

Fairbanks Native Association Highlights

A VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF FAIRBANKS

SUMMER ISSUE 2018



3830 South Cushman Facility officially renamed, Honoring Poldine Carlo

It is official. The new FNA building on South Cushman has been named in honor of the organization's co-founder, the Poldine Carlo Building. The naming and dedication ceremony took place in early August with members of Carlo's family in attendance, representation from Native organizations, Elders, the greater Fairbanks community and state representatives.

The three phase renovation of the facility is two thirds complete. Administration and two of FNA's Head Start programs have relocated to the Poldine Carlo Building. The third Head Start program will relocate to this building when the phase III of the renovation is complete. Steve Ginnis, FNA Executive Director, told the crowd that Carlo always dreamed of having such a facility for the community. "I think it is truly reflective of the many years, fifty plus years that she was the forefront of Fairbanks Native Association," he said. "Many of the thing she advocated for is what we're going to be doing in this building."

Wally Carlo, speaking on behalf of his family, reflected on his mother's legacy during the event, claiming she never backed down from challenges and she never said no to things that mattered. "We are so proud you are honoring her," said Carlo. "Her last day she talked about the leadership (FNA), the good staff they have, the board members that are really working as a team. No personal agendas, just strictly working together to make things like this happen and it's wonderful."

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Continued New Facility...

Two state representatives also took time to remember Carlo as Rep. Scott Kawasaki and Rep. Tammie Wilson presented the Carlo family with a legislative citation, honoring her for a lifetime of work. "I can tell you this (citation) took a lot of word-smithing because she was an incredible person who has done so much for this community, so much for the city of Fairbanks and so much for the state of Alaska," Kawasaki said.

Attendees to the naming ceremony were also treated to songs from Sonny Luke, Norman Carlo, Travis Cole and Evon Peter. Food was also plentiful for the day as the guests toured the new building and watch a short video of Poldine's life. A video highlighting this event can be seen on our YouTube channel.



FNA EXAMINES MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Julian Thibedeau is a frequent and eager volunteer at Native events and organizations in the Interior. He teaches traditional songs to his daughter and can often be seen drumming at potlatches or doling out moose soup to elders. Julian recently attended FNA's Annual Membership Meeting and enjoyed the evening but there was an issue weighing heavily on his mind. Julian cannot vote as a member of FNA because he is federally recognized as having less than a quarter Native blood.



FNA By-Law states to be an eligible member you must be at least one quarter Alaska Native or American Indian, be eighteen years of age or older and be a resident of the Fairbanks North Star Borough for at least thirty days. "I can't help feel like I and others like me are being left out," Thibedeau explained recently to FNA's Board of Directors. "It's a feeling like you're not good enough... not Native enough." Thibedeau says he is passionate about his Native heritage and there are many more like him who are often the culture bearers of their families, no matter blood strength.

Thibedeau's concern has led to a discussion about FNA membership and a study whether to change eligibility rules. One proposal suggests changing the blood quantum requirement and replacing it with proof of lineage. Thibedeau can trace his lineage directly to family in Rampart and says other indigenous people operate that way. "Indigenous Hawaiians accept you no matter percentage of blood," he states. "In New Zealand, the Māori people, if you have just one drop of blood, you're Māori."

FNA Board Members are open to the possibility, but additional research is needed before the proposed amendment can be adopted. Revision of FNA's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation would need a majority vote by the full Board of Directors and also a majority vote by FNA's general membership. Even so, a certification process would be needed to properly vet those applying for membership. "We all recognize the formation of FNA was a very different time and some of these institutional norms (blood requirements) were out there in terms of that is how the Federal government recognized you," said FNA Board President Dr. Charlene Stern. "It is a different time and it's really timely that we take a look at this and I think the majority of the Board has that same consensus."

FNA will update its membership in the coming months as this subject is explored further.

COMMUNITY SURVEY AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 3 - SEPTEMBER 17

Please consider and return our FNA Community Survey in the month of September. The FNA Board of Directors and executive management utilize your answers to help guide decision making and planning to benefit the community.

In appreciation of your time, you can enter for a chance to win a \$50 gift card

Surveys will be available at each FNA building and on our website at fairbanksnative.org. Thank you very much for your participation!

