

Native Village of Afognak

323 CAROLYN STREET, KODIAK, AK 99615

Place
Stamp
Here

TRIBAL COUNCIL

Loretta Nelson, Chairman
Meagan Christiansen, Vice Chairman
Natasha Hayden, Secretary
Loren Anderson, Member
Jim Dunham, Member
Ken Nelson Jr., Member
Malia Villegas, Member

STAFF

Melissa Borton, Tribal Administrator
Nancy Nelson, Program Administrator
Shurina Skonberg, Accounting Manager
Denise Malutin, Cultural Programs Coordinator
Taletha Gertz, Program Manager
Nina Gronn, Office Coordinator
Bessie Lea Weston, Environmental Program Assistant

907-486-6357
907-486-6529 FAX
WWW.AFOGNAK.ORG

*Stay connected with us by liking our
Facebook pages "Native Village of
Afognak" and "Dig Afognak" to keep up
to date with events !*



Special Announcements



We will be closed for the following dates:

-December 24 & 25, 2015 for
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

-January 1, 2016 for
New Year's Day



AG'WANERMUT

AFOGNAK
PEOPLE'S
NEWSLETTER

KASITAQ

Department of Justice - Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Grant

Native Village of Afognak was recently awarded a grant through the Department of Justice to obtain a portable low ropes course that will be used within the schools. We will also be purchasing and installing ropes course equipment at Dig Afognak.



The ropes courses are a method to build leadership skills, trust and teambuilding just to name a few. Along with the portable ropes course used at the schools and the ropes course used at Dig Afognak an evidence based substance abuse prevention program that was created specifically for American Indian and Alaska Native Youth will be utilized as well. NVA will be adapting the curriculum to fit the specific needs of our Kodiak youth. This curriculum aims to improve social



and emotional well-being, effective social interaction, improved decision making and problem-solving skills,

team building skills with a focus on being community service minded.

This program will require youth to participate in the courses and then discuss things such as how paying attention to the task or course was vital to the success; how

many people tend to focus on their own needs-but what if success meant paying attention to the needs of others; in life we often encounter unexpected events-while not always welcome they must be dealt with; and other discussion items.

We are very excited about this new grant it will require training for NVA staff and partners-I'm sure we will learn and grow greatly from it right along with the kids.

The answers to the last newsletter's old Afognak photo is Misha Mullan and her dog Bimbo



ATTENTION!

Native Village of Afognak is looking for old Afognak photo's, if you would like to share your photos please email them to taletha@afognak.org or mail a copy to 323 Carolyn St. Kodiak, Alaska 99615. Please include names of who is in the photos. Thanks so much!



Tribal Member Contact Information

NVA needs updated addresses for the following people, give us a call if you have any information. Thank you!



Michelle Louise Novotny
 Roy Edward Skinner
 Gilbert John Mathis
 Jo Ann Palmer
 Martin Ray Palmer
 Nicole Roxanne Charters
 Frederick John Malutin
 Dorrie Lynn Wamser
 Theresa Jo Etheridge
 David William Schott
 Lisa T. Rhodes
 Kristjan J Olsen
 Alexandra W. Leslie
 Robert Alan Chouinard
 Susan Ann Mathis
 Viola Louise Skinner
 Valerie Kansas Benson
 Frederick Lee Chouinard
 Lucille Rae Dulin
 Myrtle Ann Kelley
 Jodi Kay McDonald
 Thomas Gordon Mathis
 Ellsworth Alfred Warner
 Robert J. Halmsteiner
 Althea Denise Halmsteiner
 Mary Jean Blankenship
 Garret Lane Schmidt
 Gordan Charles McCormick
 Richard D. Frost
 Izair Ronald Chute

If you have a special announcements that you would like to share in our newsletter please email

Nina at nina@afognak.org.



Chair Letter

Cama'i Tribal Members: I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. NVA is busy closing out 2015 and preparing for 2016. We were awarded two new grants this year, one from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to digitize the remaining six children's books in our collection and the other from the Department of Justice to implement substance abuse prevention and leadership skills building with youth in town and at Dig Afognak.

In September we held our Annual Meeting and Elections and incumbents Jim Dunham and Malia Villegas were successful in being re-elected back into their seats on the Council.

Congratulations to Jim and Malia and Quyanaa to Roberta Blondin and Ray May for putting your names in for the election, we hope that folks continue to run for the Council and stay interested in what your tribal council is doing.



Cinnamon Ornaments

Ingredients

1. 1 cup of Cinnamon
2. 3/4 cup of Applesauce
inexpensive applesauce works perfectly!
3. 2 TBS Regular Elmer's School glue



Directions

1. Mix ingredients together — until its like a cookie dough. (If its too dry you can add more applesauce, if its too wet add more cinnamon.)
2. Mix in your school glue. (sprinkle cinnamon on the counters -(like you would flour) and roll out with a rolling pin.)
3. You'll want your 'dough' sort of thick but not too too thick.
4. Cut out with your favorite cookie cutter. — also make a small whole at the top — so you can run ribbon or a ornament hanger through to hang on your tree.
5. Place on a cooling rack and dry about 48 hours — then paint them (if you'd like!) or leave them plain. You can also dry them in a food dehydrator for about 8 hours if you have one -to cut down on drying time.

A Message From The Secretary of State



Commemoration of the 74th Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941 – December 7, 2015

Few dates stand out in our history more than December 7, 1941. On that fateful Sunday, over 2,400 American Service members and civilians lost their lives, and our air and naval forces in the Pacific suffered a devastating blow, forcing the United States into the bloodiest war the world has ever known.

It was, as President Roosevelt predicted, “a date which will live in infamy,” but it was also the beginning of the end for the evil powers threatening the peace and prosperity of the world. For on that day, this great Nation awoke to the worldwide danger and a new generation of Americans—disciplined by the hardships of the Great Depression and inspired by the heritage of their freedom-loving forbearers—rose up to meet and defeat the enemies of freedom on three continents.

Today the Department of Veterans Affairs honors the Veterans of that great conflict—those who gave their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor, those who fought and survived the attack, and those who rallied to the cause of freedom, took the fight to the enemy, and came back home victorious. They still defend this Nation by the example they set for the Veterans of our current conflicts.

To all of the Veterans of the Second War World, we offer our respect and our gratitude. God blessed us to have you as our forbearers. May God continue to bless you and yours and this great Nation of ours.

Robert A. McDonald



CONFERENCE

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continue to do but also challenging the young people to be the change they want to see.

I am extremely grateful for being elected to the Council and my colleagues for allowing me to travel such a great distance to represent us. I am encouraged to see so many committed Alaska Native and American Indian peoples working for us by engaging and challenging the Obama and his administration to continue to honor the United States responsibilities to our people. Quyanaa!!



DATES

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Our tentative dates for the 2016 camp season are June 24-29 Harvest/Earth, July 6-11 Survivor, July 15-19 Afognak Shareholder with Picnic on the 16th, July 23-28 Language/Music, this is all pending while we secure the funding. We have been fundraising throughout the year, we held a Haunted House in October, had split the pot at our Annual Meeting & Election in September, continue to rent out the photo booth, in February we will have a Dinner/Auction event, and will have a booth at the Crab Festival. Congratulations to Nina Gronn who wrote her first grant and secured us some funding to teach skin sewing and beading! We will continue to write grants and fundraise; any donation you can make to support the 2016 Dig Afognak Youth Camp will be greatly appreciate, We wish you all the peace and blessings of Christmas. And we hope 2016 brings you much happiness and great success!



Quyanaa!

The world of Dig Afognak is much brighter because of amazing, generous people like you!
A BIG quyanaasinaq to the following 2015 Dig Afognak donors & mess hall tile donations:

Many of the tiles purchased for the
Dennis and Julie Knagin Mess Hall
have been made in Memory

of the following:

Julie Knagin
Louise Gregoriouff Monette

Helen Simeonoff

Enola Mullan

Irene Parker

Bertha Teuber

Willis Nelson

William R. Berestoff

Dennis and Julie Knagin

Martha Nelson

Ed Sargent

Tina Larsen

Olga Naumoff Larsen

Trisha Pruitt

Iver Malutin

Marie Skonberg

Nadia Mullan

OST All Captains

Johnny Nelson

Alice Tamke

Charlie Mahle

Cheryl Sutter

Ken and Carol Henson

April Laktonen-Councillor

United Way

Chris Abell

Molly Thompson

Rural Cap

ANTHC

Alaska Humanities Forum

AT&T

Diane Cooper

Native Village of Port Lions

Nenana Native Council

Lukin-White Family

Sno-Bruins

American Seafood's

KANA

Native Village of Port Lions

Virginia Ward

Victoria Stuart

Bill & Tasha Zang

Jim Dunham

Rasmuson Foundation

Ouzinkie Native Corporation

Denise Burger

Afognak Native Corporation

Olsen Family

Misha Mullan

Richard & Melissa Borton

Dee Vinberg

Loretta Nelson

Knagin Family Estate

Kodiak Island Housing Authority

Meagan Christiansen

Malia Villegas

Loren Andersen

Ken Nelson Jr.

Natasha Hayden

Whale Pass Lodge

Janice Stiller

Nancy Nelson

Darrell & Joanna Brewer

Olga Rowland

Scott Pillans/ Scott's Plumbing and
Heating

Charlie Jerling/ Local Electric
Dave Hilty

Marius & Andi Olsen
Sitkinak Inc.

Kodiak Island Storage LLC

Alutiiq Museum

Brian & Dawn Kewan Family

Perry Eaton

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak

James Skonberg

Betty & Jerry Bongen

Wayne & Pat Kozak

Michael Mullan

Ron Unger

Mitch & Sasha Keplinger

Ali Sorenson,

Macks Sports Shop/Big Ray's

Dan & Barb Behm

Brennan Cain

Dusty Kaser

Jeff Abate

Seamus & Natasha Hayden

F/V Clyde

BDO USA LLC

Donna Roduta

Dimond Center

Carol Ashlock

Andrew Miller/Miller Construction

Marci Orth

Shelikof Lodge

Lu Young Foundation

Suzy Villegas

RC Enterprises

Tom Panamarioff & Asta Keller

Kodiak Island Borough

Dale Pruitt

Words cannot express our gratitude to make our Mess Hall a reality! Although we have the interior to complete, we have a warm, dry facility to share our meals as a big family and also use as a space for activities. Thank you Stacey Simmon's for coming up with this fundraiser idea and for your all your work in soliciting the donations! A special thank you to ANC and Native Village of Port Lions for supporting the Language/Music Camp, this camp would not have happened without your help!



Tribal Nations Conference



and the United States Federal Government.

On Thursday, the day of the Conference, the morning began with a plenary session with high level personnel from the Obama Administration and Indian Country. The panel included a Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, a Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe, a member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma and the Deputy Secretary of the Department of State. Throughout the day there were several Cabinet Town Halls with high level administrators from the Department of the Interior, the

office. I had an opportunity to present our concerns about the Joint Military training conducted in the Gulf of Alaska, our right to co-manage our natural resources, and to encourage his administration to work with newly elected Bill Walker and Byron Mallot from the State of Alaska. Others brought up issues relevant to all of Alaskan Natives and American Indians such as suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and the lack of education and economic opportunities.

Council Member Natasha Hayden recently attended the 2015 White House Tribal Nations Conference as a representative of NVA's Tribal Council. It was held in the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington D.C. on November 5, 2015. There were several events and opportunities to participate in the day before the conference, Natasha was fortunate enough to attend some of these preliminary discussions as well. The morning of the 4th the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) hosted a Tribal Leaders Preparatory Meeting. The meeting included a discussion of top priorities, updates on key issues and a regional strategy session. NCAI printed a Tribal Nations Briefing Book that contains relevant information on all topic discussed. It can be found at the following web address:

http://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/ncai-events/2015_WHTNC_Briefing_Book_Final.pdf

Later that evening, NCAI along with the National Museum of the American Indians hosted the Tribal Leader Reception which brought together leaders from Indian Country



Youth Delegate Panel & President Obama.

Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and Human services, the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, the Department of Energy, the Office of Personnel Management, the Small Business Administration and the Office of Science & Technology Policy.

The town halls gave tribal representatives an opportunity to speak to the Obama Administration about issues we are facing at home with the intention to influence National Policy during Obama's remaining time in

The day wrapped up with the introduction of a Youth Delegate Panel and Moderator followed by the introduction of President Barack Obama. After he gave brief remarks he sat down with the panel and fielded questions from each of the four youth. Their concerns were very similar to those expressed by the tribal representatives throughout the day. One of the panelists was a young lady named Tatiana who was of Yupik, Dena'ina and Tlingit decent. Tatiana posed questions about racism, suicide, culturally relevant education and land management to Obama who in return gave thoughtful responses about what his administration has done and will



Council Member Natasha Hayden and Lee Juan Tyler of the Shoshone-Pannock Tribes, Idaho

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Staff Spotlight



Cama'! I am Nancy Nelson, Program Administrator for our Tribe. I am the daughter of the late Willis and Martha Nelson, granddaughter of Pete and Matrona Gundersen and Alfred and Irene Nelson of Afognak and Port Lions. I grew up in Afognak and Port Lions, moved to Kodiak in 1989 for employment purposes and have been here since. I feel so blessed to still be able to go home to Port Lions on a regular basis and with my job at Native Village of Afognak, spend several weeks every year in Afognak and visit the old village; both places hold a special place in my heart!

After serving on the Council for eight years and receiving my bachelors in Social Work with a minor in Human Services I resigned from the Council and came to work for Native Village of Afognak in May 2010. I started out managing the Healthy Marriage Initiative Grant (HMI), Assisting our Administrator with oversight of all programs, and supervising the Dig Afognak Staff and HMI program. In 2012 when the HMI grant was over and to today I manage the Dig Afognak Camp Program and the IGAP Environmental Grant.

Dig Afognak, our cultural immersion camp for the Kodiak Island youth on Afognak Island has always been a passion of mine. I believe it is important to give our youth an opportunity to learn our traditional way of life through the help of our elders, share our heritage with others, know the land their ancestors came from, and be able to live from the land while taking care of our environment for future generations, and learning our endangered language. Taking our youth away from modern distractions and having them in a wilderness setting allows them to focus on their surroundings and enriches their learning about our culture and values. Dig Afognak has come a long way over the years; it has grown from sleeping and eating in tents to almost all permanent structures; all this would not be possible without the grants we received and more importantly from the generous donations we see receive from individuals who know how valuable this program is for our youth. Thank you all for your generosity.

Afognak Old Photo



Can you identify the people featured in this photo? If you can, email your answer to talesha@afognak.org. If you are the first to answer correctly, you will receive a prize.

2015/2016 NVA Council



Left to Right: Jim Dunham, Loretta Nelson, Natasha Hayden, Malia Villegas, Meagan Christiansen, Ken Nelson Jr. & Loren Anderson

ENVIRONMENTAL



Climate Change: Alaska on the Front Lines

Alaska, as well as the rest of the Arctic Circle, in the most recent years have suffered sooner and more severe than the rest of the world. Examples are:

- Increased average temperature, resulting in: drier seasons, resulting in rampant wildfires, melting glaciers, thawing permafrost, seal level rise, coastline erosion, and re-location of villages.
- Change in Weather Patterns, resulting in earlier, later, smaller, or less traditional food sources.

JUST TO NAME A FEW

Qik'rtaq/Sun'aq/Ag'waneq on the Front lines:

What have you noticed in recent years?

MORE or **Less** Insects?

Early or late flora and fauna?

Erosion?

Survival of non-native species?

Fish die off?

Fewer or smaller berries?

ChAnGe in marine life?

Dryer seasons?

Weather changes?

You are welcome to provide any input regarding climate change to Nancy or Bessie at 907-486-6357, or by e-mail at nancy@afognak.org or bessie@afognak.org. Quyanaa!