

Box 2053 Nome Alaska 99762 phone (907) 443-4985 fax (907) 443-5189

Solomon's Annual Meeting Held in Nome

The Village of Solomon held its annual meeting in Nome again this year with an established quorum of 15% of the membership qualified to vote as required by the constitution.

Reports from the VOS President, Tribal

Coordinator and Environmental Coordinator were provided with door prizes throughout the evening.

Guest speaker Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) President Angie Gorn provided a detailed progress report highlighting the six of the thirteen goals that were met with another six of the thirteen being partially met.

Kawerak's Social Science director Julie Raymond-Yakoubian also provided a report detailing their supernatural environment project. Back in early 2014, the Tribal Council passed a resolution in support of participating in Kawerak's project: "Knowledge of the Supernatural Environment".



Future Leaders of Solomon

Top Left: Cynthia Gray holding Tessa Timbers-Payenna.

Middle Left: Sara James, Mia Piscocoya, Autumn Johnson and Sopia Piscocoya.

Top of stairs L to R: Sara James, daughter of Brian and Donna James; Jack James wearing a Frozen themed mask, son of Brian and Donna James. Below Sara James is Mia Piscocoya, daughter of Benny and Jackie Piscocoya; Layna Mokiyuk holding her Frozen themed party bag, daughter of Kirsten Timbers; Autumn Johnson, daughter of Amy Johnson. Middle center: Tristan Hudson, son of Deilah Johnson.

Bottom of stairs L to R: Tessa Timbers-Payenna, daughter of Kirsten Timbers and Ethan Piscocoya, son of Cameron and Brianna Piscocoya.

Inside this issue:

President's Report	2
Solomon Youth Camp	4
Tribal Membership Meeting in Anchorage	5
IGAP Update	7
Solomon News & Noteworthy	9
Tribal Coordinator Report	10
In Memory	11

President's Report



2014-2015 AT A GLANCE

The Village of Solomon has concluded another very exciting year! We have for the fifth year in a row held our tribal youth spirit camp in Solomon with the help of Helen Bohn and Jennifer Curran as our camp coordinators. And, we held our fourth Anchorage based Solomon Tribal Membership meeting during AFN in October of last year. We were able to visit with tribal members, provide door prizes and give brief reports from the IGAP program with Deilah Johnson, a report from Tribal Coordinator Liz Johnson and myself on VOS in general including; Kawerak, ICWA and BSRHA. We are also sending a youth and elder member to AFN this year for the FAI Elder and Youth Convention. Financially VOS is doing very well. We have multiple revenue streams coming in and are able to expand our services as a result.

Bereavement Assistance: This year the council approved \$500 for Bereavement Assistance to the family of a tribal member who has passed away. This service is in addition to the \$500 that the tribe is able to recover from NSEDC on behalf of the family of a tribal member who has passed.

LEDP Commitment: We have also been working diligently on meeting the needs in our Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP) which was originally developed in 2010. When developed, it was a 5 year plan. We have met or exceeded many of the items on our LEDP and will be going through the LEDP process again in January in Nome and February 6th in Anchorage with Anahma Shannon of Kawerak to plan the direction the tribe would like to go in the next 5 years.

1. More Solomon Gatherings and Involvement-4 each year (3 in Nome and 1 in Anchorage)
2. Waste Management –IGAP funded Bear Proof garbage cans for the B&B and other tribal members who camp at Solomon, with staff hauling the garbage to the dump.
3. Emergency Communication – NSEDC funded the construction of the Okitkon shelter cabin which will open again in October to the public with access to a SAT phone for Emergencies.
4. Community Potable Water- IGAP funded the purchase of a 200 gallon potable water tank for tribal members use at the B&B.
5. Salmon Enhancement (Is being addressed currently by SNC, NSEDC in an agreement with SNC is rehabilitating chum salmon in Solomon River, Fish & Game counting towers to track number of salmon yearly).

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to the VOS. I look forward to the coming year and providing continued service to our members.

Kirsten Timbers, President

Kawerak's Knowledge of the Supernatural Environment Project

- Project activities in Nome will include: Meetings with all three participating Tribal Councils (Solomon, Council & Nome Eskimo Community)
- A focus group
- Interviews with community residents
- Story telling events in the community and at camp.

We are currently looking for: individuals who are interested in participating in the project through interviews (honorariums will be provided).

4-5 individuals to participate in a focus group (honorariums will be provided)

Solomon, Council and Nome Eskimo Community tribal members to host story telling events in their home or at camp (gas and boat stipends available).

