



Monthly President's Report

August 2013

Dear AFN Co-Chairs, Board Members & Membership,

Late summer is an interesting time at AFN. There is always a flurry of advocacy and legislative activity just before the Congress goes into recess, a push to support decisions that will either enact legislation or position important issues for early consideration when session begins again.

During the same period, the final preparations for our annual Convention pick up speed. In August, deadlines approach for resolutions, awards, outreach for traditional dance groups for Quyana and the artists' showcase. This year, we're doing even more now, to further improve our delegates' experiences at the big event!

On August 15, we opened our online pre-registration for the first time. Delegates who pre-register will receive their bag and materials in a separate express line and may purchase up to four tickets for each Quyana night before they go on sale the public. More details follow on page 3.

Last week the HRC voted to become the all new Council for the Advancement of Alaska Natives (CAAN). Next week, Native leaders will testify regarding ANILCA and subsistence for the first time in nearly 20 years. Press releases about both of these announcements are included here as PDFs.

Please read on for more exciting updates about AFN's recent activities, Convention planning reminders, and an all-new Spotlight on Innovation section highlighting great ideas from AFN's members across Alaska...

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UPCOMING

NCAI TRIBAL UNITY WEEK
Days of Action: Sept. 11-12
Washington D.C.

ANICLA HEARING
September 19th, 9:30am EST
Washington, D.C.
Webcast available:
<http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/>

2013 TRIBAL CONFERENCE
October 23
Fairbanks, AK

2013 AFN CONVENTION
October 24-26
Fairbanks, AK

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In the Press

CALLING FOR CHANGE: Open Letter to AG Holder

In early August, the Native Sun News out of Rapid City ran an article that was very critical of the Safe Families Act introduced by our Senators. The meat for the article came from a string of emails from attorneys working on the legislation, none of whom were interviewed nor had they given permission for the email communications to be used.

The article was picked up by Indianz.com, and AFN immediately took action to re-focus the discussion on facts and the way forward. The next edition of the Native Sun included the full text of an Open Letter for Attorney General Eric Holder from AFN President Julie Kitka.

Our letter ran the same day on indianz.com (<http://www.indianz.com/News/2013/010868.asp>). A PDF of the full letter accompanies this report.

NATIVE PRIORITIES IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

One of the challenges we face in defending our communities against the devastating effects of sequestration is a lack of understanding on the part of representatives from the lower 48.

In mid-July, the New York Times ran an article titled "Pain on the Reservation" that did a tremendous job beginning to introduce the scope and serious impact of the impending cuts on Indian Country. More coverage like this in mainstream publications will help tremendously as we continue our efforts to hold harmless funding for Native programs.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/13/business/economy/us-budget-cuts-fall-heavily-on-american-indians>.

The New York Times Business Day

Native American Reservations and Sequestration

Full Screen 1 of 9

Kevin Mahoney for The New York Times

RELATED
Article: Pain on the Reservation

Monthly President's Report



Convention Update

CONVENTION IN THE NEWS

The Fairbanks community is once again doing an amazing job of welcoming AFN to their city. Articles have been running weekly in our statewide press and the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau has done a great job of sharing information and supporting event activities online. Our thanks to their dedicated team for their passion and excitement.

REGISTRATION

We invite all of our delegates to register early via our online registration form, available at <http://www.nativefederation.org/2013/08/15/pre-registration-open-for-delegates/>. A Microsoft Word version of the form is also included here for those who prefer to email or mail in their delegate registration.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions are due September 26th! A document explaining the resolutions submission process accompanies this report, along with the resolutions submission form. Resolutions are the heart of convention and an incredible opportunity to share and discuss our shared priorities. We look forward to another great round of resolutions submissions for this 2013 convention.