Organizers Promote the Power of the Native Vote

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Election Season is here! The primary election for state and federal office is on Tuesday, August 21, 2018, but there are lots of important dates to know besides that one.

Each election cycle a volunteer committee comprised of staff from Doyon, Ltd., Tanana Chiefs Conference, FNA and NANA rally together in hopes of encouraging Native residents to increase the Native voting population. The Get Out the Native Vote initiative is both a state-wide and locally-led effort. "We are a non-partisan committee and do not advocate which issues or candidates to vote for, we simply encourage and provide voting information to would-be Native voters to exercise their rights," says committee member Marna Sanford. "The Native voice is large and can impact change; only by voting consistently each season makes that happen."

The GOTNV committee strongly encourages all to check and make sure they are registered to vote, especially the younger generation. "The data we've seen is an initial excitement to vote at 18-20 years of age, but that number decreases in the voting cycles after so we would love to see participation increase in our young adults," says Sanford.

Vote-by-Mail

Voting can be extremely easy and the state has made it easier in recent years. Those that would like the opportunity to fill out their ballot in the comfort of their own home and with no time constraints can fill out a Vote-by-Mail application online at this address (<http://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/forms/C06%20ADL R.pdf>) and mail to the Division of Elections at 2525 Gambell Street, Ste. 105, Anchorage, AK 99503. Voting by mail is becoming more and more frequent now that the Municipality of Anchorage has invested in the by-mail delivery system.

Early voting starts on August 6, 2018

Find a group of co-workers or grab your spouse and head over to Division of Elections in Fairbanks or an early voting site for a group voting adventure. Better yet, grab your whole family, kids and all, and head to the polls. Make voting a family tradition. Snap a selfie and post to the Get Out The Native Vote – Interior Facebook page! We want to see you out there making your voices heard.

Election Day is August 21, 2018

This is the day that Alaskans decide who will make it on the final ballot in November. There are three types of primary ballots in Alaska. There is the Republican ballot which will only have the candidates running as a Republican on it. The second ballot has everybody else that is running: The Alaska Democratic candidates, the Libertarian's and the Independence Party (different than independent candidates who will only appear on the November ballot), and is available to ALL registered voters. Finally, the third ballot only has the ballot measures on it, no candidates, for those that just want to weigh in on measures only and is available to ALL registered voters.

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So, which ballot should you pick?

If you live in Fairbanks or North Pole, the only contested race is in District 1 on the Republican side, Bart LeBon or Wolfgang Falke. The winner of that primary will face Kathryn Dodge (D) and PJ Simon in an exciting three-way race. If you live in the Lower Yukon or Kuskokwim sub-regions, the only contested race is also on the Republican side between Stan Swetozof and William Weathersby. The winner of that primary will face Speaker of the House of Representatives Bryce Edgmon (D). None of the other State House or Senate seats in the Interior are contested in the primary election.

In the Lt. Governor primary, the Republican ballot is stocked. Lynn Gattis, Edie Grunwald, Kevin Meyer, Gary Stevens and Stephen Wright are all running for the Republican party. Lt. Governor Byron Mallot and Debra Caller (D) will face whomever is selected in the Republican primary.

Republicans are also out in force for the Governor's race with Mike Dunleavy, Darin Colbry, Thomas Gordon, Gerald Heikes, Merica Hlatcu, Scott Hawkins, Jacob Seth Kern, Michael Sheldon and Mead Treadwell running. Winner of that primary will face Democrat Mark Begich and Governor Bill Walker who is running as an independent.

Stepping up to the plate against longest serving Congressman Don Young are Tom Nelson and Jed Whittaker. If you choose not to vote the Republican ballot, Chris Cumings, Carol Hafner, Dimitri Shein and Independent Alyse Galvin face off.

There are only two ballot initiatives this November and they will appear on all ballots. Get out and vote!

Upcoming Dates:

Primary Election Day – August 21, 2018
Local/Municipal Election Day – October 2, 2018
General Election Day – November 6, 2018

Help FNA Reduce Waste and Protect Resources



Native culture is steeped in tradition and values. A large part of these values focuses on the care of our lands and environment. FNA tries its best to reduce waste and conserve resources in all of its facilities and at special events.

You can help as well by simply giving us your contact email

If you enjoy reading our quarterly newsletter, please consider opting in to our digital newsletter. We will add you to our newsletter database and you will receive our newsletter in your email. Simply give us your full name and a valid email address. That's all there is to it and by doing so, you are helping FNA reduce paper and waste.

