



**CHOGGIUNG LTD.**

P.O. Box 330  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
(907) 842-5218

SPRING 2013

## **SHAREHOLDER NEWSLETTER**

### **Message from Chairman, Bryce Edgmon**



Greetings,

I hope winter is going well for everyone. With spring approaching I would like to take a moment to provide you with a brief update of events at Choggiung.

The annual shareholders meeting went very well this year. The date was moved back a couple of weeks to March 9 and according to staff, the extra couple of weeks made a huge difference in being able to put everything together in time for the meeting.

I'd like to welcome Karl Clark as the newest addition to the board and thank outgoing board member John Heyano for his many years of service to the corporation. Congratulations also go out to Thomas Tilden and Frank Woods III for being re-elected to three year terms.

Gertie Backford was selected as the Shareholder of the Year. With a number of her family members in attendance, it was a great honor to present her with an award that she so richly deserved.

The upcoming year at Choggiung holds a lot of promise. The corporation is poised to build on last year's success and continue making progress towards the goal of being profitable outside of 7j revenues.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any comments or questions you might have. We encourage you to visit the Choggiung website and Facebook site as well.

Wishing you a safe and happy spring and summer,

Sincerely,

Bryce Edgmon

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#### **Board of Directors**

Bryce Edgmon, President

Cameron Poindexter, Vice-President

Olga Kropoff, Secretary

Jack A. Savo, Jr., Treasurer

Frank G. Woods III, Director

Thomas Tilden, Director

LouAnn Backford, Director

Ida M. Backford, Director

Karl R. Clark, Director

# Update from CEO, Lance Nunn



Through leadership from the Board of Directors we continue to find ways to advance our Corporation. It has been an eventful year for Choggiung as we work to streamline our businesses as well as improve our passive investments.

A drop in earnings in 2009 slowed our growth for a short time but by late 2010 we began building positive cash flow throughout our operations.

As Choggiung gains financial ground we are exploring a few business opportunities. At their strategic planning meeting in February, the Board opted to seek businesses within the Bristol Bay Region and Alaska road system.

Soil testing and surveying will initiate phase one of developing a nine acre tract of land across from the Dillingham boat harbor. We feel this is a great location for future business development in the downtown area.

HRM will run a small scale low risk operation this summer, renting boats and tents on the Nushagak River. The plan is to expand the business when demand increases.

As we continue to work through the challenges of growing Inland Empire Fire Protection, we've seen encouraging progress. The company is currently recruiting for a Chief Executive Officer who has the capability to build the company's activities in the 8(a) Program.

Choggiung Investment Corporation's commercial and residential properties are maintaining positive earnings; however, we saw a drop in revenue early in the year due mainly to an increase in fuel and electricity costs.

Management at the hotel and diner continue to find ways to improve service. The Diner is doing well in their catering efforts, Sunday brunch, and special dinners. Patrons gave rave reviews on the Valentine's Day candlelight dinner where they served a traditional Victorian 6 course meal.

Choggiung has partnered with the City of Dillingham Parks and Recreation to implement a cross-country ski trail in the Kanakanak area. Choggiung authorized use of lands for the trail while the Parks and Recreation committee provides maintenance.

As we start gearing up for a busy summer I wish you all a safe and prosperous season.

## Seasonal Employment Opportunities

CIC: Maintenance Technician (Temporary)

Bayside Diner: Cooks and Wait Staff

Choggiung: Land Use Permit Agent

These positions are excellent opportunities for returning college students or those seeking temporary employment. For more information call Choggiung Ltd. at (907) 842-5218 or toll free (888) 377-2464.

Employment applications are available for download on our website at: [www.choggiung.com](http://www.choggiung.com)

## Inland Empire Fire Protection Seeks CEO

Inland Empire Fire Protection, Inc., a subsidiary of Choggiung, is recruiting for a Chief Executive Officer. The CEO is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the company and all duties associated with fire alarm distribution and construction. Expectations include building and expanding the company's contracts and activities in the U.S. SBA's 8(a) Program. The CEO position is stationed in Spokane, WA.

