

The SEALASKA Shareholder

FIRST QUARTER | 2021

Representation Matters

Indigenous people are notoriously underrepresented among elected officials nationwide. “If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu,” said Sealaska shareholder Todd Gloria, recently elected mayor of one of the nation’s largest cities, San Diego.

We can inspire a better path for today, as well as for future generations, through involvement with policy that shapes our lives at the local, state and federal level. One of the simplest ways to engage is with your vote — while others are called to serve as elected officials. This quarter we are profiling Gloria and Washington state Representative Debra Lekanoff, two shareholders leading through public policy.

Read more about these remarkable individuals on pages 4–5.



Todd Gloria

Debra Lekanoff

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Letter from the Chair Joe Kaaxúxgu Nelson

Dear Shareholders,

For many of us, the first signs of spring are a welcome change. The increase in daylight lures us outdoors. The fresh air and physical activity improve our state of mind. We start gearing up for our busy summers. The change in the season brings work, but it is good.



We hope shareholders and communities have been feeling the change occurring at Sealaska over the last handful of years. Our shift to more of a values-driven company has led to profitable partnerships. The increase in profitability has led to an increase in shareholder benefits and new programs, like the bereavement program and the language revitalization fund.

The *Deishú* Memorial Fund (bereavement program) is intended to help shareholders get through that difficult time when we lose close family members. This last year has been especially tough. We are thankful that the program was up and running before this pandemic swept the globe.

We are also thankful that the language fund was able to come together during this critical moment, while we still have a few first language speakers able to help keep our precious languages alive. We plan to spend \$500,000 annually on our languages, working with partners like Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, to increase our pool of dedicated language teachers.

Our focus on ocean health will continue to grow and evolve, as the challenges we face as a species continue to multiply. There is a lot of common sense built into our traditional way of life. We cannot go back in time, but we can put those commonsense values to work in a modern context. At Sealaska, we know that traditional ecological knowledge can foster healing at individual, community and global levels.

We also know that healthy communities require a lot of cooperation between all of the players at local, state and federal levels. Restoration of balance and diversity in our ecosystems is going to require leadership with a strong sense of place — Indigenous leadership.

Indigenous leadership is not about titles and roles. It is about connectedness and purpose. It is about doing the work and focusing on solutions, rather than problems. It is about putting the collective good before individual self interest. It is about respecting and holding up your opposites. It is about taking the long view and always learning.

At Sealaska we will continue

- Focusing our business development around ocean health
- Partnering with like-minded organizations and people who care as much about people and the planet as they do their bottom line
- Supporting our affiliates: Sealaska Heritage Institute and Spruce Root, Inc.
- Supporting the Sustainable Southeast Partnership
- Investing in our people, culture and homelands

As the brown bears start climbing out of their dens with their cubs this spring, we hope that you start climbing out of this pandemic carefully and return to our extended family routines safely.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa, T’oyá xsut ‘nüüsm!

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Joe Kaaxúxgu Nelson
Sealaska Chair

Scholarship Survey Reveals Interesting Findings

To date, Sealaska has awarded approximately

11,000 scholarships totaling \$16.4 million

SEALASKA INCREASES SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT BY \$10 MILLION

2018

PART-TIME STUDENTS BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR SEALASKA SCHOLARSHIPS

2019

SEALASKA ADDS AN ADDITIONAL \$2.5 MILLION TO THE ENDOWMENT

2020

Sealaska reached out to recent scholarship recipients to learn more about their diverse backgrounds, interests and career paths. In 2020, Sealaska supported 550 students who were seeking higher education.

Respondents specialized in more than 20 fields of study or training. Sealaska is proud that scholarship dollars support a range of career options. We learned that science or business fields were the most common career areas. Other areas included dental hygiene, marketing, early childhood education and more.

To meet the needs of students in a variety of higher education pathways, Sealaska scholarships may be applied toward short-term vocational training, two-year associate degrees and more extensive graduate-level programs, as well as at accredited four-year colleges and universities. Read more about survey results at Sealaska.com.

Did You Know?

