



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

EXECUTIVE SPRING REPORT, MAY 2023

AFN Overview and Benefits

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Formed in 1966 to settle land claims, AFN continues to be an important advocate and voice of Alaska Natives in addressing critical issues of public policy and government.

AFN is our statewide organization that represents all Alaska Natives, regardless of tribal affiliation or geographic location. This gives AFN a powerful voice in the state and federal government to advocate for unified positions within the Native community - it could be subsistence, education, health care, housing, social services, land management issues, homeland security, and public safety. This includes advocating with key decision-makers in the U.S. Congress, our federal administration, the Alaska State Legislature, or the Governor's office. AFN builds coalitions and seeks partners in all its work; working together we are strong. Many hands make light work.

Being a member of AFN strengthens our ability to ensure our members are at the table on state and federal levels of decision-making, as well as:

AFN membership helps support programs and initiatives that are making a difference in your community. Below are some key examples of this work and additional information that is included in this report.

Multiple workshops and listening sessions for AFN members outside of the Annual Convention.

You can review past workshops and other AFN videos by [clicking here](#).

AFN builds community. AFN provides a forum for Alaska Natives to come together and share their experiences, learn from each other, and build community through events such as our Annual Convention and special events like Alaska Day in Washington, D.C., and multiple roundtables throughout the year. This is important because it helps Alaska Natives to feel connected statewide. Being an AFN member is critical for AFN to host these events and ensure our people, communities, and organizations are represented.

2023 AFN Alaska Day Follow-up and Report – see page 3

Table of Contents

Convention Update	2
New Subsistence Committee Chair	2
Alaska Day 2023 Final Report	3
Subsistence Committee Update	4
Final Spend Plan	5
Opposition to HB 83	5
2023 Farm Bill	6
AFN Testified on 14(c)3 Bill	7
Federal Toolkit	7
AFN Testified in Senate Committee	8
CAAN Committee Update	8
AFN Welcomes PVS to Alaska	9
Pending Issues	10



You can watch the [2022 Convention here!](#)

2023 AFN Convention Planning Update

The 2023 AFN Annual Convention is scheduled for October 19-21, 2023 in Anchorage. The theme and keynote will be selected by the AFN Board in May. However, planning has been underway since March.

The Arts & Crafts Show sold out in only two weeks, so there will be additional artist tables on the second floor of the Dena'ina Center. This allows for more artists to be able to sell their arts & crafts, and support their families.

There are 90 exhibitor booths that have been on sale for federal and state agencies and industry partners.

Quyana Nights is an exciting feature of our convention each year. The application period for dance groups is open until May 23, 2023 (can be extended if needed). Typically AFN showcases 14 dance groups for this event. There is still room for your dance group. Get your application in today.

The health fair is being planned with partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the Southcentral Foundation. Last year, the health fair administered COVID vaccines and flu shots, along with free take home COVID tests and information on health services offered.



Gayla Hoseth



Tom Tilden

New Subsistence Committee Chair

AFN is proud to announce that Bristol Bay Village Representative, Gayla Hoseth, was appointed by AFN Co-Chairs Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson as the new chair of the AFN Subsistence Committee. Gayla will be taking over chairing the AFN Subsistence Committee from Tom Tilden, who recently stepped down from the AFN Board of Directors.

AFN expresses our heartfelt gratitude to Tom Tilden for his decades of service on the AFN Board of Directors and as Chair of the Subsistence Committee. As Chair of the Subsistence Committee, Tom worked tirelessly to protect and preserve subsistence rights for Alaska Native people. Tom's dedication and his unwavering commitment to the subsistence rights of Alaska Native people is truly inspiring. Again, we thank Tom for his years of service to AFN and the Alaska Native people.



Senator Lisa Murkowski and AFN Co-Chair Ana Hoffman



Lt. General David A. Krumm, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, and Ambassador David Balton



Lt. General David A. Nahom



Emil Notti and Willie Hensley

Follow Up Report for Alaska Day 2023 - Challenges at the Northernmost Border: A Focus on Getting the Right Priorities Resourced

In March, AFN hosted our first in-person Alaska Day event in Washington, D.C., since 2020. Alaska Day 2023 focused on supporting and enhancing the President’s National Strategy for the Arctic. Raising the urgency of prioritizing and resourcing critical infrastructure, resilience, and preparedness, economic, energy, and food security. Seeks support to prioritize already appropriated funds to expedite addressing critical needs, including dual-use infrastructure. Facilitating bringing together the Native peoples of Alaska, with federal and state officials, the military with responsibility for Alaska, and the private sector with their capabilities to innovate and help.

