

# Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak

312 West Marine Way, Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
Phone: (907) 486-4449 or Fax: (907) 486-3361  
E-Mail: [stktribe@alaska..com](mailto:stktribe@alaska..com)

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June 29, 2007

## Sun'aq Tribal Council

- Chris Helms, Chairman
- John Reft, Vice-Chair
- Olga M. Malutin, Secretary/Treasurer
- Gary Watson, Member
- Iver Malutin, Member
- Thomas Johnson, Jr., Member
- Brenda Schwantes-Brown, Member

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## Chairman's Message

Cama'i

I am glad to be back on your Tribal Council. I was selected to fill a vacant seat in May and then honored to be elected as Chairman of the Council again.

Since I have only been back for a month, I am still struggling a bit to get up to speed on what has happened during my absence. It is so very nice to walk into the Tribal Center and see all the changes that the winter construction brought.

Even though summer is a very busy time, I would like to ask you to become involved in the process of governing the Sun'aq Tribe. There are some committee openings for Members to

volunteer for. Please check this newsletter and check with Staff and Council members for details on open committee positions. I would also point out that all Members are invited to attend the monthly Council meetings held on the fourth Tuesday of every month!

During the near future I hope to help clarify and improve internal and external communication protocols so that the needs and concerns of Tribal Members and the Tribe are addressed in a timely manner. This will also include the roles of other entities that we are engaged with for business or other endeavors. I welcome your thoughts or concerns in this area, see my contact



Chris Helms,  
Tribal Council Chair

information below.

Chris Helms, Chairman  
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak  
Email:  
[helms.chris@gmail.com](mailto:helms.chris@gmail.com)

## Membership Meeting Announcement

Your Tribal Council is interested in looking at positive ways to address health care concerns that tribal members may have. The Tribal Council would like to form a Health Committee with representatives of the tribal membership and the Council.

We have scheduled a Tribal Membership

meeting on July 28, 2007 at 10:00a.m. to hear your views on the formation of the committee and make committee appointments. The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Sun'aq Tribal Center. If you are an individual who would like to make a difference through active, positive participation, you are just

the person we are looking for.

If you are unable to make the meeting, please look for and return the survey that was recently sent to all on-island members. The survey will also give you an opportunity to provide initial input on your concerns and views about health care.



Bob Polasky,  
Tribal Administrator

**Coming  
together,  
sharing  
together,  
working  
together,  
succeeding  
together.**

Where do we go from here?

Upward and onward into the future is the only option. I believe Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak is at a milestone in its development as a sovereign tribal government. We still have a few holes to fill, such as the establishment of a tribal court, but we've built a basic infrastructure the past few years, put in place a well qualified and committed staff, and purchased the tribe's first fixed asset, the tribal center and, finally, just completed a major renovation.

Those are all nice accomplishments, but we've been directed by your Tribal Council to address a more ambitious goal: achieving self sufficiency. This I believe will be our greatest challenge of all, and one that all of us, Council, staff and the membership need to work on together. What does self sufficiency mean? It means not being dependent on others for survival as a government. Not being dependent on any one particular source of revenue, whether federal funding, gaming revenues or lease revenues. In a sense, it means surviving by our own wits. (Something Alutiiq people have

been doing for centuries).

As it is, federal funds and gaming revenues are the bulk of tribal revenues, and they are by no means secure. Federal funding has been flat for several years, falling further behind inflationary pressures. Costs of fuel, electricity, and salaries have continued to rise while funding has not. Further, as our membership grows- and its been growing at a healthy clip, from approximately 1,200 members in 2004 to 1,500 members today- the needs of the membership grow with it. Requests for scholarship assistance and job training continue to rise. And gaming revenues? Well that's like throwing dice isn't it? Competition, the economy and legislative proposals all threaten the future of gaming.

So, you might ask, what's the plan? Currently we are putting together an economic strategy, one encompassing a thorough study of the resources available to us, resources familiar to tribal members and resources that show economic opportunity. We've been assessing, through our planning department and under the guidance of a Council ap-

pointed economic development committee, what potential business opportunities we could pursue. For example, we believe there are opportunities to add value to seafood products and opportunities to compliment the fishing industry we have.

