, cooked, made into jelly.**

**\*\*Consult with your physician before trying any of these at home; changing your diet.**



# TRIBES GET INVOLVED WITH EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

On January 26th and 27th, Tanana Chiefs Conference along with State Leaders and educators gathered together in order to learn more about the "Every Student Succeeds Act" or ESSA, the major federal education law that replaces "No child left behind."

Roughly 33 tribes were able to attend the event at the Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall.

It is imperative for our tribal leaders to gather together and really take advantage of the opportunity presented by the government to, for the first time, have input on the education of our young people.

Tribal Consultation is also a large

piece to this puzzle. Government to government consultation allows tribes to influence policy and help set priorities for school districts as well as the state department of education and early development.

We encourage our tribal leaders to initiate this process with their school districts in order to ensure the tribal priorities are met and our students are well served.

Learn more on how to get the process started in your communities with more information on ESSA, education, or on tribal consultation in the education context you can contact Edward Alexander, Education Manager at Tanana

Chiefs Conference—452-8251 extension 3032.

Important Meeting for ALL Tribes!

**\*Tribal Consultation Meeting for 'Every Student Succeeds Act' (ESSA)\***

**March 9th, 2017**

**Westmark**



## APRIL IS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

### *Celebrate Alcohol-Free weekend!*

April is Alcohol Awareness Month and March 31 to April 2 is Alcohol Free Weekend.

Alcohol Free Weekend is an opportunity for everyone to contribute to a weekend in our communities with little to no alcohol being consumed.

This year's theme for the TCC region recognizing the weekend is "Honoring Tradition, Honoring Family."

When we abstain from alcohol abuse, our children, families and communities are healthier and safer.

We invite you to recognize this weekend by abstaining from alcohol.

TCC will be sending a banner out to all of the TCC communities and community members can gather together to get a group picture of

everyone who will be recognizing the weekend by abstaining from alcohol use.

If you are not able to participate in the group picture, we will also be sending out selfie signs with the same theme as the full-size banner.

We recognize that alcohol has had a major impact on all aspects of our people including physical health, emotional health, social health and culture and spirituality.

The issues surrounding alcohol are complex and varied and we will be sharing messages surrounding the issues in effort to raise awareness and give hope to those who are struggling

with this substance.

**"HONORING TRADITION, HONORING FAMILY."**

We encourage you to take the information shared and sit down with your family or friends to have your own discussions about what you can do to be a part of the solution. We are all in

this together.

Be sure to watch for the announcement of the date of when your community will be gathering for the community picture!

Questions?

Please contact Roxanne Frank at 1(800)478-6822 ext: 3581.



# REDUCE YOUR RISK OF COLON CANCER

Most all of us know someone, or at least have heard of someone, with cancer. So, what is cancer?

From the time we are conceived, our cells, in a most remarkable way, become bone, blood, skin, liver, brain, and the hundreds of other tissues in our body.

They are strictly regulated, repairing injuries, fighting infections, making hormones. However, over time, mistakes begin to happen. Maybe it's genetic, maybe a chemical we call a carcinogen (for example, tobacco), or maybe it's just "wearing out." But, when this happens, a cell starts growing wildly, out of control, dividing thousands, millions of times, eventually spreading to other areas of the body. This is cancer.

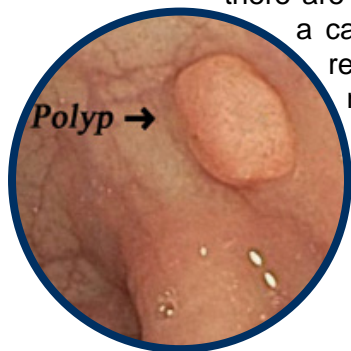
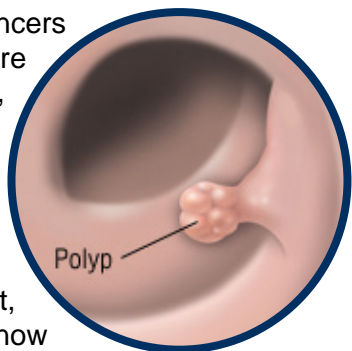
You need to know that cancers are different. There are cancer s of the skin, liver, brain, breast, colon, and every tissue in the body. Some cancers grow very slowly...so slowly that they will probably never harm you. Others grow very fast, spreading before you even know they are there. Even in one tissue, for example the breast, some cancers grow very slow, others very fast. The science of cancer is very complex!

