This year’s 2018 TCC Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting was held March 12th-15th with the theme ‘Working Together for a Stronger Future’. Each agenda item covered different ways in which TCC is working to ensure a stronger future for our tribes. Agenda items included; public safety, energy, firefighting, and community wellness.

Each presentation opened the floor for meaningful discussion with tribes by including a Question and Answer portion. This provides the opportunity for tribes to ask questions and promote conversation with TCC Staff.

Leaders were also able to hear from political leaders such as Senator Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, who addressed the delegates via live video. However, it was Governor Bill Walker and Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallot who attended the Convention in person, even staying past their allotted time to answer questions from the floor.

Continued on page 4.

Tanana Chiefs Conference is pleased to announce the release of Volume 4 and Volume 5 of Legacy of Our Elders. To watch their full stories visit: https://www.tananachiefs.org/legacy-of-our-elders/

See more on page 12.
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

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

This year’s annual convention theme was “Working Together for a Stronger Future.” It celebrated our strengths and recognized that we are stronger together as Healthy Strong Unified Tribes. Our theme also provided an opportunity for our tribal leaders, delegates, and community partners, TCC staff, and guests to participate in a safe, positive, and open discussion on important topics.

Alaska Governor Bill Walker and Lt. Governor Byron Mallott addressed our convention and spoke about various topics including broadband and public safety in rural Alaska. Gov. Walker and Lt. Gov. Mallott also listened and answered questions regarding elections, the PFD, and the Ambler Road. After addressing our convention, Gov. Walker traveled and toured Minto, visited their Elementary/High School, hosted a town hall discussion, and spoke with community members about public safety and firefighting work crews. It was a very good opportunity for Minto and look for more information about Gov. Walker’s visit in next month’s Council newsletter.

Next, I would like to congratulate re-elected Executive Board members Eugene Paul of Holy Cross, Nick Alexia Sr. of Nikolai, and newly elected Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Isaac of Tanacross. I look forward to working with you all. I would also like to thank outgoing Secretary/Treasurer PJ Simon Jr. of Allakaket for all of his service on our Executive Board since 2013. His work and contributions to TCC and our tribes are greatly appreciated and we wish him best of luck moving forward.

Congratulations to those re-elected to the Doyon Board of Directors; Christopher Simon, Erica Frankson, Walter “Wally” Carlo and Jennifer Fate Valaise.

For this year’s Convention, we held an honoring dinner to recognize award winners and those who contribute to our community in a positive light. This was new addition to the Convention agenda and it turned out great! Congratulations to TCC Employee of the Year winners Lee Meckel (Urban) and Dr. Stu Marcotte (Rural), Kelly Fields for her K9 efforts, Samuel John for his Humanitarian Efforts, and Ivan Demientieff accepted an award for Grayling’s CDQ supporting trapper’s project, as well as all the other award winners this year. A full list of award winners can be found on page 8.

During this year’s convention we heard from several speakers, including our two keynotes Dr. Jessica Black of Fort Yukon/Nenana and Julia Salmon-Fisher of Beaver/Chalkyitsik. Both spoke on the importance of the path to well-being for our tribal members and communities. Excellent job Jessica and Julia and thank you again.

The TCC Youth Delegates made another powerful impact with their bravery. We are reminded each year of the importance of standing by our youth and listening to them. This year the youth proposed Resolution 2018-25, “Request to Amend Article Seven of the TCC Bylaws allowing them to elect their own youth advisor who will serve on the Executive Board and as the chairman of the Emerging Leaders.” The resolution passed and they all learned a lesson on Robert’s Rules of Order.

With the direction from our Full Board of Directors, the Executive Board and Executive Management will be making sure that our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan remains in alignment with our tribes and incorporates the recently passed resolutions. With spring upon us so are the renewal of events in our villages and an increase in travel among our communities. Please be cautious when traveling and watch for weather advisories throughout our region. I hope you have a safe and happy carnival season!

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

Ana Bassee,
Victor Joseph
Chief/Chairman
In 1933 at a fish camp just below Koyukuk on the Yukon River, a champion was born. That champion was George Attla Jr. George was raised in a subsistence lifestyle — fishing and hunting off the land with his family. George grew up to become known for his traditional lifestyle and as a champion of Dog mushing.