Alaska Day 2023 was dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Oliver Leavitt. Throughout the two days of meetings, six cabinet members, five senior White House officials, a total of 4 Four Star Generals, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, plus members of the Hawaii Congressional Delegation, and members of the Alaska State Legislature participated with AFN members. You can review the 278-page final report by clicking [here](#). A roadmap for action is being developed as part of the follow-up. Common ground was found with the White House on the need to deploy resources quickly. Critical meetings will be held in Washington, DC and in Alaska to ensure the maximum available resources get obligated.

AFN gives a special thank you to our Alaska Day 2023 sponsors and partners who helped make this event possible.

Our Sponsors

- ConocoPhillips
- First Alaskans Institute
- GCI
- Sealaska
- Alaska Airlines
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
- Bering Straits Native Corporation
- Bristol Bay Native Corporation
- Chugach
- Donlin Gold
- Wells Fargo
- Ahtna
- Blank Rome
- Quintillion
- University of Alaska
- AFL-CIO
- AT&T
- Chenega
- Resource Development Council

Subsistence Committee Update

The AFN Subsistence Committee is an advisory committee of the AFN Board of Directors. The purpose of the committee is to review, monitor and take action, if necessary, on all aspects of Native subsistence rights, protections, and practices. The Committee has met three times since the start of the year. Below are key action items from these meetings.

The AFN Subsistence Committee will continue to advise the AFN Board on subsistence issues and will be tracking high-level federal and congressional officials that will be visiting Alaska throughout the summer to ensure that our subsistence priorities and concerns are represented through various meeting requests, white papers, and listening sessions. Please stay tuned for additional updates.

Opposition to HB 83 “An Act reestablishing the Citizens’ Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska; and providing for an effective date.”

The AFN Subsistence Committee, through the AFN Legislative and Litigation Committee, voted to oppose HB 83 which would reinstate the Citizens’ Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas (CACFA). The AFN Subsistence Committee review passed State decisions, in which CACFA has given influence to user groups that support efforts to erode the property rights of Alaska Native people. Rather than reinstating CACFA, AFN suggests two alternative paths: 1) Suggest the Governor convene the major stakeholders to discuss the history and experiences we have had with the act and formulate priorities for further action and dialogue, and 2) request the Alaska Congressional Delegation to reauthorize the Alaska Land Use Council and obtain an appropriation for expert staffing.

You can review AFN’s letter to House Finance Committee leadership by clicking [here](#).

AFN support for the relocation of the Office of Subsistence Management

The AFN Subsistence Committee, through the AFN Legislative and Litigation Committee, voted to support the relocation of the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) within the Department of the Interior. More

specifically, the transfer of the OSM from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (ASIA) within the Office of the Secretary, as included in the FY 24 President’s Budget. In addition, AFN supports the FY 24 proposal to include an additional \$2.5 million in the OSM budget to increase the capacity to implement OSM’s mission.

AFN sent a letter to our Congressional Delegation supporting this move. You can view this letter by clicking [here](#).

Policy Action Notice: AFN highly encourages AFN members to send letters of support to Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and U.S. Representative Mary Peltola. It is critical that our delegation understand that this is a top priority for our communities in the FY24 budget. Relocating OSM to the ASIA Office is a logical step to ensure that this critical component of subsistence management is strengthened and not an afterthought.

AFN letter to the Alaska Board of Fish

As follow-up to AFN Resolution AFN Resolution 22-2: “A Resolution Requesting the Alaska Department of Fish and Game support measures that decrease intercept of Chinook and Chum Salmon in Area M affecting the Western and Interior Alaskan Salmon Crisis.” AFN met several times with the AFN Subsistence Committee to discuss a strategy and formalized a [letter](#) to the Alaska Board of Fish (BOF). The letter urged the BOF consideration and recognize the urgency of resolution 22-2 and the dire impacts on food security and the survival of our communities. Additionally, the AFN Subsistence Committee, through Resolution 22-2, stressed the strong consensus for greater and swifter research capabilities to address our changing fish stocks. The focus on the salmon crisis will continue to be a critical priority until our communities have what they need.