Cancer of the colon, the last part of our bowel, is, for some reason, quite common in Alaskan Natives. It starts as a small abnormal growth on the lining of the colon, and over years, becomes larger, becomes a polyp (looks like a "wart" or "mushroom"). As it enlarges, the cells slowly become cancerous, and may eventually start spreading through the colon wall.

If you can find the polyp early, and remove it, then you can prevent a cancer from forming. And we do that best with "colonoscopy." You make your colon very clean (by drinking that stuff!), and the "scope" (the diameter of your little finger with a very fine camera on it) is passed slowly through your colon, carefully looking for polyps or abnormalities (you are sleepy and remember little of this). Polyps are removed. A larger growth may be biopsied ("sampled") and sent to the lab. If your exam is normal, you may not need another for 10 years, and if

there are polyps, maybe in 5 years. If a cancer is found, then you are referred to the surgeon for management.

Our guidelines, for our population, we recommend starting at the age of 40. For more info, call 451-6682, Ext. 3647 or 3710.



## *A Medical Minute* Learn more about Colorectal Screenings



The Tanana Chiefs Conference Communications Division has been working on a series of videos dedicated to patient education.

The "Medical Minute" Series can be found on our Youtube Page.

This month we focused on Colorectal Screening with CAIHC's Dr. Tsionis. Learn more online!

## *Partnering for* **Native Health**

### FREE Civil Legal Aid for Qualifying Patients

Tanana Chiefs Conference is now partnering with Alaska Legal Services Corporation and AmeriCorps to provide our patients at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center with Civil Legal Aid for some of the following:

Housing	Guardianship	Power of Attorney
Protective Orders	Public Benefits	Debt Collectors

#### For more information contact:



Alaska Legal Services Corporation  
Medical Legal Partnership  
1648 CUSHMAN ST SUITE 300  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

PHONE (907) 452-5181  
FAX (907) 456-6359  
TOLL FREE 1-800-478-5401  
EMAIL agriner@alsc-law.org

\*Tribal Members must qualify for this service based on income.

# Agenda at-a-Glance

## 2017 Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<p>MARCH 13TH, 2017</p> <p>Call to Order 8:15 a.m. <i>Don Honea, Sr. 1st Traditional Chief</i></p> <p>Invocation 8:20 a.m.</p> <p>Welcome Addresses 8:30 a.m. <i>Don Honea Sr., 1st Traditional Chief</i> <i>Trimble Gilbert, 2nd Traditional Chief</i> <i>Victor Joseph, TCC Chief/Chairman</i></p> <p>In Memoriam</p> <p>Presentation of Colors <i>Alaska Native Veteran Association</i> 9:05 a.m.</p> <p>Committee Assignments 9:20 a.m. <i>Victor Joseph, TCC Chief/Chairman</i></p> <p>Welcome Address 9:30 a.m. <i>Aaron Schutt, Doyon Lmt'd President</i></p> <p>FNA <i>Steve Ginnis, Executive Director</i> 9:45 a.m.</p> <p>Mayor Welcome Addresses <i>Jim Matherly, City of Fairbanks</i> <i>Karl Kassel, FNSB</i> <i>Bryce Ward, North Pole</i> 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>The Honorable Bill Walker, Governor State of Alaska 10:30 a.m. IRHA <i>Jana George, CEO</i> 11:00 a.m. NCAI 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>Elder/Youth Addresses 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Intro of Theme and Keynote Speakers 1:15 p.m.</p> <p>President/Candidate Speeches 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>TCC President Candidate Forum 3:15 p.m.</p> <p><b>RECESS</b></p> <p><b>Fairbank Chamber Welcome Reception</b> 5:30 p.m. Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall</p> 	<p>MARCH 14TH, 2017</p> <p>Reconvene &amp; Call Back to Order 8:15 am</p> <p>Education Report 8:20 a.m.</p> <p>Employment Reports 9:20 a.m.</p> <p>Fire Management Plan <i>AK Interagency Wildland Fire</i> <i>Will Putman, Forestry Director</i> 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>The Honorable Senator Lisa Murkowski 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>The Honorable Senator Dan Sullivan 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>The Honorable Congressman Don Young 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Lunch Break <b>-and-</b> Hunting &amp; Fishing Task Force/ Fish Commission Reports 12:00p.m.</p> <p>Traditional Lands <i>Threats/Opportunities</i> <i>Bob Sattler, Archaeologist</i> 1:15 p.m.</p> <p>Public Safety 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Tribal Advisory Council Pt. 1 <i>Reclaiming our People, Wellness,</i> <i>Prevention</i> 4:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>ADJOURN</b></p> 	<p>MARCH 15TH, 2017</p> <p>Call to Order 8:15 am</p> <p>Credential Committee Report 8:20 a.m.</p> <p>Roll Call &amp; Establishment of Quorum 8:25 a.m.</p> <p>Financial Report 8:40 a.m.</p> <p>TCC Chief/Chairman Report 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Question &amp; Answer 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>Chena Bingo 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Honoring Lunch <i>TCC Awards, Patti Hyslop, VPSO</i> <i>Recognition</i> 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Health Services <i>Jacoline Bergdrom</i> 1:05 p.m.</p> <p>Tribal Advisory Council Pt.2 <i>Behavioral Health Services</i> 1:15 p.m.</p> <p>Opioid Use &amp; Pain Management 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Cancer Strategy 3:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>RECESS</b></p> <p><b>Denakkanaaga Fundraiser</b> 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall</p>  <p>Auction - Live Music - Elder Storytelling</p>	<p>MARCH 16TH, 2017</p> <p>Reconvene &amp; Call Back to Order 8:15 am</p> <p>Proposed By Law Change(s) Consideration 8:25 a.m.</p> <p>Resolutions Committee Report 8:55 a.m.</p> <p>Continue Consideration of Resolutions 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Election Committee Report 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Working Lunch 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>ELECTIONS 1:15 p.m.</p> <p>Swearing In Ceremony TCC Executive Board TCC Chief/Chairman</p> <p><b>ADJOURN</b></p> <p><b>TCC Annual Potlatch</b> 5:30 p.m. Chief David Salmon Tribal</p> 

