

## Upcoming SOBERING CENTER



Tanana Chiefs Conference has partnered with several other organizations and agencies in the Interior in order to open up a Sobering Center for chronic inebriates in Fairbanks.

Housing First Manager, Shirley Lee says the project started years ago when several people froze to death because they had nowhere to go, "That was what got the process started," Lee says.

Since then, TCC along with Fairbanks Native Association, The City of Fairbanks, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital,

and others began working together to find funding for the project.

Earlier this year, that funding was secured by a grant to TCC. Lee says, "We immediately began looking for a place that would fit our needs." That place was found in the Denardo Center located off McCullum Drive in Fairbanks.

Though the location is not in the South Cushman area, where many chronic inebriates travel, TCC will be working closely with the City

of Fairbanks, the Community Service Patrol, and will be safely enclosed with strict protocols on bringing people in and out of the center.

The center will also offer assistance to those wanting to change their lifestyle and get treatment for addiction. TCC recognized that this was a need for the community and we

are pleased to see the project moving forward.

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 "THERE WAS THE NEED  
 TO RESPECT THE  
 DIGNITY OF EVERY  
 HUMAN BEING"  
 -SHIRLEY LEE

### GET AN *Inside Guide*

Tanana Chiefs Conference's Communications Division has developed a video series that gives our tribal members a look inside several of our Departments.

These videos will help to educate our beneficiaries on what our programs offer an how to maximize their use of each of the departments.

Follow us on YouTube to see all of the videos!



**In This Issue:**

**Rural Advocacy**  
Page 3

**Legacy Highlight**  
Page 4

**Welcome New CHAs**  
Page 5

**'BeTheMatch' Event**  
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,

Last month TCC leadership met with our Executive Board of Directors to review and update our 2015-2020 strategic plan and to incorporate the resolutions passed during our 2017 Full Board of Directors Meeting. As in previous years, TCC leadership will continue our trips to the villages to discuss our strategic goals and initiatives and incorporate tribal input to ensure that our plan is in alignment with our tribes.

A strategic planning session for the Alaska Federation of Natives was recently held, where multiple issues were discussed, including the militarization of Alaska and the definition of "tribe", which has historically been written in federal legislation and administrative action. In December AFN sent a letter to the Secretary of Interior seeking to broaden the definition of "tribe" to include ANCSA corporations, which TCC opposed in our own letter to the Secretary. I would like to thank TCC Vice-President Julie Roberts-Hyslop who attended as the Village Representative and General Counsel Natasha Singh for attending this meeting on my behalf. AFN staff will develop communication protocol for the AFN Board to review at the May meeting in Bethel.

To improve coordination and quality of health care, TCC created a multi-disciplinary team to determine an Electronic Health Records (EHR) system that would be best suited for our region. After months of research, the team decided on AthenaHealth as our new EHR vendor. 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. AthenaHealth will also provide patients with an online portal to allow them to access their health record (visit summary, lab results, etc.), request appointments, and communicate with their providers, among other benefits. We plan on having this system implemented within the next nine months.

In April, we held our annual TCC All-Staff Meeting where we were able to recognize our employees for their dedicated to the organization and their commitment to our mission and vision. I would like to thank all of the staff for the work they do on behalf of our tribes, tribal members and organization. I would especially like to thank all of our award winners; you can see a full list of award winners on page 5.

I wanted to take a moment to talk about our rural job opportunities. There are three types of job locations offered by TCC; Fairbanks-based, village-based, and region-wide. Our region wide jobs are positions that can be filled by anyone located in either Fairbanks or one of our interior villages. These positions are an amazing opportunity as they are not location-specific and can be filled by any qualified individual in the region. You can see our current job openings by visiting our website at [www.tananachiefs.org/careers](http://www.tananachiefs.org/careers) or see the back of this newsletter for a list of job openings.

As always, TCC continues to work towards our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

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

# TAKING A STAND WITH ADVOCACY

*Rural Advocates can make a difference in their communities*

Taking a stand on issues that impact our tribes is important in preserving our culture, our way of life, and in protecting our future generations. It is especially important to have rural advocates at the decision-making table, as their input and first-hand knowledge is impactful. Several tribal leaders have seen success in their endeavors when it comes to advocacy.