By the 1950’s George had already become a legendary open-class sprint dog racer. His name is 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 famed the Best Musher of the 20th Century.

Governor Steve Cowper proclaimed April 29th, 1988 as “George Attla Day” and Tanana Chiefs Conference felt it was important to recognize his accomplishments and name April 29th as “George Attla Day”.

Submitted by the Beaver Village Council in 2015, the Full Board of Directors passed resolution 2015-01 to honor him each year on that day. All TCC calendars now read “George Attla Day” on April 29th and it will remain a time to honor a true Alaskan champion.
Along with the 12 Youth Delegates that TCC brings to Convention each year from communities, delegates were introduced to a new group of young leaders called the ‘Emerging Leaders’ who held a strong presence at the meeting, with their Secretary/Treasurer Julia Fisher-Salmon delivering one of the keynote speeches. This year several elections were held, with a surprising number of candidates throwing their names in the running for Secretary/Treasurer. To the Executive Board and for Seat B on the IRHA Board of Directors.

TCC Executive Board saw the re-election of two subregional representatives; Eugene Paul of Holy Cross as the Lower Yukon representative and Nick Alexia Sr. Of Nikolai as the Upper Kuskokwim representative. Of the five candidates running for the Secretary/Treasurer seat, the Full Board of Directors elected Jerry Isaac of Tanacross, replacing PJ ‘Pollack’ Simon Jr. Of Allakaket (See page 12 To learn about PJ).

See page 8 to see full election results.
Each year, TCC hosts an Annual Potlatch to close off the week of their Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors meeting. The potlatch is held at the Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall in Fairbanks. TCC Senior Managers come to the potlatch to serve food to the delegates and attendees and participate in the festivities. This year, Luke Titus of Minto facilitated the event and helped end the night with traditional drumming and dancing.
During the first two days of TCC’s Annual Convention, a Health Fair was held which provided the opportunity for patients to learn about the services offered through TCC’s Health Services Department and to get to know some of our staff and providers.
2018 Annual Convention

2018 Award Winners & Recognition

TCC Employees of the Year
Lee Meckel, OEH – Urban
Dr. Stu Marcotte, Tok – Rural

Tanana Chief Conference employees are encouraged to nominate another staff member who has demonstrated consistently high work performance as the 2017 Employee of the Year. Executive Managers then will choose two employees, one employee that is village based and one employee that is Fairbanks based to receive this award.

Tribal Administrator of the Year
Brenda Ambrose of Ruby

Operator of the Year
Eric Tremblay

Utility Manager of the Year
Shanda Huntington

Accomplished the Most with Limited Resources
Charles Wright

Patti Hyslop Leadership in Sobriety Award
Vanessa Joseph of Minto

Public Service Recognition
Sergeant Roberts

Special Recognition
Samuel Johns for Humanity Efforts
Kelly Fields for K9 Efforts
Ivan Demientieff
Traditional Chief Joslin Olin
PJ Simon Jr.
2018 TCC Election Results:

TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subregional Positions
- Lower Yukon Subregion - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Eugene Paul, Holy Cross
- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Nick Alexia Sr., Nikolai

Officer Positions
- TCC Secretary/Treasurer - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Jerry Isaac, Tanacross

TCC Regional Health Board
- Yukon Tanana Subregion - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Andrew Jimmie, Minto
- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Walter Stickman Jr., Nulato
- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Nick Alexia Sr., Nikolai

TCC Education Council
- Yukon Flats Subregion - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Nellie Winer, Beaver
- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Gertie Sam, Huslia

Board of Trustees
- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Jennie Pelkola, Galena
- Lower Yukon Subregion - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Andrew Jimmie, Minto
- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Jerry Isaac, Tanacross

Elected: Margie Walker, Grayling
Alaska Federation of Native Representatives
- 1 seat - 1 year term (2018-2019)
  Elected: Julie Roberts-Hyslop, Tanana

Interior Regional Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
- Seat A - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Larry Nathaniel, Circle
- Seat B - 3 year term (2018-2021)
  Elected: Teisha Simmons, Fairbanks

ANTHC Environmental Health and Engineering staff share Portable Alternative Sanitation System with TCC Annual Convention

During the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) annual convention, ANTHC Environmental Health and Engineering staff set up a display Portable Alternative Sanitation System (PASS) unit to demonstrate how the technology works for Tribal attendees.

