

Notice of Annual Meeting

Friday, March 10th, 2023 • 5pm

Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall

Dear Membership,

We are currently planning an in-person meeting, however we will be monitoring the virus. We recommend people wear a masks and we will make masks available.

The meeting will be held Friday, March 10 at the Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and the meeting will start at 6 p.m.

You'll hear about how FNA is doing financially and highlights from 2022. We'll be providing an Annual Report, and T-shirts.

We have three board of directors positions open, held by incumbents Travis Cole, Sharon Hildebrand, and Renee Linton, who are all seeking re-election. Brenda Krupa, Glenn "Manny" Carlo, and Brooke Woods are also seeking a seat. Voters will be entered into a drawing for door prizes.

I'm also pleased to announce the return of FNA Potlatch and Pageants, to be held Saturday, March 18, at the Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall, starting at 5 p.m. We'll have traditional food and Native singing and dancing.

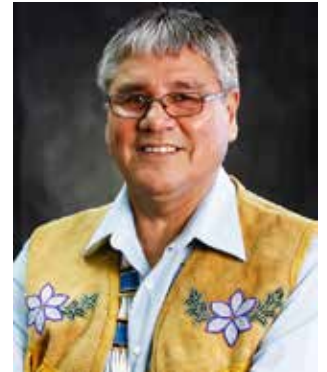
Pageant applications for Miss FNA, FNA Princess and FNA Baby may be found at www.fairbanksnative.org. The submission deadline is 5 p.m., March 8.

Inside this issue are board candidate statements and photos. Please read them in order to make an informed vote. FNA's board of directors are leaders of this organization, and represent your concerns. Your vote is important.

We also have included profile stories about four Indigenous people missing in Fairbanks: Frank Minano, Jr., Debbie Nictune, Doren Sanford, and Willis Derendoff. They have people who love them and miss them. We want to remember their lives, and support their families.

I look forward to seeing you all for the Annual Meeting and the Traditional Potlatch. Stay safe.

Steve Ginnis, Executive Director



All 2023 candidates have met the following requirements:

- Descendant of Alaska Native or American Indian
- 18 years of age or older
- A resident of at least 30 days in the Fairbanks North Star Borough
- Not an FNA employee
- Submitted a completed application by Feb. 6th, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.

Voter information inside!

To vote in the FNA elections, you must be

- Descendant of Alaska Native or American Indian
- 18 years of age or older
- A resident of at least 30 days in the Fairbanks North Star Borough



2023 Board Candidates

Finance & Budgeting Experience

Grant Regulation Experience

Strategic Planning Experience



**Glenn
"Manny" Carlo
Koyukon Athabascan**

Retired

Worked with FNA and Baan O Yeel Kon (Rampart Corp.) Studied both finance reports.

Many years as the Title VI director with Denakkanaaga, Inc. Over 12 years experience with grants compliance, reporting.

Many years experience with strategic planning with FNA as board member, also National Aging Group, Advocacy, Action, Answers on Aging.



**Travis Cole
Koyukon Athabascan**

Incumbent

**Employment:
Tanana Chiefs
Conference**

Personal finances. I went from being homeless to owning a home, walking to owning a truck. I had to learn how to budget my hard-earned money and invest into what's best for my family, and family's future.

I took a semester of grant writing at UAF where I learned the basics. But nine years on the board of FNA, I learned so much on how grants are requested, then grow into important programs, how they grow or how they are limited. I now have a great idea of how to keep within the boundaries set by the state or federal government to apply, re-apply for grants, how we have to provide data, reports of actions, budget reports, training, facility requirements, HIPPA, CARF, etc.

I've attended and spoken during many FNA strategic plans. And also at my job at Tanana Chiefs, I've become the manager for the Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall. I've had to start from scratch to spearhead what it means to be the manager, from the facility itself to how to assist with the many events held there. To maintain and improve the hall's structure. To how do I assist families in their events, plus trying to figure out what traditions are used in the hall and how do I plan on insuring those traditions carry on while developing along side modern business.



**Sharon Hildebrand
Koyukon Athabascan**

Incumbent

**Employment:
Self-Employed**

Work experience in both finance and budgeting, experience also gained through educational background, experience as treasurer for FNA for four years and education in public administration master's degree. Also have other board financial experience with other boards that I currently sit on, including Gana-A'Yoo, Limited and Tanana Chiefs Conference.

I have been involved with grant regulations through my previous work employment with profit and nonprofit entities. I have also gained experience in this field through my educational experience seeking my undergrad and graduate degree programs.

