



EXECUTIVE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2019

Dear Board of Directors and Members,

Fall means hunting season for Alaska Natives, and for more than 50 years this time of year also means the start of the AFN convention season. As we ramp up our planning and preparations for our 53rd annual convention in Fairbanks, October 17-19, we take a quick pause to reflect and report on our spring and summer efforts. It was a momentous spring followed by a busy summer. There is much to report.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka
AFN President

FEDERAL ENGAGEMENT

AFN met with a number of federal cabinet members and high-level officials over the late summer and early fall to further Alaska Native interests, including U.S. Attorney General William Barr, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Rob Wallace, and a Justice Department Attorney working on voting rights issues. Work on the 2020 U.S. Census is also underway.

Native Meetings with Attorney General Results in Historic Federal Law Enforcement Order

On May 31, AFN participated in an 'Alaska Native Justice Forum' with U.S. Attorney William Barr in Anchorage as part of his visit to Alaska to better understand the state's approach to public safety in rural Alaska. While most Native leaders focused on the lack of state enforcement in our rural Alaska Native villages, AFN used our time to bring attention to the often overlooked victims of crime: children.

Following the roundtable, Attorney General Barr traveled to Galena, Bethel, and Napaskiak to observe the critical law enforcement needs described by AFN and Native leaders first-hand. His time in the Interior and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta resulted in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issuing the first-ever federal law enforcement emergency declaration on rural Alaska public safety.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

BOARD MEETINGS

October 11, Lakefront Hotel, Anchorage
December 4, Marriott Hotel, Anchorage

CAAN MEETINGS

September 27
November 18-19 — Retreat

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

September 26, 30, October 3

AFN CONVENTION

October 17-19, Fairbanks

ALASKA DAY 2020

January, Washington, D.C.

2019
AFN
CONVENTION
—

OCTOBER 17-19
—
CARLSON CENTER
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



GOOD GOVERNMENT
ALASKAN DRIVEN



[Click here for more 2019 AFN Convention information.](#)

The declaration made \$6 million immediately available to the State of Alaska for rural law enforcement needs, including hiring, equipping, and training Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs), Village Police Officers (VPOs), and Tribal Police Officers (TPOs) working in rural Alaska, as well as for mobile detention facilities. An additional \$4.5 million was identified for Alaska Native grantees to hire law enforcement personnel through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Finally, \$14 million was identified to support Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) for wrap-around services, forensic interviews, and medical exams in Alaska and the Lower 48.

Attorney General Barr also ordered every agency within the Justice Department to identify within 45 days what it could do to help Alaska Native villages. Alaska U.S. Attorney Bryan Schroder is chairing the workgroup to advance follow up.

The crisis is ongoing. It is not solved. Alaska needs a resourceful rural public safety system with maximum local control. Additional work is unfolding in the federal appropriations process, including authorizing rural Native communities to address the root of the problem.

AFN provided a briefing packet, including white papers on child welfare, compacting, public safety, tribal courts, and voting. To request a copy of the packet, please contact Nicole Borromeo at nborromeo@nativefederation.org or (907) 263-1310.

AFN Helps Secure \$6 million in Justice Funds for Denali Commission

Denali Commission Federal Co-Chair Jason Hoke reported in September that an additional \$6 million in U.S. Department of Justice Funds will go to the Commission for facility construction and maintenance.

At AFN's suggestion, Mr. Hoke sent U.S. Attorney General William Barr a letter shortly after he issued the historic law enforcement declaration on rural public safety outlining the Denali Commission's past work building domestic violence shelters in rural Alaska, and offering to help support the DOJ's effort.

Native Roundtable with Secretary DeVos Highlights

Tribal Void in Federal School Choice Act

On August 26, AFN participated in an 'Education Freedom Roundtable' with U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos as part of her visit to Alaska to promote school choice.

Secretary DeVos provided an overview of S.634/H.R. 1434, The Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act, which seeks to expand school choice with a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit for donations to state identified scholarship-granting organizations. The bill is unpalatable for most congressional members due to its special provisions for religious schools, and its progression in the House or Senate is questionable.

AFN provided a briefing packet, including white papers on the bill, Head Start, language immersion, and STEM. With respect to the bill, AFN encouraged Secretary DeVos to partner with the Alaska Native community in exploring school choice through a series of tribal provisions.

Meeting with Assistant Secretary Sweeney Focuses on Public Safety

On August 20, AFN met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney in between her listening sessions with Alaska tribes and tribal organizations on public safety.

AFN discussed the historic emergency law enforcement declaration issued by U.S. Attorney General William Barr earlier this summer, and urged Assistant Secretary Sweeney to help strengthen Alaska Native capacity, expand local control, and increase sustainable resources for public safety measures at the federal level. AFN further urged Assistant Secretary Sweeney to explore moving to a domestic version of the Millennium Challenge Corporation compact model, observing U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski and Congressman Don Young have already introduced legislation, S. 126/H.R. 588, the Native American Millennium Demonstration Project, to accomplish this legislatively. Other Native leaders in attendance briefed Assistant Secretary Sweeney on tribal jurisdiction, infrastructure, hunting and fishing, domestic violence, and contaminated land issues.

Top White House and Interior officials attended, including Jennie Lichter, Deputy Director, Domestic Policy Council, White House; Doug Hoelscher, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, White House; Katharine



MacGregor, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior; Charles Addington, Director, Office of Justice Services, BIA; and Eugene Peltola, Jr., Regional Director.

AFN provided a white paper on the Native American Millennium Demonstration Project.

Meeting with Assistant Secretary Wallace Focuses on Traditional Fishing and Hunting

On August 30, AFN met with U.S. Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Rob Wallace as part of his visit to Alaska.

AFN briefed Assistant Secretary Wallace on Alaska's subsistence legal framework, and our dual management structure, impressing upon him the need for continued federal oversight with respect to ANILCA's Title VIII subsistence priority in the wake of Sturgeon. AFN also discussed Alaska Native co-management of traditional and customary subsistence resources; expansion of authority for co-management organizations to bypass the existing administrative structure and process of ANILCA; and directly implementing the federal subsistence fishery for rural tribal members and residents.

The meeting ended with a discussion on the placement of Office of Subsistence Management within the Fish and Wildlife Services, and the membership of the Federal Subsistence Board. AFN also reminded Assistant Secretary Wallace that as the federal government looks to streamline regulations with states, the federal subsistence regulations must remain intact.

AFN committed to provide and updated white paper on expanded co-management for Interior's consideration, as well as a revised secretarial order.

Meeting with Justice Department Voting Attorney Emphasizes Rural Inequalities

On June 27, AFN met with Elizabeth Ryan, a Tribal Attorney in the Voting Section of the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Civil Rights Division.

Ms. Ryan spent 10 days gathering information in the Kusilvak and Dillingham Census Areas in preparation for the 2020 elections. She also provided background on the Civil Rights Division's voting work, including the Voting Rights Act (VRA), and election protections for language minorities. The U.S. Census Bureau has published new

Section 203 determinations for language minority group coverage, based on the American Community Survey data. DOJ has issued [guidelines](#) on implementation of the provisions of the VRA regarding language minority groups.

Ms. Ryan was also interested in statewide voting and election initiatives. AFN staff informed her of relevant voting and election bills pending in the Alaska Legislature, as well as the current ballot initiative effort regarding election reform.

2020 U.S. Census Efforts Underway

The U.S. Census starts enumeration (counting) in Toksook Bay on January 21, 2020. Alaska's vast, sparsely settled areas have been the first to be counted during the last three censuses. Residents of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and other large cities will respond to the U.S. 2020 Census online, by phone, or mail in mid-March with the rest of the country.

The priority through October is hiring for Census jobs. The bureau hopes to hire rural residents. The average pay ranges from \$28-\$31 per hour, and interested applicants can [apply online](#). Background checks—including fingerprinting—are required as part of the application process. It is important to note that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients' benefits will not be impacted by employment with the 2020 Census.

In June, the U.S. Census Bureau appointed AFN Executive Vice President and General Counsel Nicole Borromeo to the [National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations](#) (NAC). NAC advises the Census Bureau on topics such as hard-to-count populations, race and ethnicity, language, aging populations, American Indian and Alaska Native tribal considerations, new immigrant populations, populations affected by natural disasters, highly mobile and migrant populations, complex households, rural populations and population segments with limited access to technology. It also considers issues like data privacy and confidentiality. Ms. Borromeo takes over for Carol Gore, President/CEO, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, who termed out.

AFN has also been involved with the Alaska Census Working Group (ACWG). Funded with a grant from Rasmuson Foundation and the Census Equity Fund, the ACWG has started an Alaska Counts Campaign. Resources, information and testimonials can be found on its [website](#).



Additionally, ACWG contracted with the Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AKPIRG) to assist in language translation efforts for several languages.

AFN has also been in regular communication with the U.S. Census Tribal Affairs office, providing assistance when requested, and recently met with Tribal Liaison Donna Bach (Yup'ik; Bethel). Ms. Bach supervises the following areas: Aleutians, Kodiak, Bristol Bay, and the road system. Part of Ms. Bach's duties include growing partnerships, assisting in setting up Complete Count Committees in each community, providing Census support, and ensuring applicants get hired in their own community.

An ad-hoc Census committee is also forming with members of the Alaska Native community. The first meeting will be held on September 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the AFN office. If you or your organization is interested in helping move the 2020 U.S. Census forward, please let us know. It is critically important we have maximum participation. The U.S. Census Bureau is not able to count Alaska Natives living in rural Alaska itself.

STATE ENGAGEMENT

The Alaska State Legislature was encumbered by Governor Dunleavy's budget and vetoes, making 2019 an atypical year. Most of our time was spent on budgetary matters, including Governor Dunleavy's three proposed constitutional amendments. However, AFN also focused on two bills—and worked closely with legislative aides and stakeholders to secure their passage. Additionally, we continued to facilitate the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, traveled to Juneau for an 'Impact Day,' and held regular work sessions on the state operating budget and vetoes.

Testing Constitutional Powers and Responsibilities in Alaska's Budgeting Process

The process of arriving at a spending plan for Alaska has never been as contentious or prolonged as it was this year. Disagreement over fundamental questions related to the size and scope of state government, and the services it provides, fueled a back-and-forth battle between Governor Mike Dunleavy and the Alaska Legislature. The chaos damaged the state, and plunged Alaskans into uncertainty about what the state would fund, with thousands of jobs and services affecting hundreds of thousands of Alaskans in the balance.

The timeline below outlines the final three months of the unfortunate process.

Fiscal Year 2020 Budget End Game Timeline

- **June 9-10, 2019:** The Alaska Legislature [approves a state operating budget](#) that averts a July 1 government shutdown. The amount of this year's Permanent Fund Dividend is not included in the bill.
- **June 12, 2019:** The Alaska House approves the state capital budget, but Republican opposition [leaves the bill mostly unfunded](#). House minority Republicans say they will not approve paying for the capital budget from the Constitutional Budget Reserve until the Legislature approves a \$3,000 dividend.
- **June 13, 2019:** The [first special session adjourns](#). Governor Dunleavy issues a proclamation calling for a second special session to begin in Wasilla on July 8.
- **June 28, 2019:** Governor Dunleavy [announces more than \\$400 million in operating budget vetoes](#). Initially stated as \$444 million in cuts, the [Legislative Finance Division says July 23](#) that the governor vetoed \$409 million from the operating budget and \$11.7 million from the mental health budget. In addition, the governor withheld \$30 million in K-12 education funding because of concerns about its constitutionality.
- **July 1, 2019:** The new fiscal year begins. The operating budget (including Governor Dunleavy's vetoes) comes into effect, as does the malformed capital budget. [The Constitutional Budget Reserve sweep takes place](#), draining scholarship funds, the Power Cost Equalization endowment, and 52 other program-specific accounts.
- **July 8, 2019:** The second special session of the 31st Alaska Legislature convenes in Juneau. A small group of 22 Republican lawmakers attempts to convene the session in Wasilla, but lacks enough support to do so.
- **July 10, 2019:** With 22 Republicans in Wasilla and absent from the state Capitol, the Alaska Legislature fails to override Governor Dunleavy's operating budget vetoes for lack of support.
- **July 11, 2019:** Governor Dunleavy signs the unfinished capital budget into law, vetoing \$10.8 million in projects. Because most of the budget is unfunded, his ability to veto is limited.
- **July 16, 2019:** [The Alaska Legislature sues Governor Dunleavy](#) for failing to provide school funding on time, per legislation passed in 2018 and signed into law by then-Governor Walker. Governor Dunleavy contends the legislation is unconstitutional and cannot be paid; the Legislature says it is constitutional and must be paid. Both



sides agree to allow K-12 funding to continue while the lawsuit progresses.

- **July 17, 2019:** With legislators still split between Wasilla and Juneau, [Governor Dunleavy changes the proclaimed location](#) of the special session to Juneau. He also amends the proclamation to include the capital budget, not just the dividend.
- **July 20, 2019:** [The Alaska Senate approves Senate Bill 2002](#), funding the capital budget and fixing the reverse sweep.
- **July 21, 2019:** The Alaska House fails to approve funding the capital budget.
- **July 22, 2019:** The House again fails to approve funding the capital budget. The University of Alaska Board of Regents, in response to the operating budget vetoes, [declares "financial exigency."](#)
- **July 29, 2019:** The [Legislature approves House Bill 2001](#), which pays a \$1,600 PFD and reverses all but \$23.29 million of the governor's operating budget vetoes. HB 2001 itself may be vetoed all or in part. Separately, the Alaska House, in its third try, funds the capital budget with the state's Constitutional Budget Reserve. The bill also includes the "reverse sweep."
 - **August 8, 2019:** Governor Dunleavy [signs the legislation](#) fixing the capital budget and reverse sweep but vetoes \$34.7 million in projects.
 - **August 12-16, 2019:** In a series of announcements, Governor Dunleavy says he will reverse himself on more than \$140 million in vetoes from June. The reversals cover the University of Alaska, senior benefits, early education, Alaska Legal Services and two education programs.
 - **Aug. 19, 2019:** Governor Dunleavy signs House Bill 2001.

