

# STORYKNIFE

THE VOICE OF THE REGION

*Yaarnin*



**Calista announces second dividend for 2015.**

*(Story on page 6)*

## 2015 ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES CONVENTION



The 2015 Annual Alaska Federation of Natives

(AFN) Convention was held in Anchorage

October 15-17. Thousands of delegates from

across Alaska attended the convention to address

important issues within our communities. Substance abuse, Alaska's

economic struggles and the issue of suicide in rural Alaska dominated

the conversation. Resolutions set the framework for the issues AFN will

address in the coming year. Close to 50 resolutions were adopted.

Attendees say drugs like heroin, spice and meth are becoming increasingly prevalent in villages and there needs to be an increased focused on keeping them out of villages. While community leaders argue they are seeing more drugs, there is no hard data to back up the claims. At the convention, voters approved a resolution to compel the state and federal government to research the impact of dangerous drugs like heroin, meth and spice on rural and federal recognized tribes in Alaska. AFN board members agreed something needs to be done to prevent drugs from being trafficked into rural villages and a resolution passed to compel the state and law enforcement to ramp up anti-trafficking efforts. Not only was combating drugs in a focus, the need for fighting drug abuse was part of the discussion. Resolutions passed addressing the need for funding and drug and alcohol treatment centers in villages.

*(Continued on page 4)*

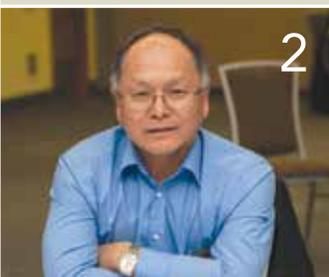
*Photo courtesy of AFN*

*More AFN photos on pages 4 and 5.*



CALISTA CORPORATION  
[www.calistacorp.com](http://www.calistacorp.com)

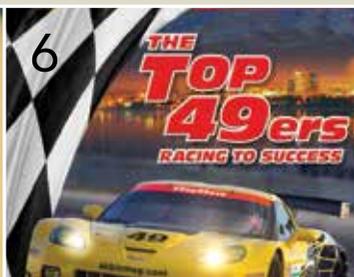
**NOVEMBER 2015**



President's  
Message



Employee  
Profile



Top 49ers



Inspiring  
Youth



Enrollment  
Timeline



## BOARD MESSAGE

Margaret Pohjola, Board Chair

Earlier this year Calista Corporation Shareholders passed a landmark resolution to enroll Descendants into our corporation. This decision allows younger generations to become decision-makers, giving them a bigger stake in our future. Over the next several months we will work hard to begin the process for enrolling Descendants. The enrollment period is expected to be early 2017.

Historically, an average of only 50.07 percent of outstanding shares are represented (by proxy or in person) for each Annual Meeting. Calista has worked to increase voting using a variety of methods. Cash prizes are offered for voting early, online voting and voting by the regular deadline. Call-in shows are held on KYUK, which are rebroadcast to Chevak and Aniak. Calista advertises in regional newspapers, and at the request of Shareholders, online voting was first offered in 2014.

As we prepare for historic changes in our corporation we look at other big decisions coming in the near future. Voting is both a privilege and an important responsibility to exercise. Unfortunately, not everyone given a voice chooses to exercise it every year. For Alaska Native Corporations, as we see a growing number of shares being gifted or inherited it is beginning to become increasingly difficult to meet quorum requirements. A quorum is the minimum number of members of a group that must be represented at the meeting to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. To meet quorum at an Annual

*"The Board supports reducing the quorum requirement for Calista's Annual Meetings. We believe this change will allow Calista to continue to hold successful meetings with an increasing number of Shareholders."*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Andrew Guy, President & CEO

We are honored to be recognized as one of the top earning companies in Alaska and we congratulate all the other Alaska Native Corporations and businesses on the Top 49ers list. 2014 was another successful one for Calista. Our revenue was the second highest in corporation history and our net income was the third highest. Revenue allows us to better serve our Shareholders and Descendants.

