

Monthly President's Report



December 2013

Dear AFN Co-Chairs, Board Members & Membership,

As we approach the holidays and the end of 2013, we look back with gratitude for the support of our allies and the strength of our communities. We are inspired by the legacy of the great leaders we have lost and by the promise of new leaders emerging.

We move forward now into 2014 with a renewed sense of determination. Attacks on our way of life have mounted and the urgency of our need to act with unity has never been greater.

2014 will begin with subsistence defense. AFN will host a focused, one-day Leadership Retreat that our board is planning for early February. This high-level convening will be crafted to provide our community's leaders with a detailed overview of our strategic options for 2014 as well as ample time to discuss the best way forward and establish a plan of action. Please read on for more year-end updates and a look forward at what lies ahead...

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UPCOMING

**LEADERSHIP RETREAT
ON SUBSISTENCE**
February, 3 2014 | 8am-4pm
Anchorage Marriott Downtown
Anchorage, Alaska



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Subsistence

AFN LEADERSHIP RETREAT ON SUBSISTENCE | FEBRUARY 3, 2014

On November 4, 2013, the State of Alaska escalated the timeline for subsistence action with its petition to the US Supreme Court for writ of certiorari seeking to reverse the Ninth Circuit's *Katie John* decision.

The AFN Board will host a leadership-level gathering in early 2014 to expand understanding of the paths forward toward protecting our peoples' legal rights and opportunities to live our lives free from fear. During this one-day event, we will hear from legal experts and subsistence leaders, discuss options, and determine the actions necessary to defend our essential rights.

The involvement of Native and non-Native leaders from every region and representing every interested organization or group will be critical as we move forward. We request your continued leadership in protecting our rights to live well in our homeland, continue our traditions, and feed our families.

The AFN Leadership Retreat on Subsistence will be held on **February 3, 2014, at the Anchorage Marriott Downtown from 8am to 4pm** with breakfast beginning at 7am and a working lunch. Participants will include Alaska Native leaders from across the state and key decision makers who will shape the future of Alaska.

More information, including a detailed agenda, will be available in early January.

A PDF invitation is attached. Please visit the AFN website to RSVP today (note that this is a leadership-level gathering and, as such, space is limited - thank you!):

[http://www.
nativefederation.org/
subsistence-retreat/](http://www.nativefederation.org/subsistence-retreat/)



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2014 AFN Convention

RISE AS ONE

In early December, our board officially announced that our 2014 Convention will take place October 23-25, 2014 at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage.

Our 2014 Convention theme will be "Rise as One."

Speakers at our 2013 Convention in Fairbanks again and again called for unity. Again and again, our brightest leaders rallied the attending crowd to work together for a better shared future for our people. We will answer the call of our elders and leaders in 2014, and rally together with a theme that our allies in the lower 48 and Hawaii have also shared. Our people will come together next year, truly united... rising as one.

Watch our RISE AS ONE video and read the full press release announcing our 2014 Convention

theme at: <http://www.nativefederation.org/2013/12/06/afn-board-of-directors-selects-theme-and-dates-for-2014-convention/>

"Rise as One is all about coming together, working together, meeting the challenges together."

- Sheri Buretta, Chair
AFN Convention Committee



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Resolutions Follow-Up

AFN staff track all Convention Resolutions -- along with each resolution's area of jurisdiction, recommended associated actions, and follow-up progress -- in an interactive planning grid that is updated in real-time. Each month we will include updates in this new section of the President's Report to keep you abreast of progress being made to advance our members' priorities.

The following are a few examples of resolutions follow-up that has taken place since the end of October. Please look for further updates in the new year!

Resolutions 13-3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are Subsistence Committee priorities.

13-3 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO REDUCE THE CHINOOK BY-CATCH TO NO MORE THAN 15,000, SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AND PRIORITIZING ACCESS FOR SPECIFIED SUBSISTENCE USERS TO ENHANCE ESCAPEMENT

AREA: Federal/State – Subsistence

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Letter to be sent to Alaska's Delegation, ADF&G and NPFMC. Resolution action considered in Subsistence committee.