For more information about this project and activities for the Village of Solomon, please contact Kawerak's Local Assistant Amy Johnson at 907 434-1458 or go to

<http://www.kawerak.org/socialsci.html>

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

**January 17-18, 2016 in Nome
February 6, 2016 in Anchorage
at the Alaska Native Heritage Center**

The Tribal Council invites you to participate in its strategic planning meetings to renew our Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP). Let's celebrate what we've accomplished these past five years and plan for the next five years by re-establishing our Village Priorities.

Enjoy food and family and friends!

Solomon Youth & Elder Spirit Camp by Jennifer Curran

Solomon Youth Camp 2015 was a great time! Jennifer Curran and Helen Bohn were both able to return as co-camp coordinators. We had three returning 8-12 year old campers, two under 4 years old campers with their caregiver, two elders, and one young adult participant. The weather was very good earlier in the week and we were able to do a lot of fishing and swimming at the Bonanza River. We made kuspuks and stepping stones again this year. We attempted to make a large indoor igloo, but we ended up making smaller individual igloos. We were fortunate to have tribal members visit throughout the week and socialize with the campers. We really appreciated all the time we spent with them and encourage more tribal members to visit the camp during the week and not only at the end of the week gathering! The most exciting activity this year was the Norton Sound Economical Development Cooperation presentation and walk down the Solomon River discussing their rehabilitation project. We even discussed going to their hatchery and office next year to learn more. All the campers enjoyed their time at camp and enjoyed a little more free time to socialize at night. They stated they would like to do more fishing and swimming and would like to go boating or kayaking in the future. The coordinators appreciated more adult help at the camp this year, and have already expressed ideas on how to make next year better. It will be exciting to see more elders at the camp next year and to see the youth interact more with the elders in various activities.



Top L to R: Autumn held by her mother, Amy Johnson, Brewster Bohn, Stephanie Rodriguez, Jaxson Huntsman, Bronson Bohn, Jennifer Curran, Liz Johnson holding grandson Tristan Hudson, Myrtle Komakhuk and Helen Larsen. Center front: Bella and Helen Bohn.

Isabella Bohn on the swing at the Solomon playground.

Tribal Membership Meeting Held in Anchorage



A membership meeting was held in Anchorage during AFN in October giving an opportunity for those to meet and greet and express any concerns with the Village of Solomon's President Kirsten Timbers and tribal coordinator Liz Johnson.

Reports were provided along with dinner and door prizes for everyone in attendance.

This is our fourth year in a row having an Anchorage based gathering for Solomon tribal membership and another one is already being planned at the same time around AFN week.

CURRAN DESCENDANTS Brewster and Bronson Bohn standing behind Robert Curran, Jr. and Alex Gray.



L to R back: Robert Curran, Jr., Sarah Tumalak, Gregory Timbers, Stephanie Rodriguez, Liz Curran Johnson, Brewster Bohn, Myrtle Komakhuk, Alex Gray and Helen Bohn. Lily Huntsman holding infant, Jaxson Huntsman, Meghann Piscocya, Preston Sund, Kirsten Timbers holding Tessa, Bella Bohn. Luella and Dilyn Tumalak and Bronson Bohn.

Become a Foster Parent by Kawerak Staff

Consider becoming a foster parent! To foster a child, you do not need to be married, wealthy, employed full time, or a homeowner. You can choose the age and gender of the child or children who would fit best in your family and you can always say "No" to any placement for any reason. All you really need is a background free from violence, to be free from current substance abuse, and to be willing to love and care for a child who is in need. A monthly stipend is available to assist with the cost of caring for a child and all foster children have 100% of their medical and dental costs covered. You will be offered training and support. The State of Alaska's Office of Children Services also offers an additional stipend for childcare for working parents.

Alaska Native children who must enter care are always best served by remaining with a family member whenever possible but sometimes that option isn't available. The next best placement is with a Native Alaskan family in their own village or region. When we can't find appropriate foster care in those categories, some children remain in non-native foster homes in the region but many more are sent to foster homes and treatment centers across the state and in the lower 48. It is especially difficult to place larger sibling groups and teens locally. Since the Nome Children's Home is not able to accept infants (0 to 30 months), that is another major need we have for foster homes.