For more information contact Inland Empire Fire Protection's office at (509) 534-1097.

# Gertrude Backford honored as Shareholder of the Year



At the Annual Meeting of Shareholders in Dillingham, the Board of Directors recognized Gertrude Backford as Shareholder of the Year.

Gertrude (Gertie) Adonna Backford is the first born of Marie and Hugh Millett's nine children. She lived in the Lake Iliamna area until age 15 when she moved to Dillingham. There, Gertie met and later married Benjamin Backford. She and Ben had 10 children. Her daughter Linda recalls her Mama saying, "no one can leave home without a diploma." Five of Gertie's children continue to reside in Dillingham. She has more than 50 grandchildren and great grand children, and one great, great grandchild.

Gertie is an active and independent elder who serves as a role model for everyone. She worked for nearly 10 years as a Shelter Advocate at SAFE, the regional domestic violence/sexual assault victim services agency. Setting aside judgment, Gertie was actively involved in helping people turn their lives around, regain personal and cultural pride, and stop behaviors that threatened their peace and safety.

A heart attack forced her to retire in 1994. She continued for a time as a volunteer, advising SAFE on policy and providing direct support services for adults and children. Gertie helped to assure that the traditional values of harmony, cooperation, and respect were included. She shared her own unique blend of values and skills, from butchering moose to enticing a fussy baby to eat by sopping up fish head soup broth up with a hunk of bread. Gertie also served as the elder representative on the Alcohol Advisory Board, helping to shape the clinical, social, and cultural response to Alaska Natives and others coping with addictions.

Taught reading and writing by her father, Gertie has the equivalent of a fourth-grade education. Nevertheless, she is a person of tremendous ability. Ginger Baim has said that Gertie "helped shape the lives of a 100 children and made our community a healthier, happier place to live."



Choggiung Board Chair, Bryce Edgmon presents Gertie Backford with the Shareholder of the Year Award at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

# HONORING OUR ELDERS BORN IN 1940



**Mary Ann Andrews** was born at the Kanakanak hospital in Dillingham, AK. Her siblings are Carl and William Johnson, Thomas Tilden, and Eva Bartman. Mary Ann is married to Patrick Andrews and their children

are Phil, Patrick D., Pearl, Pam, Marion, Michele, and Mary. She also has 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. For 13 years MaryAnn volunteered at the Alaska Native Medical Center and enjoyed bringing patients flowers every Tuesday. She is pleased with her accomplishments of finishing high school, attending some college and raising her children and her eldest granddaughter. Mary Ann's hobbies include knitting, crocheting, sewing, quilting and playing pinochle. She resides in Anchorage, Alaska.

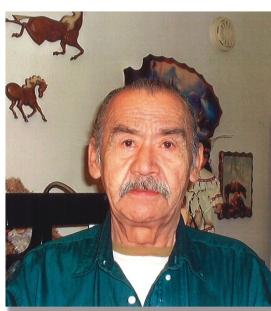


**Hannah Serina Howard** was born in Ekuk, Alaska to Hannah Sorensen and Ingvar D. Johansen. Her sister is Helene Sagmoen and her brother, the late Daniel Johansen. Serina was married to William How-

ard; her children are Ingrid, Bart, Theresa, Henry, Curtis and Ruth. She has 24 grandchildren and 14 great grand children. Serina worked at the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Marrulut Eniit Assisted Living, and Peter Pan Seafoods as a waitress. She enjoys picking berries, reading and visiting with her children, grandchildren, relatives and friends. Serina lives in Dillingham, Alaska



**Helen Dees**, daughter of Anecia and Agafangel Backford, was born at Kanakanak hospital. Her siblings are Agafangel, Gregory, and Katherine. Helen is married to Gene E. Dees. Her children are Jerome, Angela, Edward, and Richard; she has four grandchildren. Helen has worked as a certified dental assistant, clerk typist and home nurse. She enjoys crocheting blankets and being a home maker. Helen resides in Nashville, Georgia.



**Robert E. Gurtler, Jr.** was born at Kanakanak hospital to Robert and Ellen Gurtler. His sister is Della Clark. Robert is married to Laurel Gurtler and their daughter is Nikki Adams. Robert worked as a tug boat captain and fisherman; he is

now retired. His hobbies include building model airplanes and boats. Robert resides in Everett, Washington.



**Nicholas Prince** was born in Pastolik, Alaska to Andrew and Olga Prince. His siblings are Martin, Michael, Teresa Pope, Noelita Lopez, Franklin, George, and Tassie McCormick. Nicholas has 1 child and 2 grandchildren. One of Nicholas' most memorable accomplishments is when he built a house for his mother when he was 20 years old. A few things that he enjoys are dancing and fishing. Nicholas resides in Anchorage, Alaska.





**Mary Ann Johnson** was born on May 15, 1940 to Socally Wal-lona and Sassa A. Johnson. Her siblings are Connie Timmerman, Carol Davidson, Phillip and Leroy Wal-

Iona, Judy Samuelsen, Rose Loera and the late Emma Ann Nicholson. Mary Ann is married to William P. Johnson; their children are Kimberly Williams, DuWayne, William and Ronald Johnson. She has 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Mary Ann is a Dillingham High School graduate. She cooked and ran the school lunch program for many years in the 60's and 70's. For 40 years she commercial fished with her dad, husband and son William. Mary Ann enjoys reading, sewing and visiting with friends at tea parties. She resides in Dillingham, Alaska.



**Victor G. Sifsof** was born to the Very Reverend Basil and Matushka Helen Sifsof in the village of Nushagak. He was raised there with siblings Ernest, Barbara Lopez, Helen Foster, Lawrence and Margaret Schroeder. His

family moved to Dillingham when he was 13. Victor is married to Jane and he has six children: James, Victrina, Valerie, Bryan, Victor Jr., and Ashley. His grandchildren are Callan, Kylee, Braiden and Ashton. Victor is proud to be a lifetime Bristol Bay commercial fisherman and airplane pilot and he cherishes the times he can spend with family. Some of Victor's past responsibilities were director and president of Choggiung, vice president of the Fish and Game Advisory

Board, president of the St. Seraphim Orthodox Church Council, Native hire coordinator and personnel director at the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation. Victor was raised in the subsistence lifestyle, running dogs at an early age and later raced sprint dogs from 1980 to 1989. He is an eight time winner of the Western Alaska Championship Sled Dog Race. He also raced and won numerous other races in the region. Victor is a small business owner and continues to provide for his family in commercial fishing as well as subsistence hunting and fishing. Victor and family want to thank Choggiung Board, Staff and Shareholders for their outpouring support and prayers during the long search for his missing daughter Valerie. Choggiung President, Bryce Edgmon was a big factor in encouraging the state police and other state agencies to become more active in the search for Valerie. Your support and prayers will forever be in our hearts and never be forgotten.



**Louie Hiratsuka**, was born in Ekuk to Tommy and Evangeline Hiratsuka; he is one of five children. Louie is married to Donna Hiratsuka. His two children are Vince and the late Agnesia. Louis has 18 grandchildren and 9 great grand children. He served three years in the United States Army and worked as a plumber and steamfitter for 35 years; he is now retired. Louis enjoys fishing, traveling and flying. He resides in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Juanita Smith, Herman Herrmann, Joann Tootkaylok and William Bryant** were also recognized elders; we were unable to contact them for their information.



# Employees Recognized for years of service



Constantine Backford,  
CIC Maintenance Supervisor

During the Annual Meeting the Board of Directors showed their appreciation to Choggung and subsidiary employees, Constantine Backford, Ronald Heyano and Mary Barnes for their extensive dedication to the corporation.

Constantine has worked for the company for just over 25 years; he started working for Choggung in the maintenance department and is currently maintenance supervisor under Choggung Investment Corporation. The work he and his crew does to maintain our buildings and equipment is very much appreciated.

Ronald Heyano marks his tenth year of employment with the Bristol Inn. Ronnie is the front desk clerk and fills in as assistant manager when needed.

Mary Barnes, Project Assistant, has completed her tenth year of employment at Choggung. Among other things, she works with the Board of Directors, shareholder relations, and manages the apartments.