I have been involved with strategic planning as a board member of FNA, Gana-A'Yoo, and Tanana Chiefs Conference and the great importance of this to any organization. I have also gained the invaluable experience as a board member for FNA for the past six years. This experience is useful in going forward for the organization, if allowed.





Program Planning & Evaluation Experience	Other Board Experience or Special Skills	Why are you interested in running for the board?
<p>Many years on Fairbanks Native Association, Baan O Yeel Kon, National Aging Group</p>	<p>Ten plus years on boards, reading, monitoring fiscal reports, committee assignments, gaming committee, policy and procedure management.</p>	<p>To continue the wellness of Fairbanks Native people, Fair and equal treatment to our people and justice. Passionate about early education for our young ones.</p>
<p>Nine years on the board I've seen how the ideas and needs that the people testify at the FNA membership meeting or through other public comments, makes its way into words of board members requesting funds to develop or grow programs that we see or heard there is a need for. I listen closely to the people and always use my voice to echo their needs into the boardroom and committees. When FNA directors do evaluation reports to talk about their departments, I question everything to make sure I and they understand how important their programs are to the people we serve.</p>	<p>Have nine years on the board of FNA, two years on the parent committee, four years on Alaska Native Education PAC, FNA Behavioral Health committee, the Chena Bingo Board Committee, two years on the WEIO Board of Directors, the Planning and Development of Pioneer Park Committee.</p>	<p>I love and was raised to serve the people. I was born in Fairbanks, but was raised in the village of Allakaket, and will home always be home to me. I've now lived most of my life in Fairbanks where I've devoted to raising my three children with my girlfriend and her daughter. I've now also devoted my life to serving the people of Fairbanks. I love to help people at the Tribal Hall, during the events they host (potlatches, rallies, wakes, celebrations, etc.) through drumming, speaking, cleaning, setting up, serving food, etc. All the while I listen to the people during these moments to hear what they know or need, then bring that back to the board. I don't have a college education, but my knowledge was earned through life experiences of learning from watching leaders, listening to Elders, participating in as many traditional events as I can. Then sticking to traditional values when I speak and advocate. I love to serve and I love the people I serve. As long as the people keep voting me onto the board, I will continue to bring their voice to the board with no personal agenda, just their needs.</p>
<p>I have been involved with program planning in my previous work experience at profit and nonprofit organizations, as well as creating projects that would create lasting effects. I understand the importance of grassroots efforts, as well. I have been responsible for the Get Out the Native Vote initiative and planning all that is involved with that initiative.</p>	<p>I value the experience I have gained through acquiring my educational goals. I feel life experiences gained are far more important, such as volunteering in the community and understanding the important role FNA plays in our community. The experience of growing up in the village is an important asset as this helps to relate to so many of our Native population that has moved to the community in recent years. Nulato will always be home, but I have lived in Fairbanks for many, many years now, and I am vested in our community and to ensuring that I am part of the solutions that are brought to the table. I have also gained the invaluable experience as a board of director for FNA for the past six years. This experience is useful going forward for the organization, if allowed.</p>	<p>My experience as a resident of Fairbanks is important, but more importantly, my time in growing up in the village is my most important asset, because I feel from this I was blessed with the knowledge of my grandparents. Every act since then has been built upon that foundation that my grandmother had laid out for me as a child growing up in the village. As someone who was once on assistance as a young single mother, I first utilized the FNA Head Start program and was embraced by the program as family. I am interested in giving back to the community, and continue as a board of director. The organization has been successful and I would like to continue to invest my time and resources to see the continued growth of programs.</p>





2023 Board Candidates

Finance & Budgeting Experience

Grant Regulation Experience

Strategic Planning Experience



Brenda K. Krupa
Koyukon Athabascan
Retired

Have had 25 plus years working with budgets as manager and director of programs, divisions.

Extensive experience with applying, obtaining funding, maintaining funding, and implementing multiple grants to include: Head Start, JOM, Child Care Assistance, Child Protection, ASAP/FASAP, 477, Education, LIHEAP Energy Assistance, Elder Nutrition/ Caregivers Program AOA Title VI, etc, (local, state and federal funding sources).

Through my work at Tanana Chiefs Conference and FNA, I have participated in numerous strategic planning sessions and tasked to follow-through and implement changes within multiple programs.