### TCC Convention Bazaar

March 15th - 16th • Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks

### TCC Health Fair

March 13th - 14th • Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks



# 2017 ANNUAL CONVENTION

## Keynote Speakers

### Peter Demoski



Peter Demoski of Nulato is a respected elder of the Tanana Chiefs Conference Region.

This year he was selected as a Keynote Speaker for our theme, "Preserving Our Way of Life" because of his vast knowledge of our culture, traditions, and his passion to continue to keep those values alive.

Demoski has served in a huge capacity to our people and is currently the Elder Advisor on the TCC Executive Board.

His service ranges for years and includes Tribal Administrator, City Council Member, and more.

He is a lifelong advocate and has dedicated his life to the service of our tribes. We are honored to have Demoski as a Keynote Speaker.

### Courtney Agnes

Courtney Agnes of Tanana was selected this year as a Keynote Speaker for the theme "Preserving Our Way of Life."

Mrs. Agnes advocates for her family and stresses the importance of preserving and passing on the traditions and subsistence lifestyles that our people have cherished and relied upon.

She continues to advocate for the awareness and importance of those issues by serving on the Tanana Tribal Council and Tanana City School District School Board. This summer she also attended meetings with the Lt. Governor and State Commissioner when they traveled down the Yukon River to discuss with our tribes' the importance of keeping and managing Salmon in our rivers.



**Annual Membership Meeting**  
Friday, March 10th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.  
Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall

**FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION**

**DOYON, LIMITED ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

VOTE YOUR ePROXY AT  
[HTTPS://EPROXY.DOYON.COM](https://eproxy.doyon.com) TODAY!

**DOYON Limited**

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017  
DOORS OPEN 8 A.M.  
FAIRBANKS WESTMARK HOTEL  
813 NOBLE STREET

*A DYNAMIC FORCE*

# Election Criteria: 2017 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting

## SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

### TCC Executive Board of Directors

#### Subregional Positions:

Upper Tanana Subregion ..... 3 Year Term 2017-2020  
*Currently William "Chaaiy" Albert, Northway*

Yukon Koyukuk Subregion ..... 3 Year Term 2017-2020  
*Currently Leo Lolnitz, Koyukuk*

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a current village director, as authorized by tribal/village resolution. (Article 7, Section 4)
- Must be residents of the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Members of member villages of the corporation. (Article 4, Section 1)
- Employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as Directors or officers of the corporation with exception of the President and temporary or seasonal E-Board Members and Full Board Members. (Article 4, Section 2)

### TCC Advisory Boards

The three TCC Advisory Boards make recommendations to the TCC executive board and President. The President has the authority to appoint all individuals to the advisory boards, (Article 7, Section 3), but the President currently allows the subregions to democratically select representatives to each advisory board. All candidates must be Alaska Native.