THANKS TO OUR GROWING LIST OF 2013 CONVENTION SPONSORS

DENALI

ExxonMobil
GCI

KATMAI

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Chugach Alaska Corporation
NANA Regional Corporation
Red Dog Mine-Teck Alaska
Shell Exploration & Production Company
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Wells Fargo

RESOLUTIONS Deadline September 26th

The 2013 resolutions guidelines and submission form are included with this report. Please return your completed form by post, email or fax:

afninfo@nativefederation.org
907.274.3611

Monthly President's Report



Convention Update, Continued

SUSITNA

Alaska Airlines
Alaska Energy Authority
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Anglo American US (Pebble)
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
AT&T
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
BP
ConocoPhillips
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
Donlin Gold
Flint Hills Resources
KeyBank Foundation
Mission 100
Office of Indian Energy
Pebble Ltd. Partnership
Statoil
Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation
Sam's Club®

TAKU

Allen Marine, Inc.
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Bristol Bay Native Association
Bering Straits Native Corporation
Chenega Corporation
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce
Wallace Insurance/Premera

KOBUK

Afognak Native Corporation
Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian
Tribes of Alaska
Kenai Peninsula College
KPMG
Lynden
BDO, USA LLP
Southwest Alaska Vocational & Educational
Center
The Eyak Corporation
The Tatitlek Corporation
Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital/Denali Center
MAC Federal Credit Union
Seekins Ford Lincoln
TDL Staffing

Monthly President's Report



Convention Update, Continued

FRIENDS OF AFN

AlasConnect, Inc.
Alaska Rare Coins
Amy Love
CLIA Alaska
Co-op Market Grocery & Deli
Construction Machinery Industrial, LLC
Cook & Haugeberg LLC
Denali Alaskan Federal Credit Union
Denali State Bank
Dimond Fence Company, Inc.
Donny Robinette, M.D.
Dr. Chris Henry
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation
Fairbanks Printers & Office Equipment
Frontier Supply Company
Gana-A'Yoo, Ltd.
Grace Berg Schaible
Hoffer Glass Company
Interior Regional Housing Authority
Jolly Roger Designs
Kenneth A. Murray Insurance, Inc.
Kohler, Schmitt & Hutchison
Lemongrass Thai Cuisine

Linc Energy
Mt. McKinley Bank
Nabors Alaska Drilling, Inc.
Northrim Bank
Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 375
Power and Transmission, Inc.
Ranch Motel
Rimpac Rentals
Riverboat Discovery
Schneider & Shilling, CPAs
Sourdough Express, Inc.
Spirit of Alaska FCU
Tammy Randolph, State Farm Ins.
Teamsters Local 959
The Aleut Corporation
The Pumphouse Restaurant
The Turtle Club
True North Federal Credit Union
Usibelli Foundation
Vend Alaska
Zimmerman and Wallace

JOIN US

Become a Convention Sponsor
Today!

Contact AFN at 907-274-3611
or visit our online sponsorship form:
<http://www.nativefederation.org/2013-sponsorship-form-page/>

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2013 Tribal Conference

SAVE THE DATE: Tribal Conference October 23 in Fairbanks

The Second Annual Tribal Conference is scheduled for October 23rd, one day prior to the start of this year's Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Fairbanks.

The primary purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for tribal representatives to hear important reports on statewide and national issues critical to tribal governments in Alaska. The conference will include presentations from high level federal and state officials to provide current information and to hear concerns on issues important to Alaska tribes.

Another important purpose of this gathering is to listen and record concerns of participants on the challenges that face Alaska Natives and Alaska tribal governments. AFN and NCAI officials will be in attendance to learn more about tribal members' concerns as well as suggested solutions to our challenges. We will discuss obstacles to tribal government credibility and some things that divide our people and share some things that other tribes have done that helped strengthen their tribal government.

The end-goal of this year's gathering is to promote strong and credible local tribal governments and a more unified voice on tribes' priority issues.

More information and a PDF save-the-date are included with this report in PDF format.