- Since 2019, part-time students are also eligible for scholarships.
- Scholarships are awarded to students enrolled at graduate schools, four-year colleges or in vocational-technical programs.
- Scholarships are funded by Sealaska and administered by Sealaska Heritage Institute.
- Descendants are eligible to apply — not just shareholders.



Jackie Ohmer

Investing in Education for the Long Term

Sealaska established a scholarship endowment fund in 1989 with \$2.5 million. To date, Sealaska has awarded approximately 11,000 scholarships totaling \$16.4 million.

Directors approved adding \$10 million to the fund in 2018. In 2020, another \$2.5 million was added to the endowment to meet an increase in applications, in part due to an increase in demand from newly eligible part-time students.

Sealaska awards hundreds of scholarships to shareholders and descendants each year.

“The scholarship from Sealaska helped me achieve my goals of being a Native educator for today’s youth. I will be forever grateful for what Sealaska saw in me.”

– Sealaska scholarship recipient, Jacklyn Brendible

Working with Inspired Natives in Community

Stephanie Masterman is the retail and special projects manager at Eighth Generation, a Native-owned art and lifestyle brand with a flagship store in downtown Seattle’s iconic Pike Place Market



At just 25 years old, Stephanie (Sxhaalghén) Masterman is the retail and special projects manager at Eighth Generation, a Native-owned art and lifestyle brand with a flagship store in downtown Seattle’s iconic Pike Place Market. With the tagline “Inspired Natives, not Native-inspired,” Eighth Generation works closely with artists and entrepreneurs to provide a platform for 100% Native-designed products. Masterman has been with the company for more than four years, rising quickly through the ranks to her management position.

Her leadership and successes were recognized in 2020 by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development when she was named a Native American 40 Under 40 award recipient. She was nominated by leaders of Eighth Generation. “Honestly the nomination was the big thing for me — wow, my team is proud of me,” Masterman said. “I thought, there’s no way NCAIED is going to pick me, but I was just honored my team would want to lift me up and acknowledge me.”

Masterman is active with the Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council. In 2018, she was recognized as a Tlingit & Haida Emerging Leader. She is a junior at the University of Washington, majoring in American Indian studies with a minor in Arctic studies. She was also named an Ocean Nexus Indigenous Ocean Ecologies fellow. Under the fellowship, she will study the impacts that climate change may have on Southeast Alaska, and will speak with regional leaders for insights into culturally appropriate responses to migration and evacuation.

Landless Update

Campaign organizers with Alaska Natives Without Land are optimistic that legislation advancing the land claims of Alaska Natives from five Southeast communities will be reintroduced during the 117th Congress, which got underway on Jan. 3, 2021.

Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell were inexplicably left out of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) and were unable to form Native corporations. Alaska Natives from these communities have gone 50 years without the economic benefits that are associated with ANCSA corporations, including dividends, scholarships, local economic development and more. The bill, called the *Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities*

Recognition and Compensation Act, would amend ANCSA to include the five communities and allow them to form urban corporations.

Although advocates have been fighting for inclusion and recognition for 50 years since ANCSA’s passage, last year’s legislation fell victim to timing and the chaos that enveloped federal politics at the close of the year. The bill must now be reintroduced.

“We cannot control other issues that draw the attention of Congress, or whether there is a final bill within each Congressional session,” said Nicole Hallingstad, who serves on Sealaska’s board of directors and is from the landless community of Petersburg. “What we can control is the continued work to get the legislation introduced in each session, and to keep community members and other interested parties up to date with our efforts and progress.”

Support Alaska Natives Without Land

Alaska Natives Without Land is requesting advocates to post videos of support on the issue using the hashtag #LandBack, and to send videos, photos or other testimonials to info@withoutland.org to share.

