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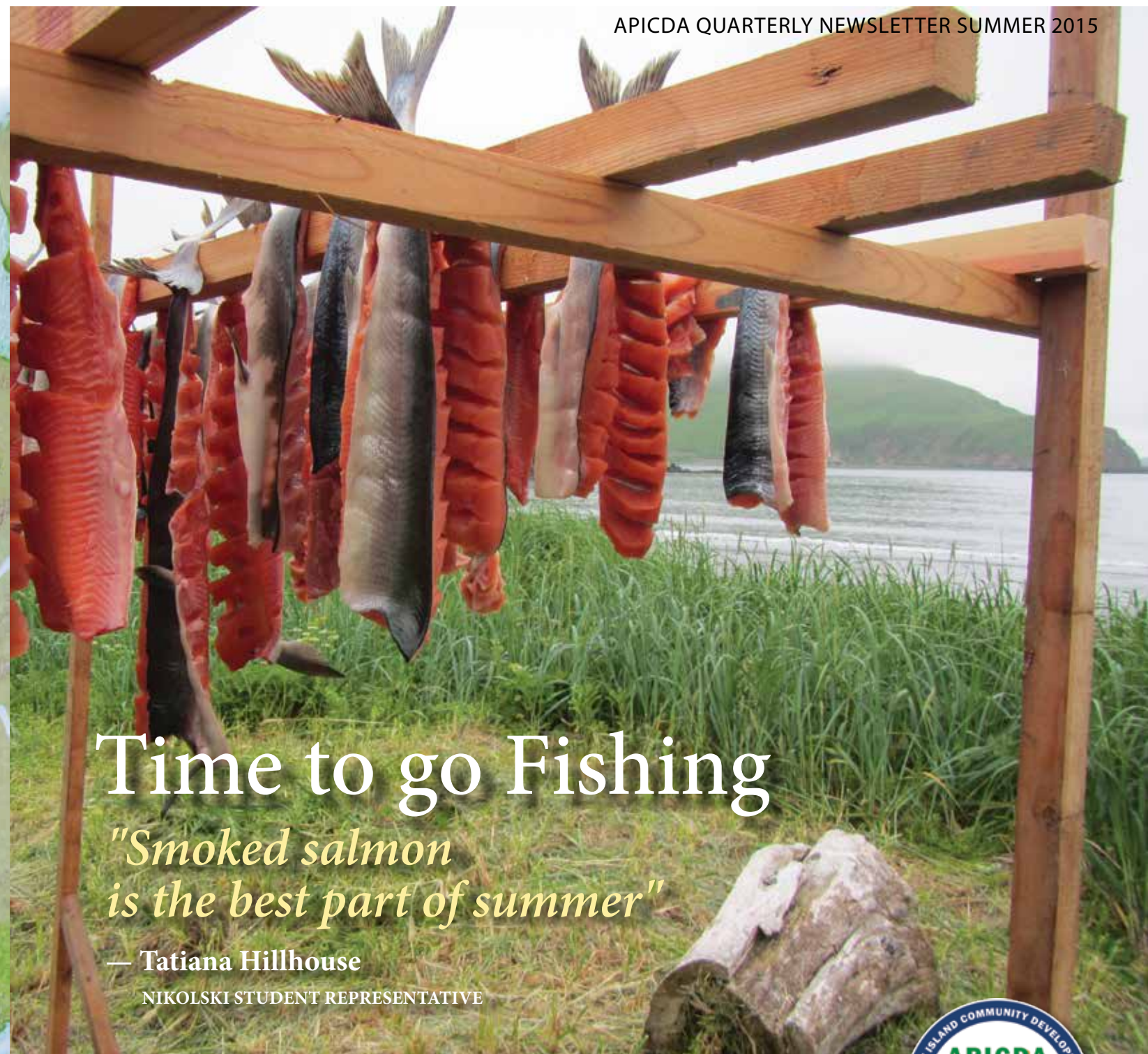
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Aleutian Wave

APICDA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015



APICDA Communities



Time to go Fishing

*"Smoked salmon
is the best part of summer"*

— Tatiana Hillhouse

NIKOLSKI STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

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APICDA

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ON THE COVER:
Pink salmon on drying racks.
Photo by Kenneth Reeves, Unalaska.



www.apicda.com

Message from the CEO



Larry Cotter
Chief Executive Officer

Dear APICDA Communities and Stakeholders,

As I write this the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is debating what to do with halibut bycatch. The issue is complex and extremely emotional. On one side is the groundfish trawl sector, primarily the head and gut Amendment 80 fleet, but also the pollock fishery, the cod fishery and every other fishery that takes halibut as bycatch. On the other side is the directed longline fishery and halibut dependent communities, including St. George, Atka and St. Paul.