To submit your email, please contact Executive Coordinator Shaylene Dublin at sdublin@fairbanksnative.org or Communications Director Darrell Clark at dclark@fairbanksnative.org.

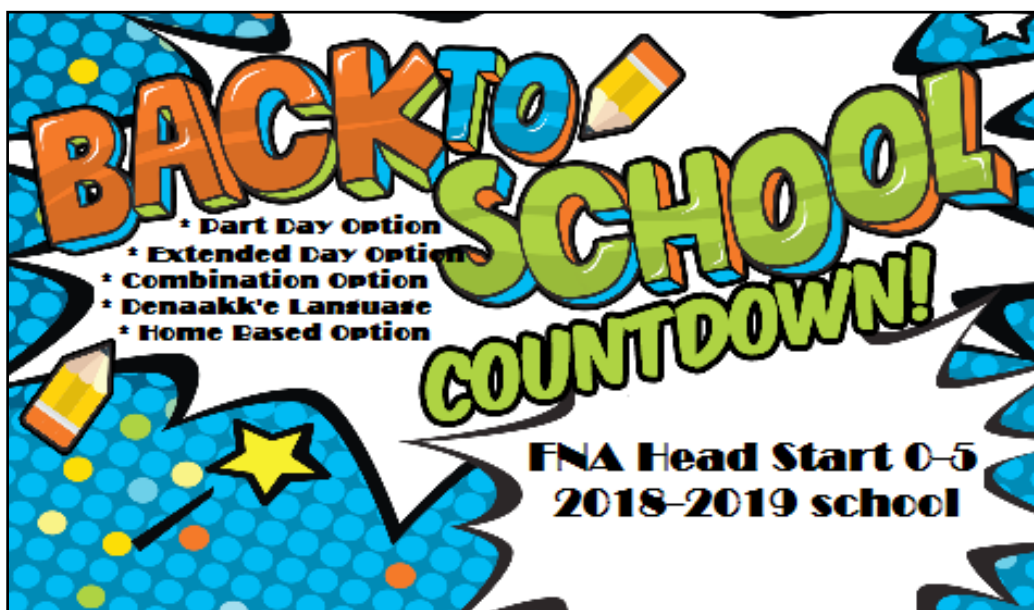
FNA's Language Program ready for Year Two

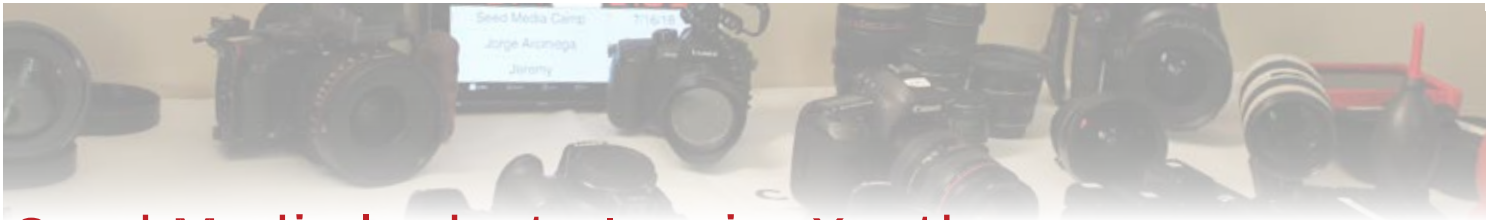


In the fall of 2017 FNA's Head Start program opened its doors to its much anticipated Denaakk'e Classroom. Located at Anne Wien Elementary school, the program offered two classes for 3-5 year olds; ten students in the morning and ten in the afternoon for a total of twenty students. The purpose of the class was to immerse students in the Denaakk'e language and monitor the results while continuing to meet expectations in the English language and literacy development. The program is officially called the FNA Indigenous Language Program, a 5-year grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of English Language Acquisition. "Hoozoonh ts'e hoolonh ts'en' (It is a wonderful occurrence)," said Project Director Lorraine David. "Tlogho Sozelts'eeyh (We are very happy)."

