

ANCSA at 50:
EMPOWERING
OUR FUTURE

2021 ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES CONVENTION



2021 Annual Convention Agenda

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

MORNING SESSION

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

Invocation

Rev. Shirley Lee

Posting of Colors

Alaska Native Veterans Association

National Anthem

Alaska Native Cultural Charter School

Recognition of Afghanistan War Veterans

Alaska Native Veterans Association

Welcome Remarks from Dena'ina Leader

Aaron Leggett, Chief and President, Native Village of Eklutna

Welcome Remarks from the City of Anchorage

Mayor Dave Bronson

Recognition of Major Sponsors

Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

Welcome Video Messages from Around Alaska

9:30 President's Report

Julie Kitka, President, AFN

9:45 Congressional Address

The Honorable Don Young, Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives

10:00 State of Alaska Address

The Honorable Michael Dunleavy, Governor, State of Alaska

10:15 Alaska Judicial Address

Justice Sue Carney

10:25 Alaska Bush Caucus Address

The Honorable Tiffany Zulkosky, Representative, Alaska House of Representatives

10:40 Special Showing: *Voices of the Passage*

A 1991 film about the passage of ANCSA, featuring interviews with some of the Alaska Native leaders who led the fight for land claims, including John Borbridge, Harry Carter, Ray Christiansen, Mary Jane Fate, Willie Hensley, Sam Kito, Flore Lekanof, and Emil Notti.

11:10 Special Theme Panel: *50 Years from the Passage*

Alaska Native leaders who were instrumental in the passage and implementation of ANCSA explore the intentions and expectations of ANCSA and how the law has met or not met those expectations.

Moderator

Joe Nelson, AFN-Co-Chair

Panelists

Nelson Angapak

Willie Hensley

Roy Huhndorf

Ken Johns

Sam Kito, Jr.

Georgianna Lincoln

Rosita Worl

12:10 p.m. Presentation of the Citizen of the Year and Denali Awards

Tara Sweeney, Honoree, Citizen of the Year

Dr. Bob Onders, Honoree, Denali Award

12:30 PLENARY SESSION RECESS

12:30 **Special Report: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the American Cancer Society**

The panel shares a 50-year study on the impact of cancer on Alaska Natives and is a call to action to save Alaska Native lives.

Moderator

Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson, President, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Panelists

Jaeleen Kookesh, Member, American Cancer Society Alaska Advisory Board;

Vice President of Policy-Legal Affairs & Corporate Secretary, Sealaska Corporation

Dr. Elena Roik, Cancer Surveillance Director, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Eric Fox, Vice Chair, American Cancer Society Alaska Advisory Board; Vice President of Operations & Security, NANA Management Services

Dr. Aaron Kusano, Member, American Cancer Society Alaska Adv Radiation Oncologist, Anchorage & Valley Radiation Therapy Centers

Dr. Diana Redwood, Senior Epidemiologist, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 — AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 p.m. **Call to Order**

Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

Preliminary Credentials Report

Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, AFN

Announcement of Co-Chair Nominees and Videos

Benjamin Mallott, Vice President, AFN

1:15 **Congressional Address (15)**

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Senator, United States Senate (Live; Confirmed)

1:30 **Key Theme Speakers: Alaska's Unique System of Native Self-Determination and Tribal Self-Governance**

Julie Kitka, President, AFN

Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, AFN

1:50 **44 Million Acres: Land Status Report on ANCSA Conveyed Lands**

Thomas Heinlein, Acting Alaska State Director, U.S. Bureau of Land Management

- 2:00** **Special Litigation Report: Lessons Learned from *Yellen v. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation***
Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, AFN
- 2:20** **Congressional Address**
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, Senator, United States Senate
- 2:35** **Department of Veterans Affairs Address**
The Honorable Dennis McDonough, Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- 2:45** **Special Guest Speaker**
General Glen VanHerck, Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command
- 3:00** **Current Insights from Alaska's Senior Military Leaders on the Developing Security Dynamics of Alaska and the Arctic**
Join senior military officials with responsibilities in Alaska as they discuss the developing geostrategic environment affecting Alaska and the Arctic region, and inform about current command specific activities to protect and defend the State in an increasingly complex security environment.
- Moderator
Major General (Ret.) Randy “Church” Kee, U.S. Air Force, Senior Advisor, Arctic Security Affairs, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies
- Panelists
Lieutenant General David Krumm, Commander, Alaskan NORAD Region, Alaskan Command, and Eleventh Air Force
Major General Brian Eifler, Commanding General, U.S. Army Alaska
Major General Torrence Saxe, Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard and the Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military and Veteran Affairs
Rear Admiral Brad Collins, Commander, Navy Region Northwest
Rear Admiral Nathan Moore, Commander, 17th Coast Guard District, U.S. Coast Guard
Colonel Damon Delarosa, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
- 3:45** **Special Report: Climate Change Task Force**
Melanie Bahnke, President and CEO, Kawerak, Inc.
- 4:00** **Memorial Prayer and Scroll**
Ana Hoffman, Co-Chair, AFN

