



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER

### Shareholder Spotlight

Yup'ik dancing is a tradition which unites our communities, celebrates our culture and brings our heritage and stories to life in a vivid and colorful array of musicality and motion. That's why it's surprising to learn for many years, no one was dancing, singing or drumming in Mountain Village. But that all changed when Angaraq Raphael and Angalgaan Vivian Jimmy moved to town in 1971.



Raphael and Vivian Jimmy enjoying their backyard in Anchorage.

Mention the words "beloved elders" and Raphael and Vivian immediately come to mind. Most recently, the 2017 Cama'i Dance Festival honored the dynamic duo as "Living Treasures." Organizers say it's a way for the community to thank cultural bearers who've kept Yup'ik dancing alive. Raphael and Vivian also gave the elder keynote address at last year's annual First Alaskans Institute's Elders and Youth Conference.

Raphael and Vivian's enthusiasm radiates a shared love of dancing. It could be easy to believe they fell in love during a dance performance in their youth. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Raphael was born on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1924 in a slough near Nunam Iqua to Anaquq and Qualituq Ganyaq. Later when English speaking missionaries arrived and couldn't pronounce their names, they were renamed Jimmy and Mary Jimmy.

Just a few years younger than Raphael, Vivian Patsy also grew up in a slough nearby. However, they didn't meet until Raphael arrived at Vivian's school for a wedding arranged by their mothers. Even though Vivian and Raphael weren't exactly happy about getting married on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1947, they've become inseparable over the past 70 years.

After their arranged marriage, Raphael and Vivian returned to Nunam Iqua to start their

family which has now grown to include 12 children, 30 grandchildren and 59 great grandkids. After being forced to send their older children nearly 1,000 miles away to boarding school, Raphael and Vivian moved to Mountain Village so that their children wouldn't have to be sent away to school and they found that the less damp climate in Mountain Village was better for Vivian's health.

Raphael says he became interested in Eskimo dancing when his mother would encourage him to listen closely to the music. He says he creates his songs while hunting and sometimes when he is feeling lonely.

Once settled in Mountain Village, Raphael couldn't stand the silence, so he requested permission to start a dancing group. He went to Elder Gregory Joe to ask if he could teach the youngsters how to sing and dance. Once permission was granted, Raphael and Vivian immediately started creating their magic.

Raphael and Vivian now live in Anchorage where just three years ago they started a new dance group. "Kuigpagmiut" (a Yup'ik word meaning "People of the Big River") performs at the Alaska Native Medical Center as well as at other special events.

Raphael says despite being 93-years-old, he doesn't feel his age and the secret to feeling young is good food and good people. Another piece of advice for today's youth: be fully prepared before starting a family. Have everything you need. You can't have a meal if you don't have a gun, net, boat, 3 to 4 dogs, and a place to stay.

And finally, Raphael says one of the things he believes has brought him good luck and happiness throughout his life is his respect for elders. "If you happen to catch a bird (for dinner), give it to an elder," says Raphael. "Give them the good one all of the time."

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>LOREN PETERSON</b> Chairman & C.E.O.
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*Students get your pens  
ready*

**We are accepting  
applications for Fall 2017**

**You can get the application  
at [www.azachorok.com](http://www.azachorok.com)  
Shareholder and descendants  
are eligible**

**The deadline to apply is  
August 15, 2017**

**Applications can be found  
on our website under  
"Shareholders" tab at  
[www.azachorok.com](http://www.azachorok.com)**



## Message from the Chairman & C.E.O.

Dear Azachorok Inc. Shareholders,

I would like to start by wishing everyone a safe summer and harvest season and I hope the long days bring an abundance of subsistence harvests to our families. Azachorok Inc. and Azachorok Contract Services, LLC both had a very busy and productive 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. We have many important updates for shareholders and friends in the Azachorok community.

I am extremely excited to announce Azachorok Contract Services, LLC secured our first 8(a) contract in April 2017 for approximately \$670,000! This is the first and largest 8(a) contract in Azachorok's 44-year history and I am so proud of our board for this achievement. We have come a long way since the challenging fiscal times under previous leadership and now we are meeting the goals we have set out to achieve. Vice-Chairwoman Joyce has more on this incredible development in her message a later in this newsletter.

In other news, Azachorok Inc., in partnership with the City of Mountain Village, has raised approximately \$30,000 to host the Kusilvak Economic Development & Advocacy Alliance Summit on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of this year. The grants will fund travel and lodging for delegates from each entity in Kusilvak Census Region's 13 communities to attend the summit in Mountain Village.

The summit will be the first step in bringing together all Kusilvak stakeholders to create an economic development and advocacy alliance which will discuss and develop innovative ways to bring jobs and prosperity to our communities. We are honored to have Emil Notti as a keynote speaker and other government and business leaders will be in attendance as well.

Azachorok, Inc. is grateful to the City of Mountain Village for its partnership and we look forward to continued joint ventures as we continue to improve conditions for Mountain Village and Azachorok shareholders.

If you have questions, I invite you to attend our newly-created Shareholder Relations meetings, the first of which will be offered prior to our Annual Meeting set for Saturday, September 30, 2017 at 1pm in the Mountain Village Community Hall. Please follow our Facebook page for timely updates on this new committee.

Last, I would like to acknowledge the passing of former General Manager Paul Beans. His decades of service to Azachorok and the commitment and dedication he had lives on in our corporation and he will be dearly missed. May he rest in peace.

Again, I wish all a bountiful subsistence harvest this summer and I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting this September.