In early July AFN sent the Alaska Legislature a letter and resolution affirming our support of the operating budget it passed on June 10—prior to the Governor's June 28 vetoes of nearly half a billion dollars. Our position was based on Article VII of Alaska's constitution, which obligates the Legislature to provide for the public education (including a state university system), public health, and public welfare of Alaskans. AFN called on the Legislature to reinstate the operating budget it passed in June by July 12, which it did, via HB 2001.

When Governor Mike Dunleavy signed HB 2001, a bill that provides permanent fund dividends (PFDs) of \$1,600, he said he expected to call a third special session this fall, solely to pay another roughly \$1,400 per Alaskan in PFDs.

What Governor Dunleavy vetoed again:

- Nearly \$335,000 from the budget of the **Alaska Court System**
- Nearly half, \$49 million, of the state money used to **pay down debt for older school bonds**
- The **Ocean Ranger cruise ship pollution inspection program** is no longer funded, a \$3.4 million cut
- \$50 million from **Medicaid services** atop a \$70 million cut previously approved by the Legislature
- **Medicaid dental coverage** has been eliminated for adults, a cut of \$27 million
- \$6.1 million in **behavioral health treatment and recovery grants**
- **Adult Public Assistance** payments to needy, aged, blind and disabled Alaskans has again been cut by nearly \$7.5 million
- State funding is cut for **public radio and TV stations**, about \$2.7 million
- \$2 million in funding is cut for the **Nome Youth Facility**
- The budget for the **Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program** is cut by \$3 million
- Eliminated a one-time transfer of \$250,000 from the VPSO budget to fund a **victim-centered analysis of sexual assault and domestic violence in rural Alaska**
- State funding is eliminated for the **Alaska Wing of the Civil Air Patrol**, a cut of \$250,000
- About \$400,000 from the **Public Defender Agency**, plus another \$180,000 from the agency's travel budget
- Nearly \$47,000 was cut for **rural airport maintenance**
- \$30 million appropriation to the state's **community assistance fund**
- \$5 million for the **Alaska Marine Highway System**

AFN Fiscal Policy Advocacy Plan Outreach Toolkit

To help our members (and Alaskans) get involved with our state advocacy efforts, AFN developed a series of toolkits to prepare organizations and individuals to provide public input. The toolkits included an overview of AFN's 'Advocacy Plan,' sample email messages, sample testimony, sample talking points, contact information, and links to hearing schedules and other government information. Social media analytics show that the toolkits reached well beyond AFN's membership to the statewide Native community and other concerned citizens. Our outreach work will resume in the event of a third special session this fall, and ramp up for the next regular legislative session in January 2020.



AFN Impact Day

On May 7, AFN's CAAN committee traveled to Juneau for an 'Impact Day,' attending 18 meetings with members of the Legislature, two committee hearings, and a meeting in the Governor's office with Gina Ritacco, Director of Boards and Commissions and John Moller, Rural Policy Advisor to the Governor.

The trip was organized in response to Governor Dunleavy's Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposal, which as noted above made deep cuts and eliminations to vital programs and services which disproportionately affect Alaska Natives and rural Alaskans. Throughout the meetings, AFN focused on four budget priorities: public safety, healthcare, education, and infrastructure—asking legislators to protect and restore proposed cuts to these areas now and in next year's budget as well.

Alaska lawmakers conveyed that this was the beginning of a multi-year conversation, and offered ongoing support and ideas for relationship building and education opportunities between the Alaska Native communities and legislators. Most of the meetings included positive collaborative conversations, a commitment to build relationships, and gratitude towards AFN for mobilizing the Native community to respond to the budget and vetoes.

In the meeting with Boards and Commissions Director Gina Ritacco, Ms. Ritacco stated that the Administration is interested in increasing Alaska Native representation on Boards and Commissions. Between 1,200 and 1,400 positions are filled every year. Applicants prior to December 3, 2019 were removed after the Dunleavy Administration took office. Applicants appointed after December 3 need to email Ms. Ritacco to show continued interest in their respective positions.

Senate Bill 10 Extends Suicide Prevention Council

In January, Representatives Geran Tarr and Tiffany Zulkosky and Senator Scott Kawasaki pre-filed two bills, House Bill 22 and Senate Bill 10, to extend the termination date of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council (SSPC).

The SSPC uses Alaska based strategies that are informed by the most up to date research and data to enhance and coordinate suicide prevention efforts across Alaska. Suicide disproportionately affects the Alaska Native community and is the fifth leading cause of death in Alaska. As such, AFN strongly supported these bills. AFN representative

William Martin serves as a Vice Chair for the SSPC.

AFN sent letters in support of HB 22 and SB 10 and testified before the House Health & Social Services Committee in support of HB 22. Additionally, AFN advocated for the inclusion of an Alaska Native Health Board sponsored amendment to require that a seat on the SSPC be held by a representative of the tribal health system who is a subject matter expert. Though the amendment was not included, SB 10 passed both houses of the Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Dunleavy in July.

House Bill 14 Closes Sexual Assault Loopholes

In January, Representative John Lincoln and Senator Peter Micciche pre-filed two bills, House Bill 14 and Senate Bill 12, to close what Alaskans call the 'Schneider Loopholes.'

The bills stemmed from the case of non-Native Justin Schneider, who avoided jail time after kidnapping a Native woman, strangling her unconscious, and ejaculating on her. The judge in that case insisted the plea deal was proper due to the state's sexual assault laws, even though independent grounds existed for Judge Michael Corey to reject the plea. Judge Corey was not retained by voters, due in part to a grassroots campaign that AFN co-organized.

SB 12 sought to close the 'Schneider Loopholes' by: (1) classifying unwanted contact with semen as a sexual crime, and requiring perpetrators to register as sex offenders; (2) listing strangulation to the point of unconsciousness as assault in the first degree, which carries a sentence of 5 to 20 years; and (3) eliminate credit toward time served for electronic monitoring for sexual assault convictions. All of these provisions were also included in HB 14, which eventually became the vehicle for passage. AFN supported the bills because the domestic violence and sexual assault rates involving Alaska Native women is three times the national average.

AFN testified in support of the bills throughout the committee process, lobbied to have the bills included in the first special session, and worked closely with both Representative Lincoln and Senator Micciche's office to secure passage the passage of HB 14.

Governor Dunleavy signed HB 14 into law in July.



Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact Stalls Again: Fate Uncertain

As previously reported, annual negotiations between the State of Alaska and the Tribal co-signers over the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (Compact) broke down the week of May 13 after a series of missteps by the Dunleavy Administration, including changing its negotiations team at the last minute, going back on previously negotiated scopes of work, requiring excessive insurance policies, and suggesting a complicated funding proposal. An agreement was reached shortly before the end of the 2019 fiscal year; however, celebration was clouded by the State's request to re-open the Compact for major amendments, including Article 10, Tribal Sovereign Immunity.

AFN has been involved in the Compact from the outset, filling many different roles, and continues to facilitate negotiations. As the Facilitator, AFN cautioned the State against reopening the Compact to amendments, noting the waiver of tribal sovereign immunity section was particularly difficult to negotiate—and there were not grounds to reopen it.

On September 7, the State sent AFN (as the Facilitator) and the Tribal Co-Signers a letter outlining its intent to reopen five sections to the Compact to 'promote a more fair and sustainable business partnership,' including the Preamble, Recitals, Article 1 – Purpose and Scope, Article 6 – Non-Financial Program Support and Operational Shared Services, and Article 10 – Sovereign Immunity, Insurance, and Other Risk Management. No incident prompted the request, and when pressed for a reason the State's new Co-Lead Negotiator John Moller, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Dunleavy, stated only that 'there was an election.'

The Tribal co-signers have asked their attorneys to review the State's September 7 letter. It is uncertain whether the Compact will survive the State's request.

CAAN Work Sessions

CAAN held a series of six work sessions over the summer, continuing work on the state budget and its federal priorities.

The July work sessions focused on the Governor's vetoes, and updating committee members on the special legislative session. CAAN members provided a strong voice in restoring funding to Head Start programs. In August and

September, CAAN worked on public safety solutions, preparing materials and talking points for Assistant U.S. Secretary of Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney's visit to Alaska. They also hosted a work session attended by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charisse Arce and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sara Gray who provided an update on the June 28 U.S. Department of Justice Public Safety Emergency Declaration, and the Co-Chairs of the Legislative Village Public Safety Officer Working Group, Senator Donny Olson and Representative Chuck Kopp. Additionally, CAAN met with Amber Ebarb, Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Murkowski and Quinton Carroll, Legislative Assistant for U.S. Senator Sullivan to review CAAN's appropriation requests and to review pending federal priorities.