ANTHC worked with TCC’s Office of Environmental Health (OEH) and Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) to set up the PASS display at the event March 12-13 in Fairbanks.

Over the course of two days, Kaitlin Mattos, a graduate student researcher at the University of Colorado partnered with ANTHC, and Jackie Schaeffer, ANTHC Project Manager, spoke with around 250 people interested in PASS units. Approximately 500 participants viewed the unit.

A panel discussion on March 15 included PASS unit customers Pollack and Julia Simon who shared the impacts of having a PASS unit in their Allakaket home. The Simons are community Elders and haul water a mile from the Allakaket washeteria. They discussed the benefits of the 100-gallon water tank that is part of the PASS unit, which contains sanitized, filtered water and gravity-feeds a bathroom sink for handwashing.

While it took some time to get used to the unit, they explained how having it in their home has benefited their lifestyle: not having to haul water in -40 F; not going outside to use the outhouse in the cold; and using the clean, filtered water from the PASS for washing, drinking, and cooking is definitely a plus.

Julia shared how it has greatly improved the sanitation within their home. The Simon house is just one example of ANTHC’s innovative development of solutions for communities in Alaska where piped water and sewer are not available.

2018 Annual Convention

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Jessica Black
Dr. Jessica Black is a Gwich’in Athabascan from the villages of Gwich’yaa Zhee [Ft. Yukon] and Toghotthele [Nenana], Alaska.

Dr. Black was chosen as TCC’s 2018 Keynote Speaker and focused her speech on community wellness and governance. Working alongside the Council of Athabascan Tribal Government’s Natural Resources Department, Black researched governance and wellbeing in the Yukon Flats. Dr. Black hopes to rewrite the negative narrative surrounding Alaska Native people and encourage, instead, working alongside Alaska Natives. This data would allow those to seek funding that would support the integration of indigenous values in ways of knowing and programing thus focusing on prevention.

An indigenous vision and definition of wellness is based on respect for one’s self and on a focus of working together and taking care of one another at the community level.

It is now documented that our traditional forms of government is enough. By returning to these traditional forms of government we can exercise our values every day and no one is kept out of the circle.

Hunting, fishing, and gathering is important in influencing governance and wellbeing. Protecting this way of life is imperative. “Like the story of my childhood, being on the land not only puts food on the table but gives a deep sense of purpose, spirituality, and grounds for center values. There is no replacement,” says Black.

Julia Salmon-Fisher
Julia Fisher-Salmon was selected as TCC’s 2018 Youth Keynote Speaker.

During her speech, Julia spoke about issues and struggles in our communities and the need for action. She acknowledged the youth delegates, who had just addressed the convention, for their bravery in sharing their stories. Her message to youth focused on having pride in their heritage and not letting the labels put on Alaska Natives and lack of representation in the media dictate the value they see in themselves.

Julia emphasized the strength that our youth hold and their role in the future of the Alaska Native people.

In Julia’s words; “Embrace that rarity, embrace being Alaska Native. You are descendants of some of the strongest people on the planet. You have a rich culture that embodies respect, unity, and perseverance. Those three qualities out of many are valuable. They strengthen who we are as people. They strengthen you. You are stronger than you think.”
TCC to Provide Firefighter Training

By Will Putman
TCC Forestry Director

In late 2016, TCC Forestry successfully negotiated a funding agreement with the BLM/Alaska Fire Service (AFS) that will enable TCC staff to administer RT-130 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training and Work Capacity Testing (pack test) for Emergency Firefighter (EFF) crews at villages under AFS jurisdiction in the Tanana and Galena Zones.

Village visits are being scheduled from late March to the end of April. The projected schedule for the village visits for this training delivery is subject to change and adjustment, but is currently set for the following:

- April 3-4: Kaltag
- April 6-7: Nulato
- April 9-10: Koyukuk
- April 13-14: Ruby
- April 16-17: Galena
- April 19-20: Huslia
- April 25-26: Minto
- April 30-May 1: Tanana
- May 3-4: Hughes
- May 6-7: Allakaket

Questions concerning these training opportunities can be directed to:
James Ludecker (email: james.ludecker@tananachiefs.org, phone ext. 3376) or Clinton Northway (email: clinton.northway@tananachiefs.org, phone ext. 3379).

