

*Mission Statement: The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, a federally recognized sovereign nation, vows to exercise its powers to further the economic and social well being of all its members, and in so doing, will safeguard and support the Unangan language, culture, customs, and traditions for those generations to come.*

## Qawalangin Tribe Celebrates Its Seventeenth Year



President Lekanoff opening the Annual Meeting.



Council Members Williams and Berikoff.



Members Rankin and Lekanoff.



Council members Williams, Berikoff, Buzz Lekanoff, and President Lekanoff.



Newly elected Council member Jennie Jacobsen with Patty Gregory.



President Lekanoff chats with OC Chairperson AB Rankin.

On Saturday, June 24, 2006, the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska celebrated its seventeenth year of operations during its Annual Meeting and Election. Three Council seats were up for election. In her President's Report to the membership, President Lekanoff briefly reviewed Council actions of the past year, discussed the results of the arbitration issues with Chenega, a sub-contractor that was let go during the reconstruction of Ulakta Road, and talked briefly about the Council decision to continue their support and participation in the Memorandum of Agreement for the mitigation of an archaeological site impacted due to the realignment of Henry Swanson Drive and the construction of the South Channel Bridge.

Co-Administrator Sharon Svarny-Livingston gave an update on operations, including all of the various programs that the Tribe operates on behalf of its members. Co-Administrator Dixie Engman presented the Audited Financial Statements to the membership, which had been approved by the Council at a meeting in May.

Dr. Scott Arnold, Environmental Toxicologist with the Alaska Division of Public Health, provided the membership with an electronic report on the safety of subsistence foods in light of the oil spill from the M/V Selendang Ayu that occurred in December of 2004. Mr. Arnold was not able to attend the meeting in person, due to the delayed date. The results of the testing of subsistence items from April and August 2005 showed no discernable levels of contaminants over the recommended safety amounts determined by the State of Alaska. Reports were also presented by Mica Dean, Business Office Administrator for the Oonalaska Wellness Center and Harriet Hope, Board member of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Restitution Trust.

Nicholai Lekanoff was reelected as a Trustee on Docket 369, to serve another three-year term with fellow Trustees AB Rankin and Emil Berikoff, Sr. The Trustees declared a dividend, paid out in December 2005, to eligible participants, of \$500.00.

During the question and answer period, Tribal members Maria Turnpaugh, Rufina

**July 2006**

**Volume 1, Issue 1**



Co-Administrators Engman and Svamy-Livingston.



Tribal Member Walter Dyakanoff.



Tribal members Maria Turnpaugh and Rufina Shaishnikoff talk with Williams.



Tribal members Nick and John Galaktionoff.



Tribal members Nicholas and Wendy Hawthorne.



Lucky door prize winner Member Nellie Bereskin.

Continued from page 1

Shaishnikoff, Charlene Shaishnikoff, and Charlotte Gisvold expressed concerns over the impacts to the midden site in relation to the realignment of Henry Swanson Drive. Turnpaugh also asked if newsletters could be mailed to non-local members. Jennie Jacobsen got clarification on the residency requirements of the Higher Education scholarships, Adult Vocational Training scholarships, and Direct Employment scholarships.

Irene McGlashan, a member of the Election Board, announced the results of the election, naming as elected Council members Denise Rankin, Nicholai Lekanoff, and Jennie Jacobsen. The incumbents were reelected and Jennie Jacobsen was invited to take a seat at the table. President Lekanoff thanked outgoing Council member Harriet Berikoff for the completed three year term.

Door prizes were awarded to lucky members. Door prizes for children were fishing poles and ipod shuffles. Cash door prizes were offered to adult members and were in the amounts of one \$50.00 prize, two \$100.00 prizes, and one \$250.00 prize.

A potluck was held at 5:00 PM. Jess and Spencer Morrison, members of the NALEMP rommel stake crew, prepared a turkey, a ham, awesome stuffing, and gravy for the membership. Tribal staff Sabrina Wilt, Kaitlin Touza, Colleen Wilt, and Laresa Syverson assisted in the cooking, and performed all of the hard work in setting up the meeting and the potluck. They assisted management in making sure the meeting went smoothly.

We would like to thank Irene McGlashan and Monte Kudrin for, once again, performing the duties of the Election Board. Their participation begins weeks before the meeting takes place, documenting the eligible voters and maintaining the rules of the election as set forth in the Election Ordinance. We thank Father Jonah for providing the opening prayer and the blessing of the food at the potluck. The Council also thanks Harriet Berikoff for her many years of service to the Tribe, both as a Council member, and for the times she served as Administrator.

At the June Council meeting on June 29, the Council elected officers. **Margaret Lekanoff was re-elected to serve as President, Denise Rankin was elected to serve as Vice-President, and Nicholai Lekanoff was elected as Secretary/Treasurer.** At the meeting President Lekanoff thanked the co-administrators and the staff for all of the work they did to make sure the meeting was well organized, and specifically thanked the both for all of the work done to reschedule the meeting.

---

## Memory Eternal

The Tribe offers sympathy to the family and the extended family of Tribal member Shirley Shaishnikoff who passed away on June 13, 2006. A memorial service was held on June 17, and she was interred at a service at Captain's Bay, where her brother, Richard Chagin, was also remembered.

July 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1

*The original  
Memorandum of  
Agreement (MOA)  
was approved in  
recognition of the  
adverse affects of  
the realignment.*

## Council Follows Plans of Memorandum of Agreement for Mitigation of Bridge Site - President Margaret Lekanoff

*In over five years of consultation and partnership*, the Qawalangin Tribal Council maintains its focus for mitigating impacts to UNL-050, the archaeological site that will be impacted by the realignment of Henry Swanson Drive during the construction of a new bridge.

Consultation began in **2000** and the original Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was approved in **2002** and recorded in 2003 because the Council recognized the fact that the site would be adversely affected by the realignment. Discussions of various options took place during those years, including public meetings, and in November 2002, and the decision was made to excavate the site to preserve at least twenty percent of the site for study. The excavation was recommended by Dr. Rick Knecht, then director of the Museum of the Aleutians and Dr. Richard Davis of Bryn Mawr, and also consequently lead by Knecht, and Davis. The notice to proceed with the excavation was given in June **2003** under a contract with the Museum of the Aleutians for nearly \$700,000.00. The excavation work was completed on September 15, 2003, and the excavation phase was closed and an analysis phase of the site began. Knecht and Davis failed to adequately close the site, causing degradation of the site.

The final data recovery report was received in late April, **2004**, and the Alaska Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration notified Knecht and Davis that the report did not adequately address the research questions laid out in the contract . A rewrite to bring it up to scientific standards was issued. The parties of the MOA continued to meet to make informed decisions on further site excavations and funding opportunities.

The MOA parties met at various times from June 2004 through April 2005, and through the work of the Ounalashka Corporation and the Tribe, an archaeologist was brought out and plans to hire her were proposed, but without the final report and the answers to the research questions to be addressed by the excavation, the program was not implemented.

In April of **2005**, the Tribe sent comments on the draft report. The Tribe indicated that the 2003 excavation exceeded the original excavation plan, having excavated nearly a third of the site as opposed to 20%, as planned. SHPO concurred, but added that since excavation to the sterile layer and stratigraphy profiles were not done as planned, those would have to be accomplished during the monitoring phase.



Volume 1, Issue 1  
**The Council believes fully that the work to be done during the salvage excavation plan will be conducted with great sensitivity and respect.**

Continue from Page 3

The final data recovery report was received in July 2005, and the MOA parties continued their discussions on the draft monitoring plan, voicing concerns about limitations on recovery of features and cultural items. A restructured monitoring plan was received in November of 2005, with the final plan received in December. *The new plan has been removed from the construction contract and is now a salvage excavation project* to be led by Michael Yarborough.

In January, the Qawalangin Tribal Council approved the new monitoring plan. They publicly announced their position at a public meeting held in Unalaska in March 2006, followed by a press release. In light of a proposal received by OC from Rick Knecht to dig the site in the summer, the Tribe reiterated their position at their March 30, 2006 meeting, sending a letter to FHWA so stating.

*With all due respect for the site and the work that has been accomplished throughout the mitigation*, it is for the benefit and safety of the entire community that the Tribe feels progress on the construction and realignment must continue on schedule. Public discussions did take place in 2001 and 2002 about the placement of the bridge and the realignment issues of Henry Swanson Drive. The Tribe has been involved in all phases of the process, making informed decisions since the project inception. The Council believes it is critically important that everyone be aware of their complete support of the project and the salvage excavation plan for the archaeological site. In that light, the Council wishes to state that they believe in the process that they have been involved in, including the discussions to mitigate the site. The Council states that they

signed the MOA with the full knowledge that they were signing it to mitigate the impacts that would take place to the site. They also believe fully that the work to be conducted in conjunction with the salvage excavation plan will be conducted with great sensitivity and respect, and fully expect the excavation to continue to record scientific data that will be valuable in the continuing study of the materials from the 2003 excavation. The Council feels that the project represents a critical component in the continued safety and well-being of our community, and believe that it is extremely important to keep the project on track and to follow the timelines set out for the salvage excavation, the road realignment, and bridge construction.

