

the council

Dena' Nena' Henash • Our Land Speaks

Vol. 42, No. 4

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

APRIL 2017

TCC Wraps Up 2017 Annual Convention



This year's 2017 TCC Annual Convention was held at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks from March 13th through the 16th.

Tribal members and Chiefs discussed important issues facing our people including alcohol abuse, education, cancer strategies, and more. Our leaders were able to hear from State lawmakers and voice their concerns for their own communities.

TCC brought in former youth delegates or 'emerging leaders'

who were able to coach and guide this year's youth delegates during convention. The emerging leaders helped youth through some of the most powerful youth speeches ever heard at convention.

This year several seats on our Executive Board were up for election, including our Chief/Chairman Position. Chief Victor Joseph was re-elected and will continue to serve TCC as Chief/Chairman as well as William "Chaa'iy"



Albert/Northway. A new Board member Norman 'Carl' Burgett of Koyukuk will now be representing Yukon Koyukuk. TCC would like to thank our previous member, Leo Lornitz of Koyukuk for his years of service to our board.

See more photos on Page 6

Tanana Chiefs Conference is pleased to announce our Legacy of our Elders Project has officially launched.

See more on Page 4.

LEGACY OF OUR ELDERS

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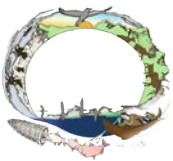
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

Norman "Carl" Burgett/Huslia
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski/Nulato
Elder Advisor

Isaac Ticknor/Anvik
Youth Advisor

CHIEF'S REPORT

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,



Ana Bassee',
Victor Joseph
Chief/Chairman

Honoring George Attla Jr.

April 29th is George Attla Jr. Day

If there was a word to describe the late George Attla Jr. it would be 'champion.' He was known across Alaska as just that; a champion of Dog mushing, of the traditional lifestyle, and for Native Alaskans.

Born in 1933 at a fish camp just below Koyukuk on the Yukon River, George was raised in a subsistence lifestyle- fishing and hunting off of the land with his family. By the 1950s George had already become a legendary open-class sprint dog racer. His name was

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 named the Best Musher of the 20th Century.

Governor Steve Cowper proclaimed April 29, 1988 as "George Attla Day" and Tanana Chiefs Conference felt it was important to also recognize his multiple accomplishments and

formerly name April 29th as "George Attla Day" on all TCC calendars.

Submitted by the Beaver Village Council in 2015, the Full Board of Directors passed resolution 2015-01 to honor him on that day. On April 29th, all TCC recognizes "George Attla Day" and it will remain a time to honor a true Alaskan champion.



TCC Debuts

LEGACY OF OUR ELDERS

In March Tanana Chiefs Conference premiered the Legacy of Our Elders, a project that documents the lives of 18 Athabascan elders throughout the TCC region.

In 2015, TCC Communications secured a National Park Service Tribal Heritage Grant, which provided funding for TCC to interview elders from each of the six subregions to document their language, culture and history.

Through this grant the Legacy of Our Elders project was developed. This project includes several volumes of books and DVDs, each including interviews with 6 six elders – one from each subregion within the TCC region.

These books and DVDs will 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 will be available to view for free on the TCC website.

The elders interviewed in our first three volumes include: Poldine Carlo, Nulato; Trimble Gilbert, Arctic Village; Elizabeth Fleagle, Alatna; Sam Demientieff, Holy Cross; Irene Solomon-Arnold, Tanacross; Nick Alexia, Nikolai; Don Honea Sr., Ruby; Nancy James, Fort Yukon; Howard Luke, Nenana; Joseph Maillele, Grayling; Jerry Isaac, Tanacross; Oline Petruska, Nikolai; Leo Lolnitz, Koyukuk; Paul Williams Sr., Beaver; Luke Titus, Minto; Daisy Demientieff, Holikachuk;

Roy David, Tetlin; and Frank Miller of McGrath.