The problem is that the groundfish fisheries need to catch halibut as bycatch in order to also catch their target fish, and that bycatch reduces

*"The bottom line is —
we support our communities."*

the amount of halibut that can be harvested by the directed halibut fishery. To make matters worse, all the halibut bycatch harvested is thrown away, dead or alive. The amount of bycatch taken and

thrown away is huge in comparison to the directed halibut fishery. And this has equally huge ramifications for our halibut fishermen and our halibut dependent communities.

The recommended quota for the Bering Sea this year by staff from the International Pacific Halibut Commission would have resulted in a harvest of 12,000 pounds for St. George and 130,000 pounds for Atka. That would have meant essentially no fishery for St. George and a very abbreviated fishery for Atka. Neither is acceptable. Fortunately, the Amendment 80 sector was able to convince the Commission members that they could reduce their halibut bycatch this year enough to allow the preceding year's halibut quota to remain in place. We dodged a bullet, but there's another one right behind until and unless we solve this problem.

Both sides in this argument are hard down on their positions. The groundfish fisheries insist they must have their bycatch or they will be forced out of business. The halibut fishermen cannot afford any further reductions in the quotas. Something and someone has to give.

APICDA has interests in all of the fisheries. We don't want to see the trawl fisheries shut down, we don't want to support waste, and we don't want our halibut fishermen and communities to suffer. Our bottom line, however, is we support our communities: *under no circumstance should the existing halibut quotas in our areas be reduced beyond where they are at right now.* Period. If that means the groundfish fisheries need to be curtailed, so be it.

Having said that, I truly believe the different facets of our fishing industry can positively work together. Compromise, trust and good faith are required. There are few irrational people in our industry; most folks believe in good management, conservation, and being fair. No one really supports waste.

We have the most sophisticated fishing industry in the world. We can do things no one else can do. It's time for everyone to step up to the plate, work together and solve this problem. ▲

Larry Cotter, APICDA Chief Executive Officer

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

CANNON FISH COMPANY hosted an opening event in May at their new seafood processing plant in Kent, Washington. Congressman Don Young and Washington's Ninth District Congressman Adam Smith attended along with APICDA's Board Member Justine Gundersen, from Nelson Lagoon. The offices of Washington Senators Murray and Cantwell were represented in addition to Gov. Inslee's Washington Maritime Industry office.

"The reason we constructed this plant in Washington State instead of Alaska is pretty basic," explained Larry Cotter, APICDA CEO. "There is no transportation link between the Aleutians and anywhere else in Alaska unless we ship down to Seattle and then back up north—which doesn't make economic sense. APICDA has spent \$17 million in False Pass the last three years to construct a year round processing plant and a fuel terminal. We probably have another \$5 million to go. APICDA needs to expand our Atka plant to year round capability —probably another \$17 million. We need to construct a harbor in St. George—at least another \$10 million. APICDA will not generate enough money from our royalties and revenues from our community investments to cover these costs; hence, we must also be invested in out-of-community businesses, like Cannon Fish Company, that are profitable," added Cotter.

This facility ties directly to APICDA's processing plants in Alaska—the Atka Pride Seafoods plant in Atka and the Bering Pacific Seafoods plant in False Pass—and enhances the viability of all three facilities. The new facility also demonstrates that CDQ investments benefit communities and states beyond Alaska.

"We are pleased to be opening this new energy efficient, state of the art facility in Kent to process premium Alaska seafood that positively impacts commerce in two states and feeds the world. Owning and operating a primary and secondary processing plant of our own has long been a goal of Cannon Fish Company. This facility will provide us the ability to reduce costs and control our own production. It is a game changer for us," explains Pat Rogan, Cannon Fish Company's President.

APICDA acquired Cannon Fish Company in August 2013. CFC is a value-added seafood processing and marketing company that caters to a nationwide network of retailers, restaurants, specialty grocers and institutions. ▲



The Honorable Don Young, Congressman from Alaska, helped cut the ribbon with APICDA Board Member Justine Gundersen at the official opening in May.



Glenn Reed, President of Pacific Seafood Processors Association served as Master of Ceremonies. Pictured behind from left: Larry Cotter, Congressman Don Young, Congressman Adam Smith, Pat Rogan, Erik Allen and Justine Gundersen.