### TCC Regional Health Board

Yukon Flats Subregion.....3 year term (2017-2020)  
*Currently Christine Rifredi, Fort Yukon*

### TCC Education Council

Lower Yukon Subregion.....3 year term (2017-2020)  
*Currently Nathan Elswick, Anvik*

Yukon Tanana Subregion.....3 year term (2017-2020)  
*Currently Phyllis Erhart, Tanana*

### Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees

Seat B - Upper Kuskokwim Subregion.....3 year term (2017-2020)  
*Currently Sharon Gurtler-Strick, McGrath*

Seat C - Upper Tanana Subregion.....3 year term (2017-2020)  
*Currently Gerald Albert, Northway*

## FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

### AFN Village Representative

1 Seat .....One year term (2017-2018)  
*Currently Julie Roberts-Hyslop, Tanana*

*\* The AFN Village Representative seat is not affected by the TCC Bylaws; however, we notify villages of AFN candidates who declare their written intent as a candidate, for informational purposes.*

### IRHA Board of Commissioners

Seat E.....Three year term (2017-2020)  
*Currently Marvin Deacon, Grayling*

*\* Must be eligible to serve on TCC Board of Directors*  
*- Employees of TCC or IRHA are not eligible to serve as IRHA Commissioners (Article 7, Section 7)*

*\* The election of the IRHA seat is not affected by the TCC Bylaws pertaining to the declaration of candidacy requirements; however, we notify villages of IRHA candidates who declare their written intent as a candidate for informational purposes.*

## TCC PRESIDENT CANDIDATES FORUM QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION MONDAY AFTERNOON MARCH 13, 2017

## FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

### Officer Positions

TCC Chief/Chairman .....3 year term (2017-2020)  
*Currently Victor Joseph, Tanana*

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Officers must be members of a member village of the corporation and eligible to be selected as a Director of a member village. (Article 5, Section 1)
- On March 19, 2009, the TCC full board of directors adopted Resolution 2009-30 "Barrier Crimes" directing TCC to come into compliance with federal and state background check requirements. The TCC President will have regular and foreseeable contact with Indian children and is a full time TCC employee and therefore must pass the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (ICPA) and the State DHHS background checks.
- Potential candidates must turn in a completed and correct background check application to Heather Rogers in human resources by February 10 to guarantee background checks will be completed by February 28. Individuals contemplating running for TCC President should turn in a background check application now to ensure the ability to make corrections to mistakes in the lengthy application. All background check applications will be confidential and only Human Resources will have access to the application and the names of individuals. Those individuals that fail to pass a background check will not be eligible candidates for the TCC President position.

## DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Individuals who want to declare themselves a candidate for any of the above seats must submit a written, signed and dated letter of intent between 8:00 AM-February 2, 2017 and 5:00 PM-March 3, 2017 We recommend that you confirm receipt of your letter of intent with the TCC Executive Secretary *prior* to March 3rd. We may not know of the submission of your letter of intent; but we can confirm the receipt of your letter of intent.

Individuals may submit a letter of intent for AFN Village Representative and IRHA Commissioner Seats but they must be nominated from the floor to declare themselves a candidate.

Letter of intent (see example on page 4) must be received by fax, mail or delivered in person no later than 5:00 PM on March 3, 2017 to:

Tanana Chiefs Conference  
ATTN: Norma Dahl, Executive Secretary  
122 First Avenue, Suite 600  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
1-800-478-6822 ext.3112 FAX # (907) 459-3884

2017 TCC Full Board elections process follows the TCC Elections Rules; the elections rules are posted on the TCC website at [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org) under the 2017 TCC Annual Convention information and is also enclosed with the First and Official Call to Convention mailed to TCC member tribes. A copy of the elections rules can be requested by contacting Natasha Singh, General Counsel, at ext. 3178.