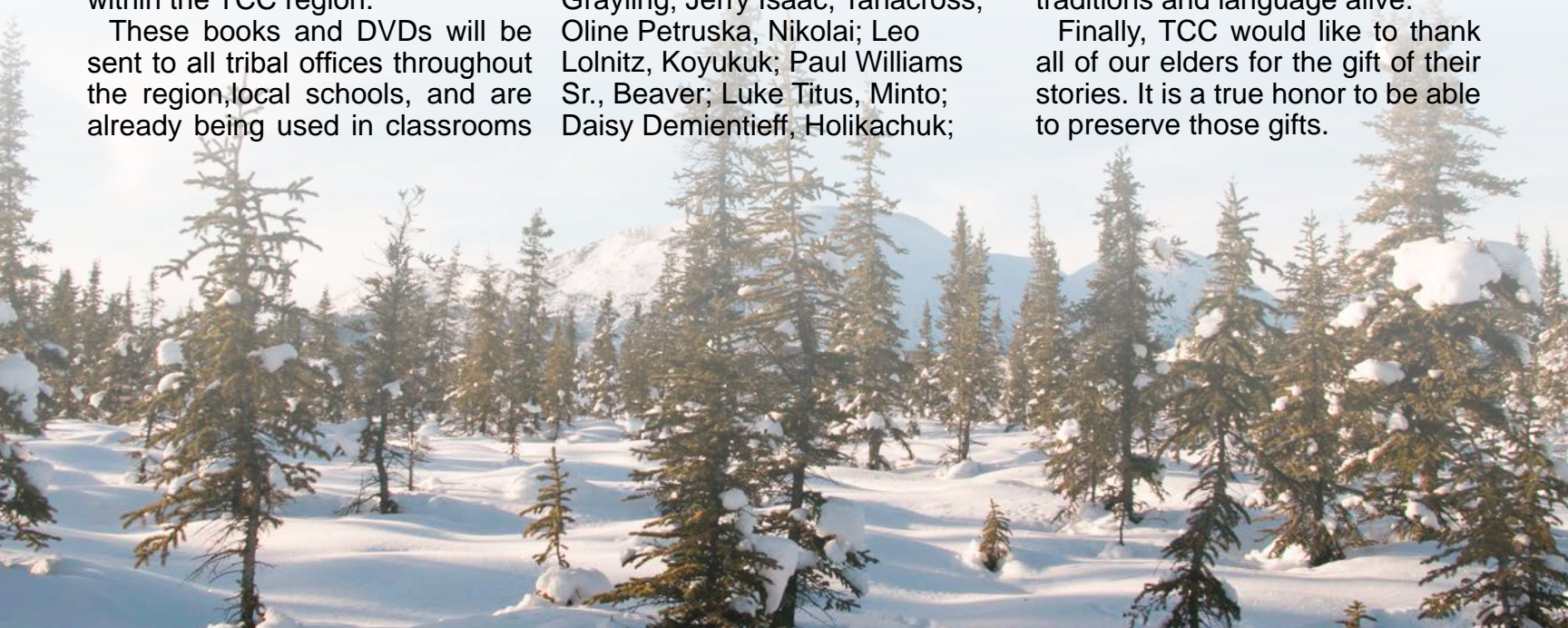
TCC plans to continue this project by interviewing elders throughout the region. Elders are

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.

Finally, 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.



Ready, Set, Grow a Garden this Summer!

Whether it's your first time gardening or you've been at it a long time, this handy garden calendar will help you get started. In April, come to a free, virtual workshop on Zoom with Heidi Rader.

To see the schedule and to sign up go to: www.uaf.edu/ces/tcc You can join the workshops from a computer, iPhone, or regular phone. If you don't have Internet, see if you can participate with someone who does. The workshops are also listed below.

April is Gardening Month in the TCC Region!! The TCC Tribes Extension Program is collaborating with the TCC Wellness and Prevention Department to help you get started gardening and kickstart a healthy lifestyle!

April 2:

Start your Pansies, Petunias, and Peppers!

April 4:

Join a Virtual Seed Sharing Event! Contact your Tribal Administrator or Behavioral Health Aide to confirm that they will be hosting a Seed Sharing Event. Tag yourself and others in a photo for a

chance to win Alaska's Sustainable Gardening Handbook (Value: \$50). Use hashtag #GrowAGardenTCC.

April 6:

Free Seed Starting Workshop on Zoom with Heidi Rader from 12-1 pm.

April 7:

Start your Pansies, Petunias, Dahlias, Cosmos, Calendula, Peppers, and most Herbs.

April 11:

Virtual Workshop: How to choose which varieties to grow from 12-1 pm.

April 13:

Virtual Workshop: How a Garden can Kickstart your Health from 12-1 pm.

