

the Council

Dena' Nena' Henash • Our Land Speaks

Vol. 42, No. 9

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 2017

2017 TCC Education Summit



The Tanana Chiefs Conference's annual Education Summit was hosted this year at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

This year the education division felt it was important to allow the students and participants to use the week as a full education experience. It was packed with seminars and learning tracks in which the students could learn anything from hands-on suturing with our nursing and medical staff at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center to

learning about language and culture at the University with respected elder Irene Solomon-Arnold.

TCC was pleased to have several guest speakers from across the state, including local educators come together to talk about the importance of education and the uniqueness and struggles that the students in our region may face when attempting to further their education goals. It is so important to meet and make sure that our tribes stay on track and continue to

talk about ways to further education and provide resources to our villages and tribal members.

Chief Victor Joseph was able to address the attendees on the first day of the summit and said, "As we look at blending our culture with education, we have the tools to do it," he continued, "It requires collaboration and a curriculum that is going to work for everybody."

Thank you to all who participated.



Special Full Board of Directors Meeting



October 26th-27th, 2017 • Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall • Fairbanks, AK

In This Issue:

Introducing AthenaHealth
Page 3

Culture & Wellness Camps
Page 4

Alaska Tribal Unity Gathering
Page 6

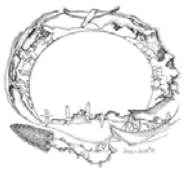
Legacy of Our Elders
Page 7

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

Norman 'Carl' Burgett/ Huslia
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski/Nulato
Elder Advisor

Isaac Ticknor/Anvik
Youth Advisor

CHIEF'S REPORT



Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

As we prepare ourselves, family and friends for a successful hunting season I challenge each of us to be mindful of staying safe. There is an article in this month's newsletter on page 6 that provides helpful safety tips. If there is something your family does every year to ensure hunting safety please let me know. We want to prevent every single accidental hunting injury or loss and will publish your helpful tips in next year's newsletter. I am pleased that many of our tribes reported a good fishing season and wish you all the same success during hunting season.

This summer has been busy. While in Washington D.C. I spoke with the Department of the Interior advocating for our tribes on;

- 1) Seeking recurring federal funding for the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission;
- 2) Improving public safety throughout the TCC region;
- 3) Seeking clarification of Bureau of Land Management's Alaska Fire Service requirements for firefighting crews.

Also, the Yukon-Koyukuk tribes have requested a government to government discussion regarding the implementation of policies and consistency within their region

Over the summer and fall TCC was able to attend four Subregional Meetings discussing the important issues impacting communities. Subregional meetings provide a great opportunity to give TCC the direction to best assist tribes. I would like to send my sincere appreciation to the communities that hosted us during and all of the cooks. In order to conclude our meetings, we have rescheduled the Upper Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon Meetings and will have more information on that.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for that Full Board of Directors meeting October 26 and 27. This Special Session Meeting with our tribal leadership will ensure TCC's 2015-2020 strategic plan remains in alignment with our tribes and our goals together as a region. In addition, there will be a special meeting in October 25th for the Yukon Flats and Yukon Tanana subregions to discuss the school districts forming a Borough. More details will be released soon.

From my family to yours, we wish you a safe, successful fall season shared with beloved family and friends. I look forward to spending time with many of you next month for our Special Board of Directors Meeting and ensuring that we continue to work together to maintain Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

Ana Bassee',
Victor Joseph
Chief/Chairman



Tanana Chiefs Conference Introduces Athena*Health*

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Health Services will have a new Electronic Health Record, AthenaHealth (Athena) in November. Athena will allow patients to have easier access to their health information, more ways to communicate with their care team, and better care coordination with our referral partners when we go live November 14, 2017.

TCC will also have a new pharmacy, lab, and radiology software that will work directly with Athena. Along with new software systems, we are working on building interfaces with our 2 primary referral hospitals: Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and Alaska Native Medical Center. This means we will have the ability to share records with both,

which will allow for improved care coordination and discharge planning.

Several work groups are working to build the system and redesign all of our workflows. With the new health record, also comes a Patient Portal, which will allow patients to view test and lab results, make payments online, request or schedule appointments, exchange secure messages with their care team, and request prescriptions and refills online.

Patients should expect to experience more efficient processes, easier access to their health information, better ability to communicate with their care team, and better care coordination with our referral partners when we go live in November.

