

Letters

Anaktuvuk Pass reader demands access to land

To the editor:

The land, surrounding the village of Anaktuvuk Pass, we should have the right to use it like our forefathers, grandfathers and fathers, as it is today.

For many generations, we have had good access and used it. Without access, our chances of survival is very slim. We know where the game and fish are without lines in a map, only through data collected from our people who have passed this on to us. That's all the information

we need and it's been proven through time, otherwise we wouldn't be here today to comment on this, if we didn't learn the custom of our Nunamiut people.

Before 1991, issues such as this, we need to settle. Our hunting and fishing very much needs to be protected. Our regional corporation, A.S.R.C. needs to go to each village and collect information on what we want.

1991 date is crucial and it's get-

ting close. Native allotment, subsistence hunting and fishing and trapping, land and shares, should be in planning stages right now.

Our people needs information now, before such issues come out in 1991. We need to hold on to our land, because without our land, we cannot survive.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond Paneak

Questions about Shareholders' rights

To the editor:

I have several questions (for management and board members of Native corporations in general) which seek answers. Some questions are: What are the rights of shareholders of Native corporations? What are the responsibilities of shareholders? Do rights and responsibilities go hand in hand? or are they separate? How can shareholders play an active role in ensuring the success and progress of our corporations? Most importantly, how can we, as shareholders, make a positive impact on the management and boards so that some of our concerns are given credence? These questions have been asked for years without answers which would enlighten us as to our role as shareholders of Native corporations

Do shareholders have rights beyond signing proxy ballots? How and when do we exercise what rights we have? It has not been as straightforward as it should seem. Shareholders give authority to certain individuals to act on their behalf through an election process. Management is

directed by our boards to carry on the business of our corporations on a day-to-day basis. Yet we as shareholders, the owners of the corporations and the owners of the land bases, are viewed with distrust when we question. We have been put off, put down, and labeled for exercising what we believe are our rights as shareholders. Sometimes we question to obtain clarification on certain matters. Soemtimes we write letters or send telegrams to express in written form our concerns on various issues. More often than not, we initiate contact to remind management and boards that we exist. If we do not ask questions, our boards and management assume we do not care, or that they can proceed without informing all shareholders of significant corporate matters.

Most shareholders view it as their responsibility to question. How else do we grow and/or respond to our environment?

Where does it state that our rights and responsibilities as shareholders are limited to dutifully returning proxy ballots?

Where does it state that our participation is limited to voting and attendance at annual meetings? Where does it state that we must accept things the way they are, without hope of growth of change? We ask questions because we care. We hope to leave our shares to the children of the generations born after 1971. We hope those generations will be able to ask questions, write letters, talk to people, and actively participate in the Native corporations of the future. We try to set examples for our kids and to be good role models in the hope that they will grow up to be responsible, productive members of their society and shareholders of Native corporations. Active participation in our corportions as shareholders is a right and responsibility which must be acknowledged as a given and respected by management and our boards. Our children have the right to expect what their grandfathers and great-grandfathers worked so hard for: to claim ownership to a part of Alaska that was once only theirs.

—Leonora Florendo

Emmonak 'extinguishes' bogus order

Jack Daniels
American Business Supply, Inc.
3525 West Naples Ave.
Las Vegas, Nev. 89103

Dear Mr. Daniels:

It comes as a complete surprise to us that we did get a shipment of fire extinguishers since we did not place that order with you, but we are not surprised at the methods you use to dump this order on us because there are a lot of other people who use your methods.

This, however, is not acceptable to us and we will not pay for these fire extinguishers. One of the reasons that we have a purchase order system is to prevent incidents like this one from happening. Just because you called

up and engaged into a telephone conversation with our accountant does not authorize you to make a shipment of fire extinguishers to us and then try to collect on that 'sale.'

We have been in contact with our State of Alaska officials, and we will follow their recommendation on this matter; and that is, we will not pay for these fire extinguishers, and we will send these fire extinguishers back to you freight collect but we will not incur those freight expenses ourselves.

I am sending a copy of this letter to newspapers around the State of Alaska to make others aware of your activities.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Hendrickson
City Manager
City of Emmonak

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