



Monthly President's Report

Special Report | GOVERNANCE

Jan/February 2013

Dear AFN Co-Chairs, Board Members & Membership,

On February 13th the AFN Board of Directors officially updated the bylaws of our organization.

The Board called for three major changes to the organization's bylaws including the creation of a new Executive Governance committee, formal co-chair structure and a new category of membership for Federally Recognized Tribes.

Tribes now have their own category of AFN membership: Class A(4). The bylaws of AFN were officially amended to establish the new Class A membership category for Tribes and to reorganize the voting structure for Convention. Please read on for more details about this exciting change.

The size of AFN's Board of Directors remains the same and each region will determine who holds their village board seat, the A(3) ANCSA Village Corporation representative or the A(4) Federally Recognized Tribe representative, and who serves as alternate.

This month, AFN's Co-Chairs made an exciting executive decision to approve the creation of a new AFN Tribal Relations Ad-Hoc Committee, Chaired by AFN Board Member Ed Thomas, President of Tlingit & Haida Central Council. This all new committee is tasked with exploring new ways to engage Alaska's Federally Recognized Tribes and strengthen partnerships.

The Co-Chairs have asked the Board for nominations of individuals to serve on the new Tribal Relations Committee, so we will have more information about the committee and its members after the Board's May meeting. Stay tuned!

CONTENTS

Keeping AFN Current	
Decision-Making Process	2
Tribal Membership	
Structure	3
Voting & Membership	4
Tribal Relations Cmte	7

10,691 total
votes are now available to
AFN's membership beginning
with the 2013 Annual
Convention this October.

Monthly President's Report



Keeping AFN Current & Responsive

ANATOMY OF AN ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

For an organization as large and long-standing as AFN, the process of identifying and implementing changes is a thoughtful process with multiple, formal steps.

Research + Discussion

Before any change is considered by the Board of Directors, it is referred to a designated committee for in-depth research and discussion. Committee members, with the support of AFN staff, review the issue at hand and all potential options for AFN engagement, vote, and then prepare a report for the Board.



Formal Recommendation

AFN's full Board of Directors reviews committee recommendations and background information presented in committee reports. Questions that are not addressed in the report are referred back to committee. When the Board has enough information to proceed, a vote is initiated.



Board Vote

Major decisions (like the recent bylaws changes) require the attention of AFN's full Board of Directors. Some decisions can be made by a subset of the Board, while Bylaws changes must be addressed by a quorum or majority of the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.



Enactment

Following Board approval, decisions must become actions. Decisions that need further clarification may be referred back to committee, while concrete recommendations are directly assigned to staff for implementation.

Monthly President's Report



AFN's Structure

REORGANIZATION & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

At the 2009 AFN Annual Convention, resolution 09-05, which included directives to the Board to review the bylaws and undertake a process to reorganize AFN was adopted. In response to this resolution and its charges, the Board directed AFN's Leadership Committee, led by Tara Sweeney of ASRC, to undertake a thorough review of AFN's structure, membership, and governance. The Leadership Committee's recommendations to the Board helped drive the current reorganization effort and identify the areas of focus that are currently guiding the Board's thinking about our organization's structure. Our reorganization process is ongoing, but the current membership and committee updates represent great progress.

On September 28, 2012 the AFN Board of Directors established an Executive Governance Committee to address AFN reorganization and a number of administrative issues related to AFN operations:

Restructure – *preparing board recommendation*

- Review existing proposals – research other options
- Determine how to engage tribes – region by region – conduct research – build capacity
- Determine size of board
- Membership criteria review
- Resolution process review
- Committees – focused on priorities like transportation, health, subsistence, etc.
- Bylaws revisions as needed
- Timeline to accomplish goals

Fundraising – *financial resilience*

- Membership dues
- Partnerships – list of all Native organizations – networks
- Setting up a 501(c)-3

Administration

- Board and Staff transition planning
- Build board capacity
- Clear communications within committees, board and members

Further Define the Overall Purpose of AFN

Monthly President's Report



Structured for Progress

AFN'S NEW EXECUTIVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The committee is comprised of members from every region in Alaska and an equal mix of AFN Class A membership. The Board of Directors elect or designate the Executive Governance Committee members on an annual basis at or immediately following the AFN Annual Convention.