Renee Linton
Holikachuk Athabascan
Incumbent

Employment:
Dene Renee Consulting

Some of my work experience specifically pertaining to finance includes being a Project Manager at the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation and the Rural Economic Development Specialist at TCC where I assisted clients with small business development, business plans, and grant writing. I am currently the Chair of the Gaming Committee for Chena Bingo.

I have worked under and managed grants in the majority of my professional employment upon earning a Bachelors Degree in Social Work with a Business Minor in 2010. I have a strong understanding of applying for, managing, and reporting for private, state, and federal grants. I was contracted to be a federal grant reviewer for nation-wide grant proposals under the Administration for Native Americans (ANA.)

I have 13+ years'experience in the field working in prevention, intervention, rural/urban small business development, economic development, securing grant funding, and grant management. Different forms of formal and informal strategic planning was used in these diverse career opportunities. Some of my strengths include being analytical, having strong problem-solving skills, and being resourceful.



Brooke Woods
Koyukon Athabascan

Employment:
Woodwell Climate
Research Center

While employed with the Hunting and Fishing Task Force and Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Programs, I was responsible for a wide range of daily operations and oversight as Co-PI for NASA funded project and program initiatives and needs. I was responsible for the coordination of program meetings and university accredited trainings, which included Tribal member, faculty, and staff travel, per diem, tuition payments, meeting materials, and logistics. As the administrative assistant for my village corporation, I was responsible for staff payroll, billing, data entry, processing tax forms and quarterly payments, and bookkeeping.

I currently serve as a Co-I for Community Eyes on River Ice project in partnership with University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), National Weather Service Alaska Pacific River Forecast Center (NWS APRFC), and NASA Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) and Observer (NASA GO). The project expands the existing freshwater ice monitoring efforts using a culturally responsive citizen science model to increase the spatial extent and frequency of observations and expand the diversity of participants across Alaska. Responsible for the oversight and management of the TCC contribution to the project, ensuring project tools, visualizations, and training opportunities are communicated and accessible to the 42 TCC region towns and villages. I assisted in writing and securing grants for several projects while at Tanana Chiefs Conference. I was responsible for annual grant reporting and financial requests. I have worked under grants and understand the importance of regulations, reporting, and compliance of grant funding.

Throughout my six years at with the Hunting and Fishing Task Force (HFTF) I helped host annual strategic planning meetings with leadership, program staff, and Tribal members to identify goals and objectives that met the mission of the program. Simultaneously, with the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, I organized weekly executive council meetings for fisheries management recommendations for the Yukon River and assisted with preparing for preseason and post season commission meetings.



Program Planning & Evaluation Experience	Other Board Experience or Special Skills	Why are you interested in running for the board?
<p>Extensive experience with program planning and evaluations through working with multiple programs, but to specifically mention PL 102-477 program preparing for reviews, and planning for grant applications.</p>	<p>Served on the BOD of FNA previously off and on through the years (three years as president), and also served on the National Indian Head Start Board; Northwest Indian HS Coalition as president 5 years; FNSBSD Board Ethnic Committee</p>	<p>I have been retired for over a year and a half now and have the time to dedicate to this position if elected. This is a position that I would enjoy because of my love for the Native community and Fairbanks community as a whole. I believe in fairness and would want to contribute to what is fair and most productive for FNA. I am very supportive of all the programs of FNA and to the Executive Director and the staff. It would be a pleasure and an honor.</p>
<p>I assisted with identifying stakeholders and providing community input for the current FNSB Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. As the Community Planning Specialist at TCC I assisted tribes in developing a 5-year community plan which included goals, action plans, and evaluating components.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fairbanks Native Association Board of Directors, Member/Secretary, 2021-2023 -Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission, Participant, 2022- 2023 -Tanana Chiefs Conference Comprehensive Economic Development Committee, Chair, 2018-2021 -2022 Native American 40 Under 40 Award, The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development 	<p>I am passionate about creating positive community change by improving the quality of life and working towards the betterment of all people in Fairbanks. I was born and raised in Fairbanks. Fairbanks is my home. I have been working the past five years in economic/business development, but doing social service work is my calling.</p>
<p>Program planning was imperative to my previous work. It improved programs, advocacy efforts, and Tribal governance of our Alaska Native hunting and fishing rights.</p>	<p>Chairperson of Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, 2016-2022, Advisor for Yukon River Panel, 2016-Present, Advisor for North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, 2019, Alaska Salmon Fellow, 2018, The Alaska Marine Conservation Council inaugural class of the Young Fishing Fellows Program, 2017, UAF inaugural class of Northern Alaska Indigenous Leadership Academy, 2018, Inspire Leadership Academy, 2018, UAF DANSRD Circumpolar Indigenous Leadership Summit, 2018, TCC Food Security Working Group, 2021, TCC Breastfeeding Policy Stakeholder Group - REACH Grant, Protecting Our Ways of Life Group, UAF Action Team for UA Alaska Native Success, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA is a sustainable fishery) Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) project.</p>	<p>My family and I have benefited from the wonderful services that FNA provides through the Head Start program, enriching Tribal home visits, funding opportunities like NACTEP, family support during covid when my children could not attend Head Start or public school, and community events. When my daughter was in Head Start I spent time in the classrooms, supported teachers, and met with leadership. I had the privilege of visiting, connecting, and assisting Elders with relevant subsistence issues and forms through Elders Program when employed at TCC. I appreciate the behavioral health services that are much needed in our community and see the success. I want to continue to be a part of supporting FNA through the board, working towards the mission of the organization that supports a healthy and thriving community in an official capacity.</p>