## Important Dates for the 2017 TCC Presidential Elections

#### Submit between now and February 10th:

The last day TCC is able to guarantee a background check will be completed in time for the required 10 day announcement of candidates before the meeting.

#### February 2nd at 8:00am:

The open period in which a candidate may declare written candidacy begins. Please confirm receipt of your letter of intent.

#### March 3rd at 5:00pm:

The open period in which a candidate may declare candidacy ends. Candidates must declare their candidacy in writing. TCC must provide a list of eligible candidates to member tribes.

#### March 13th:

TCC 2017 Presidential Candidates Forum.

#### March 16th:

TCC Presidential election held at the TCC Full Board of Directors Annual Meeting at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks.



# Background Checks and the 2017 TCC Presidential Elections

## ICPA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION:

The Indian Child Protection Act (ICPA), requires TCC employees to pass a federal background check, and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act requires TCC employees to pass a state background check.

TCC leadership has made the commitment to both comply with current law and advocate for reasonable changes in background check requirements. As part of compliance, TCC presidential candidates must submit their complete background check application which includes fingerprints by February 10th submitted to Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director. This allows enough time for the check to be complete. Only those candidates that pass the background check will be eligible to continue as official candidates for the March 16, 2017 election. This process was mandated in the 2014 Presidential Election as well.

## 2017 TCC ELECTIONS: ELECTION RULES

### RULE 10. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED

To be elected to a position, nominees are required to receive a majority vote from the votes cast by the TCC Board. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot provided by these Election Rules until a nominee receives a majority vote.

### RULE 11. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY

1. In the event of a tie occurring for a Subregional seat, a coin toss will occur to determine the outcome of the election.
2. Ballots where there are four (4) nominees or more. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot the following rules will apply with the intent to eliminate candidates to achieve a majority:

The Election Committee will eliminate all nominees except for the three (3) nominees receiving the highest number of votes and conduct a subsequent ballot.

If there are three (3) or more candidates that receive the second highest number of votes, all those with the second highest number of votes will

proceed to the next ballot including the candidate with the most votes. The remaining candidates will be eliminated.

If there is a tie for candidates with the third highest vote and there are two (2) or more candidates that receive the first and/or second highest number of votes, only the two (2) or more candidates that receive the highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

If there are more than three (3) candidates tied for first highest vote, all of those receiving the first highest will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

If all but one candidate ties for second, the Election Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the nominees who tied for second. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.

3. Ballots where there are three (3) nominees. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot having three (3) nominees, the Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes, and conduct a subsequent ballot. If all three (3) nominees tie for the votes cast, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot including all nominees. If two nominees tie for the fewest votes cast, the Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the two nominees who tied for the fewest votes cast on the prior ballot. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.
4. Ballots with two (2) nominees. The nominee receiving a majority vote shall be elected. If neither nominee receives a majority vote, the Election Committee will prepare another ballot without elimination of the nominee receiving the fewer votes. This Election Committee will repeat this process as necessary until one nominee receives a majority vote.

*\*Majority is based on the number of Directors present for the 2017 Full Board of Director's roll call.*

DATE (Must be between 8:00am February 2nd, 2017 and 5:00pm March 3rd, 2017)



I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ declare my intent to run for the Tanana Chiefs Conference  
(Name) (Village/Enrolled to)  
position of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert seat you intend to run as a candidate for. Example: Chief/President, Subregional Executive Board, TCC Health Board, TCC Education Council or IATC)

Signature

City, State, Zip Code

Print Name

Phone Number

Address

Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, 25 USC sec. 3207 provides that each tribal organization that receives funds under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act shall not employ individuals that have committed certain crimes when the position involves regular or foreseeable contact with Indian children. The TCC executive board has reviewed and passed procedures to implement the ICPA background checks and will require all TCC employees to pass ICPA background checks, including the TCC Chief/ President.

Presidential candidates must fill-out the same background check application that TCC employees must fill out which includes fingerprinting. The background check application can be obtained from Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director at ext. 3095 and is due by February 10th because it takes 21 days for the results. Only those individuals that pass the background check will be official candidates for the 2017 TCC Presidential election.

\*We recommend that you confirm the receipt of your letter of intent with the TCC Executive Secretary prior to 5:00 P.M. March 3rd, 2017; TCC may not know of your submission of your letter of intent, but we can confirm that it was received.

## LETTER OF INTENT

Tanana Chiefs Conference  
ATTN: Norma Dahl, Executive Secretary  
122 First Ave, Suite 600  
Fairbanks, AK 99701 • Fax (907) 459-3884  
1-800-478-6822 ext.3112

# ENERGY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT *Workshop*

The Tanana Chiefs Conference Rural Energy program recently received funding from the US. Dept. of Energy Office of Indian Energy for the creation of the Interior Athabascan Energy Network (IAEN).

The award will allow the TCC Energy Program to hire a full time energy specialist for the next 5 years to expand capacity and take on more projects with interior villages.

As part of the award the energy program will be able to publish case studies on interior village energy projects and work to get more renewable energy projects built and functioning in our communities.

The kickoff meeting for the Interior Athabascan Energy Network was held on Jan 23rd and 24th at the Chief

David Salmon Tribal Hall in Fairbanks. Representatives from more than half of TCC's villages were present and each community representative had a chance to express concerns on energy issues and more importantly to share information on community projects that are succeeding in their villages around the interior.

The TCC Energy program will be organizing these Energy Network meetings quarterly for the next 5 years. One meeting per year will be an in-person meeting the other meetings will be telephonic.

Our major goals through this process are 1. Increase the reach and capacity of the TCC energy program so that more villages can access our services 2. Gain insight and support

for an inter-tribal utility or power pool to support smaller utilities in the TCC region, 3. Establish formal energy codes for new construction in the TCC region to make new buildings in the TCC region the most energy efficient buildings possible. Please ask your tribal administrator if you are interested in being a community representative to the IAEN and stay tuned for more information on energy successes in our communities.

We would also like to introduce our new Rural Energy Specialist, Wesley Alexander Jr. of Nenana. We're proud to have Wesley join the TCC Rural Energy Department and we look forward to sending him out to our communities to help facilitate projects and organize the IAEN!



## STATE BUDGET SURVEY *State Fiscal Crisis*

TCC wants to ensure Alaskans don't bear the burden of the state's fiscal crisis.

Please help us send a message to Juneau about how we should fix this budget crisis.

Visit our website, [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org) to take a survey. By successfully submitting the survey online you will be entered to win \$200 in fuel.





# BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY TO ADDRESS BROWNFIELDS

Many things need to happen before a brownfield can become a reusable piece of land. It can be a complicated process with many layers of activities. Brownfields must first be assessed to determine if contamination even exists. If there is no evidence of contamination then you are on the fast(er) track towards a reuse! If contamination is found then some work must be done to determine if there is a threat to human health and how to mitigate that threat. Your next steps involve determining a property's reuse potential and what type of cleanup options exist to help you meet that goal.

Resources to address brownfields or contaminated sites are pretty scarce. Few rural communities have the financial means available to pay out of pocket for necessary Environmental Site Assessments or environmental remediation (cleanup) of properties. If you are fortunate enough to have your brownfield project selected for assessment services or if you're able to fund your own, it would be beneficial to leverage resources so you can expand the amount of work that is provided. One way to do that is to use local labor to conduct sampling during Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs).

ESAs are investigations that identify potential or existing contamination. Not just anyone can sample during these events. Investigations and clean-up of brownfields or contaminated sites are subject to state regulations.

These regulations define the requirements for responding to hazardous substance releases. This includes provisions that response activities, such as ESAs, be conducted

by individuals that meet minimum work experience standards.

In April of 2016, TCC TRP staff attended a "Qualified Sampler Training" hosted by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

The DEC Qualified Sampler Training is new and reflects recent changes in DEC regulations regarding who can sample under qualified work plans. This training allows individuals without a scientific degree or sampling background to be trained to sample for projects being conducted within their community.

This is beneficial because it supports the use of local labor and decreases the costs associated with having an outside party come in to conduct sampling. Making use of a local qualified sampler is a great way to leverage resources and extend the amount of work that can be completed with self-funded ESAs or under project services, such as DBACs or Targeted Brownfield Assessments.

Per DEC regulations, qualified samplers must work under the "supervision" of a qualified professional. One way to accomplish this is for qualified samplers in the community to reach out to environmental or engineering firms that are conducting ESAs in their area for opportunities to shadow and provide some sampling work.