4:05 **Closing Remarks**
Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

4:15 **Closing Cultural Performance**
Byron Nicholai

4:30 **RECESS**

6:00-9:00 **Best of Quyana Alaska**
Selections from television recordings of the best cultural performances from recent years.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

MORNING SESSION

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

Invocation

Nick Jackson

Recognition of Major Sponsors

Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

9:05 Resolutions Committee Report

Jodi Mitchell, Chair

9:20 Special Report: Section 29 Update

Brigham McCown, President & CEO, Alyeska Pipeline Services Company

9:30 Unfinished Business: Restoration of Aboriginal Hunting and Fishing Rights

Chris McNeil, former President and CEO, Sealaska Corporation

9:45 Unfinished Business: Native Empowerment

This panel will explore what needs to happen and what needs to be accomplished in order to advance the Native community both near term and long term in AFN unity and public policy, Native health and wellness, and housing.

Moderator

Ana Hoffman, Co-Chair, AFN

Panelists

Willie Hensley, Alaska Native Leader

Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson, President, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Jackie Pata, Tlingit and Haida Housing Authority

10:15 Department of Interior Address

The Honorable Debra Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

- 10:30** **Unfinished Business: Transformational Change in Education**
The Honorable Michael Johnson, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
Julie Kitka, President, AFN
Pat Pitney, Interim President, University of Alaska
- 11:00** **Unfinished Business: Alaska Native Corporation Policy Issues**
Hallie Bissett, Executive Director, Alaska Native Village Corporation Association
- 11:15** **Special Report: What’s in the Historic Infrastructure Bill for Alaska**
The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law earlier this fall. This historic legislation provides historic investments into roads, bridges, ports, airports, broadband, ferries, water and wastewater, resilience, and energy projects—modernizing and upgrading our nation’s core infrastructure. This in-depth report will cover what is included for Alaska in the IIJA and perspectives and opportunities.
- Alaska Congressional Delegation Staff**
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Col. Damon Delarosa. Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District
Garrett Boyle, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission
- 12:15** **Special Listening Session: Community Input on the Infrastructure Bill**
Convention participants can ask questions and make comments to the panelists through the AFN virtual event site or by emailing questions in advance to afninfo@nativefederation.org.
- Garrett Boyle**, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission
Col. Damon Delarosa, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District
Raina Thiele, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska Affairs & Strategic Priorities, U.S. Department of the Interior

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 — AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 p.m. Call to Order

Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

Final Credentials Report

Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, AFN

Announcement of Co-Chair and Village Representatives

Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, AFN

1:05 2021 Elders and Youth Conference Report

Elizabeth La quen náay Medicine Crow, President and CEO, First Alaskans Institute

1:15 Biden Administration Arctic Policy

Dr. Michael Sfraga, Chairman, Arctic Research Commission

Ambassador David Balton, Executive Director, Arctic Executive Steering Committee

1:35 Department of Treasury Update

Jacob Liebenluft, Chief Recovery Officer, U.S. Department of Treasury

Fatima Abbas, Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of Treasury

1:45 Department of Justice Update

The Honorable Vanita Gupta, Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

2:00 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Work Group

Bryan Wilson, Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska, U.S. Department of Justice

Ingrid Cumberlidge, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Alaska, U.S. Department of Justice

2:15 Special Guest Speaker

The Honorable Brian Schatz, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

2:20 Special Guest Speaker

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman, 27th Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration

- 2:30 Tribal Recognition Ballot Initiative**
Joe Nelson, AFN Co-Chair, Ballot Initiative Co-Sponsor
Richard Peterson, Ballot Initiative Co-Sponsor
Elizabeth La quen náay Medicine Crow, Ballot Initiative Co-Sponsor
Waahlaal Giidaak Barbara Blake, Ballot Initiative Co-Sponsor
- 2:45 Special Briefing on Good Government: Census, Redistricting, Voting Rights, Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Ballot Initiatives**
- 3:15 Innovations and Technological Advancement in Connectivity**
Moderator
Julie Kitka, President, AFN
- Panelists
Lesil McGuire, Alaska and Arctic Affairs Consultant, OneWeb
Ben Cuttriss, Account Manager Alaska, OneWeb
Greg Chapados, President and COO, GCI
Hallie Bissett, Executive Director, Alaska Native Village Corporation Association
- 3:45 AFN President's Awards**
- 4:35 Special AFN Video: Uplifting Voices from the Pandemic**
- 4:50 Closing Remarks: Reflections on the Theme and the Convention**
Sheri Buretta, Chair, AFN Convention Committee
- 5:00 Closing Cultural Performance**
Alaska Native Lutheran Choir
- Benediction**
Nelson Angapak
- Adjournment**