AFN's new Executive Governance committee is comprised of one Co-Chair, one regional representative from each of the twelve regions, and three at-large members to be selected from the Board. To qualify as a regional representative, the nominee must be a member of the AFN Board, and will be appointed by the regional representatives on the Board. The Executive Governance committee will meet quarterly, at a minimum, and more frequently at the call of the chair.

Governance Committee Duties and Authorities

- Make emergency decisions for the board after the board is surveyed to develop consensus.
- All decisions made by this committee must be reported at the next meeting of the board.
- Work with the President to ensure accountability for all AFN goals as defined by the board, and to secure needed resources for financial sustainability.
- With input from the board, conduct an annual evaluation of the President/CEO.
- Ensure all members of the board, and their alternates, received adequate orientation on the organization and their duties.
- Annually review the structure and policies and recommend changes as needed to ensure efficiency and accountability.
- Review the policy and procedures manual and recommend changes as needed.
- Establish a foundation or endowment.

2013 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Albert Kookesh, AFN Co-Chair } *One Member*
Ralph Andersen, AFN Co-Chair } *& One Ex-officio*
Gregory Razo, Committee Chair, CIRI
Tara Sweeney, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
Georgianna Lincoln, Doyon, Limited
Rosita Worl, Sealaska Corporation
Margaret Galovin, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Myron Naneng, Association of Village Council Presidents
Francis Norman, Chugachmiut, Inc.
Ian Erlich, Maniilaq Native Association
Brenda Rebne, Ahtna Villages
Thomas Tilden, Bristol Bay Villages
Steve Ivanoff, Bering Straits Villages
Nancy Barnes, Chugach Villages
Ana Hoffman, Y-K Delta Villages
Denise May, Kodiak Villages

Monthly President's Report



AFN's New Membership Category

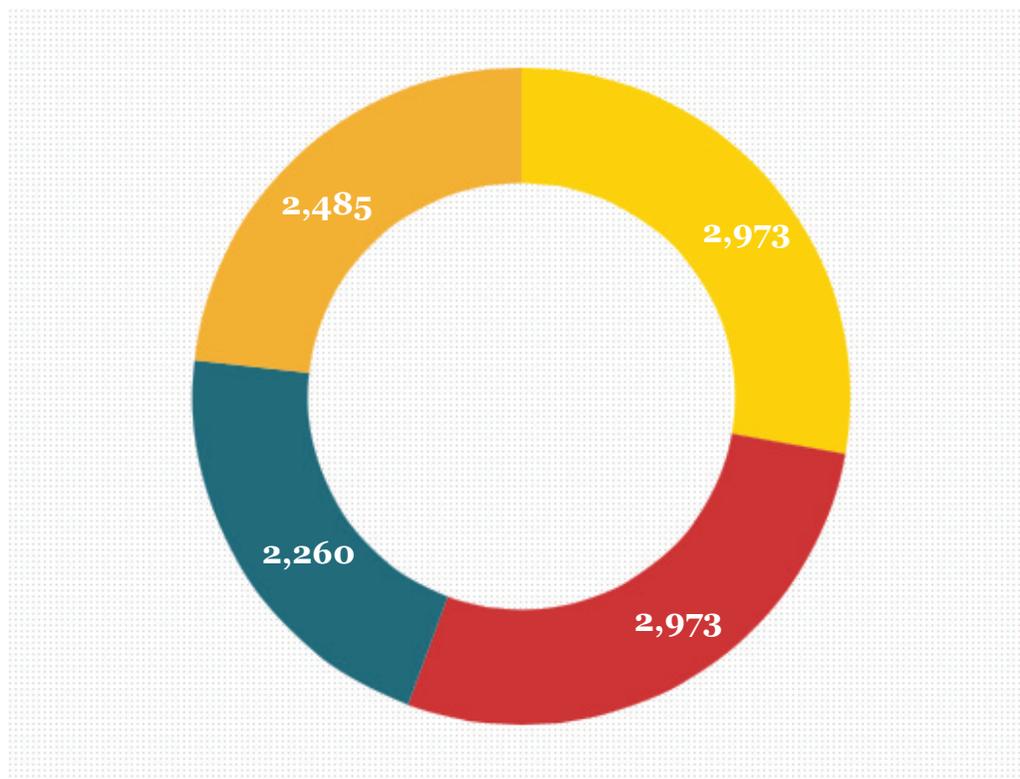
NEW TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