In August of 2016, TCC TRP staff had the opportunity to put the "Qualified Sampler Training" to use during a Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) in Northway. The Native Village of Northway worked with the TCC TRP to apply for TBA services during the previous year. EPA contracted the TBA services to an environmental firm, and I coordinated with them to conduct the sampling event.

Because I had attended DEC's training, I reached out to the firm and asked if I could work under their "supervision" to collect samples and they agreed.

Just as we did during DEC's training, we used an approved workplan to guide our sampling activities around the lake.

The training had provided instruction on proper preparation and labeling of different types of media. Sampling in the field under real world conditions is a very different experience. It was a great opportunity to observe the qualified professionals' decision-making process in determining alternative or additional sampling sites.

Collecting good quality samples can be challenging if the terrain doesn't cooperate, and I learned how important it was to note the integrity of the media when collecting samples.

I attended the DEC training to better understand the technical aspects of ESAs so the TCC TRP can meet brownfields needs in the region.

I learned that this is an excellent prospect for building capacity at the local level to maximize resources during future environmental projects.

To learn more about the requirements to become a "Qualified Sampler" visit the DEC Qualified Environmental Professionals and Qualified Samplers webpage and feel free to contact me directly if you'd like to hear more about my experience or want to brainstorm ways to build your local environmental capacity!



Brownfields must first be assessed to determine if contamination even exists.

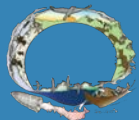
# The Council Newsletter

122 First Avenue, Suite 600  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Phone: (907) 452-8251 ext. 3570  
Fax: (907) 459-3884  
thecouncil@tananachiefs.org

[www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org)

Letters to the Editor, other written contributions and photo submissions are welcome. However, space is limited and program-oriented news has priority. We reserve the right to edit or reject material. Letters and opinions are not necessarily the opinions of Tanana Chiefs Conference. Material submitted anonymously will not be printed.



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

Follow us:     

## JOIN THE TCC FAMILY APPLY ONLINE

[www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org)

### Village Vacancies

- Behavioral Health Aide (Chalkyitsik, Rampart)
- Carpenter (Tanana)
- Clinical Support Staff/Medical Assistant (Tok)
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (Kaltag, Nenana)
- Itinerant Clinician – SOC (Galena)
- Laborer (Tanana)
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or NP) (Tok)
- On Call Janitor (Tok)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (Allakaket)
- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist (Dot Lake)
- Village Public Safety Officer (McGrath, Eagle, Tok, Tetlin, Tanana, Tanacross, Huslia, Holy Cross, Allakaket)
- VPSO-Regional Rover (Fort Yukon)
- Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member (Tok)

### Region Wide

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant
- Village Public Safety Officer

### Fairbanks Vacancies

- Acupuncturist
- Behavioral Health Assessment Clinician
- Certified Behavioral Health Coder II
- CHAP Administrative Assistant
- Coordinator/Instructor Mid-Level Practitioner
- Diagnostic Ultrasound Technologist - PRN
- Health IT Manager
- Human Resources Receptionist
- Instructor-CHAP Training Center
- Lead Family Contact Coordinator - SOC
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or ANP)
- Pediatric Medical Provider
- Pharmacist
- SOC Youth Lead
- Social Worker

JOB LISTED WERE OPEN AS OFF FEBRUARY 13, 2017

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

### TCC CLOSED

March 17, 2017

*In recognition of Traditional Chiefs Day*

### TCC ANNUAL CONVENTION

March 13-16, 2017

Westmark Hotel – Fairbanks, AK

### TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITY FOR 'EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT' (ESSA)

March 9, 2017

### YUKON KOYUKUK SUBREGIONAL MEETING

### YUKON TANANA SUBREGIONAL MEETING

March 10, 2017

Westmark Hotel – Fairbanks, AK

### LOWER YUKON SUBREGIONAL MEETING

### UPPER KUSKOKWIM SUBREGIONAL MEETING

March 11, 2017

Westmark Hotel – Fairbanks, AK

### Take Our Traditional Harvest Survey! Win A Rifle!

We want to know more about the health of traditional harvest practices in our rural communities. Take our survey to be entered in a raffle to win a gift certificate in the amount matching the price of a new 30-06 rifle!

TAKE OUR SURVEY at:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/traditional\\_practices](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/traditional_practices)