Fairbanks missing Indigenous people: A glimpse into the lives they left behind

The Detail Man with a Heart

Doren Sanford was a boy who built his own tree fort. He thought through every detail, from beginning to end, before he hammered the first nail.

“He’d say, ‘This is the way I envision it,’” said Liz Webb, Doren’s mother. “He never built stairs for it. With him it was more interesting to do a rope climb.”

He carried that attention to detail into his adult years, she said. He liked a challenge.

Doren was a carpenter, firefighter, entrepreneur, tree cutter, and heavy equipment operator during his short work career before he went missing in August 2020.

Doren grew up in a large Alaska Native family in Tok, Alaska, and steeped in cultural traditions early on.

When little Doren killed a fly that buzzed around a window, his family celebrated his first kill with a small tea. He was a toddler when he smacked it.

“My mom threw together what have you, just good old-fashioned Athabascan food,” Liz said. “I had knives, blankets, cooking pots to give away.”

Niisha Walsh, Doren’s cousin grew up with Doren. He was the thrill seeker. She liked things to be calm.

“He would climb trees really high,” she said. “I stayed on the ground. He would light the fireworks. I would stay back.”

He learned to give food to Elders, and kept that generous spirit as an adult.

While driving around in Anchorage, Doren spotted a homeless man who looked like it had been a while since he bathed, and his clothes were dirty. Doren took the man home, let him shower, gave him clean clothes and fed him. He also passed pizza out to the homeless.

Doren liked to cook healthy food, and keep in shape. He was also a person of faith.

“He was a people person,” his mother said. “Nobody was a stranger to him.” He easily forgave.

Doren loved to travel, and his dog Groot was a constant companion. He was looking for Groot when he went missing.



A Determined Woman

Debbie Nictune took upon herself the wellbeing and safety of her two younger siblings.

She was eight years old.

“She stepped up when we needed someone to care for us,” said Nancy Ambrose, Debbie’s sister.

Debbie, Nancy and little brother Bobby, were the last of eight children and grew up in Evansville, a small community near Bettles.

Debbie had patience, Nancy said. She made sure they had a safe place to sleep with plenty of blankets. She told them when to go to bed, and made sure they got up for school. Debbie taught herself to cook meat and rice on a small propane stove.

“She made sure we were fed and safe, until we got older to take care of ourselves,” Nancy said. “I wouldn’t be here without her.”

Debbie grew up and married Dugan Liners, and moved to Minnesota. Debbie took art classes from a local college, and sought out the Objibwe Natives. She attended their powwows to dance and sing.

The pair moved back to Alaska and adopted a daughter named Annabelle. Brother Roy Nictune said Debbie spoiled her.

“I think she did pretty well,” Roy said. “Raised that kid up in mostly the right way.”

Nancy said Debbie was determined as a child, and Roy said she was like that as an adult.

“When she set her mind to do something, she did it,” he said. “If you needed anything done, she would get it done. She was dependable.”

Debbie had picked up the Objibwe way of beading, but she loved to paint, too. She often painted on things, such as artist’s conk, a tree fungus, Nancy said.

“She loved to collect rocks,” Nancy said. “She would comb the beach for hours. Always looked for heart rocks, different colored rocks and rocks with holes. She loved to see what was brought after spring break-up.”

Debbie went missing August 2020. Roy dreams about her.

“She just comes walking up to us,” he said.

