



Monthly President's Report



Dear AFN Co-Chairs, AFN Board Members & Membership,

It's Election Day -- let's Get Out the Native Vote! It has never been more important to make our Native Voices heard! Please read on for more on what we expect during the post-election transition period. Regardless of who wins today, AFN is prepared to engage with the administration and tackle the upcoming "Lame Duck" Session.

Thank you all for the tremendous outpouring of support and engagement that characterized last month's AFN Convention. It was truly one of our most exciting annual gatherings, in large part due to the great work of our dedicated Convention Committee, membership and event partners.

The time we invested in honoring Senator Daniel Akaka was a true highlight of this Convention week. Senator Akaka has been an incredible advocate for our Native community and for Native peoples across this country. We are honored to have known him, worked with him, and to have called him friend.

Our focus now shifts to the future! This weekend we convened a Board-level Strategic Planning retreat. It was an intensive and rewarding process of concentrated planning, strategizing and goal-setting. Armed with the direction we received from our membership during the Convention, the board made great use of a full two days focused on AFN.

Please read on for an update on our staff activities and a review of this year's Convention highlights, including a full list of all our 2012 honorees and award winners...



October 2012 Update Convention Report

Upcoming AFN Meetings

AFN STRATEGIC
PLANNING RETREAT
DATE: Nov. 5 & 6 2012
PURPOSE: Solidify AFN's
strategic and structural
planning moving forward.
LOCATION: Anchorage, AK

Membership Update

CO-CHAIRS REELECTED
State Senator Albert
Kookesh
Sealaska Corporation

Ralph Andersen
Bristol Bay Native
Association

2012-2013 MEMBERSHIP

12 of 13 ANCSA Regional
Corporations

11 of 12 Regional Nonprofits

188 of 244 Villages

Header Photos: Clark Mishler

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Operations Report

PLANNING & PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

Regardless of who wins today's Presidential Election, and who controls the Congress, our country faces a reduction in federal government debt that would remove a little over \$600 billion from our national economy in 2013, or about 4% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Native American programs are NOT exempt from these proposed cuts. Our programs, including the Indian Health Service, are projected to be reduced by 7.8% in 2013 alone. AFN -- with our friends and allies from across the nation -- is prepared to address these potential cuts head-on during the Lamé Duck session and beyond.

Whether working with the Obama Administration in a second term, or with a new Romney Administration, we will be focused on educating key decision-makers about our needs and ideas. We have a series of meetings scheduled for later this month in Washinton DC, and we encourage everyone to engage at whatever level you are most comfortable. Our voice is strongest when we speak as one.

The AFN board of directors devoted a portion of this weekend's strategic planning retreat to evaluating and expanding our action plan for the Lamé Duck session and the post-election period. Stay tuned for more details later this month.



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Staff Update & Key Activities - Convention Debrief

What a year! The 2011 Convention was a tremendous success. It is always a great thrill for our staff and committees, who work so hard for so many months leading up to Convention each year, to share in the excitement that surrounds our annual meeting. A special thank you to Alissa Grohall, our Convention Coordinator and the whole AFN team who work all year to make our annual Convention such a unique and incredible gathering.

This year more than 4,000 people came to Anchorage for Convention, and almost as many watched our live stream from locations all over the United States and Canada.

Our people contributed an estimated \$6M to the Anchorage economy. We inspired important conversations about issues ranging from education, to economic and electoral strategy, health and cultural identity.

We sparked news coverage of Alaska Native subsistence rights, educational choice, and, the sharing of new ideas about our organizational structure. We tried new ways of communicating and exchanging information -- and they worked well. Delegates again enjoyed the instant surveys and use of the con-sensors.

This year we will invited delegates to work together on our shared priorities in an all new way - through a series of worksessions that helped shape the plenary sessions on the main Convention floor in five issue areas:

- Energy for Developing our Economies
- Native Community's Relationship with the State of Alaska
- Strong Native Peoples- In Body, Spirit, and Mind
- Food Security and Management of Subsistence Resources
- Educational Reform – Our Vision for the Future of Education

A PDF of this year's Resolutions accompanies this report.



Monthly President's Report



Staff Update & Key Activities - Convention Debrief Continued

ANNUAL HONORING LUNCHEON & PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

This year's AFN honorees were again recognized at their own dedicated event. The Honoring Luncheon and President's Awards are always one of Convention week's most popular traditions, and a wonderful new way to give thanks to those individuals who are the lifeblood of our communities:

- Culture Bearer: Susan Paskvan, Fairbanks
- Della Keats "Healing Hands:" Cheryl Richards, Kotzebue
- Eileen Panigeo MacLean Education: Alisha Drabek, Kodiak
- Elder of the Year: Emil Norton, Kodiak
- Glenn Godfrey Law Enforcement: James Gallen, Anchorage
- Hannah Paul Solomon "Woman of Courage:" Poldine Carlo, Fairbanks
- Health: Jeannine Marsh, Kodiak
- Hunter-Fisher: Steve and Zoe Ivanoff, Unalakleet
- Lu Young Youth Leadership: Crystal Kaakeeyaa Worl, Anchorage
- Parents of the Year: George and Elsie Hooper, Tunanank
- Public Service: Mary Jane Fate, Fairbanks
- Roger Lang Youth Leadership: Jacob Martin, Nome
- Small Business: Denny McConnell, Kotzebue
- Dr. Walter Soboleff "Warrior of Light:" Al Adams, Kotzebue



Monthly President's Report



Planning & Budget

STRATEGIC PLANNING & FINANCIALS UPDATE

AFN's board and staff are in the process of finalizing the organization's strategic plan (which was presented to a subgroup of the board just prior to last month's Convention). The final strategic plan will be presented to our broader membership before the end of 2012, and will include additional priorities and planning details from this weekend's board retreat.

Thank You

Thank you all for your devotion to our shared work. We look forward to seeing you in Washington DC and Juneau as we continue to advocate for our people at the State and Federal level. We have a plan, we have momentum -- the future is ours.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka



Alaska Federation of Natives

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