



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

HONORING MMIWG ON MAY 5TH, 2023

SPRING/SUMMER 2023



Top L to R: MMIP Investigator, Lonny Piscoya, Lt. Governor, Nancy Dahlstrom, MMIP Coordinator, Ingrid Cumberlidge, President Kirsten Timbers, Melanie Bahnke, US Attorney Executive Assistant, US First Assistant Attorney, Bryan Wilson, Public Safety Commissioner Jim Crockwell, Deilah Johnson and Indigenous musician Witty Youngman.

The MMIWG/MMIP event was held in Nome at the Rec Center with speakers, remarks, public comments, a walk, food and a live performance from Witty Youngman

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◇ PRESIDENTS REPORT
- ◇ ELECTIONS
- ◇ B&B REPORT
- ◇ ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
- ◇ VOS PROGRESS
- ◇ CAMP POLICY
- ◇ VOS TRIBAL COURT
- ◇ TC REPORT
- ◇ AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS
- ◇ TRIBAL MEMBER NEWS
- ◇ PHOTOS

President's Report by Kirsten Timbers

On May 4th, VOS hosted in partnership with KINC a Nome tribal leadership meeting and invited Native Village of Council and Nome Eskimo Community. Our hope is that we can collaborate on joint priorities and develop solid partnerships within our tribes. Our agenda includes; tribal updates, infrastructure updates, tribal court opportunities, government to government opportunities with City of Nome and School board and indigenous peoples day celebration.



The tribal council has been managing their tribal court, developing all of their legal forms, following their Tribal Court ordinance and Children's code, receiving training and holding their hearings for one case in their jurisdiction.

King Island Native Community and the VOS have applied for the American Rescue Plan Act Competitive Grant: State Tribal Education Compact Demonstration Tribal Partners at the end of 2023 and have been awarded. This opportunity is to manage \$100,000 in the development of showcasing how a Tribal School in rural Alaska can operate, function, collaborating state regulations and how the state can support Tribal schools, this will require a year of monthly negotiations with the State of Alaska. Both tribes have established a joint Education Committee.

VOS will be receiving their HUD and Alaska Community Foundation funded quarantine tiny home from Finished Works, LLC on the first barge with an expected arrival of early June. This tiny home was designed by the Council and will be setup for off-grid and on-grid systems for any of our community members that need an isolated space to quarantine while recovering from covid19.

VOS COUNCIL MEMBERS & STAFF

President – Kirsten Timbers

Vice President – Cameron Piscoya

Treasurer – Elizabeth Johnson

Secretary – Annette Piscoya

Council Member—Deilah Johnson

Elder Seat—Cheryl Kalerak

Youth Seat – Wilma Amaktoolik

Tribal Coordinator – Sherri Lewis

Environmental Coordinator – Deilah Johnson

Development Coordinator – Deilah Johnson

B&B Coordinator—Wilma Amaktoolik

ICWA Worker – Elizabeth Johnson & Kawerak's

Legal Team

Consultant in Program Development, Rebecca Thorp

Environmental Assistant, Sonya Thornton

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

Two (2) seats are open this year, seats C & D. In order to be eligible to hold a position as a council member for Seat C or D, a person must meet the following qualifications:

In order to be eligible to hold a position as a council member for Seats A, B, C, and D, a person must meet the following qualifications:

Eighteen (18) years old or older by the date of the election in which the person seeks office; and

Physically resided within the Nome/Solomon area for a period of one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election in which the candidate seeks office. Reasonable temporary absences shall not be used to establish that this requirement has not been satisfied; and

No convictions within the last ten (10) years for any crimes which would be a felony in Alaska, except for State fishing and/or hunting convictions; and

Enrolled as a tribal member of the tribe and, if required by the tribe's membership ordinance, a "Resident Member" as that status is defined by the membership ordinance; and

Free of any physical or mental incapacity which would prevent the candidate from carrying out the duties of a council member.

Candidates must declare their candidacy in writing through a Letter of Intent in accordance with Section IV of the election ordinance. Letters of Intent must be received by the tribal council no sooner than sixty (60) days and no later than forty (40) days prior to the election in order for a candidate to have their name included on ballots. Letters of intent must be received between **June 12th to July 3rd, 2023**.