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Letters drafted (pending approval and delivery after the holidays)

13-4 PROTECTION OF ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE PRIORITY IN FEDERAL REVIEW OF RURAL QUALIFICATION CRITERIA AND CURRENT FAILURE OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONGRESSIONAL INTENT FOR TITLE VIII OF ANILCA

AREA: Federal – Subsistence

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Letter to be sent to Alaska's Delegation and Sec. Jewell. Rural Qualification criteria already address in previous letters and AFN materials/priorities. Resolution sent to Subsistence Committee.

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Petition delivered to Brian Deese, Jodi Gillette and Charlie Galbraith in the White House; and mailed to Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. Letter sent asking the delegation to put language funding an NAS study into a legislative bill early November for petition, 12/19/13 for NAS study letter.

13-5 REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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AREA: State - Subsistence

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Letter to be sent to Governor and Alaska Legislature Resolution sent to Subsistence Committee.

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Letter drafted (pending approval and delivery after the holidays)

13-7 FEDERAL PRIORITY OF INDIGENOUS HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING AND GATHERING

AREA: Federal – subsistence

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Federal Priority has been a continuing priority of AFN Resolution sent to Subsistence Committee.

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Leadership Retreat on Subsistence planned for February 2014 to address this and State's actions in the Supreme Court.

Resolutions 13-8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 28, 29, 40 and 41 are CAAN priorities.

13-8 ALASKA SAFE FAMILIES AND VILLAGES ACT OF 2013 AND REPEAL OF SECTION 910 OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

AREA: Federal – Health, Safety, Wellness

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Resolution action considered in CAAN meeting and letters to be sent to Senator Begich and Senator Murkowski. AFN staff is also coordinating efforts with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center.

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Coordinated with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and waiting on a joint letter.

13-9 IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION (NAHASDA) 2013 & 2014 FISCAL YEAR FUNDING

AREA: Federal – Health, Safety, Wellness

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Continuing resolution priority from 2012. Resolution action considered in CAAN meeting and letters to be sent to Alaska's Delegation and administration.

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Letter written (pending approval and delivery after the holidays)

13-11 TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION EQUITY ACT AND UTILIZE ALL LEGISLATIVE TOOLS TO ENSURE THAT FUNDING IS ADMINISTERED BY ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

AREA: Federal – Health, Safety, Wellness

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Continuing resolution priority from 2012. Resolution action

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considered in CAAN meeting and letters to be sent to Alaska's Delegation. Combine with 13-16.

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Letter written (pending approval and delivery following the holidays)

13-14 PROTECT ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN

AREA: Federal – Health, Safety, Wellness

RECOMMENDED ACTION: VAWA is a continuing AFN priority. Resolution action considered in CAAN priorities. AFN staff is also coordinating efforts with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center.

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Coordinated with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and waiting on a joint letter.

13-17 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF THE RURAL ALASKA VILLAGE GRANT SANITATION FACILITIES PROGRAM

AREA: Federal/State - Health, Safety, Wellness

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Letter to be sent to the Alaska's Delegation, Governor and State of Alaska Legislature. Further action to be considered in CAAN priorities development.

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Letter written (pending approval).

13-18 A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE FULL IMPACT OF POTENTIAL MEDICAID EXPANSION IS CONSIDERED AND TO TAKE COMPLETE ADVANTAGE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES TO EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY

AREA: State- Health, Safety, Wellness

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Letter to be sent to Governor Parnell and Alaska State Legislature. Further action to be considered in CAAN priorities development.

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Letter written (pending approval).

Other Issue Areas

13-35 SUPPORTING THE FAIRBANKS FOUR

AREA: State - Other

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Fairbanks Four was considered in previous L&L committee and a letter will be sent to Governor Parnell to Pardon the Four. Another letter sent to the DOJ to review the case (Senator Murkowski already followed up with this action).

RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN: Copy of the letter sent to Bill at Alaska Innocence and waiting for feedback.

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Advocacy Update

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS' MEMORIAL AMENDMENTS ACT

Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013 has passed the House and moved on to the Senate. The Act would amend the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994 to authorize the construction of the National Native American Veterans' Memorial on the property of the National Museum of the American Indian (currently, its location is restricted to the interior structure of the Museum). The Act would authorize the Museum to participate in the selection of the Memorial's design, on more than a consultative basis, with the National Congress of American Indians. It would also make the Museum and the National Congress of American Indians responsible for accepting contributions for, and paying the expenses of, establishing the Memorial.

DUCK STAMPS

Senator Mark Begich has introduced legislation to increase the price of federal duck stamps purchased annually by hunters. Begich said it will be a "fair adjustment" to hike the price from the current \$15 to a proposed \$25, and possibly to \$30 within the next five years. In an email release, Begich said the price hasn't changed since 1991.

However, Begich supports waiving Alaska Native subsistence hunters from needing to purchase the federal duck stamps altogether, a provision which has been requested by AFN. The legislation is cosponsored by Senators Chris Coons (D-DE), Max Baucus (D-MT), and Jon Tester (D-MT), and has been supported by Ducks Unlimited.

FOSTER CARE

Tanana Chiefs Conference has entered into a first-of-its-kind agreement with the State of Alaska that recognizes the ability of the tribal organization to provide foster care services to its own citizens.

Tanana Chiefs Conference and its associated 37 tribes will now have access to federal Title IV-E funds to help pay some costs associated with housing children in tribal-licensed foster homes. That means an additional \$300,000 to \$400,000 annually in federal reimbursements within the next three to five years, according to Don Shircel, director of client development for TCC. He said that's money that can now be freed up to help better develop other TCC child-welfare programs. (source: Alaska Dispatch, read more at <http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/20131218/historic-agreement-opens-federal-funds-tribal-foster-care>)

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Opportunities

NOMINATION OF KEITH HARPER

In early December, AFN submitted a letter voicing our strong support for the nomination and confirmation of Keith Harper to the position of United States Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Mr. Harper, if confirmed, will be the first Native person to serve as a United States Ambassador. Read more in the full letter attached.

NATIVE CORPORATIONS AND VALUES AT U OF A

University of Alaska Anchorage will be offering a new course in spring of 2014, "Traditional Values & The Modern Alaska Native Corporation." This new course will explore the use of modern corporations and their applications to traditional societies in Alaska. Read more in the attached flyer.

INSURANCE PLAN RENEWAL

The AFN Plan renewal will be mailed out to you shortly, please look it over carefully as there are some changes due to the new, mandated underwriting methodology set forth by the Affordable Care Act legislation.

AFN is introducing several new enhanced benefits:

- Medical Travel Support to Seattle provides more access to medical procedures in Seattle for Alaska residence.
- Tele-medicine will be available beginning April 1st. Access will include connecting with a physician by phone or video conference. More information to come.
- Employee Assistance Program will include several valuable services including confidential counseling.
- Short Term Disability coverage will now have six (6) different options and our premiums have NOT increased.
- All participating employers will be granted free access to our monthly Human Resource newsletter along with a gigantic library of HR information.

The due date for the election form is earlier this year because of the changes mentioned above. **The election form must be submitted by February 28th.** Open enrollment for groups conducting this process can still use March. Please refer questions to the Wallace Insurance Group: (907) 272-0114 | www.wallaceinsurancegroup.com

ALASKA'S FUTURE

...EXPLORING MODERN CORPORATION



Traditional Values & The Modern Alaska Native Corporation (39437)

Spring 2014 Elective, PADM 671-002
Meets Fridays (5-9p) Feb. 14 and
Saturdays (8a-5p) Feb. 15

This short course will explore the use of the modern corporation and its application to traditional societies in Alaska. Students will have an opportunity to discuss the corporation in the context of cultures and... had little or no experience with business corporations.

While Hensley has worked for Alaska Pipeline Service Company, he served as Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development and served on the Oil and Gas Policy Council, the Board of Directors of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, Alaska Railroad Corporation and the Alaska Industrial Development Authority. Hensley also served for 10 years in the Alaska Legislature, 4 years in the House and 6 years in the Senate. He was a leader of BMA Regional Corporation, director for 20 years and finally president. Hensley helped form the Alaska Federation of Natives, serving as Executive Director, President and Co-Chairman. Hensley is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees of the First Alutians Institute and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Chukotka College. Hensley is the author of Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People, published by Forge, Simon and Schuster.

UAA College of Business and Public Policy
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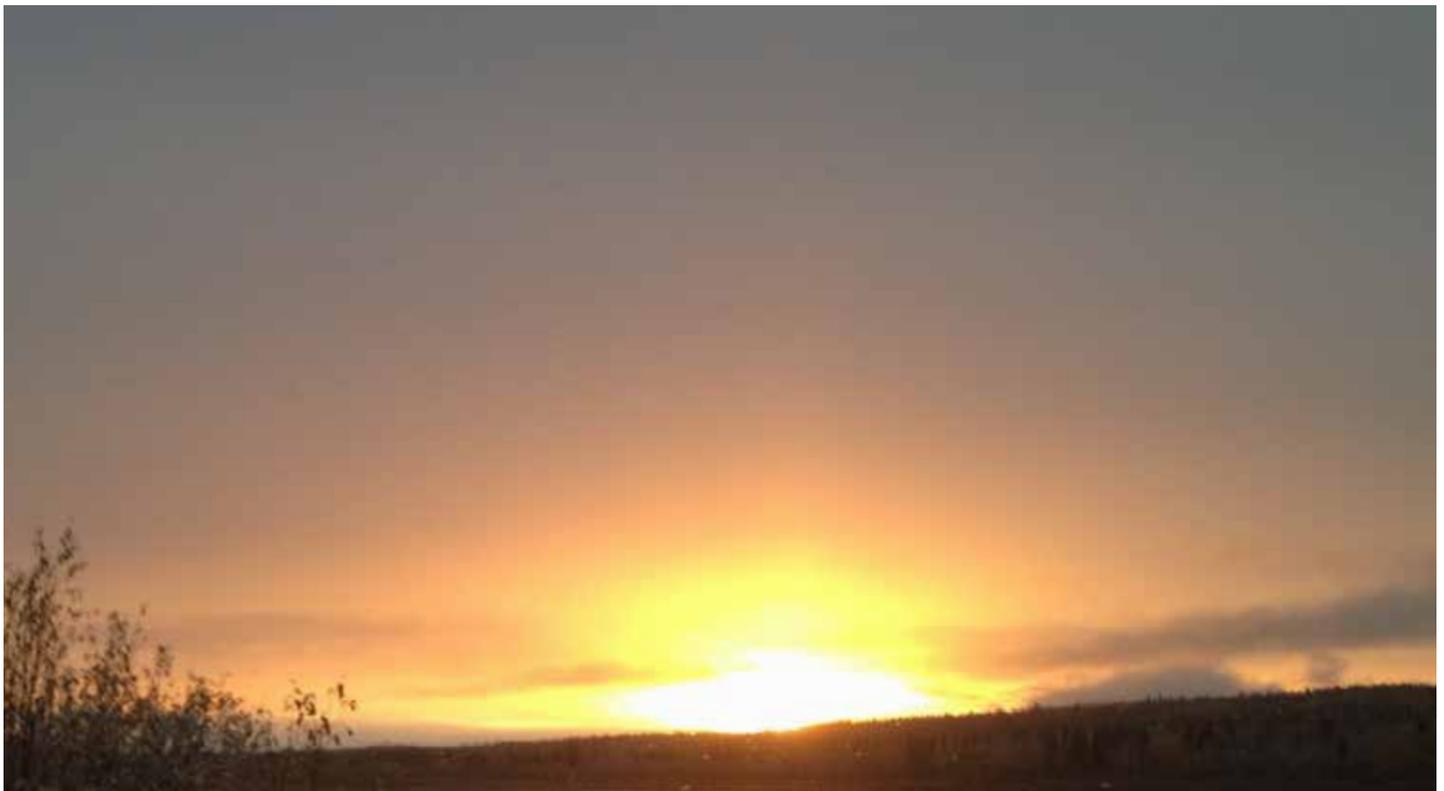
Thank You

From the AFN staff here in Anchorage, thank you for all you contributed to the advancement of our peoples in 2013. Thank you for your time, your resources, your energy, and your passion. We look forward to meeting the challenges ahead with one united Native voice and with a level of commitment from our Native leadership equal or stronger than we have ever seen before. We look forward to rising with you, as one, in 2014.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays and a healthy, fulfilling new year.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka



Alaska Federation of Natives

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





Leadership Retreat on Subsistence | Feb. 3, 2014

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) and the AFN Subsistence Committee, it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in an **AFN Leadership Retreat on Subsistence, which will be held on February 3, 2014**, at the Anchorage Marriott Downtown from 8am to 4pm with a working lunch and breakfast beginning at 7am. Participants will include Alaska Native leaders from across the state and key decision makers, such as you, who will shape the future of Alaska.

As you know, subsistence is the foundation of Alaska Native cultures and is the mainstay of food security in rural Alaska. On November 4, 2013, the State of Alaska escalated the timeline for subsistence action with its petition to the US Supreme Court for writ of certiorari seeking to reverse the Ninth Circuit's *Katie John* decision.

The AFN Board is hosting this gathering to expand understanding of the paths forward toward protecting our peoples' legal rights and opportunities to live their lives free of fear. Your involvement moving forward will be critical and we request your continued leadership in protecting our rights to live well in our homeland, continue our traditions, and feed our families.

Please RSVP by visiting www.nativefederation.org/subsistence-retreat/ to let us know if you will be available to participate. More information, including a detailed agenda, will be available in early January. Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,

Julie Kitka, President
Alaska Federation of Natives



December 5, 2013

Senator Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mark Begich
United States Senate
111 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Keith Harper as United States Ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Council

Dear Senators Murkowski and Begich:

The Alaska Federation of Natives writes to voice its strong support for the nomination and confirmation of Keith Harper to the position of United States Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Mr. Harper is a universally recognized advocate for Native peoples throughout the United States. He has worked his entire career to advance the interests of tribal communities and seek the protection of the civil and human rights of Native Americans. Whether before international fora such as the United Nations or the Organization of American States or in federal court, Mr. Harper has repeatedly fought for securing tribal sovereignty and protecting the cultural integrity of indigenous peoples.

This is a critical time for securing and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples. As you are aware, the United Nations is holding the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in the Fall of 2014. We are presently engaged in preparatory meetings for that Conference. Mr. Harper has a deep comprehension of issues impacting Indigenous Peoples generally and Native Americans specifically. He will be a credible and powerful voice within the State Department as we prepare for the World Conference. His swift confirmation will ensure the United States can secure maximum benefit from Mr. Harper's participation.

Furthermore, the UNHRC is a body dedicated to the promotion of human rights around the globe. It is essential that the United States has a person at the UNHRC who will stand up for human rights of all people and who is dedicated to preserving and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable. Mr. Harper is an ideal selection. He is a forceful advocate but also a person who

throughout his career has served the interests of some of the most vulnerable in the United States – tribal communities.

AFN has participated in various sessions before the United Nations and other multilateral fora. Too often, we have found a fundamental lack of understanding of the human rights associated with indigenous peoples. So we welcome the nomination of an Ambassador to the UNHRC who understands all the nuances and particularities of the rights of indigenous communities.

That Mr. Harper, if confirmed, will be the first Native person to serve as a United States Ambassador is even more reason to support this highly qualified candidate. For all these reasons, AFN asks that you support Mr. Harper's nomination and that you work with your colleagues to see that he is confirmed as soon as possible.

Best regards,



Julie Kitka, President
Alaska Federation of Natives

ALASKA'S FUTURE

...EXPLORING MODERN CORPORATION



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This short course will explore the use of the modern corporation and its application to traditional societies in Alaska. Students will have an opportunity to discuss the corporation in the context of cultures and had little or no experience with business corporations.

Willie Hensley has worked for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, he served as Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development and served on the Oil and Gas Policy Council, the Board of Directors of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, Alaska Railroad Corporation and the Alaska Industrial Development Authority. Hensley also served for 10 years in the Alaska Legislature; 4 years in the House and 6 years in the Senate. He was a founder of NANA Regional Corporation, director for 20 years and finally president. Hensley helped form the Alaska Federation of Natives, serving as Executive Director, President and Co-Chairman. Hensley is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees of the First Alaskans Institute and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Charter College. Hensley is the author of *Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People*, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

*“you have to
understand
where you have
been before you
can see where
you are going”*



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