

10TH ANNUAL AFN TRIBAL CONFERENCE

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center

555 W. 5th Ave.

Anchorage, AK 99501

Protecting Our Ways of Life

AGENDA

- 8:30 a.m. Convene** **DOOR PRIZE**
Ana Hoffman, Co-Chair, AFN
- 8:35 a.m. Invocation**
Fay Ewan, Elder, Ahtna Region
- 8:40 a.m. Welcome**
Julie Kitka, President, AFN
- 8:50 a.m. Special Recognition: Elizabeth ‘La quen náay’ Medicine Crow**
After 15 years at First Alaskans Institute, including 11 years as its President/CEO, **Elizabeth ‘La quen náay’ Medicine Crow** is authoring the final pages of an incredible chapter. This look back on her time at FAI will allow Tribes to say *Gunalcheesh* to one of the Alaska Native community’s greatest cultivators of young minds.
- 9:00 a.m. Subsistence Section** **DOOR PRIZE**
- **Navigating the Waters: Engaging with the Alaska Board of Fish**
This insightful discussion will delve into the intricacies of effectively and efficiently engaging with the BOF. Board of Fish member **Marit Carlson-Van Dort** will share strategies and best practices for Tribes to better influence state fisheries management decisions. (30 min.)
 - **Protecting the Subsistence Fishing Priority: Defending Katie John**
This critical overview of the *Katie John* trilogy will set the stage for a conversation about *U.S. v. Alaska*, a new lawsuit in which the State of Alaska is (once again) challenging the rural subsistence priority. Interior Solicitor **Bob Anderson** will join AFN President **Julie Kitka** and attorneys **Nicole Borromeo** and **Marlee Goska** and AFN’s outside counsel **Jahna Lindemuth** in bringing Tribes up to speed on ‘the Kuskokwim case.’ Rounding out the panel is Native American Rights Fund senior attorney **Heather Kendall Miller**, who was the lead attorney in the *Katie John* cases. (45 min.)
 - **Documenting the Subsistence Need: Hearing from Alaska Tribes (Open Mic)**
This time is reserved for Tribes who wish to share subsistence stories, particularly around the need to preserve the federal rural priority. Testimony will be kindly limited to 3 minutes to allow for maximum participation. A similar option will be available at the 2023 Annual AFN Convention. (60 min.)

11:15 a.m. **Broadband Section**

DOOR PRIZE

- **Preparing for TBCP 2: Mapping and Other Technical Assistance**
This second round of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program funding will make another \$980 million available for Tribal infrastructure, affordability, telehealth, and distance learning projects. *Nicholas Courtney*, *Joshua Standing Horse*, and *Theron Rutyna* from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration will advise Tribes on how to submit the strongest application, including the mapping requirements. (30 min.)
- **Engaging with the Alaska Broadband Office: Major Updates**
This concise presentation will provide Tribes with an update on a number of state broadband programs, as well as important grant application dates. ABO Director *Thomas Lochner* will pay special attention to Alaska broadband grant opportunities that Tribes are eligible for. (15 min.)

12:00 p.m. **Lunch (On Site, Urban Greens)**

1:00 p.m. **Voting Section**

DOOR PRIZE

- **Getting Out the Native Vote: Alaska Native Voices Matter**
This next election cycle needs the Native Vote more than ever. Tribes can make or break races. One of the most influential voter mobilizers in the Alaska Native community, *Michelle Sparck*, Director of Get Out the Native Vote, will discuss the importance of #GOTNV. Native voters could account for 1 in 4 votes, if every eligible Alaska Native went to the polls. (30 min.)
- **Preserving Alaska's Ranked Choice Voting System: Alaska Native Votes Amplified**
This next election cycle will also bring an increased effort to do away with RCV. The statewide initiative has ushered in more balanced candidates to the benefit of all Alaskans. *Juli Lucky*, Executive Director of Alaskans for Better Elections, and *Scott Kendall*, *Barbara 'Waahlaal Giidaak' Blake*, and *Ana Hoffman*, Advisory Board Members, as well as *Ben Patinkin* of Patinkin Research Strategies will share successful RCV election stories and identify how Tribes can amplify their voice at the polls. (30 min.)

2:00 p.m. **State Section**

DOOR PRIZE

- **Hearing from the Legislative Branch: Bush Caucus Forecast**
This next legislative session promises to see more Tribes than ever in Juneau, particularly as the subsistence fight intensifies. Former Speaker of the House—and first Alaska Native to hold this position—*Rep. Bryce Edgmon*, will highlight ways Tribes can work with the Bush Caucus for the benefit for their villages and members. (15 min.)
- **Hearing from the Judicial Branch: The Need for an Independent Judiciary**
This year may bring a renewed attack on Alaska's judicial appointment process, which Tribes (and all Alaskans) benefit from. Alaska Supreme Court *Justice Dario Borghesan* will provide an update from the State courts and describe the merit-based application and selection process for judges outlined in the Alaska Constitution. (15 min.)

2:30 p.m. **Federal Section**

DOOR PRIZE

- **Working for Tribes: Achievements of the Biden Administration**
This Administration has made billions of dollars in post-pandemic recovery funds available to Tribes. **Raina Thiele**, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska Affairs & Strategic Priorities at the U.S. Department of the Interior, will highlight major policy wins and other political victories across the federal agencies. (10 min.)
- **Delivering for Tribes: Federal Funds Secured by the Congressional Delegation**
Alaska Native communities continue to benefit from a historic infusion of post-pandemic federal recovery funding and infrastructure investment. **Amber Ebarb**, Minority Staff Director at the Senate Indian Affairs Committee for Vice Chairman Lisa Murkowski, will outline the various funding streams the Alaska congressional delegation has championed to address needs across the State, including congressionally directed spending secured by Senator Murkowski to benefit Native communities in particular. (10 min.)
- **Understanding the Federal Appropriations Process: A User Guide**
This overview by **Alex Ortiz**, former Chief of Staff to Congressman Don Young and Congresswoman Mary Peltola, will feature an introduction to the federal appropriations process, opportunities to obtain funding for Tribal projects, and best practices to secure federal funding. Tribes will learn about community project funding ('earmarks'), which most funding bill earmarks derive from, and how the Alaska Congressional Delegation has been successful in securing funding in the past. (10 min.)

3:00 p.m.

Adjourn
Joe Nelson, Co-Chair, AFN

DOOR PRIZE

OTHER AFN EVENTS TONIGHT

5:00 p.m. Unveiling of the Alaska Native Veterans Exhibit (Dena'ina Center)

7:00 p.m. Premiere of film *One with the Whale* (Dena'ina Center)

