



Dear AFN Co-Chairs & AFN Board Members,

The 2016 AFN Convention was a huge success. All the thoughtful input by the AFN Convention Committee, chaired by Sheri Buretta, and the diligent work of the entire AFN staff ensured it was among the most impressive and well-organized convention in many years.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> annual gathering definitely warmed hearts in the Golden Heart City, celebrated 50 years as an organization, and looked to the future – *refresh, reflect, renew*. By all accounts this year’s convention was memorable, from inspiring keynote speeches from Emil Notti and Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle, to a surprise singing performance by 95-year-old Elder Pauldine Carlo, to several moving and well-deserved tributes and honors, to the fireworks after the closing banquet.

Delegate participation was up this year and total attendance and participation held strong to the 4,000 - 5,000 person range for the last decade or so in both Anchorage and Fairbanks. Follow up work on the convention resolutions passed by the delegates has begun, with key committees convening in the next several weeks.

“ WE THANK MAYOR JOHN EBERHART AND THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS FOR WAIVING THE POLICE OFFICER OVERTIME CHARGES FOR PATROLLING AT THE CARLSON. IN A WEEK MARRED BY THE TRAGIC SHOOTING OF A POLICE OFFICER, WHO LATER DIED FROM HIS INJURIES, THE OFFICERS MADE ALL IN ATTENDANCE FEEL SAFE SO THAT WE COULD GATHER IN FRIENDSHIP AND COMMUNITY, AND TO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCT THE BUSINESS OF THE ORGANIZATION. ”

## CONTENTS

---

<b>Your Input is Needed</b>	3
<b>Resolutions</b>	3
<b>Tribal Conference</b>	3
<b>A Thanksgiving Holiday Tradition</b>	4
<b>2016 Convention by the Numbers</b>	4
<b>2016 Sponsorship Summary</b>	4
<b>Webcast, App &amp; Social Media Analytics</b>	4
<b>2016 Keynotes</b>	5

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

**AFN CAAN Retreat**  
December 5<sup>th</sup>

**AFN Subsistence Committee**  
December 12<sup>th</sup>

**AFN Quarterly Board Meeting**  
December 13<sup>th</sup>

There are many people to thank for making the convention a success for the Alaska Native community and I'll mention just a few, beginning with our sponsors. Without our 108 sponsors the convention simply wouldn't happen. For their wonderful hospitality and cooperative support, we thank the people of Fairbanks and especially Helen Renfrew and her team at Explore Fairbanks. For showing Alaska what golden heart volunteerism is all about, we recognize the fourteen – count 'em fourteen – Fairbanks volunteer committees. For professionalism and can-do spirit, we thank the Carlson Center staff and General Manager Kristin Baysinger.



We are thankful for the community potlatch hosted by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon and Fairbanks Native Association. Everyone felt welcomed. To see and be a part of the continuation of our strong cultural traditions made everyone proud.



I also would like to acknowledge the work of several AFN committees that helped make the 2016 Convention a success: the Convention Committee, Chaired by **Sheri Buretta**; the Credentials Committee, Chaired by **Sarah Dybdahl**; the Resolutions Committee, Chaired by **Greg Razo**; and the Media & Elections Committee, Chaired by **Richard Peterson**.

Finally, we extend our sincere appreciation to **Jerry Isaac** for his work as AFN Co-Chair these past two years and welcome newly elected Co-Chair **Will Mayo**.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie".

**Julie Kitka**  
President

## YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

---

The 2016 Convention evaluation form is available on line: [www.nativefederation.org/2016-afn-convention-evaluation/](http://www.nativefederation.org/2016-afn-convention-evaluation/) and has been emailed to the board and membership. Results will be reported to the board at the December 13 meeting.

## RESOLUTIONS

---

AFN delegates passed 31 **resolutions** at this year's convention. An **index** of the resolutions as they intersect with priority issues on the federal and state level is available.