## Cash Prize Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the cash prizes that were drawn at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders in Dillingham. Thank you for sending in your proxies!

\$500 Early Bird Arthur Golia - Anchorage, AK

\$100 Pamela Erickson - Anchorage, AK

\$100 Richard D. Jensen - Spokane Valley, WA

\$150 Rosemary X. Tucker - Dillingham, AK

\$150 Martha Nelson - Dillingham, AK

\$200 Eleanor G. Suesue for  
Aliyah S. Suesue - Anchorage, AK

\$250 Holly D. Carroll - Dillingham, AK

\$250 Timothy V. Freeman Jr. - Simpsonville, SC

\$300 George L. Nelson - Dillingham, AK

\$300 Elizabeth V. Waskey - Anchorage, AK

\$500 Alexandria A. Unrein - Seward, AK

\$500 Blunka Wassilliey Sr. - Wasilla, AK

\$500 Debbie M. Lincoln - Anchorage, AK

\$1000 Margaret L. Gardiner for  
Jacinto B. George Jr. - Clarks Point, AK

\$1000 Karla A. Gardiner - Dillingham, AK

# Shareholder Scholarships Available

**CEEF Full-time Post Secondary scholarship applications are due by April 30th.**  
**Don't miss out on this funding opportunity, get your application in early!**

Applications for the Full-time Post Secondary scholarship are being accepted for the 2013-2014 school year. The full-time scholarship is for students who are enrolled in a qualifying, post-secondary educational institution with 12 or more credit hours and maintains a GPA of no less than 2.0.

The deadline to apply is April 30, 2013.

The Career/Work Enhancement scholarship is available to help shareholders who need financial assistance with a class or activity that will enhance their employability, their current employment or their career goals. Career/Work Enhancement Scholarships are limited to \$500 per qualified applicant per fiscal year.

For an application or more information, email [marina@choggjung.com](mailto:marina@choggjung.com), call (907) 842-5218 or toll free (888)-377-2464.

Applications can also be downloaded at [www.choggjung.com/shareholder/educational](http://www.choggjung.com/shareholder/educational).

## Moose Habitat Project Nearly Complete

A crew of four employed by Choggjung traveled by snow machine to the Nushagak River in late February completing another phase of the moose habitat enhancement project. This was the third year of grant funding through USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for improvements to Choggjung lands.

Enhancement to the moose's habitat is done by manually tipping tall willows over which forces new growth from partially severed trunks providing a food supply that lasts through the winter. The work is done in the middle of the winter when the willows are completely dormant in order to keep them alive.

This project was started when Villagers, who rely on moose as one of their main food sources, noticed a decline in moose population so they contacted NRCS for help. Traditional hunting sites were identified by elders and tribal members; upon inspection it appeared that the moose were browsing heavily stripping even the trunks of the willow which happens only when there is no other vegetation available.

Biologists and local residents studied the connection between the moose's life cycle and habitat and formed the hypothesis that cows carrying calves were not finding nourishing food so calves were born weak and cows were underfed creating a high mortality rate. That is how they came up with the solution to improve and increase the moose's feeding area.

So far the plan has proved successful. While herd health research is still inconclusive at this time, the willows are thriving with new stem re-growth and it is presumed that spring calves are born healthier.



Shareholder Douglas Larsgaard "tipping" willows at Portage Creek on the Nushagak River.

## Staff Directory

*Lance Nunn, CEO*

*Rick Tennyson, Land Manager*

*April Roehl, Finance Manager*

*Marina Jo Nelson, Finance Technician*

*Warren Downs, Computer Tech*

*Mary Barnes, Project Assistant*

*Sophie Sorensen, Receptionist/File Clerk*

*Constantine Backford, Maintenance Supervisor*

*JJ Smeaton, Maintenance Technician*

*Verna Lee Heyano, Hotel Manager*

*Justin Johnson, Restaurant Manager*

*Dan Shier, Inland Empire Fire Protection CEO*

**Choggiung Ltd.**  
P.O. Box 330  
**Dillingham, AK 99576**

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