SAVE THIS DATE!
OCTOBER 23, 2013

*2nd Annual
Alaska Federation of Natives /
National Congress of American Indians
Tribal Conference*

WHERE
Tanana Chiefs Community Center
111 Clay Street • Fairbanks, Alaska

TIME
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
[8:30 AM Registration]

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Tana Bell: (907) 463-7379
Aurora Lehr: (907) 263-1305

*Alaska tribes must join together to have our
voices heard by state and federal officials on
issues important to our people!*

Monthly President's Report



Advocating for Our People

TESTIMONY ON INDIAN TRUST ADMINISTRATION & REFORM

On July 19, President Kitka testified on behalf of AFN before the Commission on Indian Trust Administration & Reform. This Commission is a Secretarial Commission in the US Department of Interior. There are five members of the Commission: Fawn Sharp, Tex Hall, Stacy Leeds, Dr. Peterson Zah and Robert Anderson.

President Kitka spoke on the role of village corporations, as well as on trust land issues in light of the recent U.S. District Court decision in *Akiachak Native Community v. U.S. Department of the Interior* decided March 31, 2013. Her testimony also addressed trust reform, and offered specific recommendations for Alaska regarding the federal trust relationship with Alaska Native tribes, trust lands, or subsistence hunting and fishing rights. Her full testimony is included here as a PDF.

INTERTRIBAL CARCIERI LETTER

On July 23, AFN joined tribes and Native organizations across the nation in calling on members of the the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee and Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs urging swift enactment of legislation to address the Supreme Court's misguided decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*, 555 U.S. 379 (2009).

The full text of the letter is include with this report as a PDF.

INTERTRIBAL CARCIERI LETTER

In late July, AFN supported the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) in working with Congress to amend the Student Success Act (H.R. 5) with the Young-Gabbard-Hanabusa-McCollum Amendment to ensure Congress understood the need to reinstate a stand-alone Title into the House of Representatives' Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization. This protected critical funding that guaranteed high-quality, culturally-appropriate education for Native students across the country.

The full text of the letter AFN signed onto with NIEA is include with this report as a PDF, along with a PDF thank you letter from NIEA for AFN's support.

Monthly President's Report



SPOTLIGHT ON INNOVATION

NANA SHAREHOLDER SPECIALIST

There are incredible things happening in regions across Alaska, spearheaded by our innovative corporate and tribal leadership teams. Beginning with this report, we plan to highlight inspiring stories from across Alaska both to recognize those who are making a difference as well as to help us learn from one another.

Our first regional Spotlight is on **NANA's new Shareholder Development Specialists**. This summer NANA announced range of shareholder development services they are making available through a newly formed shareholder development division. The NANA Shareholder Development Division is staffed by 12 shareholder development specialists, who work directly with shareholders to assist them in identifying and reaching personal, educational, and career goals. Specialists will be available in each NANA office in Northwest Alaska, and at the NANA office in Anchorage, where they will connect

**GOT
INNOVATION?**

Does your region have an innovative practice to share? Please let us know!

Send us an email at afninfo@nativefederation.org with "Innovation Spotlight" in the subject line!

NANA Shareholder Development Specialists Announced



The new NANA Shareholder Development Specialists are based in each NANA community to assist individual shareholders with achieving their life goals. (l. to r.) Bertha Comanack (Shungnak), Bonita Barr (Dering), Agnes Bernhardt - Director (Kobuk), Cheryl Curtis (Kiana), Mary Jayne Ramoth (Anvik), James Henry (Shaktank), Kelly Soole (Nisutak), Ellen Coffin (Noorvik), Andrea Henry (Stawik), Kristeen Jackson (Kotzebue), Janissa Reich (Anchorage), Jodie Adams (Kivalina, not pictured).

NANA is pleased to announce a range of shareholder development services now available through the newly formed shareholder development division. The division, staffed by 12 shareholder development specialists, works directly with

shareholders to assist them in identifying and reaching personal, educational, and career goals. This division is housed in the Shareholder Relations department and directed by Agnes Bernhardt.

