

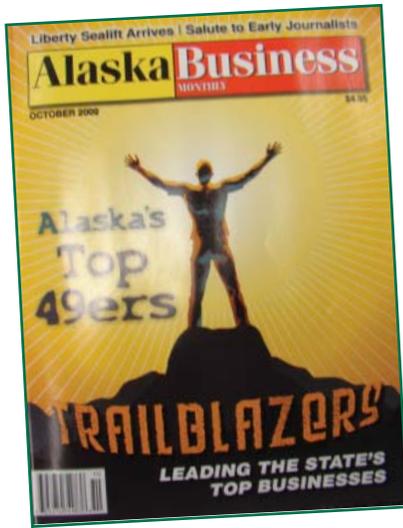


BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION AGLUKTUK

Volume XXXVI

December 2009/January 2010

BSNC Honored as one of Top 49 Alaska Companies



Bering Straits Native Corporation was recently recognized by Alaska Business Monthly magazine and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce as one of the Top 49 businesses owned and operated by Alaskans. BSNC came in as the number 31 Alaska-owned business in state, based on its 2008 gross revenue of \$113.34 million.

"It has been the intent of the BSNC Board, after coming out of bankruptcy in 1989, to revive BSNC to make the Top 49. By making that list, it shows that BSNC has reached that goal," said President & CEO Tim Towarak.

Chairman Henry Ivanoff said "The Board and staff are happy our corporation can finally call itself one of the larger Alaskan owned businesses."

BSNC, along with 48 other Alaska companies, was honored during a luncheon at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage on October 1, 2009.

New Hospital Construction to Re-start in Spring 2010

Nome Eskimo Community (NEC) will be referring qualified Alaska Native and American Indian applicants to Inuit-NCI, contractor, and sub contractors for the NSHC Hospital Replacement Project. Construction will re-start this spring.

Interested applicants must complete the NSHC Hospital Replacement Project application and turn it into NEC. NEC has no hiring authority and applicants must pass a pre-employment drug screen. Inuit-NCI said the maximum number of individuals to be employed during the peak of the project is 75. This includes special skilled employees such as: sheet metal workers, medical equipment installers, crane operators, ironworks, etc. They expect to have a maximum of 20 laborers; however the workforce will fluctuate throughout the project depending on manpower need.

Applicants are asked to complete the entire application and

explain in detail job duties and list the equipment and tools you have worked with. Also, include a resume with your application. Highlight all commercial construction experience you have along with all construction and safety training you completed. Include copies of current training certificates or other supporting documents.

Inuit-NCI, a joint venture between Inuit Services, Inc. and Neeser Construction, Inc., has been awarded a \$90.4 million contract to build the new Norton Sound Regional Hospital in Nome. The project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and specifies that INJV meet Indian Preference requirements in hiring workers

"We are honored and delighted to be selected for this extremely important project," said Gail Schubert, BSNC's Executive Vice President. "Our mission is to improve the quality of life of our people through economic

development. This project is aligned perfectly with that goal as it will bring an improved, state-of-the-art hospital to our region while, at the same time, providing jobs for our shareholders and their families."

For a job application please contact the Employment Specialist at NEC.

Phone: 907.443.2246

Fax: 907.443.9145

PO Box 1090

Nome, Alaska 99762

www.necalaska.org

Applications can also be found at Nome Job Center and at local IRA offices in the Bering Straits region.

BSNC Greetings

Tim Towarak, President/CEO



As we get into the Holiday Season, I wanted to catch your eye immediately so I decided to reprint a picture from “Here is Alaska” written by Evelyn Steffenson. Much of her material takes place in Unalakleet and the above picture was one from her books. The person on the far right is my late father, Clarence Towarak Sr.

My father was a successful hunter, trapper and fisherman throughout his life. The picture caption in Ms. Steffenson’s book is “9 Eskimo’s on a Whale” and includes most of my father’s brothers, all of whom are now deceased. The 4th from the right is Wilfred Ryan Sr., a well known Unalakleet airplane pilot and previous owner/founder of the original Ryan Air, now operating as Alaska Transportation Services out of Anchorage.

How does this picture help me in sending you as shareholders a message? To me it is a reflection of time and is a historical statement on our Native subsistence way of life. It is a reflection of how our people survived in some of the harshest climate conditions in North America, and it also reflects how Natives think in terms of community rather than as competitive individuals which seems to be the norm in non-indigenous cultures. It is also a reflection of happiness being expressed by all nine young men.

Finally, I wanted to use this picture to help announce a recent BSNC Board of Director’s decision affecting the leadership of your corporation. The Board, through my request, agreed to separate the President and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) titles, keeping me on as the President and giving the CEO title to Gail Schubert. As you know, Gail has been the second in command for staff for the last six years serving as the Executive Vice President/General Counsel. It is evident to me, after observing her for many years (we grew up together although I am more than 10 years older than her) that Mrs. Schubert is the natural successor to me as President.

This decision was made so there will be a smooth transition from one President to the next, mindful of the fact that it is the BSNC Board of Directors who votes in the President/CEO. I have no doubt that the Board will select Gail as the next President/CEO because of her educational background, her current experience in leading BSNC, and her willingness to serve. I would feel very comfortable in leaving the sole leadership of BSNC to Gail and I hope the Board will feel the same.

Although I will be leaving in three years, I will not leave my seat on the Board of Directors; only my staff position. My term on the Board ends this coming October and I plan to file for another 3 year term and will be willing to serve on the Board as long as I feel that I am contributing to the growth and development of BSNC.

Finally, I ask your support in this decision and also hope you feel this will be good for BSNC. Qu-yah-nah.

BSNC Promotes Gail Schubert to CEO

Bering Straits Native Corporation announces the promotion of Executive Vice President Gail Schubert to Chief Executive Officer. Schubert has served on the BSNC Board of Directors since 1992 and as executive vice president and general counsel since 2003.

"I am proud to announce Gail Schubert's promotion as part of our transitional leadership change as I prepare to retire as an officer within the next few years," BSNC President/CEO Tim Towarak said. "She has excellent judgment and leadership skills and has served BSNC's shareholders well since joining our management team. I want to thank BSNC staff for their performance during my tenure as CEO. I trust they will give her the allegiance they have provided me for the last ten years. I have every confidence that Gail will continue the fabulous growth BSNC has had in the past decade."

"I'm honored and excited by the opportunity to take on a greater role in BSNC's leadership" Schubert said. "We have an active and involved Board and a talented management team. It's been a pleasure working with such a dynamic,

dedicated group of people to the benefit of our shareholders and communities. I'm looking forward to continuing that mission."

Towarak has lead the company since August 2000, during which time BSNC's gross revenues have grown from \$9 million to today's \$162 million. During the past several years, BSNC expanded its Anchorage office leading to dramatically increased involvement in federal contracts through the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program. That effort resulted in the recent award of the contract to build the new Norton Sound Regional Hospital to BSNC's joint venture with Neeser Construction, Inc. In October, the BSNC Board declared a dividend of \$1.50 a share, the corporation's largest to date.

Prior to joining BSNC, Schubert practiced law in Anchorage for ten years after a successful career at several Wall Street firms, including the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Originally from the northwest Alaska village of Unalakleet, she earned an undergraduate degree from Stanford University, followed by an MBA from Cornell University's



Johnson School of Management with an emphasis in accounting and finance. She graduated from Cornell University School of Law and joined the New York bar. In addition to the BSNC board, she serves on the boards of several other Alaska organizations including AFN, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Alaska Native Justice Center and the Alaska Retirement Management Board.

Gail is the daughter of Betty Anagick and the late Lowell Anagick of Unalakleet.

BSF Arts Auction a Big Success!

The Bering Straits Foundation 7th Annual Arts Auction was held on Friday, November 20, 2009 at the Nome Mini Convention Center. There were over 160 arts and crafts that were donated to the event. The works included fine original paintings, kuspuks, ivory carvings, bone carvings, masks, jewelry, crab & halibut, jars of pickled beluga, and other hand-made items. Richard Beneville was the auctioneer and did a truly wonderful job. He had intimate knowledge of the artists and kept the crowd laughing and bidding high.

The evening began with a mouth-watering home cooked spread of moose, reindeer, and musk ox stews, fry bread, and homemade desserts for a donation of \$5.

The silent auction ran continuously throughout the evening and had 80 arts & crafts for bid. The items included numerous hand knit items, jewelry, books, jam, paintings, and more. The silent auction brought in over \$1,700.

Raffle tickets were sold throughout the night and were available for \$1. The raffle included items like round-trip tickets on Bering Air and

Frontier, numerous jackets, and 50 gallons of heating fuel.

The first round of live auction began at 6 p.m. Some of the highest selling pieces included an original painting by acclaimed artist Percy Avugiak titled "Wolf Dance," an Aleut Mask made by Myron Wheeler, and ivory dominos made by master carver Vince Pikonganna.

The second round of live auction began at 8:00 p.m. Some of the highest selling items included a Sno-Cat skiing Certificate for six, an ounce of gold from Anderson & Sons Mining, a reindeer tag from the Kakaruk herd, Custom Quiviut Gloves by Loretta Bullard, and tickets on Alaska Airlines.

The event was well attended and much fun was had by all. The event raised over \$15,000 for the Bering Straits Foundation scholarship and fellowship programs. This year's auction broke a record by raising the most money for the Foundation, since the Foundation's first auction in 2003.

A big thank you to our 2009 Auction donors and volunteers! Richard Beneville-Auctioneer, Bobby Evans, Barb Vial, Rhonda Hanebeth, Rita Hukill, Sine Holly, Gail Schubert, Lincoln Trigg Sr.,



Jon Larson, long time auction attendee, checks out items he plans on purchasing.

Trudy Kelliher, Debbie Evans, Sherry Otton, Rachel Stasenکو, Berda Wilson, Vince Pikonganna, Myron Wheeler, Amber Otton, Karen Olanna, Alice Irrigoo, Sonya Kelliher-Combs, Dawn Salesky, William Soonagrook Sr., Kevin Bahnke, Joan Kane, Carrie Peterson, Jerald Brown, Dana Sherman, Angela Larson, Kendra Nichols, Pauline Hooten, Aluki Brower, Matt Ganley, Anderson & Sons Mining,

~continued on page 4

Apply for BSNC Jobs On-Line at www.beringstraits.com

BSNC has a new Recruiting Tool that is integrated within the BSNC website, the Monster Talent Management Suite (TMS). This program offers visitors increased functionality and gives job seekers a positive and professional search-and-apply experience on-line. The TMS program manages all on-line candidates in one central location and offers a more flexible process for candidates to apply for BSNC jobs.

Shareholders who do not have access to a computer can come to the Anchorage office to complete their resume and apply for jobs on-line. The designated computer is located in the Human Resources Department.

Key Benefits for Job Seekers

- Search Jobs on-line 24/7
- View Job Details on-line
- Apply directly on-line for a Job
- Email a Job opening to a Friend
- Add Attachments (cover letter or certificates)
- Provide a Skills Profile
- Resume Submission History
- "Remove from Consideration" Option
- Password Retrieval via email message
- Change Password anytime
- Search on custom fields
- Apply for multiple positions
- Viewing/editing a Resume Profile (job seekers can update resume anytime)
- Passive Resume Creation (job seekers can start their resume and come back later to complete)
- Receive email messages directly from Recruiters (interview set up etc.)

Here's a snapshot of the "Create Resume" screen you will find on the BSNC website when setting up your "Resume Profile."

[Search our Careers](#) [Create Resume](#) [Career Center](#) [FAQs](#) [Logout](#)

Your Resume Profile

If you already have your resume in a MS Word, WordPerfect, etc., you can upload it to save time. By uploading, the system will be able to extract certain information and populate the Resume Profile form. After doing so, you will have the opportunity to add or modify any of the information in the form. * = Required

Upload your Resume

If you don't wish to upload your resume, please complete the Resume Profile below.