Elections will be held on Friday, August 11th, 2023. Election results will be announced during the Annual Tribal Gathering in Solomon on the last day of Frances Wright Youth & Elder Camp on Saturday August 12th, 2023

In order to be considered for council candidacy to the council and your name included on the ballot, you must submit a Letter of intent and disclosure form to the Village of Solomon. A Letter of Intent must certify that the candidate resides in the Nome/Solomon area, is a tribal member eighteen (18) years old or older, include a disclosure form, and any other information the candidate wishes the tribal membership to know. The disclosure form requires that the candidate list prior criminal history and any current pending criminal charges. Contact the tribal coordinator for the form.

Submit your Letters of Intent to admin@villageofsolomon.org. Online voting and absentee ballots will be available this year and mailed to you should your mailing address is on file with the office and once candidacy is announced.

Solomon's 2023 Schedule of Activities

January 19	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
February 16	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
March 16	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
April 27	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting\
May 5	MMIWG Day Event
May 18	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
June 10	Last Day for Youth Camp Applications
June 15	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
June 12	Notice of Election/open for Letters of intent to Run for Open Seat
July 3	Last Day to submit Letters of intent in election
August 7-12	Youth Camp
August 12	Annual Meeting
August 17	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
September 21	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
October 10	Indigenous Peoples Day
October 19	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
November 16	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting

CURRENT COVID RELIEF APPLICATIONS TO SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP

INTERNET SUPPORT - to provide financial assistance for the high cost of internet services per household on a monthly basis

UTILITY ASSISTANCE - to provide financial assistance for the high cost of UTILITIES per household on a monthly basis

LAPTOP - You may apply for a chromebook online due to a more virtual world during the pandemic

Please note, the Council meets regularly to discuss future services to respond to the global pandemic, and especially how it has negatively impacted our community. Announcements will be made as developing services continue.

Eligibility Criteria:

All applications have criteria to meet in order to qualify for the relief services you are applying for. Please follow the guidelines, facts, qualifications or instructions under each services. Each application has information available on the website, or you may request a digital or paper copy by emailing Deilah. All questions in regard to covid services, contact Deilah directly at her email, deilah@villageofsolomon.org

To receive regular updates and news announcements sent directly to your email inbox, please subscribe on the website to receive emails when announcements are made.

Environmental Coordinator Report

By Deilah Johnson

We have now been under an EPA building capacity grant for a decade. Throughout this decade, we have been able to support opposing IPOP with our water quality component, develop and implement our renewable and alternative energy for our tribe and provide outreach, tips and education to our community.

I have been working with our new hire, Rebecca Thorp on developing and partnering with local tribes in EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction grant program. This is to conduct a baseline database of the greenhouse gas emissions in Nome and develop two plans to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, including installing renewable energy. It's such an exciting time with our current Administration tackling climate change, going green and being a tribal entity!

We have received an ANTHC Solid Waste Reduction grant to hire two interns to relaunch our Ban the Bag campaign in Nome. I am ecstatic to see Ban the Bag rebuild the momentum we began right before COVID19 became a thing.

We have partnered with a Michigan State University collegiate research team who are grantees of the National Science Foundation. They will work with our tribal members directly on resolutions to cost savings, energy burden and efficiency for our homes over the next 4 years.

Rebecca Thorp and I will be facilitating a new Climate Action Planning Committee who will be each tribal partner in our CPRG grant, our Dr. Kristen Cetin leading the MSU team and we'll have Nome Joint Utility

Systems working with our committee as we progress forward in reducing pollution and greenhouse gases over the timeframe of 4 years.

Environmental Assistant Sonya Thornton has learned how to grow produce in the VOS office! She will continue to grow and harvest for tribal members to pick up and take home harvested produce. Sonya, with help from Amy Johnson hosted the Earth Day event at the Nome Elementary School.

The Environmental Dept. will also be building a custom greenhouse for Solomon coming this summer!