In 2015, Chief Rhonda Pitka of Beaver became an advocate for the Cruikshank School in Beaver, which was at high risk for closure. With Pitka's assistance in advocating for the students of Beaver, the Yukon Flats School District voted to keep the school open. Pitka stepped out in hopes to bring awareness, not only for her community, but for other schools that were on the chopping block across the region.



Chief Pitka knows, it didn't come as a small effort. She spent countless hours traveling away from

her home to speak with legislators, and educating decision makers on the importance of small schools to our villages. Now, a member of the Native American Top 40 under 40, the Federal Subsistence Board, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, just to name a few, Chief Pitka has become one of the strongest advocates for our region.

Another young advocate that stepped up to the plate when his community was in jeopardy is Chief Floyd Green of Rampart. Our 2016 TCC Keynote Speaker, Floyd is one of our region's youngest Chiefs and has completely revamped the community of Rampart. From convincing others to move back to the small community on the Yukon River to ensuring the school reopened and stayed open, Floyd has become a proven advocate and an example for young leaders across the region. Floyd has been able to bring his experience back to other communities giving tips on how he has made sure to keep his small tribe thriving.

Our region continues to face many issues that impact each of our tribes, from the State fiscal

crisis, to possible reduction in third party revenues in our health care system, to the decline of large King Salmon in our rivers.



It is important now more than ever for our tribal advocates to step forward on behalf of our tribes. TCC and our tribes have been very effective in our recent advocacy efforts. In order to move to the next level of advocacy, tribal members across the state must vote. The single actions which keeps elected leaders accountable to their decisions is each individual voter submitting a vote. We have a new opportunity in 2018 because all Natives are now registered to vote (without any other disqualifying circumstance).

Join Chief Pitka and Chief Green in region wide improvement through the power of your vote.

## *Current Advocacy Issues*

### JUNEAU VOTES TO RESTRUCTURE PFD

On April 12th, the House passed their version of the Senate bill 26. There are numerous differences between the House and Senate versions, including size of dividends, inflation proofing vs. no inflation proofing, spending limits on the state operating budget or no spending limits.

These differences will be taken up in negotiations prior to the end of the legislative session, which has now passed the 90 day mark. Due to conditional language in the House's version the negotiations must include not only the differences in the cuts made to the state operating budget, but also two other pieces of House priority legislation, oil & gas tax reform and income tax.

### INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY LEGISLATION

Legislation to name the second Monday in October as "Indigenous Peoples Day" passed the Alaska Legislature today with bipartisan support in both the Alaska House of Representatives and the Alaska State Senate. House Bill 78 was sponsored by Representative Dean Westlake.

"Indigenous Peoples Day" has been celebrated on the second Monday of October, the same day as Columbus Day, the past two years thanks to one year proclamations from Alaska Governor Bill Walker and the day is already celebrated in the Municipality of Anchorage. HB 78 would make the designation permanent and statewide.

House Bill 78 passed the Alaska State Senate by a vote of 18-1, with Senator Kelly from Fairbanks casting the solitary vote against. The bill passed the Alaska House of Representatives by a vote of 31-7 in February. HB 78 will now be sent the Alaska Governor Bill Walker for his signature.

# Remembering S. BOBO DEAN *A Champion of Tribal Governance*

Article Written By: Paul Sherry, Former CFO ANTHC

S. Bobo Dean was the Senior Statesman within the legal community addressing Native American Health Services and Self-Governance issues.

He provided leadership in the negotiations of many tribal agreements with the U.S. Department of the Interior, especially multi-tribal agreements.

He helped save all Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal Health Organizations in the implementation of the Indian Self-Determination, Education and Assistance Act, and the creation of the Alaska Tribal Health Compact in 1993.

Mr. Dean was sensitive to tribal priorities and concerns, forceful in dealing with the Federal Government, and committed to finding justice for the Native people of America.

He was also committed to developing a younger generation of native attorneys to continue his legacy.

