



EXECUTIVE REPORT

September 2016

SUBSISTENCE COMMITTEE

The AFN Subsistence Committee met at the beginning of September to consider pressing federal and state issues, including —

- **Chairmanship of the Federal Subsistence Board.** Spurred by Tim Towarak's retirement as the Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board, as well as the Secretary of the Interior's announcement that she plans to fill the position in the next few months, the Committee discussed potential Alaska Native successors, deciding to forward all of their names on to the Office of the Secretary in Anchorage for consideration in advance of the October 7 deadline. Additional details, including nomination and application information, can be found in the [U.S. Department of the Interior's press release](#).

On behalf of the AFN board of directors and the statewide Native community, we want to thank Tim for his many years of dedicated service as Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board.

- **Moose and Caribou Community Subsistence Hunts in the Copper River Basin.** Fish and Game Commissioner Sam Cotton attended the meeting on behalf of Governor Walker to discuss Ahtna Tene Nene's request for a special meeting of the Alaska Board of Game to address the decreased subsistence opportunity for Copper River Basin residents due to the increased number of groups and individuals participating in the 2016 Copper Basin Community Subsistence Hunt for Moose and Caribou. Enrollment in the moose hunt increased by 70% over the last year. Commissioner Cotton thanked the Committee for presenting the Native community's concerns and promised to look into the matter.

The Alaska Board of Game subsequently scheduled a special

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UPCOMING EVENTS

AFN Board Meeting

October 18, 9:00 a.m.
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel

Welcome Reception

October 18, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
University House
431 Gold Dust Drive, Fairbanks
Please park at the UAF Parking Lot (Taku) and a shuttle service will be provided to the University House. RSVP to Trina Landlord at 907-263-1307 or tlandlord@nativefederation.org

AFN Welcome and Fairbanks Four

Potlatch
Wednesday, October 19, 6 pm
Big Dipper Ice Arena
Sponsored by Fairbanks Native Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference and Doyon, Ltd.

AFN Annual Convention

October 20-22nd
Carlson Center, Fairbanks

State Board of Game Special Meeting

October 23, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Via Teleconference

meeting via teleconference on Sunday, October 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Public comments will not be taken, but written comments will be accepted through the ‘specified date.’ For more information regarding the meeting or clarification on how to submit written comments, please contact Kristy Tribbles, Executive Director, Alaska Department of Fish & Game Boards Support Section at (907) 465-3098 or Kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov.

- **Special Report: ‘Alaska Native’ Status under the MMPA.** Sealaska Heritage Institute completed its special report on determining ‘Alaska Native’ status under the Marine Mammal Protection Act; however, the Committee tabled further discussion and action on it until a quorum could be made. This report will be included on the October 18 AFN board meeting agenda. The central focus is the future of Alaska Native participation in marine mammal hunts when blood quantum becomes an issue. Some areas are requesting a legislative change to eliminate the blood quantum factor, while others want to assess the issue first.
- **Alaska Native to Lead Western Arctic NPS Units.** The Committee unanimously agreed to support the application of former Kotzebue Mayor Maija Lukin for the position of superintendent for the Western Arctic Parklands, and was pleased to later learn that she was selected for the role. Maija will start in October according to the [National Park Service press release](#).

CAAN

The Committee on the Advancement of Alaska Natives met in mid-September to discuss state/tribal compacting of child welfare services and Convention related issues, including its panel and resolutions—

- **Tribal Compacting for State Child Welfare Services.** Christy Lawton, Director of the Office of Children’s Services, along with Francine Eddy-Jones of Central Council for Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and Lou Johnson of Bristol Bay Native Association (two of the five tribal co-chairs representing the Tribal-State Collaboration Group), reported that the state is interested in compacting state child welfare services to willing tribes, and hopes to have a compact in place by October 2017. Myra Munson, a partner at the law firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Sasche, Miller and Munson, LLP, was also present due to her extensive work in the field to discuss the opportunity. The Committee noted its strong interest in pursuing such a compact, took the concept under advisement, and will decide in the near future what, if any, steps the CAAN will take.
- **CAAN Convention Panel and Resolution.** The Committee decided to highlight tribal self-determination in action for its Convention panel with Maniilaq, Kawarek, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and Tanana Chiefs Conference showcasing actual programs and services beneficiaries. Sarah Scanlan of RurAL CAP and Elizabeth Medicine-Crow of First Alaskans Institute will moderate.