Above left: Erik Allen, Chief Financial Officer for Cannon Fish guided visitors on the tour of the new facilities. Above: Cannon employee Ciro Garcia gives a 'thumbs up' with CFC President Pat Rogan.



Left: Event organizers Angela Martinez, Office Administrator for Cannon Fish Company and Kari Johnston, National Sales Rep.

Welcome New Staff



CLARENCE GOULD, AVI Fleet Manager, joined the APICDA team in March. Clarence is from Cold Bay, Alaska and brings with him over 10 years of experience in the fishing industry. He has a BS in Business Management and has extensive experience working in a corporate setting with Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and KONE, Inc. Clarence enjoys fishing, hunting and construction.



LOUANN O'CONNOR, Purchasing Manager, also joined our team in March. She brings over 20 years of experience in supply chain management and purchasing. She recently moved back to Alaska from Oregon where she was a private procurement contractor working with Nike, Intel and Hewlett-Packard. Lou is pleased to be back in Alaska and loves fishing and hunting.



KEVIN FREDERIC, is our new Fuel Farm Manager at False Pass and comes to us with over 20 years experience in the petroleum industry, most recently, Kevin served as operations manager for Dimond Parking in Anchorage.



DAWN ROBINETTE has accepted the position of BPS Office Assistant in False Pass. She has lived and worked in Alaska most of her life with a work history that includes bookkeeping, property management, human resources and production analysis. ▴

2015 Community Conference

APICDA's 17th annual Community Outreach Conference held in April was a great success with a record attendance of 130 participants.

APICDA CEO Larry Cotter presented an overview of APICDA and AJV subsidiary operations. He spoke on all aspects of the company and highlighted 2014 business activities. Management and staff presented on both days and gave detailed reports from each division in APICDA and APICDA Joint Ventures. Also in attendance were our fishing partners from Starbound, Alaska Longline, Trident and Ocean Peace. They touched on operational and harvesting activities from 2014.

A representative from each community governing entity was asked to prepare a short presentation to the APICDA Board on the current needs, future goals and community concerns. It is clear that there are challenges, but exciting to see the opportunity in each community for economic growth. The youth representatives gave upbeat presentations and had great ideas on promising business ventures for the futures of their communities.

We would like to thank all of our guest speakers and Aleutian Marketplace winners who helped make this year's conference a success. ▴



Akutan Community Liaison Officer, April Pelkey helps daughter Veronika model the APICDA souvenir backpack during the conference.

St. George Health Fair

Aleutian Pribilof Island Association (APIA) hosted a health fair in St. George this March. APICDA was pleased to support the event by providing door prizes including Delta Western fuel gift certificates. William Merculief was one of three lucky residents to win a certificate.

Health Aide Jennifer Merculief (right) administered glucose tests during the annual health fair.

Local and regional health fairs are part of APIA's Wellness Programs. ▴



Student representatives; Anesia "Pepsi" Kudrin (Akutan), John Garduque (Unalaska), Tatiana Hillhouse (Nikolski) and Regan Hoblet (False Pass) with little siblings in tow. Not shown: Samantha McNeley (Nelson Lagoon).



The 2015 Community Outreach Conference was held April 28-29 in the Aleutian Room at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel with record attendance.

Congratulations! Aleutian Marketplace Competition Winners

APICDA and the Aleut Corporation (TAC) are pleased to announce the second round of Aleutian Marketplace Business Idea Competition winners.

First Place Award \$1,000

ANNE MORRIS of Sand Point won the innovative idea competition with the *JD BELTZ*, a safety improvement alteration for a knife sheath on a belt that fishermen currently use.

Second Place Award \$ 650

ANNE MORRIS also won for *Simply Homemade* —selling baked goods such as alaadi-kaʻ (fry bread), and salmon and rice filled piroshkies seasoned with wild herbs from Sand Point.

Third Place Award \$ 350

IVAN HOBLET of False Pass and PRISCILLA MILLER of King Cove tied for 3rd place. Ivan presented *Unangax Berries*, a sustainable tourism company where participants harvest berries and are taught the cultural aspect of home-made jam making.

Priscilla submitted *The Yin Yang Floating Food Truck* concept which offers the all-American burger and fries which is called YANG. Or a more healthy option called YIN such as a wrap, soup or smoothie. The truck would reach customers via the Alaska State Ferry System and be stationed in communities along the Aleutian chain during the summer.