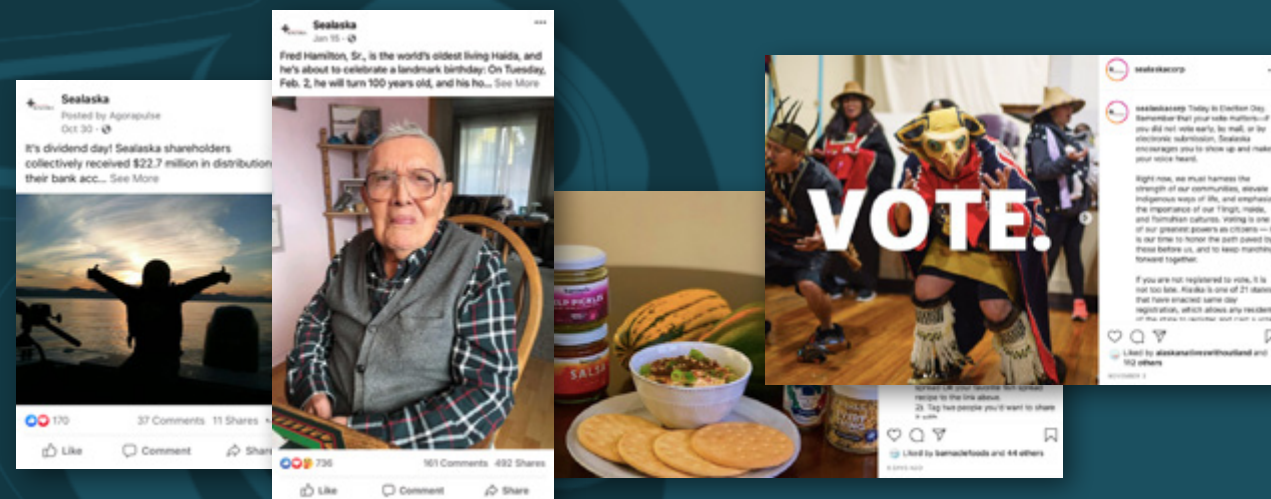
The Southeast Alaska Landless Corporation plans to announce a special opportunity for youth board members to join the fight soon. The hope is that youth board members will help bring awareness of the issue to younger shareholders and descendants.



Join Us Online!



CONNECT WITH US



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Spring Distribution!

The spring distribution was announced Friday, April 2 and will be paid approximately two weeks later.

Revenues from operations of Sealaska’s businesses – which work collectively to foster ocean health through sustainable seafood, marine sciences, environmental remediation, clean-energy project development, undersea soil sampling, water monitoring and more – are providing an increasing share of shareholder dividends.

\$13.5 Million
paid in 2020

OPERATIONS
All classes of shareholders receive a payment from this source

\$4.8 Million
paid in 2020

SHAREHOLDER PERMANENT FUND
All classes of shareholders receive a payment from this source

The 2021 spring distribution includes an ANCSA Section 7(i) payment to Urban and At-Large shareholders. Payments from ANCSA Section 7(i) come from the natural-resources revenues earned by other Alaska Native corporations, which are largely dependent on global commodity prices. Commodity prices like oil or minerals were negatively impacted in 2020 by the pandemic, resulting in lower-than-usual 7(i) payments.

Please visit MySealaska.com to update your banking and mailing information by April 12, 2021. Learn more at MySealaska.com/FAQs/Distribution

We can help shape a better path for us today, as well as for future generations, by getting involved with policy that shapes our lives at the local, state and federal level. One of the simplest ways to engage is with your vote. Some of us are also called to serve as elected officials. Read about two shareholders who are serving in public offices in Washington state and San Diego, California.

Advocating for Environmental Justice Through Legislative Action



Washington State Representative Debra Lekanoff is a champion for environmental policy and protections. She has given her time at the tribal, village, state and national level. Her efforts and professional background led some Alaskan policymakers to advocate that she would be ideal to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 office, which oversees Alaska and the Pacific Northwest region. Lekanoff is the second Native American to serve in the Washington legislature after Lois Stratton, who served from 1979–1985.

Lekanoff served as an environmental policy analyst for the EPA from 2006–2019, providing advice on national policy matters. In that role, she supported programs for 70% of the federally recognized tribes across the nation. For the last 12 years she has served as the governmental affairs director for the Swinomish Tribe in the state of Washington, supporting policy changes and improvements. Last November, she was reelected to a second term in the Washington House of Representatives, representing the 40th District that includes San Juan County as well as portions of Whatcom and Skagit counties. Sealaska has about 5,000 shareholders who live in Washington state, about 500 of whom live in Lekanoff's district.