We're working with funding agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, to support further business plan development and we're evaluating available investment resources, including our own. You will be hearing a lot more about our challenge for self-sufficiency in the next couple years. We will be asking for your input and expertise. And we expect in the future not only to provide additional stable revenues to meet member needs, but to provide good jobs for our growing tribal workforce.

Here's to our continued success.

Bob Polasky



Open seat at the Committee table

The Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak's Enrollment Committee is looking for a member who wants to become involved.

The enrollment committee strives to meet once a month prior to the regular scheduled Tribal Council meetings.

The committee

## Member Wanted

reviews applicants for membership and recommends these to the Tribal Council for action. The committee also works on the Enrollment Ordinance as well as policy and procedures for this program.

If you have the time and are willing to

commit, please send a letter of interest to Chris Helms, Tribal Council Chair or Bob Polasky, Tribal Administrator.

If you have questions regarding this, feel free to call and talk to Bob or Delores about the program.

## Environmental Department

June 25, 2007 was my first day on the job as the new Environmental Coordinator. I recently moved to Kodiak from the beautiful community of Port Lions where I was the Environmental Specialist for the Native Village of Port Lions. This is an exciting and rewarding field of work for me as I consider it a great responsibility to be a good

steward of what our great Creator has given us. The Native People have always had the greatest respect for the land and environment in general, but with all the advances made in our world to date there comes with it greater responsibility in managing our resources and dealing with our waste materials.

I look forward to serving the people of this great Tribe and working together, I know that we will accomplish a great deal in preserving and protecting human health and the environment.

I invite you to stop by my desk at any time or to telephone me with your suggestions or concerns.

*Wanda Katelnikoff*



Wanda Katelnikoff  
Environmental  
Coordinator

## Native Youth Services

**Together As One** (the Native Youth Group) finished up the school year and completed everything that they set out to accomplish for this school year. They did the radio talk show on KMXT and participated in the Salmon Run/Walk and helped out at the Awakening Bear 2007 Gathering.

I have put together a **Summer Program for the Youth** ranging in ages 4-12 years old like last summer. I also sent out letters to all the members, letting them

know the dates and times of the activities that are planned for the up and coming events.

I have split the ages and started younger this summer with 4&5 yr olds and 6-12 yr olds. We already had one **Youth Lunch & Arts/Crafts Day** on June 13<sup>th</sup> and had 18 attend. I plan on having 5 more activities including our famous camp-over in August at Camp Mueller.

I also participated in the 2007 Bring The Kids Home Summit that was held by The State of

Alaska Division of Behavioral Health.

BTKH is about:

- Keeping Youth in Their Home Communities
- Utilizing Least Restrictive Treatment Options
- Returning Youth From Out-Of-State Residential Treatment

There were quite a few people that attended this summit from the villages also, looking for solutions on how to keep their kids from being sent out of state.

**The best way to predict the future is to create it.**



Teresa Stutes,  
Youth Specialist



Photo courtesy of  
Woody Island Tribal Council

***“To live in the presence of great truths and eternal laws, to be led by permanent ideals—that is what keeps a man patient when the world ignores him, and calm and unspoiled when the world praises him.”***  
**-Honore De Balzac**



Aksana Mather,  
Women's Advocate

## **Domestic Violence Against Alutiiq Women is Not Traditional (a fragment from the booklet)**

Today, as once Dr. Lydia Black said, I want to remind Alutiiq People about their glory. That it is clear according to historical records, that Alutiiq women were very well respected and appreciated.

Before the first colonists started their destructive invasion on Kodiak Island, Alutiiq women were respected and valued. Our male ancestors demonstrated their ability to protect and provide for the woman.

Making a household was an agreement between a man and a woman to coexist as equals. There was no battle of the sexes. Women and men were not considered "opposites," or one inferior, the other superior. They were partners that respected and balanced each other.

For Alutiiq tribes it was customary for the man to live with the wife's family. This custom afforded her protection and other social customs dictated who and how interactions between family members operated. These customs served to minimize the potential for conflict and served to protect women and children from abuse. If a household broke up, the woman was free to make the man leave her lodge. She did not have to fear retaliation or terrorism.