In its inaugural year, students were introduced to Denaakk'e using transitional activities in their daily routines. Phrases such as **De'aak deyaaghedeelkooł** (hang your coat), **Nelo' etonlaah** (wash your hands) and **Neelkk'e neenuhdaal** (You all line up) were repeated to students while songs "**Sodeelts'eeyh**" (Welcome Song) and "**Noneetenaaghge'aan**" (See You Later Song) were sung at the beginning and end of each class. Each student enrolled in the program received a Denaakk'e name based on their personalities or by family history. Parent/guardian involvement throughout the school year helped with the success of the program and a survey given to families at the end of the year returned high levels of satisfaction.

Portions of the Creative Curriculum and Second Step were translated into Denaakk'e and will be immediately available to students returning in the fall. For the 2018-2019 academic year the classes will run from 9 am through 3 pm Monday through Thursday with 15 students. The program is open to new students. For registration information or for general information, contact the FNA Enrollment Coordinator at (907) 452-1648 x 6726. Denaakk'e learning resources are available online at www.fairbanksnative.org/our-services/education/head-start/indigenous-language-project/.





Seed Media looks to Inspire Youth

On a late Thursday afternoon in July when most area youth would normally be playing outside, a group of dedicated youth and young adults were busy moving lighting equipment, taking set photos and adjusting video cameras inside the halls of Effie Kokrine Charter School. They were there by choice, taking advantage of an opportunity presented by FNA's Youth & Young Adults program (YYAS). Now in its second year, the Seed Media Video Camp offers video production training to area youth eager to learn the trade.

Each year the camp takes on a project to complete over the course of a week. This year the campers were tasked to produce PSAs (public safety announcements) from concept to storyboarding, to shooting video and finally editing the pieces to completion. "The goals of these camps are to engage youth in an activity that develops skills, fosters creativity and empowers them to have a voice in creating and sending a message to their community," said Dashiell Hillgartner, Transitional Services Project Director. The PSAs will be aired on local television and uploaded to various FNA social media sites. Suicide prevention is the theme for the PSAs and, once produced, will "illustrate/represent the resilience of our youth due to the support that they receive from their family, friends and community," according to Hillgartner.

The camp is grant funded and youth attended for free. Seed Media, a production company out of Valdez, was selected to lead the campers and act as mentors. Co-founder Jorge Arciniega says Seed Media's involvement is done out of a desire to work with young creative minds and to inspire hope. "Working with the youth, we are hoping to inspire their passion for the creative process and it is our hope they will realize there are non-profits out there, like FNA, who can offer guidance and resources to develop and lead safe, healthy lives," Arciniega said.

The PSAs will have a red carpet premiere in mid-August, shortly before the spots are broadcast on the airwaves. This is the second year Seed Media has worked with YYAS and they are already planning on returning in the future. For more information regarding FNA's Youth & Young Adult Services call (907) 452-6265.



Community Services

Easing on Down the Road...

It's a summer season of moving for many FNA programs. In March, two of FNA's Head Start campuses and administration personnel moved to their new location on South Cushman. Now, Community Services is taking advantage of some new space opportunity. Community Services will now move all operations to 320 Second Avenue. Their newly renovated space, which is roughly a block away from current operations will open on August 27th. The Elder program, including lunches, will now be offered at the new location.

FNA Community Services would like to thank all of those who regularly donated clothing items for its Clothing Closet outreach. Over the years, many in need benefitted from the generosity the outreach provided. Due to change in location and capacity, Community Services has discontinued the Clothing Closet. Clothing items are still very much in need for two of FNA's other programs. The Street Outreach & Advocacy Program (SOAP) and Women and Children Center for Inner Healing are constantly in need of new and/or like new clothing items for both adults and children. Those wishing to donate can do so by dropping off items at the Ralph Perdue Center at 605 Hughes Ave., off of South Cushman.



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Important Dates

- 9/3 LABOR DAY - CLOSED
- 9/7 ALL STAFF MEETING, EARLY CLOSURE
- 9/28 SOAP PROM
- 10/2 MUNICIPAL ELECTION
- 10/3 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY - CLOSED
- 11/6 GENERAL ELECTION



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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

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Apply online by going to our website -or- Use your mobile device to scan our QR code

For help with applying online, call
(907)452-1648



FNA Employee of the Month



March 2018
Nikki Rosauer
Gateway to Recovery



April 2018
Anna McDonald
Early Childhood Development



May 2018
Lara Rambo
Administration