On May 3rd, we were able to host a celebratory in-person review of our Army Corp of Engineers partnership, since the habitat study has finally been completed.

As always, if you have any suggestions on how to better serve you or our community in regard to our environment, please contact me directly. I love hearing your feedback and suggestions.



Development Coordinator Report

We have finally closed our CDC grant offering the last of our funds for utility and internet reimbursements. However, the Council met in January to ensure we obligate ARPA funds to continue the two supportive programs to membership.

We have received a Denali Commission grant for our utility expansion. We are seeking additional funding to support the utility and construction. We have also applied for infrastructure funding FY23 for construction costs as we develop our tribal housing development and community center.

The tribe will continue to seek funds to host youth camp each year.

We are also applying for our first allocation of Office of Victim Services from the Dept. of Justice funding which will expand services to our membership.

In the Education Committee efforts for the development of a tribal school in Nome, grant research and opportunities are underway to expand the knowledge, momentum and opportunities to build the mission of the committee. The DC has also been seeking small private donations to supplement events, programs, incentives to balance out what VOS is spending from existing program funds and for an enhanced experience for such events.

VILLAGE OF SOLOMON

VOS Council

1993 Established as a federally recognized tribe
 Annual elections for 5 seats
 Tribal Coordinator staff- newsletter
 ICWA staff
 Emergency Asst.
 B&B Renovations and opening
 LEDP gatherings
 2 new seats on council, youth & elder seats
 Annual Meetings
 Manage CARES & ARPA Funds
 Hired B&B Coordinator
 WEBSITE launched
 New office building
 Land purchase
 new construction for single families
 Tribal Court

Youth Camp

1st camp, 2010 and consecutively since
 Youth Camp policies, application and open to enrolled youth and elders
 Renamed after Frances Wright
 Each year is evolving, expanding
 Far reaching to members
 Additional funding opps
 Language classes
 environmental education
 blueberry jam making
 fishing and smoking salmon
 fry bread making
 youth council
 community presentations by youth
 sewing

Tribal Services

Tribal Wellness support i.e. sports, rec/gym passes,
 Subsistence Support
 Bereavement Assistance
 Bed Bug Program
 School supplies
 Online education support
 Home improvement funding support
 Home Down payment assistance

Grant Writer

RF Tier 1 Van purchase
 NSEDC OEF shelter cabin
 RF Tier 1 playground purchase
 CDC vehicle purchase, internet/utility support, laptops for community, new generator
 HUD ICDBG - quarantine tiny home
 ACF covid programs
 ACF solar panels on tiny home
 Development of Affordable Housing Plan and applications
 Consultant hire in Program Dev.
 Tribal partnership for Tribal school
 MMIWG awareness and advocacy/events
 Indigenous Peoples Day event

Environmental Dept

Solid Waste Mgmt Plan
 QAPP for water monitoring program
 Renewable Energy Plan
 Environmental Education
 Solar Decathlon VOS Project
 EPA Grant 2013-2024
 TSAF grant solar install
 Honor the Earth weatherization kits
 Additional Funding church and tank cleanup
 ACOE Partnership habitat study
 IPOP research
 DOE Tech assistance
 MET Tower data collection
 Ban the Bag Campaign
 ANTHC Solid Waste grant
 Environmental Assistant

2023 FRANCES WRIGHT YOUTH & ELDER CAMP

CAMP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY JUNE 10, 2023 SUBMIT TO TC.SOL@KAWERAK.ORG or deilah@villageofsolomon.org, download an application on the website or request one by staff

VILLAGE OF SOLOMON

FRANCES WRIGHT YOUTH CAMP POLICIES

Approved by the Council February 16th, 2023

All youth camp participants will have submitted a camp application prior to the deadline of submission to be considered approved to attend the VOS Frances Wright Youth & Elder Camp. A completed application must be submitted to the VOS staff, incomplete applications will not be considered for participation.

All participants under the age of 8, will have a chaperone in order to attend and participate in camp. Elders considered for applications, must be over the age of 55 to be eligible as an elder applicant and for funding considerations.

Any camp applicants that are not officially enrolled with the Village of Solomon tribe, prior to the submission of the camp application deadline, may be approved, however, tribal members of VOS will have priority.