Women harvesting fish in Toksook Bay, AK

Final Spend Plan

The final draft Spend Plan for funds appropriated to address the 2020 Norton Sound, Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, Chignik, Southeast Alaska; and 2021 Yukon River salmon disaster determination was transmitted to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) on April 14, 2023, and can be viewed at the following link:

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/pdfs/2020-21_salmon_disaster_final_draft_spend_plan.pdf

The spend plan informs the federal grant application submitted by PSMFC to NOAA Fisheries and is subject to change based on approval of the final grant. Once the grant has been approved by NOAA Fisheries and the White House Office of Management and Budget, the funds will be released to PSMFC, and they can begin the application and distribution process. Fishery Disaster Program information will be posted to the PSMFC website: <https://relief.psmfc.org/> as it becomes available.



Opposition to HB 83: “An Act reestablishing the Citizens’ Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska; and providing for an effective date.”

The AFN Subsistence Committee, through the AFN Legislative and Litigation Committee, voted to oppose [HB 83](#) and [SB 34](#), which would reinstate the Citizens’ Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas (CACFA). The AFN Subsistence Committee review passed State decisions, in which CACFA has given influence to user groups that support efforts to erode the property rights of Alaska Native people. Rather than reinstating CACFA, AFN suggests two alternative paths: 1) Suggest the Governor convene the major stakeholders to discuss the history and experiences we have had with the act and formulate priorities for further action and dialogue, and 2) request the Alaska Congressional Delegation to reauthorize the Alaska Land Use Council and obtain an appropriation for expert staffing.

On Tuesday, May 2, AFN Vice President of External Affairs, Ben Mallott, testified in House Finance on HB 83 opposing the legislation. You can rewatch this hearing by clicking [here](#).

You can review AFN’s letter to House Finance Committee leadership by clicking [here](#).

Policy Action Notice: AFN staff highly encourages AFN members to write to the Alaska Legislature opposing HB 83 and SB 34.



Deering, AK

2023 Farm Bill

Congress is busy drafting the 2023 Farm Bill. AFN is partnering with the Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC) to ensure that Alaska is represented in the 2023 Farm Bill priorities.

What is the Farm Bill and the Native Farm Bill Coalition:

The Farm Bill is typically reauthorized every five years, with the most recent version, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, also known as the 2018 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill is a comprehensive piece of legislation that covers a wide range of issues related to agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and rural development. It includes provisions related to crop insurance, commodity programs, conservation programs, nutrition assistance programs, research and extension, forestry, energy, and more.

The process of drafting and passing the Farm Bill typically involves input from a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers and ranchers, consumer advocates, environmental groups, including the Native Farm Bill Coalition.

The Native Farm Bill Coalition is a group of organizations and tribes that advocate for the inclusion of Native American provisions in the U.S. Farm Bill. The coalition aims to ensure that the interests and priorities of Native American communities are represented in the Farm Bill, which impacts a wide range of issues related to food systems, land use, and rural development.

Some of the priorities that the coalition has advocated for in past Farm Bills include:

- Protecting and promoting tribal sovereignty and self-determination in agricultural policies and programs. The expansion of “638” Self Determination compacting authority throughout the United States Department of Agriculture is a top priority for the NFBC and AFN.
- Supporting the development of sustainable and culturally appropriate food systems in Native American communities.
- Increasing access to healthy and traditional foods for Native American communities, including through programs like the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Top priorities include removing the statutory prohibition of dual use of SNAP and FDPIR, and expanding compacting authority for FDPIR are top NFBC and AFN priorities for 2023.
- Supporting conservation and environmental stewardship on tribal lands, including through the Tribal

Forestry Program and other initiatives.

- Improving access to credit and other financial resources for Native American and Alaska Native tribes and organizations.

Addressing the impacts of climate change on Native American communities and agriculture.

In April 2023, AFN hosted a workshop with NFBC. You can watch this workshop by clicking here.

If you have questions about the Farm Bill or wish to share your organization’s priorities, please contact Ben Mallott at bmallott@nativefederation.org.



AFN Testifies in Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee on ANCSA 14(c)(3)

On April 20, AFN Vice President of External Affairs Ben Mallott testified in the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee on ANCSA 14(c)(3). AFN works closely with strategic partners such as ANVCA, in which 14(c)(3) issues have been a top legislative priority. AFN thanks ANVCA Chairman Nathan McCowan, who also testified on April 20, for his support and for ANVCA's close collaboration with AFN on this issue.

AFN testified in support of changes being made to federal law. More specifically, to facilitate the transfer of 14(c)(3) lands held by the State Municipal Land Trust (MLT) back to the appropriate Native entity through both federal and state mechanisms. The 14(c)(3) provision of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) requires Alaska Native village corporations to convey land to municipal corporations or the state in trust for present and future community needs. However, this provision of ANCSA has been a source of confusion and conflict for many years. As such, this issue has been a long-standing priority of AFN. AFN has passed numerous resolutions, most recently in 2019, AFN Resolution 19-42, "Lands in Alaska Native Villages Being held in Trust by the State of Alaska Under Sec. 14(C)(3) of ANCSA," and AFN Resolution 19-44 "Making Alaska Native Corporations whole for reconveyances of ANCSA Land Required by ANCSA Section 14(c)." You can find both of these resolutions [here](#).

Since the implantation of 14(c)(3), many Alaska Native Village Corporations have already turned land over to be held in trust and managed by the State of Alaska. The majority of these lands are being managed in perpetuity by the MLT because a municipality has not been set up in many rural communities. Additionally, the MLT office has been underfunded and overtasked, which has only limited the economic and community sustainability of our rural Alaska Native communities.

AFN urged the State of Alaska to support changes to federal law to facilitate the transfer of MLT-held Village lands back to the appropriate Native entity. Additionally, AFN urged the State of Alaska through current regulations, and where cases have demonstrated support by the Village Tribal and Alaska Native Corporate leadership, and the Alaska Native Corporation has not completed the 14(c) process, to transfer part or all 14(c)

(3) required acreage directly to the appropriate Native entity.

14(c)(3) is a relic from the past and has proven to be a barrier to Alaska Native self-determination by preventing Alaska Native communities from exercising their ability to decide for themselves how they want to use our land. AFN will continue to work with our Congressional Delegation on this issue, and having state support of changing federal law to facilitate the transfer of MLT-held Village lands back to the appropriate Native entity is a big step forward. You can watch the hearing by clicking [here](#).

Federal Toolkit

The guide to the 118th Congress was developed by the Alaska Federation of Natives staff for AFN members. The purpose of this toolkit is to provide a listing of congressional committees and jurisdictions to help AFN members navigate Congress. You can see the full guide [here](#).

AFN highly recommends visitors to Capitol Hill schedule appointments as far in advance as possible to ensure the opportunity to meet with lawmakers and key staff members. For all meetings, it is advised to arrive with prepared comments and background information and leave a concise written summary of issues and solutions. Senators, Representatives, and their staff members are likely on a tight schedule, and some meetings may be rescheduled at the last minute due to unscheduled votes.



White Mountain, AK

AFN Testified in Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Oversight Hearing on “Native communities Priorities’ for the 118th Congress”

On March 8, 2023, AFN Executive Vice President and General Counsel Nicole Borrromeo testified on behalf of AFN. AFN’s testimony highlighted and urged Congress to address the challenges of our smallest tribes to participate in the historic level of funding for Native communities.

Through Mrs. Borrromeo’s testimony, AFN recognized the post-pandemic work the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) has accomplished is transforming Indian country and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities. The historic funding to Native communities has rapidly brought our rural Native villages into the 21st century. As such, Mrs. Borrromeo highlighted that some of the programs that have been deployed make them nearly inaccessible to the smallest tribal communities. This is especially true for over 300 “small and needy” tribes from Alaska to Oklahoma and from Minnesota to Montana.

Mrs. Borrromeo highlighted in her testimony that if changes are not made, more than 300 of these “small and needy” tribes – who by definition, receive less than \$200,000 annually in revenue – will be excluded from the very programs SCIA has worked to create. Often “Small and needy” tribes have limited staff and do not have funds to pay for high-priced grant writers or consultants. Additionally, few small tribes have funds to make the necessary federal matches, and more than 200 Alaska Native villages are “unserved” by broadband yet are required to submit grant applications online. Mrs. Borrromeo highlighted that the large majority of these funding opportunities do not allow grant applications and reports to be submitted using the United States Postal Service.

AFN urged SCIA to immediately enact a technical corrections bill to provide a nationwide solution to these challenges:

- Allow tribal organizations to submit consortia applications on behalf of “eligible entities,” – including tribal governments, if and only if, a tribe makes a program-specific designation to the tribal organization in writing.
- Allow tribal consortia and “small and needy” tribes to submit compliance reports on an annual basis rather

than quarterly.

- Allow Native entities without broadband to submit grant applications through the United States Postal Service rather than online.
- Waive any statutory matches for “small and needy tribes” notwithstanding any other provision of law.

AFN thanks U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski for her leadership as SCIA Vice Chair and for ensuring that Alaska Native voices are heard at the Federal level. You can watch Mrs. Borrromeo’s testimony and find written remarks from this

CAAN Committee Update

The Council of the Advancement of Alaska Natives (CAAN) Committee advocates for and advances issues impacting AK Natives in all areas of tribal empowerment, and some areas of focus in 2023 are climate change infrastructure, flooding/erosion mitigation, and tribal resilience.

The CAAN Committee is dedicated to working with the Biden Administration on AFN’s concerns about the status of rural Alaska landfills and has requested that this issue be reviewed under the Justice40 initiative. You can see the [letter](#) and a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the landfill concerns.



Dillingham, AK

AFN Welcomes PVS to Alaska

Next month, the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) will be launching the Moananuiākea Voyage from Southeast Alaska that will circumnavigate that entire Pacific Ocean. Taking four years to complete, the voyage will travel to 36 countries and archipelagoes, almost 100 indigenous territories and more than 300 ports. The goal of the voyage is to ignite a movement of 10 million “planetary navigators” by developing young leaders and engaging communities around the world to take part in navigating the earth towards a healthy, thriving future.

AFN expresses our appreciation and honor to the PVS for embarking on this monumental voyage beginning in Alaska. The AFN board passed a resolution welcoming PVS to Alaska in December 2022. Click [here](#) to read.

Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian peoples have many shared values, principles, and worldviews that are embedded within our respective cultures, languages, and traditions, which we promote and perpetuate for succeeding generations. It is a goal of AFN to promote and advocate for programs and systems which instill pride and confidence in individual Alaska Natives, and as such, is committed to advancing Indigenous rights, practices, education, health, and well-being through the Moananuiākea voyage.

AFN expresses our appreciation and honor to the PVS for embarking on this monumental voyage from Alaska. As such, AFN welcomes the PVS to Alaska and will commit to being a trusted partner with the PVS and encourage other Native Alaskan partners to join in collaborative planning and doing our part to ensure that the crew return home safely.

AFN encourage our membership to do the same and to share with the world through this global platform our interconnectedness and aspirations for thriving generations of indigenous communities.

More information will be shared in the coming weeks on how to be involved.



Moananuiākea sail plan

Photo credit: Polynesian Voyaging Society



Photo credit: Polynesian Voyaging Society

Pending Issues

The following are some of the pending issues that AFN is working on. We will keep you updated on our progress on these issues in future reports.

CAAN Committee (Click [here](#) for AFN's resolutions):

- Establish an Office of Native Education in the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to assist school districts and tribes in meeting the educational needs of Alaska Native students and to serve as a liaison between the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and school districts, tribal governments, tribal schools, State-Tribal Education Compact Schools, parents/guardians of Alaska Native children, and Alaska Native communities. (Resolution 22-10)
- AFN continues to urge our Congressional Delegation to Restoration of Bureau of Indian Education Funding for Alaska Native Students. (Resolution 18-14)
- Urging Congress to implement programmatic appropriations changes for Non-Competitive, Base Tribal Justice Funding for PL-280 Tribes. Non-competitive base funding for PL-280 tribes would help sustain tribal court systems, assist in the provision of public safety and related services, and assist with intergovernmental agreements. Such funding should not be lower than the minimum amount identified by the 2015 BIA Report to Congress that identified the budgetary needs of tribal courts in PL-280 States. BIA should expeditiously conduct an updated study to identify the budgetary needs of PL-280 tribes to provide comprehensive public safety and justice services to all tribal communities in Alaska. Draft Language was submitted to Senate Appropriations and our Congressional Delegation. (Resolution 22-7)
- Urging Congress to implement programmatic appropriations changes to expand Self-Governance to the Department of Justice. Draft Language was submitted to Senate Appropriations and our Congressional Delegation. (Resolution 22-8)
- Prioritizing Governmental Mitigation Efforts for Erosion and Flooding in or Around Alaska Native Communities. Including Alaska Day follow-up and prioritizing the urgency of erosion mitigation in federal funding.
- Increased Resources Combating the Drug epidemic throughout the Alaska Native Community, Especially Relative to Fentanyl, Opioids, Heroin, and Methamphetamine. The CAAN continues to identify

opportunities to partner with Federal and State law enforcement. In 2022, the CAAN met with FBI representatives on the HIDTA Initiative to Combat Drug Trafficking and offered feedback.

- Track implantation of VAWA and Not Invisible Act Commission. AFN thanks CAAN Co-Chair Vivian Korthuis for her tireless service on the Not Invisible Act Commission.

Subsistence Committee:

- Continue close collaboration with IPCoMM on identifying stable funding opportunities for Alaska Co-Management organizations and an equitable resolve to the blood quantum issue in the definition of Alaska Native in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).
- The Mazon Foundation will be partnering with AFN for a three-year Subsistence Legal Fellow. AFN thanks Mazon Foundation for their generous grant and partnership with AFN.
- Identify opportunities to advance food security through federal legislation such as the Farm Bill and FY24 appropriations.

Executive Governance Committee (EGC):

- The EGC will be doing a review of AFN's committee structure and charters to ensure that committees of AFN are relevant to AFN missions and will recommend changes to ensure greater transparency and accountability.
- The EGC continues to identify solutions and changes to AFN's due structure to create better equity among Class A members.
- The EGC is working on solutions to create conflict resolution policies and guidance.
- Identify opportunities to expand AFN's membership to other Alaska Native organizations and communities, such as Alaska Native health consortiums and housing associations.

(Pending Issues continued on page 12)

Pending Issues (continued)

Federal Issues:

- Continue to track FY24 Appropriations legislation and hearing process. AFN submitted both Congressional Directed Spending requests and programmatic priorities to Congress.
- Advance coordination and collaboration with the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. The Commission identified AFN as a key partner in its Arctic Goals and Objectives Report. Click [here](#) to view this report.
- Advance the sense of urgency in the United States Arctic Strategy through follow-up from Alaska Day 2023. Follow-up included drafting Presidential Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders that prioritize the urgent issues in the Arctic and advocate for OMB guidance on federal funding. Click [here](#) to read the U.S. Arctic Strategy.
- Track and engage with many high-level Federal and Congressional officials that will be visiting Alaska throughout 2023.

Other Pending Issues:

- Expanding AFN's Navigator program into new areas, such as Digital Equity.
- Explore opportunities to expand workforce development by partnering with unions such as IBEW on increased outreach to rural Alaska Native communities and remote training.



Lake Aleknagik, AK



Togiak, AK



Chignik Bay, AK

AFN Leadership and Staff

Board of Directors

Ana Hoffman, Co-Chair
Joe Nelson, Co-Chair
Richard Peterson, Secretary
Gail Schubert, Treasurer (*Bering Straits*)
Michelle Anderson (*Copper Valley*)
Melanie Bahnke (*Bering Straits*)
Percy Ballot (*Northwest*)
Sheri Buretta (*Chugach*)
Gloria Burns (*Southeast*)
Debra Call (*Cook Inlet*)
Esther Evikana (*Arctic Slope*)
Gayla Hoseth (*Bristol Bay*)
Kimberly Jorgensen (*Northwest*)
Bernice Kaigelak (*Arctic Slope*)
Vivian Korthuis (*Yukon Kuskokwim*)
Patrick Kosbruk (*Bristol Bay*)
Sarah Lukin (*Cook Inlet*)
Nathan McCowan (*Aleut*)
Jodi Mitchell (*Southeast*)
Myron Naneng, Sr. (*Yukon Kuskokwim*)
Loretta Nelson (*Kodiak*)
Russell Nelson (*Bristol Bay*)
Francis Norman (*Chugach*)
Megan Onders (*Bering Straits*)
Gloria O'Neill (*Cook Inlet*)
Tom Panamaroff (*Kodiak*)
Linda Pete (*Copper River*)
Richard Peterson (*Southeast*)
Karen Pletnikoff (*Aleut*)
Margaret Pohjola (*Yukon Kuskokwim*)
Brenda Rebne (*Copper River*)
Julie Roberts-Hyslop (*Interior*)
Elsie Sampson (*Northwest*)
Lorena Skonberg (*Kodiak*)
Angela Totemoff (*Chugach*)

Staff

Julie Kitka, President

Ben Mallott, Vice President of External Affairs

Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President & General Counsel

Nicole James, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

Toan Nguyen, Staff Accountant

Nikki Stoops, Special Assistant to the President

Nicole Espe, Special Assistant to the Vice President

Alice Glenn, Special Assistant to the President