General Information

First Name: *
Middle Initial:
Last Name: *
Email Address: *

Contact Information

Primary Phone: *
Cell Phone:
Address: *
Address 2:
City: *
State/Province: *
Zip/Postal Code: *
Country: * United States
Time Zone: * (GMT-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

Employment Information

Minimum Acceptable Salary?: -- --
(numeric characters only)

Work History

(At least 1 entry required)

BSNC Human Resources Department in Anchorage

Located at
4600 DeBarr Road, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: 907-563-3788
Fax: 907-334-8315

www.beringstraits.com
&
select the Jobs link

BSF Auction

~continued from page 3

Richard Beneville, Carolyn Schubert, Dave Muller, Dave & Lucille Evans, Seiji Heck, Asaaluk Irelan, Crystal Anderson-Booth, Caroline Brown, Eugene & Rhoda Asicksik, Elizabeth Murphy, Katherine Scott, Sister Olson, Frances Alvanna, Kirsten Timbers, Diane Norbert, Clara Langton, John Hager, Percy Avugiak, Amy Adcox, Esther Pederson, Tony & Fannie Weyiouanna, Josie Reader, Karlene Sagoonick, Perry Mendenhall, Carmill Goldsberry, Heather Payenna, Delia Oozevaseuk, Nina Wideman, Buford

Sallaffie, Travis Murphy, Jovanna Bogart, Cherie Liston, Heather Ongtowasruk, RoseAnn Timbers, Joanne Swanson, Charlie Johnson, Tim Towarak, Trisha Gray, Louise Kuntz-Tadda, Wendie Schaffer, Tim and Rose Towarak, Percy Nayokpuk, Josie Weyiouanna, Jason Evans, Barbara Apok, Irene Anderson, Kimberly Gooden, Angus Mazonna, Shanna Moeder, and Delia Oozevaseuk.

All donors and volunteers names were put in a raffle for an Alaska Airlines ticket and the winner was Travis Murphy

who made a delicious pot of stew and volunteered during the event.

A big THANK YOU to all who made the Auction successful! If you'd like to help out for the next Auction, please contact Kirsten at 907-443-4305 or via email at ktimbers@beringstraits.com.

New Shareholders Employed by BSNC



Shareholder **Lucille Evans** was hired as Assistant Shareholder Register in November. Prior to working in the Shareholder Department, Lucille worked as Accounts Payable Clerk in the Nome office. Lucille enjoys working with people, which is a great attribute for working in the Shareholder Department. Her new position includes assisting shareholders and maintaining shareholder records. "I look forward to learning more about the Shareholder Department within BSNC. It feels great

to work towards the benefit of Alaskan Native people," said Lucille.

Prior to working for BSNC, Lucille worked for five years in customer service and customer service management fields and five years in the accounting field. Speaking of her experience, "My prior work experience helps me to handle Shareholder inquiries with professionalism and also maintain the Shareholder records with accuracy," said Lucille.

Lucille enjoys reading, playing volleyball, and spending time with my family. They hunt for moose and caribou, go fishing, and spend a lot of time outdoors. She's a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and enjoys singing gospel music with family.

Lucille's family includes her husband David Evans of Nome and their children Keon who is 9, Kylie who is 7, Karis who is 4, and Kasen who is 6 months old. Her parents are stepfather John and Dolly Okleasik of Teller.



Cherie Liston, BSNC shareholder, began working for BSNC as Accounts Payable Clerk in November. She is responsible for accounts payables for BSNC, Bering Straits Development Company, Stampede Ventures, Inc., and Bering Straits Foundation in Nome. Although Cherie just started working for BSNC, she said "I enjoy working in the accounting office and am pleased to be working with everyone here at BSNC."

Prior to working at BSNC, Cherie performed accounts payable and payroll at Norton Sound Health Corporation and various positions in the loan department at Credit Union 1 in Anchorage. Also, she is employed part-time at Breakers and has been employed there for over five years. Occasionally, Cherie also volunteers at the VFW.

Cherie loves the outdoors and enjoys hiking, biking, running, and walks on the beach with her dog Dude. I enjoy traveling and meeting new people, trying different foods and experiencing new cultures. I also love to cook and bake for my friends and loved ones. She's the daughter of the late Genevieve & Don Liston.



Jessica Luce is a BSNC shareholder who was hired as an intern

in the Anchorage office on October 13, 2009. Jessica worked previously in the Nome office for two summers as an Accounting Intern. She is working with Wally Powers and Buell Russell in the Accounting/Finance department. Jessica is working towards a degree in Accounting from UAA.