We are thankful for the guidance of our Directors, dedicated management and talented employees for the successes Calista is experiencing! Many of our 400 employees in Alaska are Shareholders and Descendants and in 2014 our wages to Shareholders and Descendants topped \$10.5 million. Additionally, the Board of Directors in October approved a second dividend for 2015. Combined and not counting the Elders' distribution, both dividends this year total \$7 million, an increase from the two dividends in 2014 that totaled \$6.3 million. We also support future leaders through the Calista Education and Culture, Inc. scholarship fund, which provided students with about \$350,000 in scholarships.

Revenue success takes disciplined business decisions, hard work and skillful budgeting. A comprehensive and balanced budget accounts for all predicted expenses and expected revenue. To keep companies and departments on budget,

*"Setting a budget takes months of planning and daily attention to detail."*

Meeting a majority (more than 50 percent) of the outstanding shares must be represented.

Last year, the Alaska State Legislature passed a bill allowing Alaska Native Corporations to make achieving quorum easier. The bill gives Alaska Native Corporations the option to amend their articles of incorporation, reducing the quorum requirements for a meeting of Shareholders to one-third (1/3) of the outstanding shares entitled to vote at a meeting, represented in person or by proxy.

The Calista Board will consider to include a resolution to reduce the quorum requirement on the ballot at the 2016 Calista Annual Meeting of Shareholders. To pass, the resolution must receive an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the shares represented in person or by proxy at the meeting. The Board has discussed and supports this resolution. We believe a reduced quorum requirement will avoid the expensive and burdensome consequences if too few Shareholders vote by proxy or in person and fail to reach quorum. We support this resolution for many other reasons including the fact that as Shareholder enrollment increases it will become more difficult to reach quorum; a lower quorum requirement allows an Annual Meeting to proceed just in case fewer votes are cast; it promotes more efficient use of Shareholder time; and it will improve Shareholder participation.

**I will address these points in detail in future issues of Storyknife. This is an important issue and we want Shareholders to be fully informed about all the facts.**

*Margaret P. Pohjola*

we pay attention to the budget daily. Planning a budget for the upcoming year takes months. The process for many departments begins in August and Calista's subsidiaries submit budgets as well. Beginning in September, Calista's executive team reviews and analyzes all the draft budgets for the Board's consideration and approval in December. The executive team looks at a host of factors including internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as state, national and international trends.

In 2016, Alaska's economic outlook is a concern for all Alaska businesses including Alaska Native Corporations. However, with our diverse group of subsidiaries, we have positioned ourselves to operate in a number of different industries around the world. As of the end of October, Congress approved a two-year budget and it is expected to be signed by President Obama.

Next year we will also lay the foundation for enrolling new Shareholders during 2017. There will be a lot of budgeting that will go into both the planning and preparation phase, and the enrollment of additional Shareholders. In the end of our budgeting process, our board will approve a budget that addresses our needs and considers the economic challenges businesses are facing.

**We look forward to growing and having another successful year for both our Shareholders and Descendants, and our corporation.**

*al*

## ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS CONVENTION

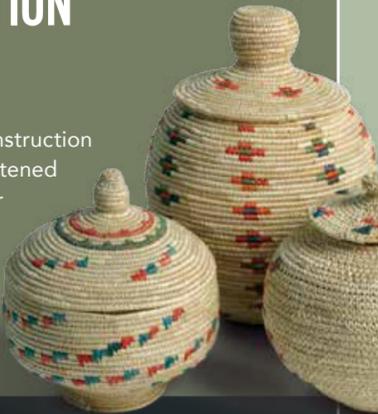
*Nakellriit, Nunavut, Piciyaraqut-Uu*  
Families, Our Land and Culture

The Association of Village Council President's (AVCP) annual meeting addresses a number of important Native issues like the economy, health, subsistence and more. At the meeting that ran September 20 through October 1, Calista Board Chair Margaret gave an update on Calista. During a presentation, Margaret addressed a number of important topics including revenue, budget, Descendant enrollment and Shareholder benefits.

Margaret discussed Calista's 2014 revenue of \$402 million, the second highest in corporate history as well as that debt is down 27 percent from 2012 to May 2015. Corporate earnings have allowed for an increase in Shareholder dividend amounts as well as increases in donations to organizations helping Shareholders and Descendants in the Region.

Looking ahead, Margaret discussed the challenges Calista will face. In the upcoming year Calista will chart a course for enrolling new Shareholders, which will triple the number of Shareholders in the corporation. This will take skillful budgeting and meticulous planning. Additionally, Margaret talked about the economic status of Alaska and the U.S. and what that means for Calista business. Calista will work to address reduced social services funding and

decreased funding for projects like construction and infrastructure support. With a tightened budget Margaret said one of the major takeaways is that all of the leaders in the Region need to work together through collaboration and support and be ready for any opportunity.



## First Woman NAMED 2nd TRADITIONAL CHIEF

In a historic vote, Bea Kristovich of the Native Village of Napaimute was elected by delegates to serve as the 2nd Traditional Chief. This year also marked the first time a woman, Margaret Pohjola, was selected to serve as the Board Chair for Calista.

## Employee Feature DOLLY BUSH

CPA at Calista Corporation

Kids don't always see it when they're younger but parents give the best advice. Growing up, Dolly Bush's mother Bunny Venes gave her a piece of advice that stuck with her and eventually changed her life. "My mom always tells me I can do anything I set my mind to. When I was five years old she said, 'you should be an accountant. It's a good job, it pays well and accountants are always needed.' She was right."

Dolly, a Calista Shareholder, began taking accounting classes in high school and enjoyed the work. Once she started college accounting classes she realized getting an accounting degree would take a lot of focus and hard work. With the help of Calista Corporation and Orutsaramiut Native Corporation, Dolly graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. While her professors encouraged her to sit for the certified public accountant (CPA) exam immediately after graduation, Dolly chose to spend some additional time preparing.

Originally from Bethel, Dolly moved home after college and worked for the City of Bethel, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation and Association of Village Council Presidents. She also opened her own business in Anchorage called Bush Professional Services, LLC. In 2011, Calista Corporation hired her as its new tax director. As the tax director, Dolly is responsible for reducing the corporation's tax burden in all areas including annual tax provisions, preparation of various federal and state tax filings, estimating quarterly tax payments and strategizing future tax savings.

*"I could not have passed the CPA exams without the support of my husband and daughters."*



Dolly excelled in her career but in the back of her mind she always knew she was meant to pass her CPA exam. "I would think about the CPA exam from time to time but it wasn't until I had the opportunity to work for Calista that I would commit to sitting for the exam," said Dolly. "The idea of accomplishing a major career goal, helping my regional corporation achieve ANCSA goals and showing my daughters no matter how difficult the goal, they too could achieve anything they set their minds to, was what encouraged me to take the exam"

**Dolly successfully passed all four CPA exams. She credits her family, friends and co-workers at Calista. She says her goal in sharing her story is to encourage others to keep their goals in sight because with hard work people can do anything they set their minds to.**



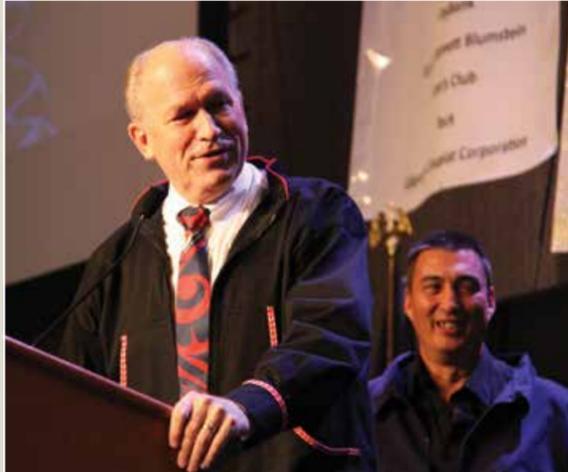
# Heroes in Our Homeland

## 2015 ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES CONVENTION

(Continued from page 1)

Subsistence rights were also a major focus at the convention. Several resolutions addressed the need for tribes to play a larger role in managing wildlife populations. One resolution focused on salmon in the Yukon River, which has been a major point of contention in recent years with low king returns prompting the state to severely restrict fishing. With dwindling wildlife populations it is important for traditional hunting and fishing grounds to be protected for people to use. A resolution was passed requesting state action to address conflicts between village residents and sport hunters. It is important for Alaska Natives voices to be heard on the issue, which is why voters passed a resolution seeking tribal representation on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

\* Photos courtesy of AFN



Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by a tragedy at AFN. If you or someone you know needs support please call the Careline, 877-266-HELP (4357), a Fairbanks-based nonprofit. Calls are free. There is also text-based help available during much of the week; text 4help to 839863.



