

# Healy Lake Newsletter

## First Quarter, 2019



Healy Lake, January 2019 (PC: Alissa Healy)

### Reminders & Upcoming Events:

- > Please update your tribal enrollment information and contact information!  
(visit: [healylaketribealaska.com/updatecontact](http://healylaketribealaska.com/updatecontact))
- > Council Meetings & Youth Council Meetings
- > 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Alaska Tribal Court Conference (April 29 to May 1, Fairbanks)
- > 2019 Denakkanaaga Elders & Youth Conference (June 4-6, Nulato)

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## The Latest News & Stories

### Happy New Year!

We had many ups and downs throughout 2018, so everyone should be proud of the hard work and dedication they have brought forth for Healy Lake through both bountiful and difficult times. Let's make 2019 an even more productive, successful year! As a reminder, please remember to travel safely during break-up season.

### Spring 2019 Subregional, Westmark Fairbanks

The Upper Tanana Spring Subregional was held March 8-9 in Fairbanks at the Westmark Hotel. Delegates from every village were present, including Herbert Demmit of Tanacross, Nathaniel Gene of Tetlin, Daisy Northway of Tok, Tracey Charles of Dot Lake, Ben Junabe of Eagle, Chaiiy Albert of Northway, and Evelyn Combs, Gary Healy Jr., and Alissa Healy of Healy Lake. A number of topics were covered, including upcoming events, elections, job training and recruitment, progress on the Tok clinic, budget cut threats to education across the state, and village reports.

Decisions at the meeting appointed Tanacross as the Fall 2019 Subregional location and Tanacross and Healy Lake as the locations for our subregion's 2019 culture camps. Currently, we have ideas of drum making, beading, hiking, and fishing. Community members should expect employment opportunities to help facilitate our culture camp.

Elections consisted of voting to fill the Upper Tanana Health Representative seat and the Upper Tanana Education Representative seat. The seats have recently been filled by Nick Gene and Daisy Northway, and our new health representative is Sylvia Pitka of Northway and our new education representative is Diane Titus of Tanacross.

We also learned about the several new training and job opportunities. Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is coordinating a possible heavy equipment training, most likely to be held in Eagle or Tok. They are planning to have things in order by spring so that trainees can have an opportunity to use their new skills throughout the summer months. If interested, TCC will pay for one person per tribe to attend the training. In addition, tribal members have opportunities to attend CDL training in Tok and to apply to work for the 2020 Census. Those who are hired to work for the 2020 Census will perform data collecting duties within their home communities and receive competitive wages. You can visit <https://2020census.gov/jobs> for more information.

Chief Victor Joseph also gave a report on the progress of the Tok clinic. Construction of the clinic is under way and he hopes to see it completed within the end of his term of TCC presidency. It's a multi-million dollar project, so he's doing his best to see things go right.

On another note, one of the main concerns that was brought up at the meeting was about Governor Mike Dunleavy's proposed budget cuts to education. Dunleavy has proposed dropping both general education and higher education funding dramatically

across the state, as well as severely cutting down on employed staff and teachers. Ed Alexander (TCC's Education Program Manager) projects that nearly half of Alaska's teachers will be laid off if the budget cuts pass, which will make it more difficult for rural communities to retain teachers. Tribal members are urged to voice their concerns to representatives Click Bishop and Dave Talerico; the Healy Lake Traditional Council has plans to send out two fillable *Rural Alaska Matters* postcards to each of our tribal members.

We were pleased to listen to village reports and hear that each of our subregion's tribes have made strides on their particular projects. Almost every delegate brought up a main concern as well, so we held some discussions on possible plans of action. Readers can view Healy Lake's village report in the following section, below.

### **Healy Lake Village Spring 2019 Subregional Report (Written By: Gary Healy Jr.)**

Healy Lake has made many steps forward along with many struggles. Roughly 8 years ago, our village had very little services. Our tribal council and administrator have been successful in many areas. Our washeteria is fully functional with affordable services. We had some freeze-up issues with our septic and lift station pump failure which caused a very short shut down. Our water has been tested regularly and extra filtration has been added to any drinking water station.

We have accomplished many of our goals by completing our community hall roof and extensions, which was in our community plan. Also, we were able to recycle the old metal roofing for a pavilion covering our potlatch/gathering platform. We started renovation on a tribally owned home, utilizing it as a bunk house rental/shared living space primarily with unrestricted funds. There are ideas to increase the housing potential for members and employees in the future, mostly want to ensure we utilize the most economical route.



Healy Lake has suffered the loss of two of its younger generation, one being a strong advocate and leader. We have been reaching out for as much law enforcement presence as possible for several years. There has been a letter of advocacy for funding to small tribes off the road system sent to Lisa Murkowski by our tribal council. Many of the issues that arise are generally drug or alcohol related, so our council has amended its policies for all employees and council members to submit to a hair follicle test pre-employment, at random, or upon election.