Any questions for the Alaska Fire Service can be directed to:
Hudson Plass, AFS EFF Coordinator (email: hplass@blm.gov, phone: (907) 356-5611).

Future Leaders Come Forward at Annual Convention

During this year’s TCC 2018 Annual Convention and Full Board of Director’s meeting, 12 youth delegates between the ages of 14-18 were selected to attend this year’s convention, two from each subregion. Alongside the youth were the Emerging Leaders, a group of young leaders-in-training between the ages of 18-21, who were there to assist in coaching the youth delegates as they learned about convention and the operation of Tanana Chiefs Conference.

The 2018 Youth Delegates were:
- Adrienne Turner, Holy Cross/Anvik
- Dominic Howard, Grayling
- Cameron Clairmont, Grayling
- Glenda Druck, Venetie
- Brendan Patsy, Nulato
- Sheldon Albert, Ruby
- Chelsea Charlie, Nenana
- Kristen Law-Sunnyboy, Nenana
- Josh Nikolai, Nikolai
- Brooke Demientieff, Holy Cross/Anvik
- Geneva Wilson, Tetlin
- Caitlin Adams, Venetie

The youth delegates and emerging leaders had a powerful presence during Convention. Each of the youth delegates had the chance to address the convention and speak about issues that were important to them. The Emerging Leaders participated in voicing their concerns during the discussion of proposed resolutions and even passed a resolution that requested they be able to elect the youth delegate to the executive board.

ALL of the Youth Delegate speeches are available to watch on our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/TananaChiefs
Thank you **PJ Simon Jr!**

Tanana Chiefs Conference would like to recognize PJ Simon Jr. for his years of hard work and service to the Executive Board. PJ was elected on to the Executive Board as the Yukon Tanana Subregion representative in 2013 and served two years before getting elected as TCC’s Secretary/Treasurer in 2015 where he has served the last three years. PJ has also served on the Chena Bingo Board from 2013-2018 as well as the Legislative & Litigation Committee and the Advocacy committee. PJ’s efforts and contributions during his time on the Executive Board were greatly appreciated.

In March, Tanana Chiefs Conference premiered the Legacy of Our Elders Volume 4 and Volume 5, a project that documents the lives of 13 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 six subregions to document their language, culture, and history.

Through this grant the Legacy of Our Elders project was created. This project includes five volumes of books and DVD’s, each including interviews with six elders - one from each subregion within the TCC region.

These books and DVD’s will continue to 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 are available to view for free on the TCC website.

The elders interviewed in Volume 4 and Volume 5 are Pauline Peter, Nulato; Bill Stevens, Fort Yukon; Sarah Silas, Minto; Luke and Alice Demientieff, Holy Cross; Lorraine Titus, Northway; Allan Anderson, Takotna; Peter Demoski, Nulato; Elsie Pitka, Beaver; Al Woods, Rampart; Henry Deacon, Grayling; Ruth Ridley, Eagle; and Peter Snow, 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.

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. We look forward to hearing more of these stories.
Order Your Prescription Refills From Your Phone!

The Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) Pharmacy is now able to accept refill requests via the Refill Pro Guide app on your phone! This is a new, easy way to request refills of your medication by entering the RX number or by simply scanning the barcode on your bottle.

How It Works:
2. Find Our Pharmacy. Search for the phone number 907-459-3807 to find the CAIHC Pharmacy
3. Order Your Refill. Selected the ‘Order Refills’ icon, where you can either enter your RX Number (highlighted in yellow on your medication bottle) OR you can scan the barcode on your medication bottle.
4. Complete Order. Select whether you are picking up your medications or if you need it mailed, leave any additional comments, and that’s it!

Download the ReFill Pro App today.