Switching from our current health

record system to AthenaHealth will allow us to dramatically improve quality of care, care coordination between our health care system and our partners, increase our ability to manage referrals to other providers, improve efficiency in our workflows, improve data reporting, and improve management of our revenue cycle. Our providers will have improved access to full patient health records, enabling them to provide more thorough medical care.

AthenaHealth will also provide patients with an online portal to allow them to access their health record, request appointments, and communicate with their providers, among other things. AthenaHealth will allow us to connect with our patients in ways we have not previously been able. We are very excited about this transition.

Circle Elders Nutrition Program

Five summers ago the residents of Circle made the decision to begin gardening community wide.

Two summers ago it was decided to connect the gardens with the Elders lunch program. The largest share of the veggies would go to the Elders.

I along with Penny and Bill Gay from Indiana start hundreds of plants from seed for anyone who might have fell short of plants for their home gardens.

It is a community effort and it's one more thread that ties us together as a community.



Article by; Miranda Carroll, Circle's Elder Nutrition Cook

Culture & Wellness Camps

Fort Yukon • AK

Each subregion will host two camps per year for the next 5 years and we look forward to developing the Camps with the needs of the tribes and their direction and input.

Tanana Chiefs Conference has assisted several of our tribes in organizing and funding several Culture and Wellness Camps throughout the Interior's Subregions. Fort Yukon this year was among the several communities that held a camp. We are looking forward to several more this year and developing long lasting and important wellness and cultural education components for our youth.

Check out the photos for highlights from this year's camp! For more information on upcoming camps, visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/culture-and-wellness-camps

2017 TCC Culture & Wellness Camps:

YUKON TANANA

1. June 26th-July 2nd in Tanana
2. July 23rd-28th in Minto

LOWER YUKON

1. August 27th-31st in Anvik
2. Holy Cross -Sept 12th-14th

YUKON KOYUKUK

1. Nulato- TBD
2. Kaltag- TBD

YUKON FLATS

1. July 17th - 24th in Fort Yukon
2. August 16th-20th in Arctic Village

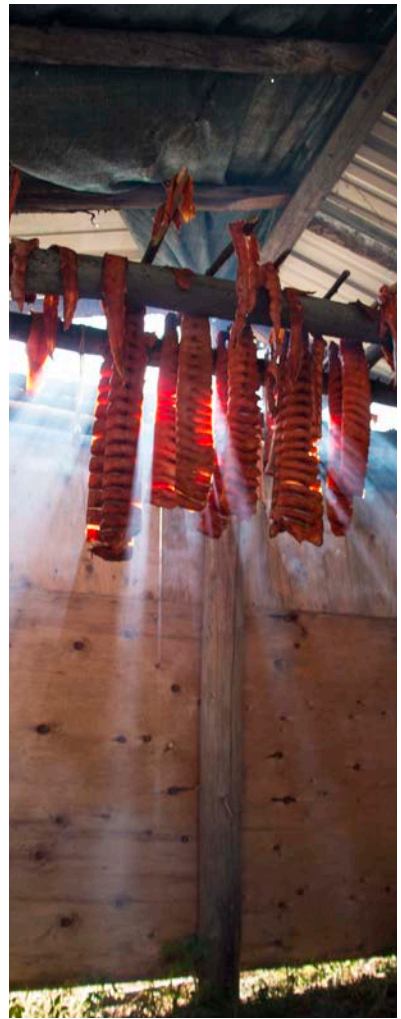
UPPER KUSKOKWIM

1. Takotna - Date TBD
2. Nikolai - Date TBD

UPPER TANANA

1. Tanacross- TBD
2. TBD





Alaska Tribal Unity Gathering

Alaska Tribal Unity will be holding their second annual gathering at the Egan Center in Anchorage on Monday, November 27th, the day prior to the start of the BIA Provider's Conference. All tribes, tribal leaders, and tribal agencies are welcomed to join this free gathering that will vote on organizing a tribal entity to unify the voice for tribes in Alaska. Organizers hope that a representative from each tribe in Alaska can attend. "If Alaska tribes don't speak with a unified voice, major policy will get decided without us at the table," stated interim executive director Will Mayo at the first annual gathering. "Never has having a united tribal organization been more critical for Alaska tribes."

At the first Alaska Tribal Unity Gathering held on November 28, 2016, 168 tribal members and representatives from 16 native entities and 67 tribes from across Alaska gathered to discuss the importance of creating a unified voice for tribes in Alaska. It was recommended to form an interim formation committee with representatives from each region that will report to their region and bring back recommendations regarding the structure and form of the statewide tribal entity.