Rep. Lekanoff is advocating for Senate bill 5141, which is moving through the Washington Legislature this session. Known as the HEAL Act, or Healthy Environment for All Act, its goal is to address decades of racial and economic disparities that affect people who live and work in more heavily polluted areas of Washington.

Lekanoff's mother is from Yakutat and is Tlingit, Raven, *Kwaashk'i Kwáan* (Humpback Salmon Clan). Her father is Aleut from the Pribilof Islands.

We reached out to Lekanoff to learn more about her initiatives and goals.

In announcing S.B. 5141 you said, "We believe that environmental justice is a right for every person of color, for every community." Why is S.B. 5141 important for Washington state? Tell us more.

Lekanoff: I came from a place where when the tide was out, the table was set. You name it, we had it. If it was to be picked, hunted or harvested, we ate it, and this is who we are, as Tlingit people and also as Alaskans.

We built a groundbreaking task force to look at the most detrimental communities within Washington state that have the most pollution. It is a bill that promotes a healthy environment for every Washingtonian that lives here for today and for generations to come.

You have worked on improving tribal relations in Washington state. How are those relationships evolving?

Lekanoff: The governmental relations in the past 20 years between Washington state and Washington tribes, along with the tribes within the Pacific Northwest, have all grown and strengthened since the Obama administration. During this time, when I decided to run, it was just the beginning of shattered relationships. Much time and effort has been put in by people of color, as Native Americans busting through the glass ceiling.

Today, I'm the only Native American woman in the Washington State Legislature. There's no one who thinks like me, no one who decides like me, no one who gets my jokes, no one who understands my stories, no one understands that I have to tell a story before I answer and make a decision. There's a quality of respect that I think we're able to bring with Native Americans who join the state legislature. We make decisions uniquely different.

San Diego's Tlingit Mayor Embraces His 'Firsts'

San Diego's new mayor, Todd Gloria, is Tlingit, Filipino, Dutch and Puerto Rican. He often describes himself as the proud son of a hotel maid and a gardener.



Todd Gloria is San Diego's first non-white mayor, and also its first LGBTQ mayor. "I've been the first of many things in my career," he said. "The goal is always not to be the last one."

Gloria started volunteering on political campaigns as a high school student. He received Sealaska and Goldbelt scholarships to help get him through his undergraduate dual major in history and political science from the University of San Diego.

Although Gloria's political destiny may have seemed preordained from early childhood when he was a finalist in his city's "Mayor for a Day" essay contest, as a gay man it was anything but. "I didn't even think people like me could be in politics," he said.

"... but there are a lot of unspoken things children believe about themselves without anyone having to say it to them. I want to be a voice for saying, 'You can.'"

- Todd Gloria, Mayor of San Diego

"I had a teacher tell me, 'You can't run for office if you're gay,' but honestly, he didn't have to say that because I already believed it," Gloria said. "That was a time when someone actually said it out loud, but there are a lot of unspoken things children believe about themselves without anyone having to say it to them. I want to be a voice for saying, 'You can. If you have the talent and work hard, you can do it.'"

Gloria is known in his hometown more for advocacy on behalf of San Diego's homeless population and his dogged determination to take care of everyday frustrations like potholed streets. He is outspoken about his multidimensional identity because he believes it's important for young people to be able to visualize opportunities for themselves through the examples set by others.



When he was a kid, being biracial seemed a lot more unusual because not as many biracial people were in positions of power, whether in politics, sports or popular culture, Gloria said. "It was Tiger Woods, Mariah Carey and me."

Gloria is a third-generation resident of San Diego, but traces his ties to Alaska through his paternal grandfather, Louis Gloria, who was born in Juneau and served on the Sealaska board of directors from 1979–1988. All four of his grandparents came to San Diego because of ties to the military. Gloria described his grandfather as a powerful conduit to his cultural identity.

"He was strong about it — insistent about it," Gloria said. "My father, my brother and I, we've all held on to it and it's important to our self-actualization."

His childhood memories of his grandfather are of a man who always wore a suit — even to mow the lawn. At the time, Gloria said, he didn't understand it. But as an adult, he learned more about the discrimination his grandfather faced throughout his life: as a door-to-door salesman in 1950s San Diego; being forced to cross state lines to marry his Puerto Rican wife because interracial marriage was illegal in California; facing discriminatory lending practices to buy the family's home in the Claremont neighborhood.