"I'm very excited to be an intern, I am learning quite a bit about my field of study and I'm looking forward to learning a lot more," said Jessica.

Jessica is the daughter of Robert and Peggy Luce of Nome and the granddaughter of Mike and Dorothy of Candle.



Josephine Koweluk is working in the Anchorage office and is participating in the CITC Internship Program in the Human Resources Department since June 22, 2009. Josephine is currently attending UAA as a sophomore and is working towards a Bachelor's Degree.

Josephine has enjoyed her experience working at BSNC. "I enjoy working at BSNC; it has been a great experience since I've started working here! I've learned a lot about what

goes on in the HR department and I'm very thankful for this opportunity!"

Josephine is the daughter of Dewey and Bertha Koweluk, of Nome, granddaughter of Albert and Helen Lee and the late David Bourdon and Esther Bourdon of Nome.

Community Emergency Plan: Does your community have one?

By Jaylene Wheeler, NSHC Assistant Vice President Community Health Services

Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) President and Chief Executive Officer Carol Piscoya are encouraging each village in the region to develop a community emergency plan. The goal is for village-based medical staff to provide patient care should an emergency occur, as opposed to coordinating community needs such as water/sewer, electricity and transportation. This is where a community plan becomes critical.

As explained by Emergency Preparedness Consultant William "Pete" Petram, it is best when a community is proactive, considers potential threats (pandemic flu or flooding, for example) and identifies a means for providing adequate response as, or if, necessary.

In partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium,

NSHC held a workshop November 3-4 in Nome to orient key village health providers about community emergency preparedness. The event was coordinated and hosted by the health corporation's Community Health Services Division.

The 1 1/2-day workshop was sponsored by a small grant from the State of Alaska. Participants included community health aide/practitioner (CHA/P) program supervisor/instructors, and mid-level providers, such as physician assistants or nurse practitioners. NSHC Public Health Nursing and Infection Control/Employee Health staff provided updates about flu preparedness, and the ANTHC's Emergency Preparedness Department discussed planning services available for village leadership.

If you are a village leader, such as a city or IRA/traditional council member, ANTHC is willing to provide community emergency preparedness training in your home community. This

service is available free of charge. The point of contact is Pete Petram, who can be reached at (907) 495-6360 or by e-mail at wpetram@anthc.org. All that is required is an invitation from the city mayor and/or IRA/traditional council president, as well as participation from key stakeholders. Stakeholders include representatives from city councils, IRA/traditional councils, village corporations, and school districts.

Planning can help a community prepare for, respond to, and recover from an emergency situation. Visit www.ak-prepared.com/plans/ to view the template for a small-community model plan.

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium emphasizes that by being prepared, communities can save lives and lessen injury; minimize property damage; and decrease costs, while maximizing reimbursement for eligible expenses.

The photos were taken during the November storm at Unalakleet by Steve and Zoe Ivanoff.



High water from the storm around Steve & Zoe Ivanoff's house in Unalakleet. You can see the dam they built to prevent the water from going underneath their home.



Water and logs cover the road nearest the ocean in Unalakleet.



The storm water emptied the gabions in front of the 108 year old church. The gabions are wired mesh that are filled with rock to help protect the land from water damage.



Flood debris by the Assembly of God Church.

Alaska Army National Guard Pins First Federally Recognized Female Alaska Native Sergeant Major & She's a BSNC Shareholder

By: Sgt. Karima Turner, DMVA PAO

CAMP DENALI, Alaska—Military life is difficult; it's challenging and sometimes, it's just downright hard. Soldiers make sacrifices everyday to serve in the military and have the privilege of wearing the uniform.

For one Soldier of the Alaska Army National Guard, those sacrifices and challenges have paid off. Lillian Aukongak, an Inupiaq Alaska Native, is the first female Alaska Native to be federally recognized as a sergeant major, the highest enlisted rank in the Army, in the Alaska Army National Guard. She was pinned Oct. 1 in a promotion ceremony held at the Alaska National Guard Armory.

"Right now I'm still kind of in disbelief," Aukongak said. "It's kind of hard for me to grasp that I'd be the first female Alaska Native in the Alaska Army National Guard to be federally recognized as a sergeant major. To me it's a privilege and a very humbling experience."