S. Bobo Dean also had a great sense of humor and showed kindness and generosity to all he worked with and cared for.

S. Bobo Dean Passed away February 16th, 2017. We thank him and his family for his advocacy work with our tribes.



Photo Courtesy: Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker

## LEGACY OF OUR ELDERS

IRENE SOLOMON-ARNOLD

Tanana Chiefs Conference has launched a series of documentary videos entitled, "Legacy of our Elders." As a part of this series the Communications Division has been interviewing and documenting the life stories of several elders from all over the TCC region.

Each of the videos are compiled into volumes that have a DVD movie as well as an accompanying book and written story version. The books and DVDs will highlight the elders and the stories that they want to share.

Each of these videos will be made available on our website and also will be sent to our tribes and schools for oral history.

Each month, we will feature an elder

from the series in our Council.

This month, Irene Solomon-Arnold of Tanacross is our highlighted Legacy Elder. Irene shares a true story of triumph and overcoming adversity with us. She speaks powerfully about her experience with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and being taken away from her home village. Irene shares her struggles with alcohol, losing loved ones, and the perseverance it takes to go on.

Irene's story is all too common in our villages in the early days of the BIA schools. Many of the young children were forced out of their homes or sent to schools where they were forced to



speaking in a language they didn't understand. Irene shares her story of meeting her foster parents and returning to her home after years of being gone. She tells us what it takes to adapt to her surroundings and relearning her native language. Irene later published several books in her

Tanacross dialect and even received a degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Her words are beautiful, strong, and powerful and we know they will resonate with many of our tribal members.

For her full story you can visit our website, [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org).

# Connectivity: FCC OFFICIALS VISIT CIRCLE

Article By: Joshua Peter, Executive Director of IT

During a recent trip to Alaska, members of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Office of Native Affairs and Policy and the FCC Wireline Competition Bureau had an opportunity to see the challenges of getting broadband Internet access to Interior Alaska. During the FCC's brief stop in Fairbanks, Chief Victor Joseph and a few TCC staff members, along with a DRS manager, brought those FCC employees to Circle for a day trip. Hosting the guests to the Circle community was Chief Jessica Fields and Community Health Aide

employee, Eva Schrader.

While in the community, the visitors had an opportunity to visit the clinic and see how health is delivered through telemedicine and the disparity of available resources towards the provisioning of healthcare.

They also visited Chief Fields in the Circle tribal office to get a firsthand account of the poor satellite Internet connectivity that interferes in daily operation of tribal business.

The trip highlighted how challenging the logistics of broadband internet deployment is in Interior Alaska

compared to the rest of the country. To address those short-comings would require additional assistance from the federal agencies, which is essential for providing quality healthcare and economic growth in our rural communities. TCC continues to engage with the FCC to close the gap of the digital divide in the TCC region.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE TRAINING CENTER

*Welcomes new session one trainees*



The Community Health Aide Program welcomes another group of trainees this month to their session one training at our new facility.

Tanana Chiefs Conference has been pleased with the progress our Health Aides have been able to accomplish since the opening of our training center inside the Al Ketzler Sr. building in Fairbanks.

For more information on our Community Health Aide Training Center or to see videos and positions available you can visit our website, [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org).

## Congratulations TCC AWARD WINNERS!



*Culture of Excellence:*  
Sue Barrett  
Teri Huff (McGrath)

*Rising Star:*  
Jean Sapere

*Bridge Builder:*  
Nick Gasca

*Caring Heart:*  
Valerie Pingayak  
Rebecca Bostrom (Grayling)

*Making a Difference:*  
Brad Clark

*Above and Beyond Award:*  
Constance Reimer-Ely

*Leading by Example:*  
Victoria Kildal (Tok)  
Allen Rinker

*Dedication to Mission:*  
Cheyenna Kuplack  
Mitch Shewfelt

# BeTheMatch BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY DRIVE

Article By: Dan Nelson, Director of Pharmacy

Tanana Chiefs Conference Health Services partnered with BeTheMatch.org in conjunction with the TCC Convention Health Fair in March to conduct a bone marrow donor registry drive. BeTheMatch is an international non-profit organization dedicated to matching up patients in need of bone marrow donation with donors. They manage a registry of over 21 million potential bone marrow donors.

Bone marrow donations are needed for certain patients with leukemia, aplastic anemia and other potentially life-threatening diseases. It is typically considered the treatment of last resort, and can save the life of a patient with a disease that would be otherwise incurable.