Village of Solomon tribally enrolled camp applications will take priority due to funding restrictions first, before non-enrolled camp applications are considered.

The Village of Solomon take priority in hiring enrolled tribal members as the camp coordinators, however, chaperones of enrolled approved camp applications will also be considered as camp staff in lieu of paid wages, an airline ticket may be offered and only approved by the VOS Traditional Council.

Frances Wright Youth & Elder Camp is solely for the unity of celebrating cultural, subsistence, traditional, historical activities to take place at the Bed & Breakfast for the families with children, elders and tribal members residing outside of Nome and within Nome, and will have the B&B to themselves with the full week blocked off for B&B reservations, annually. The youth camp should always, for best efforts, take place the first week of August, prior to the school year and at prime time for berries and salmon fishing.

The VOS annual meeting should also, at best efforts, take place on the last day of Camp, typically a Saturday for optimal participation and celebration with youth camp attendees concluding a successful camp.

Subject to change as necessary by the Council

APPROVED BY COUNCIL FEB 16TH, 2023

VILLAGE OF SOLOMON TRIBAL COURT ESTABLISHMENT

With assistance from Kawerak Tribal Attorney's, Ali Wykis and Meghan 'Sigvanna' Topkok the Traditional Council has been able to approve a VOS Tribal Court Ordinance and Children's Code for enrolled VOS Youth matters.

VOS has also been able to sign a Civil Diversion agreement with the 2nd judicial district/Nome Trial Courts in providing sentencing recommendations for misdemeanor charges against our tribal members; whom request VOS to step in and ask the presiding Judge if VOS can utilize Rule 11 for sentencing.

Offenses Eligible for Civil Diversion

By this Agreement, the State and the Tribe agree that, in lieu of state criminal prosecution, the Tribe will offer civil tribal remedies for the following offenses and crimes (as listed in Exhibit C):

a. Certain Class B misdemeanors under Title 11 of the Alaska Statutes

(including those involving domestic violence as defined by AS 18.66.990). the State of Alaska and [Name of Tribe]

b. Minor consuming or in possession offenses, including non-misdemeanor

violations and misdemeanors (AS 04.16.050; AS 28.35.280).

c. Local option alcohol possession offenses in communities that have voted to

ban the possession of alcohol, making it a violation of state law to possess

alcohol in that community (AS 04.11.501).

d. Assault in the fourth degree (AS 11.41.230) (including those involving domestic violence as defined by AS 18.66.990) and reckless endangerment (AS 11.41.250) (including those involving domestic violence as defined by

AS 18.66.990) if the offender has

- no assault conviction in the past ten years;
- no prior felony convictions for crimes against a person; and

- had no prior referrals to a tribal court for any assault in the

fourth degree; or

ii. the District Attorney—in consultation with the Tribe—has

determined that the offender should be referred to tribal court in the interests of justice.

e. A matter will not be referred to tribal court if the offender commits an accompanying crime, in addition to those enumerated in this Section 4, and the accompanying crime is not covered by this Agreement.

f. The Tribe has authority to decline any case referred to its tribal court.

TRIBAL COURT JURISDICTION in CHILDREN'S CASES:

ICWA intervention for any minor investigated by Children's services for any state

Should both biological parents wish to do so, the VOS Tribal Court can request Case jurisdiction of the ICWA case and handle all matters for the child (ren) in question

VOS legal/voluntary Adoptions

Support for Struggling Families

VOS may appoint a selected foster parent using VOS' foster parent application. This application is not the same as the State's application process and foster parenting management is done by the Council and Children's committee

VOS Traditional Council members are working directly with Kawerak Staff Attorneys and seeking Tribal Court training as the tribal court is expanding, ensuring that the forms, hearings, legal procedures are done correctly.

When the new VOS community building is constructed, there will be a private tribal court space for hearings to be held in person.

VOS is also receiving Office of Victim Services funds to implement VOS Victim services advocacy staff and ensure all referrals, needs, support are provided to any tribal citizen who is a victim of crime. The tribe will also be developing Domestic Violence codes and will be able to provide Protective Orders through tribal court.

