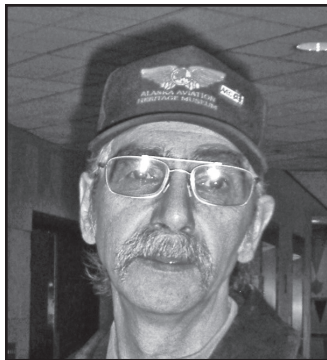


## Meet AVEC's Newest Board Member: Fred Sagoonick



I have been employed by the Shaktoolik Native Corporation (SNC) as its general manager since September 1999.

In the past I've served on the city council and was mayor for two terms in the early 1990s. I've also served on the tribal council and the corporation board at various times. I do not serve on any other organization to avoid any possible conflicts of interest with my job. At a past meeting of the SNC Board, it was decided my serving on other organizations would not entail any direct conflicts of interest, and I was encouraged to seek election.

I was born in Shaktoolik and spent my early years here. My mother, Lenora Nashalook, was a single parent and married Andrew Nashalook of Unalakleet in 1955, when I moved there with them. There, I became an older brother to two brothers and two sisters. Andrew was employed as a seasonal carpenter for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and was granted full-time status in the late 1960s when we moved to Nome.

I attended junior high at Unalakleet and spent one year at Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS), with the remainder at Nome High School. I enlisted in the Navy in September 1970 and served on board a destroyer as operations specialist. After several years of service I returned to Nome and enrolled in the plumber/pipefitter apprenticeship at Fairbanks, where I went to work on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. I returned to Shaktoolik in 1976 following the deaths of my stepfather in May and my grandfather in August, and have lived here ever since.

My wife, Karlene, and I have four children. Andrea and Shaunna are attending MEHS. Andrea will graduate this spring, and Shaunna next spring. Zachary attends high school here after attending MEHS for the fall semester and is applying to return next fall. Our youngest, Levi, is being home schooled by his mother and is doing well in his lessons. Karlene is employed by the Native Village of Shaktoolik as alternate tribal coordinator.

My mother's parents were Edward and Gertrude Sagoonick of Shaktoolik, and my dad's parents were Henry and Virginia Nashalook of Unalakleet. Karlene's parents are Gabriel and Jessie Takak. Jessie's parents were Henry and Erma Sookiyak of Shaktoolik and Gabriel's parents were Willie and Hilda Takak, also of Shaktoolik.

In early March I was informed by the tribal president that Kawerak would like to see someone from our region serve on the AVEC Board of Directors. I told him I would put my hat in the ring, but could not guarantee I would be elected. I also informed him it is generally difficult to unseat incumbents, and the elected directors serve the whole membership and not just a region or village.

Truthfully, I was stunned when I got elected! As I stated at the annual meeting, I always tell my children, "You never know what you can do until you try."

I look forward to working with the AVEC Board of Directors and staff. What I hope to bring to the board as a newly elected member is a different perspective on energy related issues. It is my belief that when a person sits on the same position for many years, they sometimes get complacent. I'm not saying that it's occurring on this board, but a different perspective is often needed to continue to work effectively. I am grateful for all of the benefits we enjoy as a result of all the hard work done by the AVEC Board and staff. I hope I can contribute positively to those issues and events we face today.

**Fred Sagoonick**  
AVEC Board Member



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Meera Kohler, President & CEO

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