## Tribal Recycling Opportunity

The City of Unalaska has issued an RFP for those entities interested in providing a recycling program for the community of Unalaska. The Tribal Council has authorized administration to draft a plan to submit to the City Council. The deadline for the proposal submissions is September 1, 2006.

Council officer Denise Rankin and Co-Administrator Dixie Engman sat on the Recycling Committee formed by the City Council to look into the recycling question. The committee met for many months and we appreciate the work they both did on behalf of the City. The Council and staff are excited about this opportunity for someone to once again implement a recycling program in Unalaska.



July 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1

Council

hopes to be

able to

continue

providing this

type of

program in

the future,

depending on

the

availability of

funding.

## Council Implements Elder Housing Rehabilitation Program

In July of last year, the Tribal Council approved an Elder Rehabilitation Housing Project for Unalaska. The project was set up to help Elders improve their homes. The funding comes from the Tribe's maintenance fund at the Aleutian Housing Authority (AHA). The Council set criteria for the program. Basically, if a home is owned by a tribal member over the age of 60, and the tribal member resides in the house year-round, the member would be approved for rehabilitation work on his or her home, as long as they met the income requirements set by HUD standards. Many of our Elders have gone through the paperwork process, and two homes, those of Anna Merculieff and Nellie Bereskin have had work completed. The homes of Neon

Merculieff and Nicholai Lekanoff, Sr. are currently in the process of being rehabilitated. The AHA crew, led by foreman Blake LaPlant, have been busy since last fall, endeavoring to schedule inside work for bad weather months, and outside repairs for the summer. One thing that is hampering the work scheduling is the requirements set forth by the State Historic Preservation Office, which at times determines that homes may possibly be included on the National Historic Registry. The registry places restriction on the type and amount of work that can be done to the outside structures of some homes. The Tribe, as funding is made available, will continue to try to fund programs of this type.



## Camp Qungaayu{ - 9 Years of Success

Camp Qungaayu{ will mark its ninth year of operations when it opens on August 7, 2006. The Camp has grown to be recognized as one of the premier culture camps offered in the State of Alaska due to the dedication of its Elders, Mentors, Western science biologists, and the support of its partners. The camp is co-sponsored by the Tribe, the Ounalashka Corporation, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the City of Unalaska, and the Unalaska City School District, with major donations from the Aleut Corporation and the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Restitution Trust.

Camp will begin on Monday, at 9:30 AM with the traditional first day activity of beach seining and preparing the caught fish for drying and salting. Other activities that will be offered at camp will include bentwood hat construction, weaving, skin and gut work,

whale articulation, intertidal studies, survival, experimental archaeology, medicinal plant use, Unangam tunuu, Unangan dance, storytelling, Native foods, seafood safety, asxu{, rattle construction, sea mammal preparation, bird studies, museum studies, facial ornamentation, and journaling.

Classes will be, for the most part, in one hour segments for the younger students. Older students will, at times, have two hour segment classes to be able to complete work on their major projects. Each morning will start with a word and phrase of the day in Unangam tunuu. We will also review Unangan values with the students. As always, we welcome those who wish to observe the camp in action.



## **Welcome New Tribal Members!**

Scott Patrick Lorenzen, Unalaska  
Cody Randall Merryfield, Unalaska  
Cory Lee Merryfield, Unalaska  
Catina Anesia Merryfield, Unalaska  
Angelena Lekanoff, Unalaska  
Jalua Edison, Unalaska  
Terry Dale Halverson, Madison, WI  
Teegan Joesse, Unalaska

## **Tribal Web Site Plans**

The Tribe has been fortunate to make the acquaintance of Paula Brewer. Mrs.. Brewer came out to Unalaska last August to visit her son, local Marine Advisory Program agent Reid Brewer, and was able to observe Camp Qungaayu{. She has generously offered to design a web site for the Qawalangin Tribe, and we are taking her up on the offer. We hope to have a site up and running by October. This will allow Tribal members with access to the internet, the opportunity of having easy access to tribal forms such as those forms needed for enrollment and scholarships. It will also be a way of keeping members who live outside of Unalaska up to date on Qawalangin Tribal issues.



PO Box 334

Unalaska, AK 99685