The Music Man

Willis Derendoff picked up his first guitar at age five and automatically knew how to play.

And the guitar wasn't the only instrument. He grew up in his Huslia, filling his home with music.

"He learned how to play the piano, various guitars, drums, violin," said Dolly Simon, Willis's sister. "If you put any kind of instrument in front of him, he would figure it out."

Willis's music lead to many gigs, and he made friends everywhere he played. He came from a large family in Huslia, who dearly loved him, and he loved them back.

He was a creative person, his family said. He played all types of music genres: gospel, rock, blues, folk, pop. He also wrote stories and poems and sketched. He worked for Taiga Mining's gold mine on the Hog River, near Huslia, before he disappeared while he was in Fairbanks in November 2020

"He was always a nice, calm, goofy guy," said his mother, Gladys Derendoff. During the first year of covid, Gladys explained to Willis how the Huslia community were isolating themselves. She said she might move to their camp, and get away from everyone.

We'll be like the Swiss Family Robinson, he joked back to her.

Willis and sister Josephine Derendoff looked almost identical.

Once they lost track of each other while shopping, she said. Willis went to customer service.

"Have you seen someone who looks like me, but a girl version?" he asked, Josephine recounted. The customer service lady said yes, she just walked by.

Willis started to walk away and then turned to the lady and said, "By the way, I'm the prettier one."

Willis was known for his love of drinking tea, and wearing red plaid shirts.

"We like to wear plaid, because he wore red plaid clothes," said sister Vanessa Derendoff. "We always drink tea—tea for Willis."



An Honorable Man

It was important for Frank Minano, Jr. to live an honorable life.

He could be depended upon to get moose for Nenana potlatches, or make moose soup. He always left places better than when he found them. He provided food for people, usually wild meat or berries that he got himself. He always took care of the graves on Toghoththele Hill.

He never bragged or spoke about his activities.

"He was an honest hardworking man, with a lot of integrity," said Fatima Lord Teipelman, his niece.

He expected others to behave in the same way, and made it a point to teach his grandsons, Fatima, and her sons how to live.

"He taught me how to keep camp," Fatima said.

"Keeping it clean so bears and animals don't come around. Make sure we don't get sick. How to be safe. He was big on being clean. He liked things orderly."

If they were in the woods, and stopped at someone's cabin, he would make sure to clean out the fireplace, cut back the brush for fire safety and stock the woodpile, she said.

He was man of the woods, said Cecelia "Babes" Hudson. Hunting was the best time of the year for him.

"It was the highlight of everything for him to go hunting for three weeks, with his two best buddies, out in the woods, out in the boat, in the elements—hunting," Babes said. "Whether they got something or not, they were pretty happy."

He loved his two grandsons, and Fatima's sons, both women said. He attached child safety seats onto his four-wheeler to drive the children around Nenana.

"He lived his life for them," Babes said.

<https://www.fairbanksnative.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-people/>



FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

3830 South Cushman Street, Ste. 100
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
 Main: 907-452-1648

Visit our website at: www.fairbanksnative.org
 Email: info@fairbanksnative.org

Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/Fairbanks.Native

Follow us on Instagram
[@fairbanksnativeassociation](https://www.instagram.com/fairbanksnativeassociation)

Follow us on Twitter
[@FairbanksNative](https://twitter.com/FairbanksNative)

FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

Miss FNA, FNA Princess FNA Baby Pageants
 Saturday, March 18, 2023 Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall



Pageant applications can be found at www.fairbanksnative.org

Deadlines for each are due March 8, 2023, by 5 p.m.

Contact: Shaylene Dublin
sdublin@fairbanksnative.org
 907-452-1648 ext. 6235

FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

Traditional Membership Potlatch
 Saturday, March 18, 2023
 Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall



Starts at 5 p.m.

Food • Pageants • Native dancing

FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership Meeting
 Friday, March 10, 2023
 Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall

Dinner: 5 p.m.
 Meeting: 6 p.m.



Dinner • FNA Highlights • Speeches • Elections

Tanana Chiefs Conference

THE FUTURE IS INDIGENOUS

2023 TCC ANNUAL CONVENTION & FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 MARCH 13TH-16TH, 2023

LEARN MORE AT WWW.TANANACHIEFS.ORG



2023 ANNUAL MEETING of Shareholders

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
 Doors open 8 a.m. AKDT

Westmark Fairbanks Hotel

PARTICIPATE ONLINE ► www.doyon.com