CAAN will meet next on September 27 to take up committee sponsored resolutions. CAAN also formed a retreat working group over the summer which has met telephonically. The CAAN retreat is scheduled for November 18-19 in Anchorage.

MILITARY ENGAGEMENT: A NEW ERA

A new era of critical relationship building between the Alaska Native community and the military is in full swing. With the very real threats to the United States becoming clearer, a major shift in U.S. National Security policy, the unprecedented military buildup in Alaska and Russia, the opening of transportation corridors because of receding sea ice, the rapid growth and changes in technology, it is absolutely critical that the Native community has a seat at the table. To strengthen the relationship, AFN hosted two roundtables, one on June 6 and the other on August 28, titled 'Northernmost Border Security Roundtables' (NBSR) on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.



The June 6 Roundtable focused on China and China's intentions in the Arctic. The August 28 NBSR focused on Russia and U.S. energy policy in the Arctic. Both roundtables included a keynote presentation from Rodger Baker, Senior Vice President of STRATFOR, and from Alaskan Command Commander Lt. General Thomas Bussiere. U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, Congressman Don Young, and U.S. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt participated in the first roundtable via teleconference. The second roundtable included key note presentations from NORAD Commander General O'Shaughnessy, and ConocoPhillips Vice President of Governmental Affairs John Dabbar. U.S. Department of Energy Deputy Secretary Dan Brouillette attended and proposed a follow up meeting with AFN in Washington, D.C.. Also, Senator Lisa Murkowski participated in person during the second roundtable.

These roundtables are critical to AFN's growing partnership with the military to address the many issues facing our people, including national security and foreign involvement in the Arctic. AFN is also strengthening our relationship with the FBI, and other federal agencies, to get a clearer picture of threats, including cyber security, illegal opioid importation, human trafficking, and missing and murdered Alaskans.

Full written reports from both roundtables are available, as well as key documents assembled as 'pre-reads' before each event. A special effort was undertaken by AFN on erosion, rural public safety, and compacting and contracting.

U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan have thanked AFN for hosting these events, and requested that planning for 'Alaska Day 2020' next January be three times the size of our summer roundtables to maximize the impacts and raise critical awareness of Alaska's needs.

On August 28, AFN also honored Lt. General Thomas Bussiere with a naming ceremony. The ceremony recognized his commitment to protecting our country, and safety of our people, as well as his courageous code of ethics and morals that align with our traditional Native values.

Lt. General Bussiere serves as the Commander, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, North American Aerospace Defense Command;

Commander, Alaskan Command, U.S. Northern Command; Commander, Eleventh Air Force, Pacific Air Forces at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

He was bestowed with the following Native names: 'Litseenikaa,' a Tlingit name meaning Powerful Person, Strong Man; an Inupiat name, 'Alongnonnuq,' meaning an unexpected, distinguished visitor or a pleasant surprise that was not anticipated; and a Yup'ik name, 'Evuneq,' meaning a stationary solid ice structure, place of safety and direction in possible danger.

A special performance by the Tsimshian group Git Hoan Dancers was one of the highlights of the ceremony, showcasing several dances with drumming and singing, high energy, enthusiastic spirit, which demonstrated their rich living culture.

CONVENTION UPDATE

2019 AFN Convention to Focus on #GoodGovernment, #AlaskanDriven

In a strong tie-in to AFN's 'Advocacy Plan,' the AFN board selected 'Good Government, Alaskan Driven' as the theme for this year's convention. The plenary agenda will explore all aspects of what good government is and should be, focusing on the core program areas that affect Alaska Natives, namely: public education, public health, public safety, infrastructure, and public welfare. Close looks at Alaska's economy, a balanced solution to the current budget gap, and the Permanent Fund Dividend are also scheduled. The agenda is designed to facilitate fact-based examination, frank discussion, and inspiration for AFN delegates and membership.

Planning and preparations for our 53rd annual convention, which will be held October 17-19 at the Carlson Center in Fairbanks, are in full swing. AFN is working closely with Explore Fairbanks and community committees, who go out of their way to create a hospitable environment for our delegates and participants.

Resolutions: Deadline Approaching

The 2019 Resolutions deadline is Friday, September 20. Following submissions, the Resolutions Committee will meet on September 26, September 30, and October 3 for discussion and approval. Delegates will vote on the resolutions the morning of Saturday, October 19.