*“Usually the young man goes to the young woman to live... Now and then a woman keeps two husbands who live amiably together in the hut. If spouses become dissatisfied with one another, then they part and take other woman or man. The men are mostly free of jealousy...”* (Merck, 1980)

*“The son-in-law lives with his wife’s family and serves his father-in-law as a helper...”* (Lisianski, 1812)

*“Koniags consider themselves luckier having daughters than sons, for the latter leave home when they marry, whereas a father-in-law is obligated to keep his son-in-law...”* (Davydov, 1977)

*“...Only with great difficulty did I persuade a few Russian hunters to get married. The rest of them do not even want to listen to me. Everyone openly keeps one girl or several, which greatly offends the Americans; you know how they like their women; they are capable of bringing disaster to the Russians to obtain revenge...”* (Pierce and Donnelly. The letter of Archimandrite Ioasaf to Shelikhov, 1980)

*“They do not have many wives, very few have two, on the contrary a good skilled woman might keep two or three husbands; there is no jealousy among the husbands and they live amicably together...”* (Shelikhov, 1981)

*“Husbands treat their wives with great affection. In the presence of others, they may not speak harshly to each other, nor show a stern countenance; were one of them to do so, the other would consider this behavior an unbearable insult...”* (Gideon in L. Black, 1989)

*“Mothers and fathers love their children dearly. They never inflict any kind of corporal punishment, either on minors nor adults, resorting only to admonition...”* (Gideon in L. Black, 1989)

*“Women had a good deal of power of their own, even so that it was not the men who select the women for their wives, but the women who chose the men...”*

*They divorce by either the will of the husband or the wife, and without any quarrel; but the divorces are not frequent. The children, in such case, live until grown with the mother, and after that where they will. And the man as well as the woman may at once enter into another union, without the danger of any disapproval of others...”* (Davydov, 1977)

Societies, elders and leaders ensured safety for the women and children if an individual man did not conduct himself within his family in a manner that was responsible. All Native men, women, and children were responsible for their own behavior. Because they were all interconnected, the individual and his/her behavior had to be respectful if the Tribe was to survive and live in harmony.

Within the natural system of life, tribal people lived together peacefully and violence within the family was rare. When violence against a woman did occur, the People responded. Violence was and is a threat to the harmony needed for us to survive.

A man who was violent within the family was not seen as capable of any leadership responsibilities. He had demonstrated that he did not possess the self-discipline, respect, caring or spiritual understanding to effectively lead the People.

Full text of the booklet “Violence against Alutiiq women is Not traditional” can be obtained at the Sun'aq Tribal office. Call 486-4449 if you have any questions. Respectfully, Aksana Mather – STOP Violence against Native Women Grant Coordinator/Women's Advocate

## Sun'aq "477" Employment and Training Program

If you are underemployed or unemployed you may be eligible to receive funding for training or education. The goals of the Sun'aq Tribe '477' plan are to reduce joblessness among Alaska Natives and Native Americans, develop a forecast of future occupations, improve job skills or provide education funding to eligible participants, and provide culture and education awareness among youth ages 3 through grade 12.

The Sun'aq Tribe provides a comprehensive case management system and provides assistance to qualified applicants in the capacity of attaining employment, whether

it is assisting them to find a job under the job placement and training program. The programs encompassed in the '477' plan are Adult Vocational Training, Higher Education, youth culture activities, or financial assistance. Self-Sufficiency is the ultimate goal for the clients.

Participants are ultimately in charge of their career; we encourage them and guide them through the process. We are the support network that offers educational and employment options and opportunities, as well as a clear path to achieve their goals. We encourage the program

participants to embrace their divine right to pursue a self-sufficient, satisfying and healthy lifestyle.

The employment and training program provides a safe and encouraging environment where participants receive support as they progress through lifestyle changes and enhance their communication, life management and academic skills in order to succeed in the employment world. The programs integrated into the 477 program are higher education, Adult Vocational Training and, on-the-job training and direct employment.