Warmest Regards,

Loren Peterson  
Chairman & C.E.O.

Save the date!

## KEDAA Summit Date: Sept 18th-19th in Mountain Village



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# Vice Chair's Report



I would like to begin by expressing a sincere thank you to everyone who joined us at the Shareholder Appreciation Celebration on July 4th! Hundreds of shareholders and community members came out and we have so many accomplishments to celebrate. It was really exciting to enjoy our successes together.

## *Path to Prosperity*

For those of you who haven't heard the big news yet, we secured the biggest contract in Azachorok's history! Azachorok Contract Services (ACS) LLC secured our first 8(a) contract in April 2017 for approximately \$670,000!

This is a groundbreaking development and I want to take a pause to recognize the staff and ACS Board Members who have been working diligently to ensure the success and sustainability of our 8(a) program. The 8(a) program is our path to prosperity and we are currently strategizing how to continue maximizing our remaining four years with this 8(a) certificate and other avenues to continue participating this critical program when this certificate expires.

## *Rewarding Shareholders*

My biggest priority right now is to make sure the corporation's recent success is shared with every one of our shareholders. That's why I have proposed issuing a dividend this year for the first time in more than 30 years. I strongly believe our shareholders, especially our elders while they are here with us today, deserve a reward for patiently supporting the corporation as we've worked through the complicated process of purchasing a new subsidiary and completing the 8(a) certification process. Now, it's time to celebrate the fruits of our labor!

On this year's ballot at our Annual Shareholder's Meeting, there will be question asking if Azachorok, Inc. should distribute a one-time dividend. I encourage you to make your voice heard if you agree the corporation should distribute a dividend this year.

## *Listening to You*

I am also very proud to announce that Azachorok Inc. leadership has created a new Shareholder Relations Committee. Azachorok, Inc. is your corporation and we'd like to hear your suggestions, ideas, comments

and concerns on how to generate more revenue and improve our corporation and community.

This committee creates a dedicated place for you to be heard. I believe the more input we have from our shareholders, the more success we will attain as a corporation. The committee will meet as needed. So far, we have two meetings planned: one in August and one a week or two prior to our Annual Meeting. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and as soon the dates are set, we will announce them there.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at this year's annual meeting and may the rest of your summer be bountiful!

Quyana,

Joyce Brown

Vice Chairwoman

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*Azachorok, Inc. is currently in the process of renegotiating the terms of our lease with the AC Store.*

*We continue to be on friendly terms and look forward to agreeing to a lease extension benefitting shareholders and the entire community of Mountain Village.*

*Shareholders will be provided with an update as soon as negotiations are complete.*

# Alaska Commercial Company Serving Mountain Village for 15 Years!



Alaska Commercial Company is Mountain Village's Largest Local Retailer providing the Community with Excellent Service, Competitive Prices and Everyday Value. Friendly Service goes a long way to be sure you have an enjoyable shopping experience. You can look forward to shopping AC's yellow tagged Advertised Specials and enjoy additional savings with their Cost Cutter red tagged price reductions! Barge Savings and Managers Specials are also great incentives to shop AC Mountain Village!

June and July gives you the opportunity to shop AC during their 150th Anniversary Giveaway where you can win Instant Free Product and Spectacular Prizes, or the chance to win a Grand Prize of \$25,000 + a \$5,000 community donation.

Mountain Village AC also takes pride in our community and in helping out our neighbors when they need it most. After a recent fire destroyed one of our customer's homes – AC was there providing food and supplies to help the family through this hard time. We also later donated a gift card to the family to help replenish items destroyed in the fire.

Managers Chris and Andrea Holmes are always available for any questions you may have and encourage you to go to their AC Mountain Village's Facebook page for additional information on In-Store promotions and Specials you can share with your family and friends!

*AC Mountain Village  
will always be the first choice for all your Shopping Needs!*



## Supporting Shareholders



Working in partnership to promote a healthy environment and develop economic opportunities for residents of the Yukon Kuskokwim region.

- > Responsible resource development
- > Revenue sharing to all Alaska Natives
- > Drug- and alcohol-free workplace
- > Local hire

To learn more about the project please visit [www.DonlinGold.com](http://www.DonlinGold.com)



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### ***Our Mission***

*Azachorok Incorporated is a for-profit ANCSA Village corporation that invests in sustainable business opportunities for the benefit of shareholders while preserving our traditional subsistence culture and values.*

### ***Our Vision***

*We believe in creating a better tomorrow for our shareholders and community through economic and social opportunities. We also envision our communities living healthy subsistence lifestyles. We balance making profits, seeking opportunities and increasing shareholder value.*

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## **North Star Market**



We are an **Alaska Native** owned grocery store that is new and innovative with our test store in **Kotzebue, Alaska**. We are developing a model to transform rural Alaska grocery store operations into an Alaska based business that partners with **local communities**. We hope to be in your community in the near future.

# *Coming Soon!*

***to Mountain Village - Cheaper Electricity!***

The Azachorok Inc. Board of Directors has voted to grant AVEC an easement on corporation land to build power lines to carry electricity from the new wind turbine under construction in Pitkas Point. AVEC estimates that wind power saves 25 to 35 cents per kilowatt-hour compared to diesel power.

## **Calling All Native Artists & Craftsman**

Register a table to sell your art at  
the Kusilvak Summit  
Sept. 18 & 19, 2017  
at Mtn. Village Community Hall

Tables are \$20 day  
Contact Azachorok for more info at  
(907) 591-2527

[www.azachorok.com](http://www.azachorok.com)