AFN is preparing the '2018 Resolutions Follow Up Report' for the Convention, and plans to include it in the October 11 board materials. Resolutions can be submitted via to resolutions@nativefederation.org. The [resolutions policy](#) and [form](#) are available electronically, and should be carefully reviewed. For more information, please contact Ben Mallott at bmallott@nativefederation.org or (907) 263-1308.

Credential Report: Quorum Reached

As of September 12, all 12 regional Native for-profit corporations paid their dues (100%), all 12 regional Native non-profit organizations paid their dues (100%), 139 of the 247 village for-profit village Native corporations paid their dues (55%), and 137 of the 248 Alaska Native tribes paid their dues (56%). AFN has worked hard over the last few years to encourage members to pay before arriving at convention to speed up the registration process. The total votes paid is 80%, which means we have a quorum for our 2019 Annual Convention.

The membership chart below compare this year's numbers to 2016, the last time convention was held in Fairbanks:

| Organization | 2016 Final | 2019 (as of 9/12/19) |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Tribes | 152 | 137 |
| Village Corporations | 152 | 139 |
| Regional Non-Profits | 12 | 12 |
| Regional Corporations | 12 | 12 |

Customary Art Fair Spaces Sold Out

The 104 artist tables in the Pavilion at the Carlson Center are reserved and a waiting list established. Sale hours are 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, October 17-18, and 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19. For more information Please contact Nicole James at njames@nativefederation.org or (907) 274-3611.

Exhibitor Spaces Sold Out

Booths for the Exhibit Booth Fair are also sold out. Exhibiting is an excellent opportunity to outreach and market your organization, product, services, and programs to AFN delegates, members, and attendees. Just over 70 exhibitors—non-profits, educational institutions, and federal and state agencies—will be featured this year at the Carlson Center. Please contact Trina Landlord at tlandlord@nativefederation.org or (907) 263-1307 to learn more about how to exhibit at our convention.

Convention Guide Cover Is Theme Inspired



An iconic image of Dr. Rosita Worl, Tlingit from Juneau and the President of the Sealaska Heritage Institute, has been transformed into a stylized illustration that supports our convention theme of 'Good Government, Alaskan Driven' to inspire and empower Alaska Native people—our biggest asset.

The illustration instills a sense of cultural pride, represents traditional values, self-governance, and a responsibility to advance our people and protect our way of life. The strong imagery underlines Dr. Worl's life's work in advancing Native civic equality, reestablishing a commitment to Native identity and community, asserting our rightful place in the world at large as Native peoples, and building our capacity for creative, positive change as Alaska Natives.

Fundraising: Goal Achieved

AFN is proud to report that we reached our 2019 convention fundraising goal on September 12. A big thank you to our board members and membership for your generous sponsorship in helping us accomplish this task. Over 80 sponsors contributed, 26 of which are new.

Your investment in AFN makes our work possible, and demonstrates your commitment to the Native community. We value strengthening our relationships. Companies and organizations like yours enables AFN to convene a high quality, accessible convention. Please contact Trina Landlord at tlandlord@nativefederation.org or (907) 263-1307 to learn more about ways you can support our convention.

Qagaasakung, Quyana, Quyanaq, Quyanaa, Haw'aa, Way Dankoo, Gunalchéesh, Tsinaen, Dogedinh, Mahsi', Baasee', Chin'an, Tsin'ee, Thank you!

Side Meetings Scheduling Underway

Side meetings that coincide with the Convention's plenary agenda are in the planning stages. Potential meetings include Assistant U.S. Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney, U.S. Administration for Native Americans Commissioner Jeannie Hovland, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, Commander of Alaska Command Lieutenant General Thomas Bussiere, FBI Special Agent in Charge of the Anchorage Field Office Jeffery Peterson, and a meeting with the Alaska State Legislative Village Public Safety Officer Working Group. Please contact Kelsey Potdevin at kpotdevin@nativefederation.org or (907) 263-1306 for meeting times and locations.

Quyana Alaska

The line ups and emcees for Quyana Alaska, Thursday, October 17 and Friday, October 18 at the Carlson Center, have been selected.

Ben Nemqerralria Anderson-Agimuk and Miss World Eskimo Indian Olympics 2019 Lorraine Cakataar Tom will emcee Quyana Alaska on Thursday evening. Seven groups from around Alaska will perform, including Di'haii Gwich'in Dancers, Iñu-Yupiaq Dance Group, Minto Dancers, Nagsragmiut Inland Eskimo Dancers, Dlul Hutaaneets Hut'aane Chegedelee, Mount Saint Elias Dancers, and Ovluaq Dance Group.

Tonya Garnett and Donetta Tritt who make up the duo "But We're So Happy" will host Quyana Alaska on Friday Evening. The line up for Friday includes Manley Hot Springs Traditional Dancers, Tanana Traditional Dancers, Taġiuġmiut Dancers, Nelson Island School Dancers, Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers, and Tikigaq Traditional Dancers. Anna Sattler David will host the television coverage on both nights.

Tickets are \$10 per person/per evening, (children under 5 are free). Tickets for Quyana 1 will go on sale at the Carlson Center Box Office on Thursday, October 17 at 9:30 a.m. until noon. If not sold out sales will resume after lunch. On Friday, October 18 tickets for Quyana 2 will go on sale at 9:30 a.m. until sold out, with sales resuming after the lunch hour if not sold out by noon. Please contact Kelsey Potdevin at kpotdevin@nativefederation.org or (907) 263-1306 for more information.

Banquet Planning Underway

The AFN Banquet will take place on Saturday evening, October 19 at the Carlson Center from 7:00–9:00 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. With about 1,000 attendees, the banquet provides an opportunity for leaders and partners to gather for a social evening of entertainment and celebration. Please reserve your banquet table soon! Nicole James is happy to help, and may be reached at njames@nativefederation.org or (907) 274-3611. 10 seats per table. VIP Table \$2,000 | Gold Table \$1,500 | Silver Table \$1,200 | Individual seats \$100.

Convention Coverage on Public TV and Radio:

The 2019 Annual Convention will be broadcast live on statewide television to every Alaskan village and city via GCI cable, ARCS, and 360 North, as well as livestreamed to some 70 countries worldwide via AFN's website. A live dialogue chatroom will be available to webcast viewers. AFN's gavel-to-gavel coverage includes in-depth interviews and analysis provided by broadcast hosts Sharon McConnell, Sharon Hildebrand, and Anna Sattler David. Statewide public radio coverage is provided by Koahnic Broadcast Corporation.

Broadcast dates and times

Thursday and Friday, October 17 & 18

Convention 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Quyana Alaska 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 19

Convention 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

AFN Convention App Under Construction

The AFN App will again be available to smartphone users. The app is loaded with useful information including an updated agenda, Quyana lineup, venue maps, lists of artists and exhibitors, and sponsor acknowledgment. It will be available at the Apple App Store and Google Play as soon as it is launched in late September.

Volunteers: Opportunity Awaits

Explore Fairbanks is assisting staff in soliciting local volunteers for the AFN Convention. There are many opportunities to volunteer, and individuals can [sign up online](#). Additionally, each regional corporation plans to provide two staff members to assist with delegate registration, which AFN sincerely appreciates.



AFN Citizen of the Year Award and the Denali Award: Honorees Selected

The Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors selected Alaska State Senator Lyman Hoffman as AFN's 2019 Citizen of the Year Award Winner, and Tim Troll as AFN's 2019 Denali Award Winner. The awards will be presented Thursday morning, October 17.

AFN President's Awards: Honorees Selected

Seven Alaska Natives will be honored in the President's Awards ceremony, scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19. The Convention Committee selected: (1) Benjamin Young, Culture Bearer; (2) Dorcus Rock, Della Keats 'Healing Hands'; (3) Nina Nasruk Harvey, Elder of the Year; (4) Ulric and Mary Ulroan, Parents of the Year; (5) Caitlynn Helen Tautuk Hanna, Lu Young Youth Leadership; (6) Chief Gary Harrison, Public Service; and (7) Amber Webb, Dr. Walter Soboleff 'Warriors of Light.' Congratulations to the honorees and their families.

Travel: Make Arrangements Now

Because hotel room availability is limited in Fairbanks, AFN strongly encourages attendees make their reservations now. [Explore Fairbanks' website](#) has an updated [vacancy list](#), as well as a list of shuttle bus schedules and other useful information.

IN APPRECIATION

A huge thanks to the AFN board and staff. Each of these areas require time and energy to push forward Alaska Native solutions. It has not been easy. A sincere thank you to:

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OTHER UPDATES

Bylaws: Amendment Pending

As a follow up from the August 23 Executive Governance Committee (EG) meeting, AFN is working on a suggested amendment to the AFN Bylaws to reconcile the intent of AFN Resolution 17-38 with the bylaw change adopted by the board in 2017.

Resolution 17-38 prevents the AFN board from endorsing political candidates without the approval of the delegates, with a 14-day notice, and with a three-fourths majority. It can be argued that Resolution 17-38 infringes on the right of the Board to manage AFN.

The EG Committee discussed ways to resolve the conflict and recommend that AFN's endorsement policy and potential bylaw change be included on the October board meeting agenda.