April 16

Start your Marigolds, Head Lettuce, and Corn.

April 18:

Virtual Workshop: Your first Garden- here's how to get started from 12-1 pm.

April 20:

Virtual Workshop: Ten steps to Starting a Community Garden from 12-1 pm.

April 23

- Start your Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kale, and Broccoli.
- Order Alaska Certified Seed Potatoes.

May 1

Start your Leaf Lettuce, Swiss chard, Squash, Sunflowers, Sweet Allysium, Zucchini, and Zinnias.

May 12

Start hardening off your transplants by bringing them outside on sunny days for longer and longer periods of time. Don't bring them outside if it's cold or windy and bring them in at night for starters.

May 14

Rototill and mix fertilizer in your garden whenever the snow melts and the soil is somewhat dry. It is dry enough if, when you take a handful of soil in your hand and squeeze, it crumbles.

June 1

Plant Carrots, Potatoes, Radishes, Lettuce, Spinach, Turnips, and Peas, Poppies, Bachelor Buttons, Nasturtiums directly in your garden.

June 4

Transplant your plants outdoors



starting with your cool season vegetables first.

July 10

Add additional fertilizer to your garden, if needed.

August 1

It's Harvest Time!!! Think about how you'll preserve your food for the winter. Do you have a pantry, a freezer, or a pressure canner?

Find information on food preservation here: <http://bit.ly/W5S8zh>

August 6

Hold a Community Harvest Fair. Save your highest quality vegetables and flowers to win the blue ribbon, or grow the biggest turnip or head of cabbage!

September 3

How was your gardening season? Write down the plants that did well and what didn't do so well, so you can improve next year.

September 10

Clean up your garden site, dig potatoes, and compost extra garden materials.

November 1

Miss gardening? It's never too early to plan for next year! Organize a Harvest Fair or Community Garden committee.

November 24

Get out your jams, jellies, canned and frozen vegetables, it's Thanksgiving!

Article by; Heidi Rader, Tribes Extension Educator

This project was supported by the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA Grant # 2013-41580-20782. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PRESERVING OUR *Way of Life*

2017 ANNUAL CONVENTION





TCC ANNUAL *Potlatch*



2017 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Keynote Speakers

Peter Demoski & Courtney Agnes



Peter Demoski of Nulato and Courtney Agnes of Tanana were the 2017 TCC Annual Convention Keynote Speakers. Both were able to share their message of perseverance and also share their stories of how they continue to live in a traditional lifestyle. They are great examples of this year's theme, "Preserving Our Way of Life." Our TCC tribes and leaders are thankful to both of our Keynotes for taking the time to share with us. You can watch a portion of our Keynote Speeches and videos on our website, www.tananachiefs.org

2017 Award Winners & Recognition

Margie Ambrose
Rural Employee of
the Year



Elisa Bergman
Tribal
Administrator of
the Year



David Atteberry
VPSO of the Year



David Pelunis-Messier
TCC Fairbanks
Employee of the
Year



Marvin Deacon & Victor Joseph

Patti L. Hyslop Leadership in
Sobriety Award



Not Pictured:

2016 Accomplished the Most with Limited Resources Award- Doug Heath, Takotna

2016 Utility Manager if the Year Award- Sarah McClellan, McGrath

2016 Operator of the Year Award- Arlo Beetus, Hughes

2017 TCC Election Results:

TCC Executive Board of Directors

SUBREGIONAL POSITIONS

- Upper Tanana Subregion – 3 year term (2017-2020)

ELECTED: William 'Chaa'y' Albert of Northway

- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion – 3 year term (2017-2020)

ELECTED: Norman Carl Burgett of Huslia

OFFICER POSITIONS

- **Chief/Chairman** – 3 year term (2017-2020)

ELECTED: Victor Joseph of Tanana

TCC Regional Health Board

- Yukon Flats Subregion – 3 year term (2017-2020)

ELECTED: Christine Rifredi- Fort Yukon

TCC Education Council

- Upper Tanana Subregion – 3 year term (2017-2020)

ELECTED: Phyllis Erhart – Tanana

- Lower Yukon Subregion – 3 year term (2017-2020)

ELECTED: Nathan Elswick – Anvik Interior Athabascan Tribal College

Board of Trustees

- Upper Tanana Subregion – 3 year term (2017-2020)

ELECTED: Gerald Albert– Northway

- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion – 3 year term (2017-2020)