One of our tribal members was picked and is currently working as our grant development specialist. There are two projects being applied for. Some being a small scale biomass system and wood chip harvesting equipment for our public facilities. Also approved by our council and youth council, we are seeking out some sort of match grant for Healy Lake's first playground and outdoor basketball court.

We started on our clinic extension and rehab. in the summer. There were five community members on payroll and two boats on contract to haul materials. We spent some unrestricted funds to rehab. the Tribe's boat to assist in our immediate transit needs and were able to get some return on our investment by contracting to this job. During the project, we had three volunteers from Eagle assist for a week. The project is coming near completion. (There is only a hold-up due to manufacturing of medical-grade cabinets.)



With much help from our tribal administrator, we have secured an I gap grant, family violence grant, and a tribal court assessment grant. We're planning on a landfill project this summer.

Our tribal transportation program (TTP) has been planning a brush clearing project, was approved, and have purchased a new hydro-axe attachment, grapple attachment, and log splitter. We're planning to complete it this summer, along with grading and compacting our village roads since there have been some erosion issues.

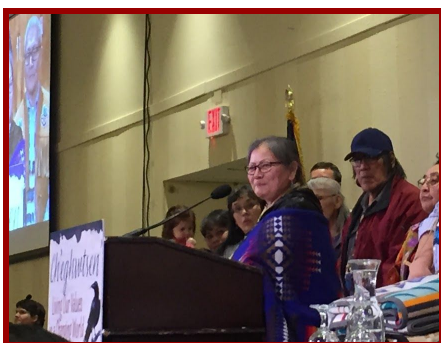
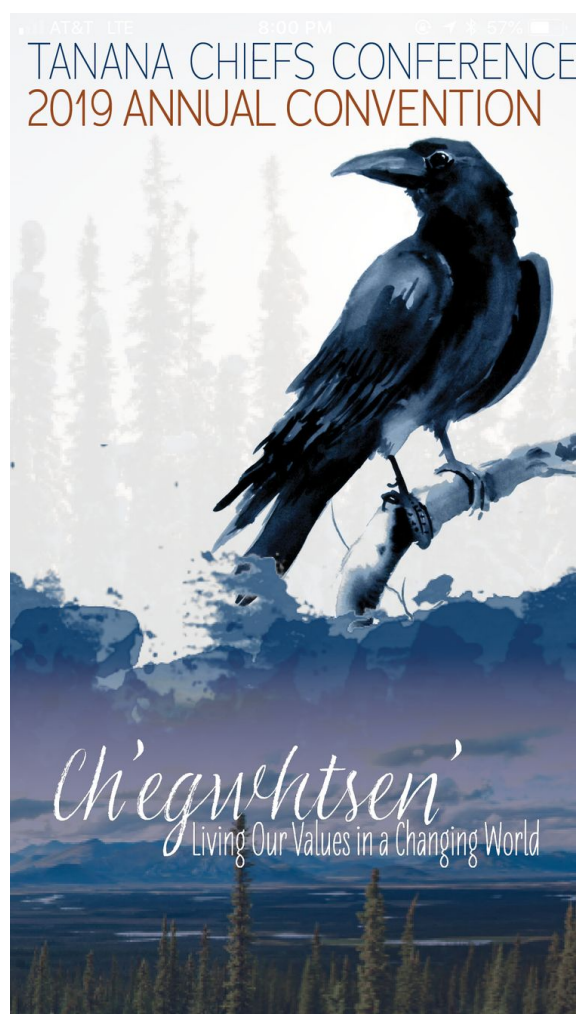
The Tribe has been successful in getting legislation to reinstate Mendas Cha'ag Corporation, which has been land transfers to the Tribe for future expansion and projects. The reinstatement took affect roughly a month ago.

## 2019 Tanana Chiefs Conference Convention

The theme of this year's annual TCC Convention was *Ch'eghuetsen'* which means "living our values in a changing world." Many of the speakers touched on the theme and encourage everyone to consider how we can all apply our traditional values to today's world of technology, machines, etc. The keynote speaker, Julie Roberts-Hyslop of Tanana would like to remind everyone that things like phones do make life easier, but we should never allow them to make us lazy. It's still important to get outside with family and to practice ways of our ancestor's lifestyles.

Among the various topics discussed and reports given, the Full Board of Directors looked over two proposed bylaw changes. The first one requested that the Emerging Leaders should be able to elect the youth representative on the Executive Board; the bylaw change unanimously passed. The second proposal was that the TCC president should have no term limits. In the end, the Board voted that the term limits will remain the same: No person elected President for two full successive terms shall be again eligible to hold that office until one full term has intervened (Article 5, Section 2 of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Dena' Nena' Henash).