Heating Expenses • Weatherization

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Deadline: April 30th, 2018

Income Limits for 2018

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In March, Nikolai hosted a Spring Culture and Wellness Camp at the Top of the Kuskokwim School’s Forty-six people attended the camp including; children, teenagers, adults, families, and Elders from Nikolai, Takotna, McGrath, and Fairbanks. Cultural activities at the camp included beaver trapping, winter survival skills, the history of Nikolai, beading, sewing, and Elder stories. The camp’s wellness activities included healthy parenting and families, wellness and prevention, cooking skills, and goal setting. Participants also had game and movie nights throughout the camp. Tribes throughout the region continue to host Culture and Wellness Camps funded through Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Administration for Native Americans. Two camps will be hosted in each subregion for the next five years.

This past year, seven Culture and Wellness Camps were held with a total of 612 participants ranging from three years old to Elders. Camps were held in Anvik, Arctic Village, Fort Yukon, Holy Cross, Minto, Nulato, and Tanana. To learn more and watch a short re-cap video from each camp visit our website below. We look forward to another year of Culture and Wellness Camp!

For more information on upcoming camps, visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/culture-and-wellness-camp
2018 TCC Culture & Wellness Camps:

**YUKON TANANA**
- TBD
- TBD

**YUKON FLATS**
- Chalkyitsik - July 9th-13th
- Venetie - May 30 - June 2nd

**LOWER YUKON**
- TBD
- TBD

**UPPER KUSKOKWIM**
- Nikolai - March 19th-23rd
- TBD

**YUKON KOTUKUK**
- TBD
- TBD

**UPPER TANANA**
- Northway - Date TBD
- Tetlin - June 9th-13th
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.

JOIN THE TCC FAMILY
APPLY ONLINE
www.tananachiefs.org

Village Vacancies
- Behavioral Health Aide (Chalkyitsik, Rampart)
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (Chalkyitsik, Circle, Healy Lake)
- Elder Nutrition Cook (Venetie, Nikoali, Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Allakaket)
- Family Visitor (Northway, Allakaket)
- Squad Boss (Tok)
- Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook (Venetie, Shageluk, Nulato, McGrath, Arctic Village, Huslia)
- Tribal Administrator (Stevens Village)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (Koyukuk, McGrath, Healy Lake)
- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist (McGrath)
- Village Public Safety Officer (McGrath, Fort Yukon, Nulato, Grayling, Circle, Ruby, Tanana, Venetie)
- Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member (Tok)

Fairbanks Vacancies
- Addictions Behavioral Health Clinician
- Cancer Care RN Case Manager
- Community Planning Intern
- Coordinator/Instructor Mid-Level Practitioner
- Desktop Support Technician
- Early Intervention Services Clinical Supervisor
- Executive Assistant
- Hospitality Support Staff
- Human Resources Intern
- Itinerant Behavioral Health Clinician
- Lead PWH Residential Care Coordinator
- Nurse Practitioner - Urgent Care
- Pharmacy Technician II
- Physician - Women’s Health
- Physician Assistant - Primary Care
- Rural Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Coordinator
- Security Officer
- Sobering Center Technician
- Solid Waste Technician
- Wellness and Prevention Administrative Assistant

Region-Wide Vacancies
- Tribal Transportation Intern
- Itinerant Clinician - SOC

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Firefighter Refresher Training & Pack Test
April 3-4, 2018 • Kaltag, AK

Firefighter Refresher Training & Pack Test
April 6-7, 2018 • Nulato, AK

Snowshoe Making with George Albert
April 7-8, 2018 • Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center • Fairbanks, AK

Firefighter Refresher Training & Pack Test
April 9-10, 2018 • Nulato, AK

Council Training
April 9-10, 2018 • La Quinta Inn & Suites • Fairbanks, AK

Firefighter Refresher Training & Pack Test
April 13-14, 2018 • Ruby, AK

Rural Energy Conference
April 10-12, 2018 • Westmark Hotel • Fairbanks, AK

Firefighter Refresher Training & Pack Test
April 19-20, 2018 • Huslia, AK

Firefighter Refresher Training & Pack Test
April 25-26, 2018 • Minto, AK

George Atla Jr. Day
April 29, 2018

Firefighter Refresher Training & Pack Test
April 30-May 1, 2018 • Tanana, AK

People who drink 3 or more sugary sodas daily have 62% more dental decay.