ELECTED: Sharon Gurtler Strick of McGrath

Alaska Federation of Natives Representative

- 1 Seat -one year term (2017-2018)

ELECTED: Julie Roberts-Hyslop of Tanana

Interior Regional Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

- Seat E -3 year term (2017-2020)

ELECTED: Marvin Deacon Grayling

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.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month



Since 1987, April has been declared alcohol awareness month by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) in an effort to increase public awareness and understanding surrounding alcoholism and alcohol-related issues. Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in the United States: 17.6 million people, or one in every 12 adults, suffer from alcohol abuse or dependence along with several million more who engage in risky, binge drinking patterns that could lead to alcohol problems.

Alcohol has had decades of negative effects on our people since it was first introduced by the gold miners. Upon the direction of 2nd Traditional Chief Trimble Gilbert, the TCC Executive

Board and Health Boards have made it a final priority to increase the physical health and overall wellness throughout our region and among our people. 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.

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.

April is alcohol awareness month. Please talk to your children and your loved ones about the dangers that surround alcohol.

March 31 through April 2, 2017 is National Alcohol Free Weekend. We invite you to recognize alcohol free weekend by staying free from any alcohol use during that time. Plan fun and healthy activities with your families and friends for that weekend. Share your plans with friends and family, you may inspire them to also recognize that weekend as alcohol free weekend.

Invite others to join you in recognizing it. Share your plans to recognize alcohol free weekend on social media.

Allakaket Celebrates Opening of New Clinic

On February 2nd, Chief Joseph and other TCC staff visited the community of Allakaket to celebrate the opening of their new clinic.

The Allakaket Health Clinic is a project that has been years in the making but with the help of organizations like the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Denali Commission, Bettisworth North and Tanana Chiefs Conference, Allakaket now has a home for their healthcare needs.



Congratulations! Winners of Marketplace Business Competition!



Tanana Chiefs Conference hosted its first ever Marketplace Business Plan Competition.

The winners of the competition were awarded seed money to start their in-region business.

In order to participate the candidates had to submit their business plans and videos in order for our tribal members to vote for their top picks.

Three finalists were chosen, Edwin Bifelt of Huslia, Christopher Sherry of Minto, and The Rampart Village Council.

The winner, Rampart Village Council, was announced at our TCC Annual Convention however Chief/Chairman Victor Joseph announced that all three business would be awarded seed money to start their businesses in their communities.

The Council Newsletter

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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

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www.tananachiefs.org

Village Vacancies

- Behavioral Health Aide (Chalkyitsik, Rampart)
- Carpenter (Rampart, Tanana, Tanacross)
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (Rampart, Nenana, Kaltag, Healy Lake, Chalkyitsik, Dot Lake, Manley Hot Springs, Ruby, Stevens Village, Alatna)
- Laborer (Rampart, Tanana, Tanacross)
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or NP) (Tok)
- Preschool Assistant Teacher (Fort Yukon)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (McGrath, Healy Lake, Alatna)
- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist (Dot Lake, Grayling, Healy Lake)
- Village Public Safety Officer (McGrath, Allakaket, Huslia, Tanacross, Tanana, Tetlin, Tok, Eagle, Holy Cross)
- VPSO-Regional Rover (Fort Yukon)
- Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member (Tok)

Region Wide

- Certified Behavioral Health Coder II
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant
- Cultural Team Lead - SOC
- OMFRC Camp Laborer
- Project Supervisor
- Village Public Safety Officer
- Wellness Cultural Camp Manager

Fairbanks Vacancies

- Acupuncturist
- Administrative Assistant
- Behavioral Health Administrative Assistant
- Behavioral Health Assessment Clinician
- Certified Medical Assistant II
- Client Development Division Director
- Coordinator/Instructor Mid-Level Practitioner
- Diagnostic Ultrasound Technologist - PRN
- Help Desk Technician
- Instructor-CHAP Training Center
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or ANP)
- Regional Instructor
- Residential Care Coordinator-Relief
- Social Worker

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF March 23rd, 2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

TCC ALL STAFF MEETING
April 14th, 2017

George Attla Jr. Day
April 29th, 2017

Reader Submitted Photo

Submitted by:
Mae Peter

Grandma of twins born
7/12/16 Jesse of Fort
Yukon and Caroline of
Allakaket are the proud
parents.