The interim formation committee has made the following progress:

- Drafted articles and bylaws.
- Received donations to cover annual meeting expenses.
- Provide legislative and advocacy updates.
- Propose a set of values, a mission statement, and a name: Alaska Tribal Alliance (ATA).
- Drafted a letterhead.
- Developed a website: www.alaskatribalunity.wordpress.com
- Created a Save the Date for the next annual meeting.
- Drafting a letter to tribal non-profits to solicit participation, communication list and funds.
- Began collecting tribal priorities.
- Selected a date and place for the next annual meeting.
- Developing a draft agenda and credentialing resolution.

The last formation committee teleconference was held on July 28, 2017 and invited all tribes to the conversation. There was significant discussion asking what types and levels of priorities will the organization pursue, how the entity reach consensus, and what will the entity will accomplish for tribes. The discussion ended in emphasizing the

importance of prioritizing statewide issues and getting all tribes, including the small ones, at the table. Formation committee meetings welcome all tribes to join.

Some benefits to the tribes the organization hopes to accomplish are:

- Gather and disseminate tribally relevant information through a website, social media and discussion forums.
- Tribally directed advocacy on important issues and policy affecting all tribes.
- Annual gathering of tribes to develop priorities of area and nationwide significance.
- Trackboards, committees, councils or work groups who seat Alaska individuals representing Alaska tribes in state and nationwide forums, such as NARF, ICEWG (energy), Tribal Transportation, ICWA, VAWA, TIBC, NIHB, NCAI and many more.
- Focused tribal advocacy as directed by tribes through resolutions.

For more information on the Alaska Tribal Unity gathering, please visit the website at www.alaskatribalunity.wordpress.com or email amber.vaska@tananachiefs.org.

Hunting Safety Tips

Now that Hunting Season is upon us, we would like to remind everyone to stay safe! Below we have compiled a few hunting safety tips for those who will be going out this month:

- Always wear a life jacket when travelling on the waterways
- Never go hunting without telling somebody where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Be sure to stock your boat or four-wheeler with safety gear; first aid kit, rope, flare gun, hand axe, etc.
- Treat every gun as if it is loaded, even when you are sure it isn't.
- Before each hunt, open your gun's action and check the muzzle for obstructions.
- Wear bright clothing or reflective gear when hunting, that way other hunters can be aware when you are nearby.



September is *National Suicide Awareness Month*

September is National Suicide Prevention Month and is a good time to educate ourselves on the warning signs of suicide. Suicide has a direct impact on all of our communities and community members. Remember, it is ok to reach out and get involved in preventing suicide in your community.

Warning Signs of Suicide:

When someone is thinking about suicide, there are always warning signs. They may be indirect warning signs, such as mood changes, or very direct warning signs such as the individual voicing their thoughts about suicide.

These signs may mean someone is at risk for suicide. Risk is greater if a behavior is new or has increased and if it seems related to a painful event, loss, or change.

- Talking about wanting to die or kill oneself
- Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online or buying

- a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious, agitated or behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawn and feeling isolated
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Displaying extreme mood swings

No matter the warning sign, we encourage you to get involved. Remember, there are some do's and don'ts when talking with someone you are concerned about. It is important to do the following:

- Be sensitive and caring
- Direct and calm
- Non-judgmental
- Be patient, it is hard to talk about suicide

- Listen intently to what the individuals feeling or saying.
- Talk openly and freely about suicide
- Ask if they have thought of a plan, and remove lethal means from the home
- Be genuine, open and honest
- Encourage them to seek help

Available Resources:

Alaska Careline

1-877-266-4357

National Hotline

1-800-273-8255

TCC Behavioral Health

1-800-478-7822 x3800

After Hours

1-800-478-7822 (*Emergency Pager: stay on the line for someone to help*)

LEGACY OF OUR ELDERS

LEO LOLNITZ, KOYUKUK

Leo Lolnitz from Koyukuk is one of our featured Legacy elders in Volume One.

Leo, who served on the Tanana Chiefs Conference's Executive Board for years, has a story of true strength and perseverance that is sure to inspire our youth for years to come.

Leo speaks about his time in the military and his deployment to the war in Vietnam and how that affected his life. Many veterans who fought in the Vietnam War struggled with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Leo's

story touches on the struggles that he faced both when leaving his home village and then returning after being in combat.

Suicide is another part of Leo's struggle but it is also a huge part of his triumph. Overcoming all of these issues with suicide and even struggles with alcohol; he has become a leader in our region.