*Kippy Robbins*



Kippy Robbins,  
Program Services

## Have An Adventurous Career As An Alaska State Police Officer

The Alaska State Troopers have positions available for men and women who want to make a positive impact on Alaska's communities. To apply to be an Alaska State Trooper, you must meet these minimum qualifications:

1. Never been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence
2. Be a High School graduate or possess a GED certificate.
3. Be 21 years or older at the time of employment
4. Must possess a valid driver's license
5. During the past 10 years (unless you were under 21 years of age at the time of use), have not used an illegal controlled substance other than marijuana
6. During the past year, have not used marijuana

(unless you were under 21 years of age at the time of use)

7. Have not illegally manufactured, transported, or sold a controlled substance (unless you were under 21 years of age at the time of the act AND the act occurred more than 10 years ago)
8. Have never been convicted of a felony (by civilian court of Alaska, the United States, or another state or territory, or by a military court)
9. During the past 10 years, have not been convicted (by civilian court of Alaska, the United States, or another state or territory, or by a military court) of a misdemeanor crime that resulted in serious physical injury to another person
10. During the past 10

years, have not been convicted (by civilian court of Alaska, the United States, or another state or territory, or by a military court) of two or more driving-while-intoxicated offenses or chemical test refusals

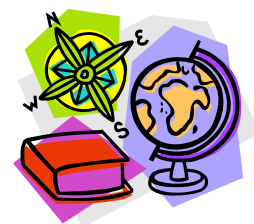
11. During the past 10 years, have not been convicted (by civilian court of Alaska, the United States, or another state or territory, or by a military court) of a misdemeanor crime of dishonesty or moral turpitude. If you meet these minimum qualifications and are interested in becoming an Alaska State Trooper, go to the there web site

[www.alaskastatetrooper.com](http://www.alaskastatetrooper.com) or call 1-907-269-5976.

You can also come by the office if you need assistance in the process.

*Kippy Robbins*

**Be the best you  
can be!!!  
Transform the  
ordinary into the  
extraordinary. A  
commitment to  
excellence will  
turn any  
enterprise into a  
beautiful  
success.**



Expand Your World  
With Education



Dave Monture  
Economic Development  
and Planning

## Shall There Be A Continuing Legacy From Exxon Valdez?

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May the Sun'aq Tribe and First National Bank of Alaska sponsored an Exxon Valdez settlement workshop attended by 23 Sun'aq members and panelists with elders well represented. It was subsequently learned that the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals rejected Exxon's attempt to secure an en banc hearing, which prevented an estimated 2-3 years of further delays. The matter is now before the

Supreme Court with a settlement of some \$4.75 Billion possible as early as the second quarter of 2008. It has also been learned from the Office of Senator Murkowski that her sponsorship of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Treatment Act continues with initiatives to attach these important tax measures to an appropriate national energy or finance legislative vehicle.

While this news is encouraging, it also underlines the need for careful tax planning for members and/or their estates. The Sun'aq Tribe is now in the process of identifying the best stewardship options for creating a continuing legacy fund for the Tribe from an Exxon settlement.

Please contact Sun'aq Economic Development and Planning for the latest developments. - Dave Monture

**You measure  
the size of the  
accomplishment  
by the obstacles  
you had to  
overcome to  
reach your  
goals.**

### Planning For Success Takes Time and Commitment

There are many questions that arise when considering going to college. How will I fund my education, where will I go to college, how will I get to college and where will I live when I get there? Following is some information that may help in making your decision.

Is it worth it?

- A person with a higher education degree increases his/her earning potential and job opportunities. A person

who graduates from college earns 35% to 44% more than those who have only a high school diploma.

- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the fastest growing jobs will be those requiring high levels of education and skill.

- People with a higher education are less likely to be unemployed than those without one.

- The person develops a

certain skill or talent.

- The ability to think critically and analytically is improved.
- An expanded understanding of the world and its people enhances a person's character. A greater sense of accomplishment and enhanced self-esteem contributes to personal self-fulfillment.

**So the answer is  
"YES" college is worth  
your effort.**



See Kippy for  
information regarding  
higher education and  
adult vocational training

### Why Go To College?

Did you know that college graduates age 25 and over earn nearly twice as much over their lifetime as workers who stopped with a high school diploma.

Average Annual  
Income Based on

Educational Attainment

- \$18,955 Less than 9<sup>th</sup> Grade
- \$22,463 Some high school
- \$29,195 High School or GED
- \$35,370 Some College

- \$35,590 Associates Degree
- \$53,103 Bachelor's Degree
- \$60,726 Master's Degree
- \$89,638 Doctorate
- \$113,242 Professional

## Sun'aq Tribe's Healthy Families Initiative

Last month members of our staff had our fist run through with our new workshops for our Healthy Families Initiative. Our workshops are titled "Changes for Better Living and Healthy Families". Sun'aq staff is very pleased to be able to offer these workshops that are based on a communication and relationships curriculum. Our workshops are for service members (any native in the area) and spouses or significant others. These workshops are non-invasive and not all touchy-feely so it's ok for you tough guys out there to come on in and give it a try. We'll have food and refreshments for every session.

Sun'aq staff will make efforts to have workshop sessions monthly. Depending on our group needs these workshops can be scheduled during the work week or after hours or on weekends. We've

had a lot of fun developing our delivery skills and we hope to see many of you come and enjoy our service. The workshops will take place in our brand new training room here at the Tribal offices above the bingo hall.

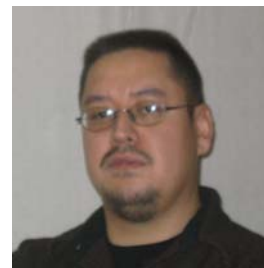
We are planning to hold specific workshops for teens using the same materials during the school year (because everyone seems to scatter for the summer).

Our staff is excited to bring this wonderful and fun learning opportunity to our membership. Since we have been exposed to the training we've seen how these "new tools for our toolboxes" have had a significant effect on our own home and work lives. The skills that are presented are skills that are useful in the work-place, at home with the family, with a significant other, and at school.

We invite you to please join us. Just give us a call and tell us you are interested, or stop on by and visit us in our newly remodeled Tribal offices. We will put you on our list and work with you to fit us into your schedule.

We have about two full workdays of material and stories to share so we break up our workshops into four separate three hour sessions, and that's just for starters. We are hoping to make some more friends during these workshops and we have a feeling that people will be hungry for more. So, we are on the search for more materials to make available for our membership and families to present in the future. Also, we are working on putting together our own library of personal development materials to make available for checkout.

*Chris Polasky*



Chris Polasky,  
Social Services

**Coming  
together is a  
beginning...  
Keeping  
together is  
progress...  
Working  
together is a  
success!**

## Tribal Members Wanted

The Natural Resources/ Environmental Department is looking for interested people who would like to serve on the Environmental Committee. The meetings are held monthly to review grant objectives and outcomes as well as policy and procedures for this program. If you are concerned about our environment and would like to make a difference in our community, please contact me during regular business hours.

### DID YOU KNOW???

- Did you know that chlorine is a gas and if you want to remove it from your drinking water or coffee or juice before mixing, all you need to do is to leave it out for 30 minutes before you use it. Certain water filters say that they remove the odor only from the water, the chlorine is still there. . Also, if you don't change

the filters in your water filter often, bacteria will grow in them quite rapidly.

- Most coffee mugs are made of ceramic that contain lead. When you stir your coffee and hit the sides of the inside of the mug, if you notice a gray streak, that is lead. Sturdy glass mugs or stainless steel are safer alternatives.



**SUN' AQ TRIBE OF  
KODIAK**

312 West Marine Way  
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**We're on the Web**  
[www.sunaq.org](http://www.sunaq.org)



**Tribal Council meetings are held monthly on the 4th Tuesday evening of every month.  
Public is welcome!**

**Proudly representing the members of the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak**

**Shoonaq' Tribal Bingo**

**Regular Weekly Schedule as follows:**

**Tuesday through Thursday & Saturday:**

**Doors Open for Pull Tabs and Bingo Sales at 6:00p.m. Bingo session starts at 7:30p.m.**

**Friday:**

**Doors Open at 6:00p.m. First session starts at 7:00p.m., second session starts at 10p.m.**

**Special Sessions are held from time to time and are posted in the local newspaper.**

**Important Dates to Remember**

**July 4, 2007—Offices Closed for Independence Day**

**July 28, 2007—Tribal Membership Meeting re: Health Care**

**August 17-19, 2007—Women's Wellness Retreat**

**August 25, 2007—Koniag Picnic**

**August 26, 2007 - Sun'aq Tribal Picnic**

**August 27, 2007—KANA/Koniag Roundtable**