# CALISTA CORPORATION DECLARES \$2 MILLION AKILISTA DIVIDEND

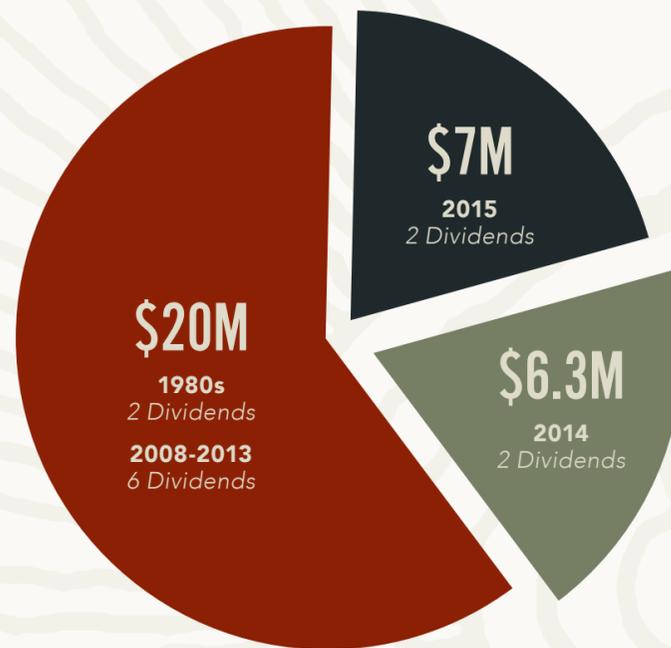
## DIVIDENDS TOTAL \$33.3 MILLION

Calista Corporation's Board of Directors approved a second dividend for 2015. The Akilista Dividend totals \$2 Million, a 23 percent increase from the previous year. Calista has declared 12 dividends since inception, including two this year and two in 2014. Combined, the 2015 Shareholder dividend distributions total \$7 million. The total distribution of all Calista Shareholder dividends is \$33.3 million, with 40 percent of that total declared in the last two years.

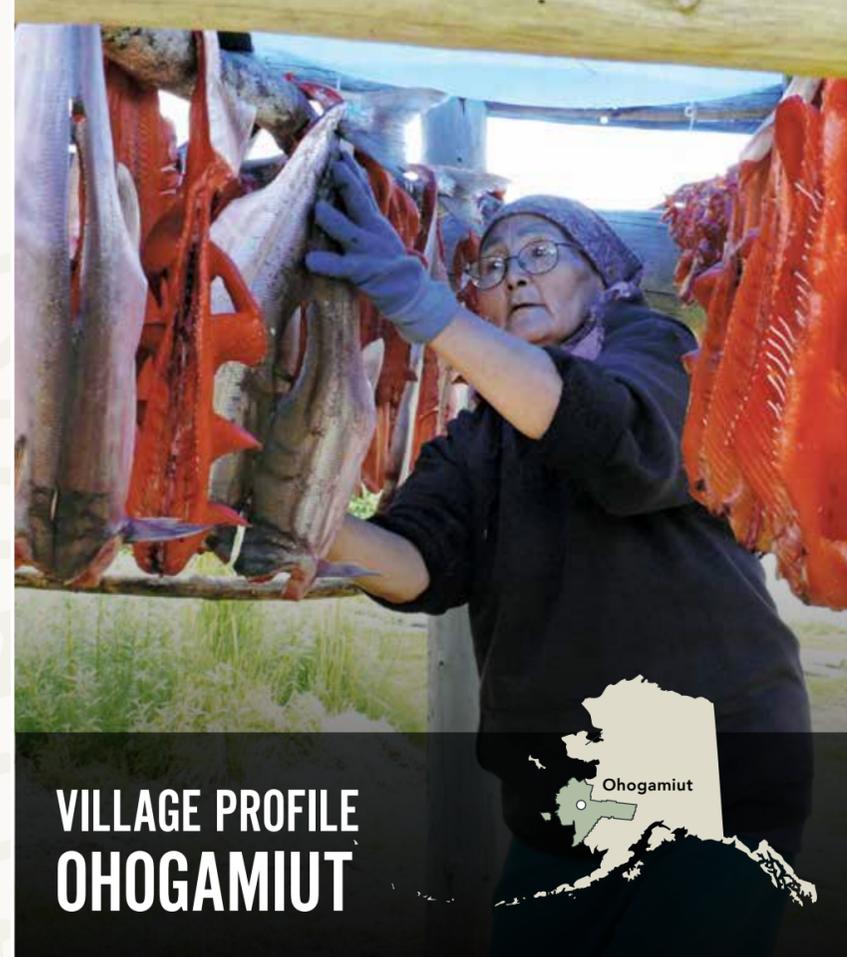
Calista has one of the largest populations of Shareholders among the Alaska Native Corporations, with approximately 13,000 individuals. This Akilista Dividend equates to \$1.51 per share, with the average Shareholder owning 100 shares.

Calista Corporation Board Chair Margaret Pohjola said, "Calista's most profitable years have been in the last three years. As Calista works to continue providing benefits to our Shareholders, we must be mindful of state and federal budget challenges."

Last year marked the first year in Calista's history that two dividends were distributed in one calendar year. The spring dividend is based on unaudited financial results from the prior year. The fall dividend is from the Akilista investment portfolio, which made its first distribution in 2014. This is an investment fund created to provide a perpetual source of dividends not reliant on business operations.



**CALISTA CORPORATION TOTAL DIVIDENDS \$33.3 MILLION**



## VILLAGE PROFILE OHOGAMIUT

A place doesn't need a population to have a rich heritage. Ohogamiut is a seasonal fish camp located on the right bank of the Yukon River. The camp is 22 miles southeast of Marshall.

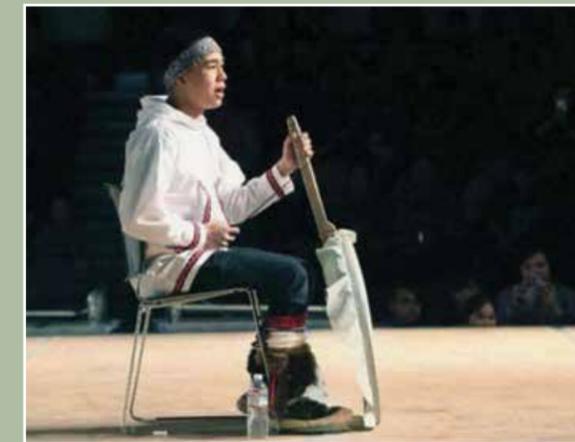
According to Kenneth Pratt with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the earliest published historical sources for the area of the Yukon River identify Ohogamiut as *Ikuagmyut* (Zagoskin 1967:276-277 [June 1844]) and *Ikuagmiut* (Netsvetov 1984:4 [September 1845]). Note also that the village of Ohogamiut on the Kuskokwim was identified by these same early authors as *Ukhagmyut* [Zagoskin 1967:206 (December 1843)] and "Ukhagmiut" [Netsvetov 1984:6 (November 1845)].

Yukon River elders interviewed by ANCSA researchers from the mid-1970s on have consistently identified the Yukon River site of Ohogamiut as *Iquarmiut*. This includes Alexander Isaac, a person who was born at that site in 1920. There is some evidence that a site named *Qikucaraq* once existed at or near present-day Marshall, according to Kenneth.

According to the Ohogamiut Traditional Council, what is now a seasonal fish camp for people from Marshall was once a village. It began with five homes and eventually grew to 20 homes with about 50 residents. According to Elders, the community was eventually abandoned because there was no school nearby. Most of the people moved to Russian Mission and Marshall.

Ohogamiut is only accessible by boat or plane. Its rich wildlife and fish populations make it an excellent area for subsistence. The temperature swings in the area can be drastic because of its transitional climate zone. Temperatures range from -54 °F to 86 °F. The area sees weather patterns of lengthy, cold winters and short, hot summers.