Foster parenting can be the most difficult, joyful, rewarding, heartbreaking thing you ever do - and it can make the biggest difference in the life of someone who stands to lose home, family, culture, and identity and yet has done nothing wrong. If you feel that you might be able to offer your home to a child please contact Ian Foster, Kawerak's Foster Parent Recruiter at (907) 443-4372 or fcrase@kawerak.org

August Tribal Election Results

Total qualified voters:	94
Total ballots needed to establish quorum for election:	14
Total ballots in person:	4
Total absentee ballots:	21
Ballots disqualified:	2

Grand total of qualified and counted ballots:
23

Seat "A"
Kirsten Timbers 23

Seat "B"
Cameron Piscoya 21

Seat "C"
Annette Piscoya 18
Write In: Deilah Johnson 1

Seat "F" Youth Designee
Write In: Andy Piscoya 2
Write In: Alex Gray 1
Write In: Esther James 1

ICWA Services Available at VOS

What is Indian Child Welfare Act? (ICWA): The Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 United States Code Sections 1901-1963. ICWA was passed in 1978 in response to the high number of Native children who were removed from their families and tribes by non-tribal public and private agencies, and placed in non-Native foster homes or made available for non-Native adoption.

How does ICWA work? The main goal of ICWA is the protection of Native children. This includes assisting in family reunification, adoptions, and alternative placement of children. The program also ensures that Tribal Councils are represented in Court proceedings. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies when a state court determines that a Native child is involved in a proceeding. This includes child custody proceedings, foster care placement, termination of parental rights, pre-adoptive and adoptive placements. A tribal court or tribe may properly exercise their rights in any and all of these types of proceedings.

Contact the Village of Solomon at 443-4985 for additional information.

IGAP Update

Since the Village of Solomon (VOS) was awarded EPA's Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) grant four years ago, the focus has been to address the lack of Solid Waste disposal in Solomon and the water quality in Solomon's Watershed. With those two objectives, VOS had to hit the ground running, first learning from every resource available and come up with a strategic plan and then implement the plan of action. VOS has successfully worked with EPA in training two Water Quality Experts, and drafting an EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan and begin water sampling in the watershed; as well as survey, create and approve an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. One Solid Waste component was to create outreach education, not only to the tribal members but the Bering Strait Region of Alaska.

VOS started a The 3 R's Bering Strait Region Facebook Page as part of our education and outreach. This page is to share ideas and knowledge on the 3 R's for Bering Strait Regional community members.

VOS hosted a "Mug Shot Week" in Nome around all coffee shops, office buildings and the hospital. The idea was to recognize people using their own mug rather than a disposable coffee cup, when they were caught with a personal mug (within 5 business days), their picture was taken and entered into a drawing after signing a general release form. There were 4 drawings three of which were for their picture to be aired on Nome's GCI Channel 1 as a Reducing, Reusing Advocate for the Bering Strait Region and the grand prize was a Round Trip Ticket donated from a local airline.

A Swap Drive was held in Nome at the Nome Centennial Park. The Swap Drive was for the community members to come together with items they wanted to swap with other items brought to the drive in order to keep these items out of the landfill.

Pictured is Water Quality Expert Tim Stettinger with Jacob Martin from Nome Eskimo Community demonstrating how to use the YSI meter that measures PH water temperature, electrical conductivity and dissolved oxygen in the Jerusalem River. Water Quality Expert Derek Johnson standing at the bank recording results.



VOS' IGAP department constructed an educational billboard which was posted in front of the Village of Solomon Community Center.

Deilah Johnson is serving a two year term as Region 10's Alaska Alternate for Bobbi Barnowsky on the Regional Tribal Operations Committee for Alaska & the Pacific Northwest. The primary function of the Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) is a partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to further Tribal environmental objectives at the regional level, to serve as a liaison between the EPA and Tribes regarding information exchange, and to provide assistance to the National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC).



Deilah is a very proud mother of one year old Tristan Hudson and an active tribal member of Solomon. She is eager to become more engaged in the environmental world and continue to become more knowledgeable and assist her tribe to be enthusiastic about Reducing, Reusing and Recycling.

For more information on RTOC, go to www.rtocregion10.org.

Nome City Recycle Center

The Nome Recycle Center, located on Warren Place accepts newspaper and office paper, including colored and shredded. We encourage you to reuse what paper you can.

Lead-acid batteries are accepted at Car Quest and can be dropped off for free at the west end outside of the last connex van.