Challenges, however, are nothing new to Aukongak. She faced challenges at a young age. At six-years-old, she was orphaned and entered into the foster care system where she and her seven sisters and two brothers were split up and sent to separate homes. Although Aukongak, the second to youngest of the girls, was paired up with her youngest sister, she continued to look to her older sisters for guidance.

"Everyone has challenges and not everyone goes through what I went through," said Aukongak, who calls Golovin and White Mountain home but was born in Nome. "But that didn't stop me from pursuing my goals and following my dreams. I've always had very positive sisters who kind of mothered me; because I lost my parents at such a young age, I really looked up to them and admired them from a distance."

Even at such a young age, her older sisters Emily, Colleen and Nina always encouraged Aukongak to get her education.

"When you're a child, I don't think anyone really wants to go to school," Aukongak joked. "But as I entered my late teens, I decided I really wanted to pursue a civilian education; I really wanted to earn a college degree."

When Aukongak was 18 years old, she decided that she needed to make a change in her life. She made a decision that would begin her journey to success and enlisted in the Alaska Army National Guard in Nome on Oct. 14, 1986.

Starting out as a radio operator for 1/297th Infantry (Scout) Battalion, Aukongak held several different jobs and moved up the ranks quickly. She joined the Active Guard Reserve program in 1991, but the idea of earning a college degree stayed at the front of her mind. Aukongak began taking college courses while working full-time and received her Bachelor's degree in Human Services in 2007.

Aukongak, believes that education played a key role in her success and encourages Soldiers to take advantage of all the educational opportunities the Alaska Army National Guard has to



BSNC shareholder and Sgt. Maj. Lillian Aukongak's daughters, Sasha and Holly change her shoulder boards to the rank of sergeant major Oct. 1 at her promotion ceremony that was held at the Alaska National Guard Armory. Lillian Aukongak, an Inupiaq Alaska Native, is the first female Alaska Native to be federally recognized as a sergeant major, the highest enlisted rank in the Army, in the Alaska Army National Guard.

offer.

"Attend your military education schools to progress in your career field," Aukongak said. "I encourage Soldiers to take advantage of what's offered to them and to do their best."

Twenty three years into her career, the new sergeant major challenges Soldiers to take control of their careers and see how far they can make it.

"Always have the right attitude because it's so easy to get complacent in your jobs," Aukongak warned. "Anyone can do just about anything they want in their career if he or she works hard enough. You can't succeed by yourself though. I had a very solid support; my sisters, my church family and pastor and the people from my past have always encouraged me."

Aukongak is aware that because of her ethnicity and accomplishments she is a role model for more than one reason, but insists that everyone can be a mentor and inspirational example.

"I believe that when you wear the uniform, regardless of your rank or background, you are a role model," Aukongak said. "You have Soldiers who admire you from a distance, whether you acknowledge it or not. The higher grade you make, the more you put yourself in a position to be a mentor and role model; I call it being admired from a distance.

"I personally have a lot of people whom I've admired from a distance," Aukongak added. "Command Sgt. Maj. Pamela Harrington and Sergeants Maj. Jane Dennis and Kerry Averett are just a few people I've admired from a distance."

"I think Sgt. Maj. Aukongak's accomplishment is a great triumph and success story," said State Command Sgt. Maj. Gordon Choate, Alaska Army National Guard. "She is a leader who our Soldiers can look up to, and she epitomizes the truth that Soldiers who live the Army Values can achieve the highest ranks through leadership and hard work."

It's official! DD-214's are NOW Online

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with

computers and internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online

web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

BERING STRAITS
NATIVE CORPORATION
P.O. Box 1008
110 Front St., Suite 300
Nome, AK 99762
(907) 443-5252
Toll-free 1-800-478-5079
Fax (907) 443-2985
www.beringstraits.com

BSNC Anchorage Office
4600 DeBarr Road, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99508-3126
(907) 563-3788
Fax (907) 563-2742

Address Service Requested

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ANCHORAGE, AK
PERMIT NO. 226



Happy Holidays to
our Shareholders

Have a joyous
Christmas and a
festive New Year

From BSNC Board
of Directors Staff