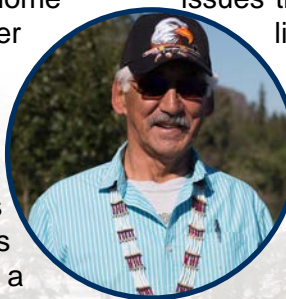
It is important to Leo that the youth know that they can accomplish anything they set their minds to and

they can overcome the obstacles and issues that they face in their own lives.

He is an example of that resilience. Leo now serves as Chief of Koyukuk and his work with the TCC Board has been vital in years past.

For his full story, and to view our other Legacy

Elders, you can visit our website, www.tananachiefs.org.



TCC's Legacy of our Elders series is a video series documents the lives and stories of Athabascan elders throughout the TCC region.

The videos are compiled into volumes that have 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 and have been sent to all TCC tribes and schools for oral history.

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

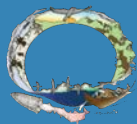
The Council Newsletter

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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

Follow us:     

JOIN THE TCC FAMILY APPLY ONLINE

www.tananachiefs.org

Village Vacancies

- Camp Counselor (Old Minto)
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (Kaltag, Stevens Village, Ruby, Manley, Dot Lake, Chalkyitsik, Healy Lake, Alatna, Circle)
- Community Health Representative (Allakaket)
- Elder Nutrition Cook (McGrath, Hughes)
- Family Visitor (Hughes, Shageluk, Allakaket, Northway)
- Home Care Provider (Rampart, Koyukuk, Tanana, Tok, Huslia, Rampart, Nenana, Nulato, Stevens Village, Hughes, Ruby)
- Itinerant Clinician – SOC (Galena)
- Teacher Aide/ Nutritionist (McGrath)
- Tribal Administrator (Huslia, Venetie)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (Nenana, Alatna, McGrath)
- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist (Healy Lake, Grayling)
- Village Public Safety Officer (Tanana, Ruby, Nulato, Minto, Tok, Tananacross, Holy Cross, Huslia, Allakaket, Eagle, Ruby)
- VPSO – Regional Rover (Fort Yukon)
- Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member (Tok)

Fairbanks Vacancies

- Acupuncturist
- Certified Medical Assistant
- Certified Medical Assistant II
- Communication Coordinator
- Community Planning Intern
- Coordinator/Instructor Mid Level Practitioner
- Dental Assistant I
- Employment and Training Manager
- Instructor-CHAP Training Cen
- Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care
- Nurse Practitioner - Float
- Nurse Practitioner - Urgent Care
- Pharmacy Technician III
- Physician - Primary Care
- Physician - Primary Care
- Physician Assistant - Float
- Physician Assistant - Primary Care
- Physician Assistant - Urgent Care
- Residential Care Coordinator-Relief
- Security Officer
- Sobering Center Technician

Region Wide

- Dental Assistant Intern
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner – Itinerant
- Village Public Safety Officer

JOB LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF AUGUST 23, 2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

TCC CLOSED
September 4th, 2017
In recognition of Labor Day

Available Now! Grow & Tell

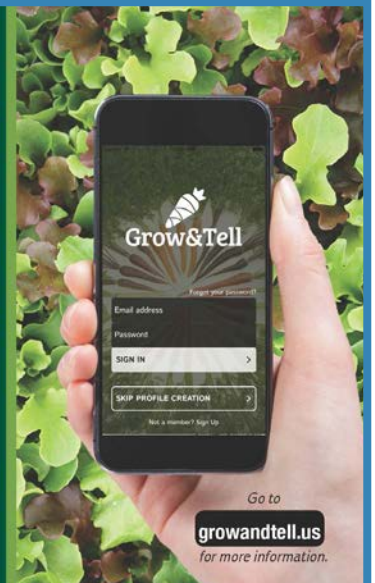
Whether you're an expert gardener or new gardener, this app is for you!

Use the app to:

- share which vegetables grew well, which didn't grow so well and which varieties tasted best
- see what other gardeners near you are growing
- download your own personal gardening journal

For more information, contact

Heidi Rader at grow.andtell@alaska.edu



Go to
growandtell.us
for more information.

Arctic Youth Ambassadors Program

Applications Open!

2017-2019 US Arctic Youth Ambassador Application
period August 15th- September 15th

Online Applications/Info:
<http://akgeo.org/youthprograms/arctic-youth-ambassadors/>