Unfortunately, many patients do not have a family member who is a good match for them, and they have to be matched with an unknown donor through matching organization such as:

BeTheMatch.org  
TCC and BeTheMatch were able sign up 74 new donors to the registry during the TCC Convention Health Fair bone marrow donor registry drive. Because matching is closely linked to family relatives, followed by ancestral heritage we now have a greater chance of matching a future



Alaska Native or American Indian in need of a bone marrow donation with a donor.

Alaska Natives and American Indians are significantly underrepresented in bone marrow donor registries, so drives like the one that were recently conducted go a long way to addressing this disparity.

If you would like to be a bone marrow donor, please visit <https://bethematch.org/> for more information. Sign up can be initiated online.

## TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE *Hiring Process*

Tanana Chiefs Conference realizes the importance of a quick and efficient hiring process. As we reported at this year's 2017 Annual Convention, our Rural Hire rates have increased over the last several years and as we see those numbers continue to grow, it is important that our tribal members understand the hiring process.

All of our openings begin with either the hiring manager sending a request to open the position to our offices. TCC will then advertise that job for minimum of ten days. Job openings can be viewed at [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org) and clicking on Careers @ TCC. We request that applicants apply on the website since applications can be easily tracked and found that way and there is less chance of paperwork being lost.

However, if the applicant does not have internet access or the ability to get to a computer with internet access there is a paper application. From the pool of applicants, the TCC Supervisor will then interview the candidates that meet the hiring criteria. After the interview is completed, a score will be given to the candidate who will then be chosen. Once a selection is made, a hiring memo will be drafted

and a payroll change notice will be issued and sent to the Division Director and Human Resources Director for approval and the position will be budget verified through the Accounting Department. Once all of the approvals have been obtained, a job offer will be made.

HR Technicians then send information to the successful applicant. This includes the offer letter, TCC benefits summary, job description, instructions and directions for completing the pre-hire drug test, and the ICPA background check packet that must be returned ASAP to expedite the hiring process but no later than three business days from the date of the offer. The final step once the applicant has accepted the position is the hiring manager notifying the individuals who were interviewed but not hired that another candidate was offered the position. For those candidates who were not interviewed, a letter is sent letting them know the position has been filled.

There is no exact time-frame to fill a position since each position is unique and has different requirements and applicants. However, TCC strives to quickly and efficiently hire the best

suited applicants for each position in order to best meet our tribes' needs. When the process goes smoothly it should take no longer than four weeks from when TCC HR receives a hiring packet with all the required paperwork until when the chosen candidate begins orientation at TCC. TCC does bring all new hires into Fairbanks for the pre-hire drug test and a week of orientation. It is important for all employees, regardless of location, to get the best possible orientation to working at TCC.

If you find that the hiring process is taking longer than it should, please contact Human Resources so we can work to resolve any issues that may be slowing down the process.

Some of the common bottlenecks to the hiring process are a lack of applicants, delay in getting interviews scheduled, and delays in getting the hiring packet completed and submitted to Human Resources. HR can help follow up on any of these delays if we are notified of the issue.

TCC continues to strive to be an employer of choice and we can't reach that goal without strong employees and applicants.

# 2017 YUKON RIVER *King Salmon* OUTLOOK

Article By: Stephanie Quinn-Davidson

ADF&G and USFWS recently had their annual preseason meeting in Fairbanks to discuss management for the 2017 Yukon River salmon fishery.

Approximately 70 fishermen attended, including about a dozen Inter-Tribal Fish Commissioners.

## What to expect?

The fishery managers are expecting a king salmon run size similar to or slightly better than 2016. The outlook for 2017 is for a run size of 140,000 – 194,000, which should meet escapement goals and provide for some subsistence harvest. However, it is still much less than the historical run sizes of 300,000+ king salmon.

Fishery managers are anticipating similar management actions as they did last year. Regulation requires protecting the first pulse of king salmon. However, the managers are looking at providing opportunity with gillnets before the first pulse arrives and if the run looks strong enough, they will look at providing additional gillnet openings after the first pulse passes through each district. The managers are hoping to provide opportunity with 6" and smaller gillnets on a schedule. This would help alleviate

issues with "combat fishing" during short openings and would also help fishermen make plans for going out to fish camp.