Another exciting topic was elections. Julie Roberts-Hyslop ended her term as Vice-President, but was elected as AFN Village Representative for the next year. The IRHA Seat C was filled by Speedy Sam of Huslia and the IRHA Seat D was filled by Leah Woods. Most excitingly, our new Vice-President of TCC is Dr. Charlene Stern of Arctic Village!



(left: Julie Roberts-Hyslop, middle: Dr. Charlene Stern, right: celebration)

## Healy Lake Youth Council

Over the past few months, the Youth Council has been moving forward on a playground and outdoor basketball court project. Along with the help of the Healy Lake Traditional Council, community employees, MVP, and Stephen Brum (a TCC contact), the Youth Council will hopefully be able to complete the project within 2019! The main objectives include:

- provide a safe place for community members to play
- encourage playing outdoors
- inspire more families with children to move to Healy Lake
- have enough children to re-open the school

In addition to the playground project, the youths have agreed upon a logo design by Alissa Healy. They are coordinating a t-shirt and hoodie order that will include the logo on the front and mission statement on the back. Keep an eye out for them because the youths may hand some out as prizes!



## Birthday Shout-Outs!

Recent	Upcoming
<p>William Buck Healy (Jan. 2) Ellenore Kirsteatter (Jan. 5) Lindsay Gorrod (Jan. 6) Abigail Lucy Woscek (Jan. 7)</p> <p>Alissa Healy (Feb. 3) Gavin Schultz (Feb. 4) Brian Erickson (Feb. 8) <b>Ariana Mia born on February 10<sup>th</sup>!</b> Anthony Verney Jr. (Feb. 14)</p> <p>Damien Kiser (March 2) Misty Hurst (March 4) Evelynn Combs (March 27)</p>	<p>Gary Luke (April 2) Michael Fifer (April 8) Mary Healy (April 9) Kaylee Gorrod (April 27)</p> <p>Mia Holloway (May 6) Kayanna Healy (May 24)</p> <p>Sarah Gorrod (June 16) Ray Fifer (June 24)</p>



## Goals & Projects



- Many tribal members have not updated their tribal enrollment and contact information, so please contact a council member or the tribal administrator.  
To update your contact information, you can visit:  
[healylaketribealwebsites.wordpress.com/updateyourcontactinformation](http://healylaketribealwebsites.wordpress.com/updateyourcontactinformation)
- All tribal members with concerns or comments are urged to attend council meetings. Conference calls are also available.
- The Healy Lake Traditional Council has made it a goal to conduct all meetings in a “PG” manner.
- council efforts in tribal wellness with Grace in Motion Counseling
- getting the community clinic up and running
- posting safety signs
- regular Village Public Safety Office (VPSO) wellness checks
- road maintenance
- grant opportunities for a biomass project pertaining to public facilities
- finalizing the Healy Lake Youth Council Constitution
- preparations for more Healy Lake Youth Council meetings
- preparations for Healy Lake’s 2019 Culture Camp
- building a playground at Healy Lake
- Wilderness First Aid
- drug test policy change with American Mobile Drug Testing (AMDT)

## Available Jobs

Job Title:	Department:	Posted:
Tribal Family Youth Specialist	Tribal Development	Feb. 27
Community Health Aide/Practitioner	Health Services	Feb. 25

\* If you are interested in applying for a job, please contact Bertha Rickman (Healy Lake Tribal Administrator) by phone at (907) 371-9361 or by email at [Bertha.Rickman@tananachiefs.org](mailto:Bertha.Rickman@tananachiefs.org).

\* Visit [tananachiefs.org/job-seekers/careers](http://tananachiefs.org/job-seekers/careers) for all of the up-to-date job postings.

## Other Opportunities

\* **Grace in Motion Counseling**

Call: (907) 452-4673

Email: [graceinmotion52.counseling@gmail.com](mailto:graceinmotion52.counseling@gmail.com)

Address: 3504 Industrial Avenue, Suite 214, Fairbanks, AK 99701

\* **Get Involved With Newsletters and the Healy Lake Tribal Website!**

Would you like to send in pictures, submit stories, or share other forms of interesting information?

Please contact Alissa Healy at [healylakewebsite@gmail.com](mailto:healylakewebsite@gmail.com) to do so!

\* **Become a Part of the Healy Lake Youth Council!**

Are you a youth between the ages of 12-21 that is interested in learning about our culture and traditions, spending time with other youths, growing as a person, and creating community projects?

Please come to the next quarterly Healy Lake Youth Council meeting! You can contact Alissa Healy at [healylakewebsite@gmail.com](mailto:healylakewebsite@gmail.com) for more information.

\* **Apply for Job Training Through TCC**

Visit: [tananachiefs.org/job-seekers/job-training](http://tananachiefs.org/job-seekers/job-training) for more information.

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Thank you to everyone who has put in hard work throughout the past few months! We're a quarter of the way through the year, so we have three quarters more to try our best, achieve goals, and look to the future!