"NANA works hard to respond to changing shareholder needs and to make them aware of opportunities available to them," said Cia Hanna, vice president of Shareholder Relations.

SHAREHOLDER DEVELOPMENT

Continued on page 4

people with information about postsecondary education, training, and grants and scholarships. The idea is that "by working together, and focusing on job readiness, shareholder development specialists and shareholders increase the capacity of the region, and help shareholders reach their personal goals."

Kudos to NANA for coming up with this innovative community resources. Learn more in the PDF newsletter included with this report.

Monthly President's Report



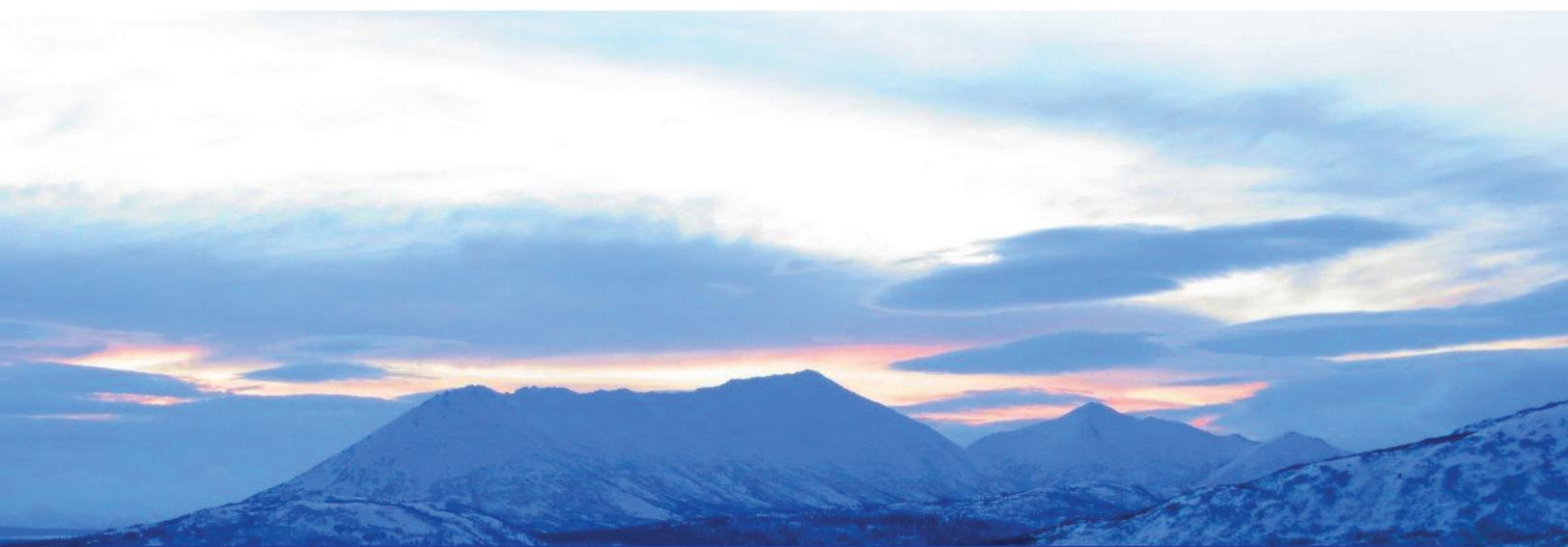
Thank You

This summer we have also had a pleasure of working with leaders from groups across the country who are dedicated to equality and immigration reform. AFN contributed to a conference hosted by the National Council of La Raza in Louisiana in July, and we have had the pleasure to work alongside more than a few new allies in communicating the Native community's support for the rights of "new Americans" with our delegation.

Working with all of these new friends, and learning more about their struggle for safety and a sense of acceptance, I am reminded that the deep sense of belonging we feel on our lands and in our communities is an incredible privilege -- one that we have fought hard for and one that we will always defend.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka



Alaska Federation of Natives

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