## TRIBAL CONFERENCE

---

The Alaska Federation of Natives and the National Congress of American Indians co-hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal Conference: Strengthening Alaska Through Tribal Self-Determination the day before the annual convention started, October 19, 2016 in Fairbanks, at the Doyon Facilities building. More than 200 tribal leaders, tribal administrators, tribal court judges and administrators, and tribal members from Alaska's 231 tribes participated.

The day began with attorneys from the Native American Rights Fund, Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Sonosky, Chambers, Sasche, Miller & Munson, LLP and Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP providing a legal update on important cases from the last year including Akiachak (land into trust), Toyukuk (voting rights), Tunuak II (Indian Child Welfare Act), Ramah (contract support costs) and Maniilaq Association (village built clinics). The overviews were informative, and almost an hour of well-thought out questions and comments followed.

Three matters of critical importance to tribes were then taken up as special issues: resource management, public safety and heroin and opioid awareness. The Pew Charitable Trust and Hobbs, Straus presented on how tribes can become a 'cooperating agency' for Bureau of Land Management resource management plans, noting this status is crucial for tribes because it goes beyond consultation and empowers tribes to become active participants in the planning process. The Alaska State Troopers and Village Public Safety Officers then described how the two institutions are partnering to improve public safety in rural Alaska, stressing the good results from having VPSOs in villages. Finally, the U.S. Attorney General for the District of Alaska, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and tribal health care providers outlined the challenges associated with heroin and opioid use and abuse, and showed a short clip from their popular documentary Chasing the Dragon while highlighting the opportunities to combat the epidemic from intra-agency cooperation.

## A THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TRADITION

---

You can watch the rebroadcast of the live gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Convention and Quyana, on 360 North public television. The TV re-broadcast starts Thanksgiving Day, November 24, and continues through Saturday.

## 2016 CONVENTION BY THE NUMBERS

---

The outgoing Convention Committee met November 4 to recap the Convention and review the 2016 Convention evaluations received to date.

- Credentials committee reports 87% participation
- Estimate of total participants/attendance to convention, excluding the arts pavilion: 2,100 per day.
- Art Show sold out: 190 artist spaces
- Exhibitor show sold out: 115 spaces
- Quyana attendance was 2,200 people per night

## 2016 SPONSORSHIP SUMMARY

---

- Number of 2016 sponsors: 108
- Number of new sponsors for 2016: 56 (i.e. Fairbanks companies: banks, outfitter stores, transportation, mechanical, food industry, air service, insurance companies, city and chamber of commerce)
- Number of prospective sponsors added to database: 71 (i.e. fiber optic technology, engineering and construction firms, mining and resource development, banks and credit unions, insurance, seafood industry)

## WEBCAST, APP & SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS

---

### PRESS

The 2016 AFN Convention coverage during the month surrounding the event was the equivalent of over \$2.8 million in paid advertising, with more than 180 hits during Convention month alone, in statewide and national outlets alike.

### LIVE WEBCAST

6,138 streams for a total of 209,585 total viewer minutes. This year's webcast reached over 70 countries. The 2016 AFN webcast archive is still available on-line at the AFN website. The 2015 Convention webcast archive had 17,000 views over the course of the year.



## TV BROADCAST

Statewide to 18 cities including Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau; and 200+ villages on GCI Cable, ARCS, and 360 North. Estimated audience ranges from 10,000 to 40,000 viewers.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The overall social media community is growing steadily each year, e.g. from 10,991 engaged users in 2015 to 12,831 users in 2016. Our followers and users are engaged and include a healthy range of young and mature users, men and women. Most of our interactions are centered in urban areas, with representation from villages across Alaska as well.

- Our Twitter audience is evenly split between men and women, mostly urban, and mostly in the 25-34 age range.
- Our Facebook audience is primarily female (70%), a mix of urban and rural, and split mostly between ages 25-44 and 55+.

## APP

351 people downloaded the app to their smartphones with 14,369 screenviews - our app homepage with sponsor banners and exhibitor/sponsor section are two of the most popular sections of the app.

## 2016 KEYNOTES

---

Inspiring keynotes reflect and reinforce the convention theme of reflecting back, refreshing, and renewing to move forward. You can read the keynote addresses [here](#) or watch the video recording [here](#).