Tribal Coordinator

Sherri Lewis

I had attended my first Alaska Tribal Administrators association training in Anchorage this year, it was helpful in managing accounting procedures, tribal operations and working with the Council. I have also been helping VOS staff in public events, the most recent event was the MMIWG/MMIP on May 5th held at Rec center in Nome. I am still working to update all of the mailing addresses for membership, however, I am still getting bounced back mail for outdated addresses. There is a form on our website at www.villageofsolomon.org/mailing.



I am getting more and more excited for the weather warming up to head toward the best season of the year, summer when I spend all my free time subsisting. I have also been working with the Tribal Court as court clerk, learning more about our own VOS tribal court. I have recently also enrolled with the Village of Solomon. We successfully completed our first Audit, with the influx of US Treasury federal funding, we now have that behind us and know what to expect going forward next year. Please contact me for questions, tc.sol@kawerak.org.

Affordable Housing for the Village of Solomon

Affordable Housing Strategic Program Plan Update

After approving our Affordable Housing Plan, the Council has been working toward implementation. We have already approved 3 Home Improvement Repair applications to two tribal members to provide cost savings, energy efficiency, updates, safety in their homes. Applications for home improvements is maxed at \$25,000 per applicant. We have also launched our Home Downpayment assistance applications, maxed at \$20,000 per applicant. Both applications are LIVE on the VOS website, under the Affordable Housing tab. VOS Leaders and staff have also been applying for additional construction funds to begin the three new single family homes on the east end of Nome, VOS owned land and construction funding for the new upcoming VOS Community Facility.

Please subscribe to the website as staff continually update the website. www.villageofsolomon.org. You may scroll to the bottom and any news updates, will be directly emailed to your inbox for immediate release.

If you ever have any questions or need additional assistance in purchasing a home, home improvement contractors, please reach out to Deilah Johnson at deilah@villageofsolomon.org.



VOS Tribal citizens participate, organize and lead outreach & awareness on May 5th, MMIWG day in Nome, Alaska.

News & Noteworthy from Solomon



Sara James is a Village of Solomon tribal member and is the daughter of VOS tribal member Brian and Donna James. Her siblings are Jack and Esther. Sara Mae (Kuduq) James has had quite a busy school year with no plans of stopping this summer as she is accepted into the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program's Acceleration Academy in May for the second year in a row. Sara will be enrolled into the University of Alaska Anchorage's Summer Class taking Trigonometry. She completed 2 UAA classes last summer and was in school at UAA from the end of May to the middle of August. Sara really enjoyed living at the dorms and meeting students from all over Alaska and continues to keep in touch with her fellow ANSEP cohorts.

This year while a freshman at Nome Beltz High School Sara has been involved with athletics as well as academic extracurricular activities. She participated on the Nanook Volleyball JV. Team

and they had practice at 6 am every day until school started and she also played basketball for the Nanooks on their junior varsity team, a sport she has played ever since she was in 2nd grade. Earlier this year she participated in an Education Rising state-wide competition and received 4th place with her teammate on a book they made titled, "My Aana" and travelled to Fairbanks with 10 other students. Sara has received certification as a Youth Court Judge and has sat in on a couple of cases with youth from the Bering Strait area and presented at Nome Community Center's annual meeting with her fellow judge and Meghan Sig Tapqaq (pictured above is Sara on her way to a village). She will be joining the Nome Youth Court group to Homer to participate in a Youth Justice Conference. All while maintaining a 4.0 GPA since the 5th grade.

Sara is interested in the medical field and recently received her EMT 1 status and is taking 2 health classes taught by a NSHC employee to increase the number of locally trained health field employees. Sara already has her eye on being a doctor or veterinarian as she loves caring for people and pets. To round out her freshman year she is also a part of the drama club that will be putting on a play in early May.



Cameron Piscoya, Vice President of the Traditional Council attended the Tribal Leaders Summit in Washington D.C.



Do you have any news, noteworthy stories to share with the VOS Tribal community?

If so, we're always looking to highlight our tribal members in the newsletter. Send an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org with photos, stories, accomplishments and we would love to consider printing in our newsletter.

We will do our best to include as much as possible, and we'll do our best to distribute a newsletter bi-annually.

Ways to contact the tribe:

Tribal Coordinator: Sherri Lewis, tc.sol@kawerak.org

Development/Environmental: Deilah Johnson, deilah@villageofsolomon.org

B&B Coordinator:

Wilma Amaktoolik, wilma@villageofsolomon.org

President: Kirsten Timbers, oonga4me@hotmail.com

Vice President: Cameron Piscoya, capiscoya@gmail.com

Treasurer: Liz Johnson liz@villageofsolomon.org

Secretary: Annette Piscoya, sookinuk@gmail.com

Environmental Assistant: Sonya Thornton, sonya@villageofsolomon.org

Recently Enrolled with VOS

Jessica and Darby Johnson

“I graduated from Birthingway College of Midwifery and was trained as a midwife — I was recently nationally certified by NARM, and will be Oregon licensed sometime before October. I’ve attended over 100 births at birth centers and at home. In my free time I take care of houseplants, garden, sew, knit, read, and bake. As for Darby, she loves reading, especially graphic novels, gaming, drawing and crafting, loves all kinds of animals, the color pink, anime, spicy snacks and ramen, swimming, and spending time with her grandma. I also have a partner I’ve been with for 11 years, John, with whom I have 2 more children, Thor (3) and Saga (1) and one on the way due in November. John is an enrolled member of the Wyandotte Nation. Unfortunately the Wyandotte Nation doesn’t allow dual enrollment for minors, which is why Thor and Saga didn’t apply for enrollment in VOS at this time. “



Top Photo is Darby, Bottom photo: Jessica

FORMS/ APPLICATIONS ACCESS

The Village of Solomon recognizes a more virtual world today, as well as our tribal community members that reside outside of Nome, Alaska. Thus, we have all of these forms available on our website:

- ◇ School Reimbursement
- ◇ Tribal Wellness
- ◇ Mailing Address Update
- ◇ Bed Bug Info
- ◇ Hunter Subsistence Agreement
- ◇ Emergency Assistance
- ◇ Employment Application
- ◇ Under the COVID Resources tab: Utility/laptop/Internet/COVID Emergency forms

Please note that each form/application does have guidelines and instructions accompanying each file form or application.

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY AUGUST 12TH, 2023

ANNUAL MEETING

**CONCLUDING YOUTH CAMP (AUGUST 7TH-12TH) @ THE
SOLOMON COMMUNITY CENTER/B&B**

VOS IS HIRING!

Summer 2023, VOS will be hiring Camp coordinators to manage the Frances Wright Youth & Elder Camp this summer.

Housekeeper for the B&B reservations

2 youth interns (paid) Age 16+

CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM



VOS is partnering with Nome Eskimo Community, Native Village of Council and King Island on developing a baseline data collection of greenhouse gas emissions and an opportunity to develop an action plan to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. VOS has hired a Program Consultant, Rebecca Thorp to work remotely in developing the grant, partnerships and carry out the planning grant. This EPA planning grant will be the stepping stone in applying for future EPA funding to implement the action items. Please watch out for community gathering announcements for your input as we develop the action plan of priorities.

Questions to ask yourself for priority action planning, how do you want to heat your home? What type of efficiency measures would you prefer and would you be interested in HRV's, energy storage, renewable energy? Workshops for education? How do we get rid of heating fuel?

ANTHC Solid Waste Programs

VOS Environmental Dept. has also applied for funding through a sub-grant of Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Environmental Program to hire two highschool aged paid interns to work through the summer to RELAUNCH our Ban the Bag campaign in Nome. VOS is super ecstatic to lead youth in spearheading such a public campaign to reduce plastic pollution in our subsistence lifestyle culture of a people.

Does anyone remember, right before Covid19 took over the globe—we had been working on Ban the Bag—developing a petition, distributing reusable totes and drafting a city ordinance for the City Council in Nome. Let's encourage our youth to take the lead under the supervision of existing staff and mitigate plastic demand!