On February 13, 2013, the AFN Board of Directors voted to amend AFN's Bylaws to establish a separate Class A membership category for Federally Recognized Tribes in Alaska and a separate Class A membership category for ANCSA Village Corporations. This means that there will be a lot more votes at the AFN convention for tribal and village leaders.

The AFN Board remains at 37 members, plus two co-chairs. Each region will continue to have three representatives on the Board:

- ANCSA regional corporation seat
- ANCSA non-profit organization seat
- Village seat

Maximum Votes Available by Sector



Regional For-Profit Votes | 2,973 Regional Non-Profit Votes | 2,973
Potential Tribal Votes | 2,260 Village Corp. Votes | 2,485

Monthly President's Report



Our Memberships' New Votes

WHAT THIS MEANS: VOTING & MEMBERSHIP

All federally recognized tribes in Alaska, along with all ANCSA Village Corporations, remain eligible for Class A membership in AFN. Class A members who are in good standing are entitled to vote at the meetings of the Membership, including the annual AFN Convention.

In the past, the Tribe and Village Corporation from the same community were required to share the votes allotted to Class A(3) Village members. The Village Corporation and the Tribe from the same community will no longer have to split the votes allocated to the Village. Both the Tribe and the Village Corporation will have to become members of AFN and pay their membership dues if both want to vote at the Convention.

At any meeting of the membership of AFN, Class A (3) members (Village Corporations) and Class A(4) members (Tribes) that are members of AFN and current on their membership dues, will be entitled to be represented by a delegation of one or more delegates and alternates. Delegations are made up of one delegate for each twenty-five persons (or fraction thereof) who were enrolled pursuant to the provisions of ANCSA to the community. The fee for each vote is \$50.00.

The 2013-14 membership dues for the Class A(3) (Village Corporation) and the Class A(4) (Federally Recognized Tribe) members will be the same for each entity. Payment of the membership dues is required in order to be eligible to purchase votes and vote at the Convention. Membership also entitles the member organization to utilize AFN's insurance plans and vote to select a Board member and alternate for the Village seat on the Board of Directors. For further information about AFN's membership insurance, please contact our office directly at afninfo@nativefederation.org or 907-274-3611.

1 vote for every
25 in population

Class A(3) and A(4) members are entitled to a delegation made up of one delegate for every 25 persons based on the original ANCSA enrollement.

The village or tribe will select their delegates as they see fit.

The AFN Board continues to work on updating the voting and population numbers. We anticipate that this will change after the 2013 Convention.

Monthly President's Report



A New Tribal Relations Committee

AFN NATIVE TRIBAL RELATIONS AD HOC COMMITTEE

There are 227 federally recognized tribes in Alaska. The Alaska Federation of Natives is the largest and most recognized voice for Alaska Native issues and concerns. The increasing number of tribal issues emerging at the state and national levels make it essential that we give more help to Federally Recognized tribes to protect their rights.

The Alaska Federation of Natives Tribal Relations Committee (AFNTRC) is established to provide more help for tribes by:

1. Clearly identifying and defining issues of importance to Tribes in Alaska.
2. Exploring alternatives to address the issues or concerns.
3. Recommending strategies to provide a unified voice in effectively addressing these issues and/or concerns.
4. Recommending policy changes that improve public policies on these issues and/or concerns for the long-term.
5. Advocating recommendations to national Native American organizations.

The AFNTRC will begin as an ad hoc committee of the AFN Board. Committee members must be AFN Board members appointed by the AFN Co-Chairs.

AFNTRC NOMINATIONS

This new committee will be Chaired by AFN Board Member Ed Thomas, President of Tlingit & Haida Central Council.

The Co-Chairs have asked the Board for nominations of individuals to serve on the new Tribal Relations Committee.