**Like many seasonal camps in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Ohogamiut is a special place for families to visit and has become a part of many family traditions and stories.**



## Leaders from the Region

### BYRON NICHOLAI ROGER LANG YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Music plays an important role in many people's lives, especially today's Youth. Friendships are formed over shared music genres, emotional connections are made with lyrics and a familiar song can trigger a powerful memory. Music speaks to people and it has been used for centuries to tell stories and share culture. Today, one teenage boy from Toksook Bay is using it to keep his heritage alive.

Byron Nicholai preserves his culture through music and drumming in his Native Yup'ik language. He was recently awarded the Roger Lang Youth Leadership award at the Alaska Federation of Natives conference for his commitment to his craft. Byron has traveled the state and even performed before U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Washington D.C.

His love for music doesn't stop with Yup'ik; he encourages Youth to explore their own heritage through their culture's traditional music. Byron uses social media to raise awareness and promote his passion. He has 20,000 followers on his Facebook page titled I Sing, You Dance. His Facebook page is an outlet for his music and a way for his fans to share their own experiences with music. This is not the first time Byron has been honored for his leadership. Byron was previously honored by the Spirit of Youth Award and was featured on KTUU's Morning Edition newscast.

Byron is a role model for his fellow Youth. He is proud of his culture and wants to preserve it. In school he is the leader of his dance group, plays basketball and was selected to represent Team Alaska this upcoming summer.

**Calista Corporation congratulates Byron for his leadership and talent. Qu yana for making a positive impact in our Region on our Youth.**

## STRONG BUSINESS

### CALISTA CORPORATION LANDS IN TOP 10 ALASKA-OWNED COMPANIES

In October, Calista Corporation was honored as one of the largest Alaska-owned, Alaska-based companies. Calista ranked eighth in revenue among Alaska Business Monthly's annual Top 49ers list. The event requires companies to be at least 51 percent Alaska-owned. While this is the second year in a row Calista has ranked eighth, the company's revenue in 2014 was up nine percent from the previous year. In 2014, Calista's revenue was \$401.9 million, the second-highest in corporate history.

In addition to increased revenue, Calista had other major accomplishments in 2014. The company moved into its new headquarters in Anchorage. Chiulista Services, Inc., a subsidiary, was honored with the Department of Homeland Security Small Business Award for U.S. Coast Guard Kodiak base work.

As well as being an economic driver in the state, the company's over 300 subsidiaries contribute high-quality professional work to the state, as well as drug- and alcohol-free work environments for Shareholders, Descendants and their spouses. Calista and its subsidiaries employ 400 Alaskans.

**This year's Top 49ers companies earned a collective \$15 billion and employed more than 73,500 people.**



Calista Corporation Vice President of the Land and Natural Resource Department, June McAtee with Alaska Business Monthly Vice President of Sales, Charles Bell.

*This is the second year in a row Calista has ranked eighth.*

# STORYKNIFE

THE VOICE OF THE REGION

*Yaarnin*



CURRENT STAGE

## DESCENDANT ENROLLMENT *Timeline*

2014

### DESCENDANT ENROLLMENT VOTE ANNOUNCED

*October 2014 - July 2015*



### ANNUAL MEETING: VOTE PASSES *July 11, 2015*

### INTERNAL ENROLLMENT DEVELOPMENT

- Hire additional staff
- Develop an application process



2016

### APPLICATION PROCESS

- Issue applications
- Expand Shareholder database to include new Shareholders

### NEW DESCENDANT STOCK ISSUED

2017

### APPLICATIONS PROCESSED AS RECEIVED

*Ongoing*

For more information visit: [www.CalistaVote.com](http://www.CalistaVote.com)

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## PERSONAL DATA FORM - NOV 2015

Shareholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like Calista to send you new Will forms?  Yes  No

Calista Shares \_\_\_\_\_

Village Corporation Shares \_\_\_\_\_

Please change my address as I have indicated above. I understand that you cannot make address changes without my permission and signature, which I hereby give of my own free will and without constraint. I further authorize Calista and its subsidiaries to share this information.

Shareholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness 2 \_\_\_\_\_

(Two witnesses are required if Shareholder signs with an "X.")

Mail to:  
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Anchorage, AK 99503  
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