"(The suit) was how he communicated he was a man worthy of respect," Gloria said. "That's part of why I'm very explicit about who I am and where my family comes from, because I recognize the extreme price my ancestors paid."

As a lawmaker, Gloria has advanced legislation on repatriation of artifacts, recognizing the rights of Native Americans to wear their regalia at graduation ceremonies, and to help undocumented immigrants fighting deportation. He has been embraced by the Filipino community as well as by Native Americans.

"The phrase 'representation matters' isn't just about mentoring Native youth, or LGBTQ youth," he said. "There are so many people who haven't had a seat at the table. It's about allyship and the interconnected nature of what we must do. Natives will rarely be the majority in any room so you have to seek allies. That's how you get progress."



News from Sealaska Heritage Institute

Sealaska Heritage Digitizes, Posts Entire Celebration 1982 Online

SHI recently digitized and shared video of its premiere Celebration, a dance-and-culture festival first held in 1982 that has grown into the world's largest gathering of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people. The entire event, which was documented on a now-obsolete video platform, is now viewable for the first time in decades on SHI's YouTube channel. Through the project, SHI resurrected old footage of one of the most important events in Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian cultures in modern times.

More: <http://bit.ly/Celebration1982Digitized>

Watch: <http://bit.ly/Celebration1982>



Celebration 2021 Canceled

SHI's board of trustees has opted to cancel Celebration 2021, which was tentatively scheduled for June this year after the coronavirus sidelined the in-person event in 2020. The board assessed the latest scientific evidence on the state of the pandemic and decided to cancel again this year because the vaccine is not yet available for kids under age 16. The board will revisit the issue at a later date to decide whether it's safe to sanction a Celebration in 2022, which in normal times would occur in June.



SHI Lectures Available Online

In recent months, SHI has sponsored several lecture series on topics such as subsistence and the earliest presence of Indigenous populations in the region.

You can find all of the lectures in playlists on YouTube:

<http://bit.ly/SHIYouTube>

Photo by Bethany Sonsini Goodrich.

Hoonah Students Use 3D Printers to Create Chocolate Formline Designs

Hoonah students combined 3D technology and Northwest Coast art during a recent class. Through its program, "Opening the Box: STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math)," SHI sent "maker kits" to enrolled students in Angoon, Sitka, Hoonah, Wrangell, Klawock and Juneau. Each kit included two 3D printers, which the robotics class, led by teacher Ben McLuckie, used to make molds that had been designed by Heather Powell's Northwest Coast art class. The combined classes poured chocolate to make edible designs that will be given as gifts in the community. The program is meant to help children learn basic fundamentals of science, technology, engineering, arts and math in a hands on, engaging way that incorporates Indigenous stories, Northwest Coast art, cultures and languages.



SHI Closing in on Fundraising Goal for Construction of Sealaska Heritage Arts Campus

SHI is raising funds for its Sealaska Heritage Arts Campus. The project is part of SHI's vision to make Juneau the Northwest Coast arts capital of the world. SHI broke ground in August 2020 and expects to complete most work by September 2021. The names of people who give \$25 or more will be permanently engraved at the campus.

To donate, see www.sealaskaheritage.org/Campus or contact bobbie.meszoros@sealaska.com.



Building a Community of Like-Minded Business Leaders

Sealaska Invests in Southeast Small Business Owners and Entrepreneurs

Sealaska is committed to building an organization that contributes to solutions for a better future for people and the planet. We make decisions that are guided by the rich, wild and beautiful place that has sustained Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people for generations.

We are excited to invest in organizations and business that also believe a better future is within reach. We invest in small business owners through a yearly financial commitment to Spruce Root, Inc., a nonprofit community development financial institution (CDFI) founded in 2012 with \$500,000 of seed money from Sealaska. Its mission is to assist Southeast Alaska people and businesses to reach their full potential through loan capital and support services to promote economic, social, cultural and environmental resiliency. Sealaska is proud to see the investment put to work during a year of uncertainty.

Spruce Root Executive Director Alana Peterson said the pandemic has dealt some substantial challenges to Southeast entrepreneurs, but it has also revealed opportunities.

Spruce Root activity reached rural Southeast communities like Kasaan in 2020, in part due to the support of a \$250,000 grant from Wells Fargo's "Open for Business Fund." Small business owners Bonny and Stormy Hamar live in Kasaan and own a tourism business, Kasaan Arts, Museum and Canoes LLC. Through Spruce Root, the Hamars had the opportunity to tighten operations and set tangible, incremental business goals. Like other small business owners, the Hamars are working to get back on track after the pandemic and turn a profit when Alaska tourism rebounds.



Hamar Family

"The class by Spruce Root was amazing," said Bonnie Hamar. "It made me think about things in a different way. Not only do we look at our financials differently, but I also now have a five-year planner on my desk that I have things written into each week in order to make our business profitable."

2021 Path to Prosperity Winners Announced

Another way Spruce Root supports Southeast business owners is through the yearly business plan competition, Path to Prosperity. During the course of the competition, 12 finalists receive intensive business coaching from Spruce Root experts, and the winning two businesses each receive \$25,000. This year's winners include Naomi Michalsen of Ketchikan-based **Kaasei Training and Consulting**, and Starr and Jimmi Jensen of **Coastal Heating and Repair** in Yakutat.



Kaasei Training and Consulting

Kaasei Training and Consulting works to revitalize traditional knowledge of Indigenous plants and foods by holding workshops and trainings that encourage participants to deepen their connections to self, community and the environment. Kaasei is run by Naomi Michalsen, a Tlingit chef and grandmother who is based in Ketchikan.

Kaasei's harvesting, preserving and cooking workshops help participants further their understanding of their beautiful surroundings, increase appreciation for the deep cultural history of the Indigenous people of Alaska, and gain knowledge of harvesting ethically and respectfully.

Coastal Heating and Repair is a start-up business owned by Jimmi and Starr Jensen that will provide the community of Yakutat with heating and plumbing services, giving residents the opportunity to have cleaner, safer and more energy efficient homes. Jimmi, who is Iñupiaq, has more than 10 years of experience as a heating technician and has provided this service to residents of Yakutat for several years as a side job. Starr, who is Tlingit and Koyukon Athabascan, will support the finance and scheduling side of the business. Jimmi and Starr are thrilled to be able to do this work full time as a means to support their family and hometown of Yakutat.



Coastal Heating and Repair

Upcoming Opportunities

Alaskan Youth Stewards Program

Recruitment begins in March/April for participants in the Alaskan Youth Stewards program for the 2021 season. (The program is also known as Youth Conservation Corps/YCC or Training Rural Alaskan Youth Leaders and Students/TRAYLS, depending on the community.) Field crews are anticipated in Kake, Hoonah, Angoon and Prince of Wales Island. Watch SustainableSoutheast.net for additional details.

Spruce Root Business Basics Workshop

Business Basics is an interactive, online workshop designed for Southeast Alaskans who are looking to launch a business. Watch SpruceRoot.org for the next workshop this spring.

Master Class for the New Economy

Spruce Root's Master Class for the New Economy will support Southeast Alaska entrepreneurs in recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, building resilience and accessing resources for success in the upcoming year. Visit SpruceRoot.org to learn more.

Path to Prosperity Business Development Competition

Path to Prosperity is an annual business development competition for businesses with a positive economic, environmental and community impact on Southeast Alaska.

Applications will open April 1 and close on May 31. The Path to Prosperity Boot Camp will be held in September. Visit SpruceRoot.org to learn more.

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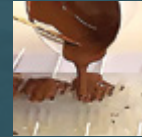
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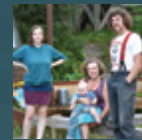
Landless Update

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Building a Community of Business Leaders

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2021 Annual Sealaska Shareholders Meeting

Join us from home Saturday, June 26, 2021!

The 2021 Sealaska annual meeting of shareholders will be held virtually via a live webcast. Watch MySealaska.com, your email and Sealaska social media platforms for further details. A live web stream will be available on MySealaska.com.

Virtual Community Meeting and Board Candidate Forum

Watch MySealaska.com and Sealaska social media for more details.

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