Please let your AFN Board representative know if you would like to recommend someone.

Monthly President's Report

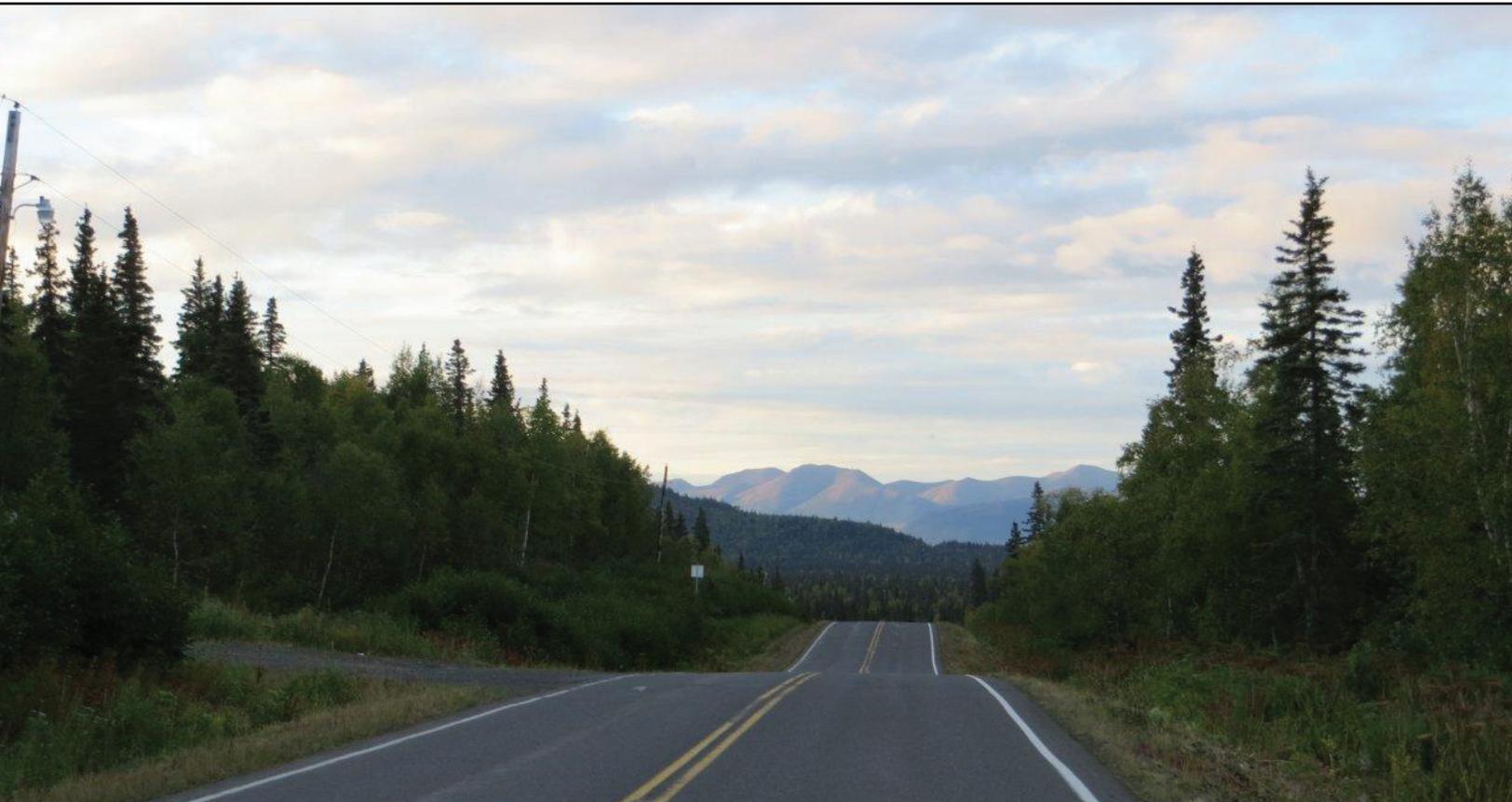


Thank You

From AFN's office here in Anchorage, thank you. We look forward to working with you to protect Alaska Native rights and advance on every front.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka



Alaska Federation of Natives

1577 C Street, Suite 300 | Anchorage, Alaska | 99501 | 907.274.3611 | afninfo@nativefederation.org



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09 05

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION TO EVALUATE THE REPRESENTATION OF ALASKA NATIVES IN THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives was founded in 1966, originally named the Alaska Federation of Native Associations, to protect the common interests of and negotiate a fair settlement for land claims on behalf of Alaska Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1967, the Alaska Federation of Native Associations later became the Alaska Federation of Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Upon passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, AFN expanded to include the newly created regional corporations as members of the organization; and
- WHEREAS:** At the time, AFN was structured to represent diverse Native groups within Alaska, including tribal organizations, regional non-profit organizations, individual village tribes, urban Native groups, and tribes that had federal reservations; and
- WHEREAS:** Today, there are newly established organizations that also represent specific interests of the Alaska Native population; and
- WHEREAS:** The scope, purpose, and structure of AFN continues to evolve over time to meet the needs of its Alaska Native constituents; and,
- WHEREAS:** The issues facing Alaska Native people change over time and with each generation; and,
- WHEREAS:** From time to time, the Alaska Federation of Natives must review its representation and organizational structure in order to ensure that it has the flexibility and resources to allow it to remain relevant and to represent the Alaska Native population of today; and
- WHEREAS:** The "Resolution" process for raising issues and creating the priority system for AFN's state and federal platforms has remained the same since 1966; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2002, the AFN Board of Directors recognized a need to address the reorganization of AFN, and held a Leadership Retreat from which a series of recommendations were put forth, and have not been acted upon; and
- WHEREAS:** The 2008 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention delegates moved and approved a motion directing the AFN Board of Directors to review the structure of AFN, including the practice of selection of co-chairs of the organization, the findings of such review to be reported to the 2009 Convention; and
- WHEREAS:** The current resolution procedures can be better structured to prioritize the issues, and create achievable outcomes, greater cooperation and dialogue between AFN delegates and all stakeholders; and

WHEREAS: It is imperative that Alaska Native people employ a disciplined approach to addressing Native issues to protect the credibility of our people and Alaska Federation of Natives; and,

WHEREAS: As Alaska Native people we foster strong leaders and embrace new leadership as an investment in our future; and,

WHEREAS: As Alaska Native people we are strong, resilient, and flexible; and,

WHEREAS: As Alaska Native people it is our responsibility to ensure that our future generations have the tools necessary to succeed, like our ancestors before us; and,

WHEREAS: The Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives recognize the need to:

- (i) strengthen and update the structure of AFN through the inclusion of additional Alaska Native organizations representing Native interests; and
- (ii) align the AFN Board of Directors; and
- (iii) review the resolution process; and
- (iv) strengthen, respect and empower tribal governments and tribal nations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN recognizes the need to invite organizations established for the benefit of Alaska Native peoples to join AFN as member organizations entitled to equitable representation on the AFN Board of Directors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the AFN Board of Directors shall undertake a process to reorganize AFN by 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the AFN Board of Directors be directed to examine the bylaws of the organization and determine changes to be made that are consistent with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the practice of selection of officers of AFN remain consistent with the structure contained in the amended AFN bylaws, adopted on May 19, 1994; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN:

- Give full votes to village corporations and Tribal governments times enrollment
- A governance committee be formed with one representative from each region
 - i) to develop restructuring AFN membership rules
 - ii) to develop rules for elections process
 - iii) to develop rules for term limits of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary.
- Formation of a five member Elections Committee to oversee future elections

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that recommendations brought forth appropriately align the mission, vision, goal, and structure as it relates to operations, the convention and priorities, and to fully fund the operations of a modern Native advocacy organization in order to carry forward the good work of the organization in a manner that creates more dialogue and cooperation between regions to increase AFN's effectiveness and streamline issues which are statewide in nature, evaluate the establishment of an endowment for Native rights protection, advocacy and litigation, and create a sustainable organization that progresses, advocates and protects the rights of all Alaska Natives and future generations to come.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED