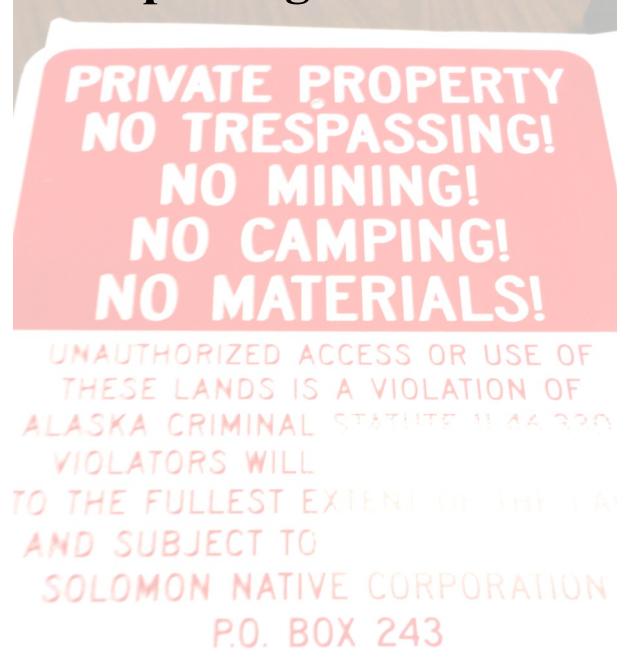
The Nome City Landfill, located at 3.0 mile Beam Road is open and FREE to the public every Saturday.

Segregated piles and bins at landfill for:

Wood, glass, metals, copier, aluminum cans, cardboard and burnables and refrigerators and freezers.

For more information go to www.nomealaska.org or call (907) 443-6663.

No Trespassing In Solomon



The Solomon Native Corporation (SNC) will be posting private property, no trespassing signage throughout SNC lands next summer. SNC owns nearly 68,000 acres of surface estate in and around Solomon.

For questions or concerns please contact Greg Timbers, President of SNC at [907 222-6668](tel:9072226668) or send an email to gregorytimbers@gmail.com.

Launch of the Native-One Stop Portal

[Benefits.gov](http://www.benefits.gov), the official benefits website of the United States, launched a portal of resources for Native American, Alaskan Native, and tribal populations. The portal, Native One-Stop, provides information about the services that are available through the Federal government. Native One-Stop conveniently houses any service that these populations may need with topics ranging from assistance for populations with severe disabilities to congressional internships for Native Americans.

<http://www.benefits.gov/nativeonestop>

CACHE for College and Higher Education Available

The Bering Straits Foundation, Sitnasuak Foundation, Kawerak, Inc., Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation and Norton Sound Health Corporation have partnered to ease the process of applying for scholarships for the people of our region.

The application is called "CACHE" which stands for "Combined Application for College and Higher Education." This application is for individuals going into accredited college or vocational education programs, who meet the eligibility requirements of the organizations they apply to. For more information, visit the Bering Straits Foundation website at www.beringstraits.com or www.kawerak.org.

Tribal Members News & Noteworthy



Kirsten Kaiuktoruq Timbers earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast. Kirsten is the daughter of the late Bryan and RoseAnn Timbers. She grew up in Nome and is a tribal member of the Village of Solomon. Kirsten graduated from Nome Beltz in 2000, and went on to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Human Services from Fort Lewis College in 2005. Since that time, she has lived and worked in Nome serving on her tribal council, the Kawerak Board of Directors, and Solomon Native Corporation Board and other positions. Kirsten currently works as the Manager for King Island Native Corporation. She began her degree in 2012, and with support and encouragement from her wife, Heather; niece, Brittney; and daughters, Layna and Tessa, pictured left.



Alex Gray graduated from high school this year and worked for the Native Village of Council over the summer before heading to Anchorage for his first year of college at UAA.

Pictured here he is providing a presentation on an environmental project he worked on in Council, backhauling waste.

Alex is the son of Cynthia Gray and the late Steven "Teeb" Gray from the Native Village of Council.

Golovin Youth Board Members **Wilma Amaktoolik**, a



junior, and Molly Moses, a senior, were welcomed to the Board of Directors meeting in September.

When asked how Norton Sound could interest youth in pursuing a health career, Molly and Wilma pointed to existing resources. Molly suggested more health-related

sessions in NACTEC at certain times in the school year. Wilma said she would like to see medical professionals take the time to speak to classes when they visit for the health fairs.

If you have any news & noteworthy to be printed here, please contact the office at 443-4985 or send an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org.

Tribal Coordinator Report by Liz Curran Johnson

VOS has 141 tribally enrolled members to date. It is important for tribal members to contact the VOS for any mailing address changes. The VOS tribal council continues to reach out to its tribal membership through newsletters and addresses need to be current.

The VOS office continues to issue tribal ID cards. The tribal membership card can be used as a form of ID. The United States Government and the State of Alaska recognizes tribal enrollment cards as a form of identification when asked to show a form of identification.

Our tribal Council meets the third Thursday every month. A teleconference line is available for tribal members to participate. Contact the office for an agenda and number and password.

The youth representative is a vacant seat. It is specific for age between 18-24.

The business of the Solomon Bed& Breakfast was managed through the office this year with guests checking in and out during VOS office hours with the help of Candace Amaktoolik and Derek Johnson when needed.

The tribe received a \$25,000 Tribal Mini Grant from NSHC: The Council budgeted this grant for strategic planning efforts and development of our 5 year LEDP (years 2016 – 2021) with our membership both near and far. Beginning in January, we will schedule a one day strategic planning here in Nome and Anchorage on Saturday February 6, 2016 at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Teleconference will be available for those that cannot attend in person but can participate by phone with the Nome based tribal members in January. A meeting stipend of \$100 will be provided to tribal members 18 and older. This one time stipend is for attending one meeting, not both.

This grant will also fund five elders to attend our annual youth camp at Solomon next summer which is scheduled the first week of August. We will have a van to take this group in the country for berry picking and other activities that will be coordinated in conjunction with our annual youth and elders camp. We will also be offering \$100 for sharing Solomon's history through own personal experiences, growing up in Solomon, etc .

VOS prints our newsletter biannually. Photos and announcements are always welcome, such as to the right. Top and center is Sarah Tumulak's family and Sophia Piscoya receiving her diploma from Headstart program.

VOS will be hiring a carpenter, laborer, b&b coordinator, housekeeper, and two camp coordinators next summer. If you are interested in working for VOS, please contact the office at 443-4985 or send an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org.



Tribal Council Reorganizes at its Monthly Meeting

The Tribal Council held its election of officers and reorganized at its October Tribal Council meeting. The Council meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm at the VOS office. Tribal members are encouraged to attend these meetings. Those who do not live in Nome are welcome to attend via teleconference. Contact the tribal coordinator for the teleconference number and pass code information and an agenda will be emailed to you. Here's how to reach your tribal council through email:

Position Held	Name	Contact Information
President	Kirsten Timbers	oonga4me@hotmail.com
Vice President	Cameron Piscoya	capiscoya@gmail.com
Treasurer	Annette Piscoya	sookinuk@gmail.com
Secretary	Elizabeth Johnson	ejohnson@kawerak.org
Assistant Secretary/Treas	Brian James	bjames@kawerak.org
Elder Rep	Katie Stettinger	tc.sol@kawerak.org
Youth Rep	VACANT	NA

In Memory of Scottie McPeck

Tribal member Scottie McPeck died suddenly on May 25, 2015 here in Nome. He was the eldest son of Kim Henry, grandson of Eugene Dalilak and great grandson to Garfield and Franklin Okikton.

He was helpful during Solomon's youth camp one year when his siblings and mother Kim attended.

He also attended FAI's Elders and Youth conference representing Solomon along with his grandpa Franklin Okikton.

He was buried at the Nome Cemetery.

Rest In Peace



"It is so incredibly hard to lose a life that was so full of hope and promise. Scottie was a valued tribal member, he could be counted on for a big smile and positive attitude. His smile and presence will be missed dearly. We lift his family and our tribe up in prayer as they deal with the grief of his passing. Scottie's passing is a reminder of how quickly our lives can change and how special and important we all are to one another. May you rest in peace Scottie."

**Kirsten Timbers
President**

6/1/2015



Village of Solomon
Box 2053
Nome, Alaska 99762
(907) 443-4985

Tribal Membership Newsletter

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT VOS



SOLOMON SUMMER 2015

Top L to R: Amy and Autumnn Johnson, Ann Kalerak, Bronson Bohn, Jaxson Huntsman, Brewster Bohn, Kooper Piscocya. Jackie and Mia Piscocya, Myrtle Komakhuk, Stephanie Rodriguez, Liz Johnson holding Triston Hudson. Brianna Piscocya holding Sophia, Annette Piscocya, Jennifer Curran

Front row: Cameron Piscocya holding Ethan, Helen and Bella Bohn and Helen Larsen.