There was considerable discussion about having additional fishing with 7.5" gillnets (primarily king salmon gear) versus using only the 6" or smaller gillnets that are intended to target summer chum salmon and smaller king salmon.

Numerous fishermen are concerned about the declining size of king salmon and reduction in females in the run. They believe that fishing with a smaller gillnet will allow more of the larger females get to the spawning grounds. But many also expressed concern about allowing only 6" or smaller gillnets because they don't own that mesh size and wouldn't be able to fish. Likely any fishing opportunities with 7.5" gillnets, if provided earlier than last year, would be short openings. However, if you own a net smaller than 7.5", you can still fish with that smaller gillnet if you want. Whatever gear is allowed, make sure you are informed through one of the many ways listed below!

## How to stay informed?

### Fishing Hotline:

1 – (866) 479 - 7387

Call any time.

Select the district you are fishing in to get info on your area's openings and gear options. The recording also has the latest test fishery and sonar estimates.

## News Releases

Published for every opening, closure, or restriction. If your Tribal Council is not receiving these news releases, call the Fairbanks ADF&G office to get signed up (907-459-7274).



## Facebook Page – New this year!

Like their page – search "Yukon River Fishing – ADFG" or go to [www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG](http://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG) - to get the latest information right to your smart phone.

## Weekly YR DFA Teleconference

Every Tuesday at 1pm, call in to 1-800-315-6338 (code: 98566#) to hear updates from fishermen along the river and managers.

## Radio Stations

Openings and closures are also announced on numerous local radio stations.

Lastly, I track the run and all management actions during the season. You contact me with any questions or concerns:

Stephanie.quinndavidson@tananachiefs.org or 907.328.8088



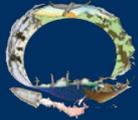
# The Council Newsletter

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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.



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## JOIN THE TCC FAMILY APPLY ONLINE

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

### Village Vacancies

- Behavioral Health Aide (Rampart, Chalkyitsik)
- Carpenter (Tanacross)
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (Ruby, Dot Lake, Chalkyitsik, Healy Lake, Alatna, Stevens Village, Manley Hot Spring)
- Community Health Representative (Allakaket)
- Edgar Nollner Health Center Director (Galena)
- Itinerant Clinician – SOC (Galena)
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or NP) (Tok)
- Preschool Assistant Teacher (Fort Yukon)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (Healy Lake, Alatna, McGrath)
- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist (Healy Lake, Grayling)
- Village Public Safety Officer (McGrath, Tetlin, Huslia, Tanacross, Tok, Allakaket, Holy Cross, EWagle, Tanana)
- VPSO-Regional Rover (Fort Yukon)
- Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member (Tok)

### Region Wide

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant
- Medical Coder I
- Village Public Safety Officer
- Wellness Cultural Camp Manager

### Fairbanks Vacancies

- Acupuncturist
- Certified Medical Assistant II
- Client Development Division Director
- Coordinator/Instructor Mid-Level Practitioner
- Diagnostic Ultrasound Technologist - PRN
- Infection Control & Employee Health Program Coordinator
- Instructor-CHAP Training Center
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or ANP)
- Patient Experience Manager
- Physical Activity Center Attendant
- Wellness and Prevention Manager

JOB LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF APRIL 18TH, 2017

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

TCC CLOSED  
May 29th, 2017  
*In recognition of Memorial Day*

TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT  
May 2nd - 3rd, 2017  
UAF Wood Center

MOTHER'S DAY  
May 14th, 2017



## DENAKKANAGA

### ANNUAL ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE

*"Listening and Speaking to Move Forward."*

June 6th-8th  
Holy Cross, AK

Conference participants will discuss various issues impacting Interior Native elders and youth, including federal and state budgets and their impact on elder programs and services, subsistence fishing, the rising opioid problem, and revitalization of Native languages. Elder delegates from the 42 Interior Alaska villages and Fairbanks will attend the conference, along with youth, leaders and representatives from various organizations.



*\*Correction: Last month in our Convention Wrap Up article, it was stated new E-Board member, Norman 'Carl' Burgett was from Koyukuk. He is from Huslia and the Yukon-Koyukuk Subregion. We apologize for the mistake.*