The Committee’s resolutions will cover a broad array of topics, including water and sewer, village built clinics, barrier crimes, the Permanent Fund Dividend ballot initiative, the Office of Children’s Services Strategic Plan, small schools, cultural revitalization, substance abuse treatment programs and arctic policy to name a few. The Committee typically assesses the outstanding issues that need to be highlighted for the Native community and prepares recommendations based on their vast experience.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The Committee met on September 2 to finalize the Convention plenary agenda and make President’s Awards selections—

- The [2016 Agenda](#) features four forward-looking, informative panels with time for questions and answers, a 2016 candidate forum, a number of distinguished guest speakers, debate and voting on resolutions, and of course the President’s Awards.
- The AFN mobile app has been launched. This handy, one-stop shop for agenda, maps, updates, sponsor and artist info can be downloaded to your phone by going to your Apple or Google store and search “AFN Convention 2016.”
- AFN will once again provide live gavel-to-gavel statewide TV broadcast coverage of the convention and Quynana Alaska, on GCI, ARCS, and 360 North. On-line webstreaming with the ever-popular chatroom can be watched at AFN’s website at www.nativefederation.org, beginning Thursday, October 20, at 8 am.

MEDIA & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee has taken a very active interest in ensuring the Native community is engaged and that its voice is heard at the ballot box. Work continues on the Get Out the Native Vote campaign. A 2016 election voter guide and the AFN Candidates Forum (Friday, October 21) are under development.



TAKE THE CHALLENGE!

Doyon and Denakkanaaga have challenged AFN board and staff to participate in the social media #GOTNVchallenge by posting a picture of yourself while holding up a sign that begins, “I Vote Because....” Visit [AFN’s Facebook page](#) for examples. Please share on your Facebook pages and issue your own challenge.

Election Day	Tuesday, November 8 Polls are open from 7:00am - 8:00pm
Registration and Registration Updates Deadline	Sunday, October 9
Early and In-Person Absentee, Special Needs and By-Electronic Transmission Voting Begins	Monday, October 24
Absentee By-Mail Application Deadline	Saturday, October 29
Absentee by Electronic Transmission Application Deadline	Monday, November 7 5:00pm Alaska Time

THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY VOTING

Early voting is an important process that gives people a chance to get to the polls before Election Day. It is growing across the nation and in Alaska as well.

Early and absentee in-person voting is especially important for Alaskan voters who are busy working or away on subsistence activity on Election Day.

We all have a responsibility to spread the word about early and absentee in-person voting. The more people that vote as soon as possible the better off our electorate is. The people that would benefit the most from this are the ones that matter the most to our elections. These are often people who have not voted in years, because Election Day just never lines up with their work schedule. By spreading the word about early voting we can ensure, and hopefully entice, these once non-voters to get to the polls as soon as possible.

The sooner you vote, the better. Get your vote in and then get all of your friends to vote as well. The more people that vote, the greater chance your community, your state and your country has of electing a leader that is truly is a reflection of its people.

AFN AND OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS HOST VOTER PICNIC

In mid-August AFN co-hosted a Unity in Our Community voter registration and community engagement picnic with NCAAP Anchorage and more than 15 partner organizations at the Mt. View Lions Club Park.

We successfully registered new voters in the Mt. View area, handed out 500 backpacks filled with school supplies to children of all ages, and handed out 130 backpacks with snacks and warm socks to community members in need. We also served more than 1,000 hot dogs and 750 hamburgers then spent the day enjoying the sun and live music while discussing the importance of building bridges among the various groups in Anchorage.



By sharing food, music and joining together, we were able to establish or build on our relationships. This will help us create trust and make other joint ventures possible to strengthen the resilience in our community. The next collaboration will be outreach in support of the 2020 Census to ensure that everyone is counted.

ROUNDTABLE WITH SENATOR MURKOWSKI

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski and the Under Secretary for Rural Development Lisa Mensah met Alaska Native leaders during a roundtable discussion organized by AFN in mid-August. Discussion focused on the resources available to rural Alaskans through the three agencies the Under Secretary heads up, including the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Utilities Service and the Rural Business-Cooperative Service. These agencies provide critical infrastructure investments in the form of loans and grants for rural housing, high-speed broadband access, telephone, electric and water utilities, renewable energy generation and conservation, local and regional food systems, community facilities and small business development in rural America. Under Secretary Mensah has a special connection to Alaska, having hosted a young boy from Stebbins as a child. She understands the hardships rural Alaskans face and is committed to improving the life outcomes of our young people.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR VISITS ALASKA

Maria Contreras-Sweet, the head of the U.S. Small Business Administration, visited Alaska in mid-August to talk to entrepreneurs, government leaders and Alaska Native corporations about her agency's resources and the challenges and opportunities small companies have in Alaska. Administrator Contreras-Sweet heard a sense of frustration from Native leaders about the deterioration of the Alaska SBA district office, and being so far away from contracting resources clustered in Washington, D.C. Administrator Contreras-Sweet took immediate steps to improve the Alaska district office following her visit, appointing a new deputy district director and committing to exploring the idea of increasing resources for adequate staff levels.

LITIGATION MATRIX

A newly updated [state/tribal litigation matrix](#) is now available.