Anne Morris, Priscilla Miller, judge Allan Johnston and Evangelina Kenezuroff.



CEO Larry Cotter congratulates Ivan Hoblet, 3rd place winner.

The Former Resident prize \$ 500

EVANGELINA KENEZUROFF formerly of King Cove won with her proposed *Aleutian Mobile Auto Repair*, a tow truck that would travel on the Alaska ferry to pick up vehicles in need of repair. The plan would also send mechanics out to give community presentations to teach basics of general automobile maintenance.

Award winners presented their ideas to the APICDA Board and Community Representatives during the April Community Conference. Judges Casey Campbell, Tim Pearson and Allan Johnston selected the three award winners out of 11 submissions for the second phase of the pilot project that wrapped up

March 13, 2015. The structure of the Marketplace is two-tiered; the first tier has two business idea competition phases now complete and the second tier is a business plan competition. The second tier business plan competition kicks off at the Aleut Corporation shareholder meeting in October.

"We are pleased that the first tier of this competition yielded 23 unique business concepts. Promoting commerce and innovation in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands region is tied very closely to APICDA's purpose to stabilize the local economies of our member communities," said Larry Cotter, APICDA CEO. Thomas Mack, President of the Aleut Corporation added, "The residents of our region have great talent and resourcefulness and it's been meaningful for us to be invested in the success of this pilot project." ▴

Atka gets a visit from the US Coast Guard

Story and photos by Crystal Dushkin

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Alex Haley* made a visit to Atka on April 21, 2015. They had contacted the community before their visit to ask what service, if any, they could provide for the community. One suggestion was to replace a number of old and broken or missing crosses in the cemetery surrounding St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, in the center of Atka village. So they made 20 new crosses, which they brought ashore via Coast Guard Helicopter.

Part of the crew then came ashore via small boat at APS dock to carry out the work of removing the old crosses and replacing them with the new ones. Commanding Officer Stephen White accompanied by Ensign Kristen Euchler and the crew of the helicopter made a visit to Netsvetov School and brought a treat of chocolate ice cream for the students and teachers. The community of Atka very much appreciated the special visit made by the Coast Guard. Mark Snigaroff, APICDA Board Chair and President of the Native Village of Atka Tribe, presented the workers and Commander White with a memento of Atka, the Niigugim Tanasxaa Culture Camp hoodie sweatshirts, as thanks for what they had done for the community.

That same day, coincidentally, the P/V *Stimpson* of the Alaska Wildlife Troopers also happened to stop by for a visit. Several Wildlife Troopers came ashore and caught a ride to the school where they held an interactive presentation with the students about water safety and the importance of wearing life jackets when out on the water. The students enjoyed their visit as well and were reminded of the important message: "Kids don't float!"



Crystal Dushkin (center in blue) and Mark Snigaroff welcomed the Coast Guard to Atka in April 2015.



Head teacher Sally Swetzof and students of Netsvetov School got a visit and presentation from Alaska Wildlife Troopers of the P/V *Stimpson*.

New Playground in Atka

Story by Julie Dirks

The City of Atka completed installation of playground equipment in August 2014. The playground is located on an unused Aleutian Housing Authority lot in the HUD housing area where most of Atka's children live. The site is being leased from AHA by the City.

Items placed on the playground include swings, slides, climbing apparatus, spinners, and spring riders. Space is available to add a few additional items to the playground in the future. The project was funded using APICDA community dividend funds to purchase equipment and City of Atka funds for freight and labor costs. Total cost is around \$28,500.

The playground meets the needs of one group of Atkans. Recreation for everyone was identified by Atka residents as

one of the priorities for Atka during community planning sessions initiated by the City of Atka during 2014.

The official opening was held on September 1, 2014. Nearly the entire community attended a barbeque sponsored by the City that was held at the playground. September 1 is the date the City of Atka incorporated in 1988 so it was decided to hold the barbeque annually on Labor Day at the playground in recognition of City incorporation. ▴



New playground in Atka. Photo by Christopher Maly.

CONDOLANCES



ELIJAH "ELI" ETHAN JOHNSON died in an unfortunate accident on Friday, April 3, 2015, in Nelson Lagoon, Alaska. He was born on March 30, 1994, in Anchorage, Alaska. As a lifetime Alaska resident, he grew up and spent time in Adak, Sitka and Nelson Lagoon. Eli touched the lives of everyone he met along the way. He was a presence in the lives of those he touched and no friend or family member will ever forget his beautiful smile and his joking nature. Eli was active and involved in everything from fishing to mechanics to helping family and friends, and loved hanging out with family and friends. Whatever he did, it was always with determination to strive for the best. Elijah is survived by his mother, Dona Highstone; stepfather, John Highstone Jr.; sister, Jordan Johnson; brother, Isaiah Johnson; stepbrother, Brandon Highstone; grandparents, Harold and Jenny Johnson; step-grandparents, John and Roberta Highstone; aunts; uncles; countless cousins; and many, many friends. He will be greatly missed by all he touched.

ALICE B. DUVALL, 75, passed away on May 13, 2015, at her home in Anchorage. A visitation and service was held Saturday, May 16, 2015, at St. Innocent's Russian Orthodox. Pallbearers included: Andrew Philemonof, Dirk Skibicki, Jeff Kashevarof, Steven Kashevarof and Arthur Stepetin



with Father John Zabinko officiating. Alice was born on April 22, 1940, in Akutan, Alaska. She worked at the Akutan School and the clinic. Alice especially enjoyed puzzles, reading, knitting, crocheting and bingo. Family states, "Our mother was our best friend, kind, willing to help out others and always there in time of need. She will always be in our hearts and never forgotten. We love you, our dearest mother!"

Alice is survived by her son, Andrew R. Philemonof of Anchorage; daughter, Shirley S. Greene of Florida; daughter and son-in-law, Janell and Dirk Skibicki of Anchorage; daughter and son-in-law, Georgia and Jeff Kashevarof of Anchorage; grandchildren, Randy Philemonof of St. George Island, Alaska, Andrew Philemonof Jr. of Anchorage, Shawn Philemonof of Akutan, Steven Kashevarof of Anchorage, Cameron Mullan of Soldotna, Alaska, Ron Lee Randall of South Dakota, Derrek Philemonof of St. George Island, Darren Philemonof of Kodiak, Alaska, Elaine Philemonof of Anchorage, Amanda Malavansky of St. George Island, Allison Askoak of Anchorage, Rhonda Rockhill of Florida, Sara Greene of Florida, Jacquelyn Pozel of Anchorage, Charissa Philemonof of Anchorage and Janessa Philemonof of Kodiak; brothers, Jacob Stepetin of Akutan and Arthur Stepetin of Anchorage; sisters, Florence Anderson of Akutan, Jenny Webster of Akutan, Vera Pelkey of Akutan, Anita Pelkey of Homer, Alaska, and Agnes Holmberg of Washington; along with many great-grandchildren; extended family members; and friends. Alice is preceded in death by her father, Arthur; mother, Matrona; sisters, Anna and Pauline; and brothers, Sam, Peter and Thomas. Alice was laid to rest in the Akutan Cemetery in Akutan, Alaska. ▴



APICDA Training & Education Programs

APICDA offers higher education and supplemental scholarship programs to support and encourage the education and training goals of community residents. The programs enable our residents to have access to college and university programs and to qualify for jobs within the region that may otherwise be filled by non-CDQ residents.

To Apply:

Applications must be completed, submitted and RECEIVED in the APICDA office by:

- APRIL 1 for the summer term(s).
- JULY 1 for the fall and spring semesters award.
- NOVEMBER 15 for the spring semester award.

For Information about application instructions and requirements:

Please contact APICDA's Training & Education Coordinator Anfesia Tutiakoff at (907) 929-5273, toll free: 1-888-927-4232 or email at education@apicda.com or at: www.apicda.com



Emil William Berikoff Sr.
1944 - 2012

Emil Berikoff, Sr. served on the APICDA board for 15 years. His contributions as a trusted board member and to the APICDA community were invaluable.

Attention Part-time and Full-time College Students:

APICDA is proud to offer the Emil Berikoff Sr. Memorial Scholarship to students of the APICDA communities. The application is available on our website at www.apicda.com.

To qualify applicants must meet the following criteria:

Be formally accepted to a college or university and take 6 or more credits per semester for part-time and 12 or more credits for full-time students.

- Maintain a 2.0 GPA.
- Submit a completed application by July 1, 2015.
- Meet one of the two residency requirements:

Have a historical relationship to one of the following communities Atka, Akutan, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, St. George, or Unalaska or at least five years current residency in one of the seven APICDA communities.

Scholarship Forgiveness Guidelines

This program offers forgiveness to students who default in an APICDA scholarship program. The purpose is to encourage students and those who have defaulted in the past to return to school or seek vocational training and to consider APICDA as a funding source and possible employer.

A scholarship student who defaults on an APICDA scholarship will not be eligible for future funding until the following has been approved by APICDA's Training and Education Committee:

Emil Berikoff Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Students who default in year 1 or 2 of college may request probation for a total of two terms.

Students who default on probation or do not request probation must complete one term of college or university without funds from APICDA and meet the established guidelines of GPA and credit level. Official transcripts will be required to verify student's re-qualification term.

Supplemental Education Scholarship

A resident who defaults in the Supplemental Education Scholarship program will not be eligible for funding for one year from the program's start date. After one year they may re-apply for funding. If funded, they receive one half of their award at the beginning of their program and are required to provide a progress report from the instructor regarding progress in the program and likelihood for completion. Second half of funds will be awarded upon a satisfactory progress report.

Applicants who default in either of the scholarship programs above must follow the forgiveness guidelines if they choose to apply for future APICDA funding.



APICDA Program Coordinator Anfesia Tutiakoff with Tatiana Hillhouse, student representative from Nikolski, who gave a report during the 2015 Community Conference.

Student Loan Repayment Program

This program repays a specific dollar amount (up to \$5,000 per year) of a graduate student's loan as long as the program requirements are met. This program was created because APICDA no longer awards scholarships to students who are pursuing graduate degrees or higher. The main focus is to encourage graduates of the APICDA Region to return to the region for employment and career opportunities.

The program went into effect on January 1, 2014, and will only include students who are enrolled in a degree program on January 1, 2013, or later. An applicant must have maintained full-time residency in one of the APICDA communities for at least five years immediately before the application date, and must intend to return to, or work for the benefit of, the APICDA region upon award of a degree.

Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Program

Each APICDA member community has a Community Liaison Officer (CLO). The CLO is your local contact for information about APICDA. Each of our CLO's is dedicated to giving you information on our Training & Education programs. Please don't hesitate to contact your local CLO for information and referral. Thank you!

Have questions? Your CLO can assist you with:

- Employment openings with APICDA and our fishing partners
- Scholarship applications and information
- Enrollment in local training sponsored by APICDA
- Internship applications and information
- School Grant information and application help
- APICDA Miscellaneous Grant Program
- A resource for information when you are looking to further your education.

2015 APICDA CLO's:

April Pelkey – akutancl@apicda.com

Crystal Dushkin – atkaclo@apicda.com

Carleen Hoblet – falsepassclo@apicda.com

Katie Johnson – nelsonlagooncl@apicda.com

Vincent Lestenkof – nikolskiclo@apicda.com

Melanie Prokopiof – stgeorgecl@apicda.com

Okalena Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory
– unalaskaclo@apicda.com

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE is
July 1, 2015 for the
Fall 2015-Spring 2016
School Year!**



Harriet Berikoff is Honored

APICDA would like to send an enormous Thank You to Harriet Berikoff of Unalaska for her many years of outstanding service and dedication as Community Liaison Officer.



"Thank you for your steadfast commitment to furthering APICDA's mission through your long and productive career as a Community Liaison Officer (CLO). We are deeply grateful for your service and advocacy in Unalaska."



Your dedication to promoting APICDA's scholarship program stands out as one of your many accomplishments during your tenure. We have witnessed significant interest and growth in our scholarships throughout the region and we credit the grassroots efforts of our CLO force who take the necessary time to meet with and inspire the next generation. Your encouraging support of Unalaska students will have lasting impact on their lives and the future of the region." —Larry Cotter, CEO

"It was a pleasure working with Harriet for 11 years. She was very committed to our students and dedication to APICDA and her role as Unalaska CLO. I knew I could always count on her as our CLO and appreciated her support and feedback. Growing up in Unalaska, I've known Harriet for most of my life and it was an honor to work with her at APICDA. Thank you, Harriet!" —Laura Delgado, Director Quality Assurance. ▴

Training & Education Programs *(continued)*

CHANTAE KOCHUTEN, Travel and Board Coordinator at APICDA, has graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Originally from False Pass, Chantae attended high school at Mt. Edgecumbe prior to enrolling at UAA. Scholarship programs at APICDA and the Aleut Foundation

helped Chantae to finance her education.

In March, Chantae was invited to speak at the South West Alaska Municipal Conference's (SWAMC) Economic Summit on a panel entitled, Listening to the Next Generation. The panel featured millennials from rural Alaska successfully engaged in the workforce. Chantae encouraged employers to be flexible with student's schedules and to invite scholarship students to participate in conferences like SWAMC. "Conferences like these are great for networking and for students to see their home and region from a different perspective." Chantae noted that she started off as a scholarship recipient and then was invited to intern at APICDA; at the end of her summer internship she was offered a job.

In April, Chantae was invited to attend the Future Arctic Leaders workshop in Ottawa, Canada to discuss key economic, social and environmental issues in the Arctic region. Over 20 participants, between the ages of 21-30, attended the workshop. The Future Arctic Leaders came from Canada, U.S., Norway and Russia, as well as from the Council's indigenous Permanent Participant organizations, including the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Aleut International Association, the Saami Council and the Arctic Athabaskan Council.

The workshop provided an opportunity to raise awareness among the future leaders of the work of the Arctic Council, and to create a sense of shared community, engagement and leadership on issues of common interest to young people in the Arctic.



NIKITA ROBINSON graduated this spring with a Bachelor of Science in Environment and Society at the University of Alaska Anchorage. "With receiving the generous donations of the Emil Berikoff Sr. Memorial Scholarship, I was able to obtain a Bachelor's degree and achieve this big milestone in my life. I am very thankful for the great opportunity APICDA is able to provide for the Aleuts of Alaska."



ROBIN STEPETIN is from Akutan and is serving as an intern for APICDA's Human Resources and Training and Education Departments in the Anchorage office. She is attending the University of Alaska Anchorage, studying Justice with a minor in Legal Studies. Robin would like to become a Probation Officer or Juvenile Justice Officer after she graduates in the spring of 2016.



SHASTA ANDERSON has been in the Medical Technology Program for 4 years at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She will be returning as a full-time student in the fall and hopes to finish her degree and graduate with her Bachelors of Science. Shasta was hired to intern in the Anchorage APICDA office for the Tourism department.



CELESTE KUKAHIKO is a resident of Unalaska, and graduated this spring from the Unalaska City School District. APICDA and the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA) worked together to create an internship at the APIA office in Unalaska where she will be working at the Oon-Alaska Wellness Center with the APIA staff in the Primary Care Services Department. Celeste has been accepted to the University of Hawaii, and will be attending this fall. ▴



APICDA was delighted to support the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association's Capture the Culture Gala in March. APICDA's senior management attended the event and secured the winning bid for this stunning mask entitled "Forget Me Not" by David Groat. David is a descendant of the Qagaan Tayaungin tribe of the Unangan people. David's ancestors are from Unimak, the easternmost island of the Aleutian Islands which extend westward from the Alaska mainland. Influenced by the land, the sea and his people, his art reflects his culture, yet is contemporary in design. David is a graduate of the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe and has won many awards for his imaginative clay masks and sculptures. ▴



Red fox at Sandy River, photo by Trevor Covich 2014.

Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association



2015 Photo CONTEST

Get Ready, Get Set, Get Snapping!

We are looking for images from the APICDA communities of:

Atka, Akutan, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, St. George and Unalaska.

All original photos must be maximum resolution for quality reproduction use in APICDA's 2016 Calendar and/or 2015 Holiday Card. Capture the seasons, holiday traditions, cultural events, people at work, children at play, wildlife and scenics.

*Click often and send us your best shots by **5:00 pm** on October 1, 2015*



APICDA • 717 K Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • 1-888-927-4232 • media@apicda.com

Meet Alvin Merculief

Alvin Merculief describes himself as a “jack of all trades” which is not surprising when you learn about his interesting life.



Born to Nicholai and Agatha Merculief on St George Island in the 1950s, Alvin grew up with 13 siblings. At that time, St. George was run by the federal government. Alvin attended early school there until it was time to leave home to attend the Chema-wa Indian School in Salem, Oregon run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs

(BIA). His high school years were broken up by summers back on St. George working for the government harvesting fur seals and doing the difficult work of ‘blubbering’.

When commercial fur seal harvesting ended in 1973, there was biology survey work available.

International agreements to conserve declining fur seals were made with Great Britain (for Canada), Japan, Russia, and the United States in 1911 and again in 1957. In 1984, the U.S. ended commercial harvest of northern fur seals within U.S. waters. (NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resource)

After high school, Alvin stayed home a year to care for his ailing mother. He then relocated to Anchorage and enrolled in Aerotech Flight School at Merrill Field and in 2.5 years he earned his private pilot license, commercial pilot license, floatplane rating, multi-engine rating and instrument rating.

Busy years began when Alvin married Anna in 1979 and they had 3 children, all born in Anchorage. In 1981 Alvin was hired by Alaska Hovercraft and worked for the company for 7 years. He gained his Coast Guard hovercraft license, number 003, which means he was the third person to earn a commercial hovercraft license in Alaska. In 1985 he piloted a hovercraft from Anchorage to Bristol Bay via Cook Inlet, to Lake Illiamna, then up the Kvichak River and out to Naknek, where the craft was used to tender salmon set-nets. The vessel was flown back to Anchorage on a C1-30 airplane.

When Alaska Hovercraft closed the business, Alvin moved to St. Paul Island and worked for 3 years as a mechanic for the city. He then moved back home to St. George to work as a mechanic on the federally-funded harbor project.

These turbulent times had the Pribilof Islands of St. George and St. Paul competing for the halibut harvest. The U.S. government stepped in to help solve the problem of resource allotment and fisherman’s associations were organized. Alvin became President of the St. George Fisherman’s Association.



Sunrise over St. George village. Below left: St. George harbor 2014. —Photos by Aaron Merculief.

A young man named Larry Cotter was hired as an advisor to help form the first Community Development Association (CDQ) and APICDA was formed in 1992. For the first two years Alvin served as vice-president. He resigned this position when he was hired as Public Works Director for St. George Island, a position he held for the next 20 years, also serving as mayor for 10 years.

In February of 2011, Alvin moved back to Anchorage when hired as Port Engineer for APICDA Vessels, Inc. He says it was a “lucky move.” He likes to build and fly model planes and helicopters as does his son, Aaron, who has taken some amazing aerial views over the island of St. George.

When asked what advice he would give to a young person in today’s world, Alvin said, “Go to school, man. Don’t be a slave, pursue your goals.” ▲



The Joy of Flight on St. George Island

These photos were taken from video shot with a GoPro Hero 3. I capture 1080p video and take a still shot using computer software. I used a RC HobbyZone Super Cub (electric) I got as a birthday gift from my wife. I quickly picked up the basics of RC (remote control) flight and now fly all the time, always trying to capture aerial views of our beautiful St. George Island. I recently got an acrobatic plane for stunt flying which carries the GoPro easier than the Cub.

My dad was always into aviation and I have been ever since I can remember. There’s joy in seeing a remote controlled plane flying through the sky and you get to enjoy it all over again when you see the video.

I’ve uploaded some videos to my YouTube channel but slow internet on the island can make it difficult. Here is the link to my latest video, “High Altitude Flying 4/12/15 St. George Island, Alaska”

<https://youtu.be/1IXfZwHepQ>

Thanks for using my photos, I’m just trying to share St. George Island. —Aaron Merculief.



Aaron Merculief, wife Jennifer and daughter Ashley.

APICDA Vision Statement:

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) will develop commercial and sport fishing industry related opportunities to enhance the long-term social and economic viability of the coastal communities and their residents in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands.

APICDA will optimize benefits to its member communities and their residents through the development of infrastructure and fishery support services in the communities, the acquisition of seafood related businesses, including fishing vessels and/or processing facilities and support service industries at economically beneficial prices, and the acquisition of harvest and processing rights. By enabling the communities to participate in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island fisheries,

APICDA will:

- Promote and participate in business opportunities with capital investment funds;
- Relieve chronic social problems through the creation of jobs, and encourage individual growth through educational and vocational opportunities;
- Promote community control over their individual economic and social destinies; and,
- Continue to assist each community as they make the transition from reliance upon a CDQ allocation to economic and social self-sufficiency.



Who We Are

APICDA (Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association) is a vertically integrated seafood company responsibly harvesting, processing and marketing wild Alaskan crab, pollock, cod, black cod, halibut and salmon from the Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean in a sustainable manner. We maintain the highest standards of quality for our wild Alaskan seafood from the icy ocean waters to the table.

The Aleutian WAVE quarterly report is produced by APICDA in Anchorage, Alaska. Inquiries or comments may be directed to: Media Department: APICDA 717 K Street, Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 929-5273 / Toll-Free: 1-(888) 9-APICDA / Fax: (907) 929-5275 Email: media@apicda.com / Website: www.apicda.com

About APICDA

APICDA (Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit incorporated in the state of Alaska. Our charitable purpose is to develop stable local economies in our member communities of Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski and St. George.

Our focus on community development sets us apart from the typical seafood company. The region’s seafood resources have provided for families in our communities through many generations. By doing business with APICDA, you assist our work to better the lives of people in the communities throughout the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands.