

60 Years



1966 - 2026

ROOTED IN LAND
AND TRADITION:

Rising in Our Voices

2026 Convention Guide

October 22-24, 2026

Anchorage, Alaska





Table of Contents

- 03. About AFN
- 04. Rising in Our Voices
- 05. Keynote Speaker, Dr. Rosita Worl
- 06. Native Voices Matter, Vote!
- 07. Yakama Tribe / AFN History
- 08. 2026 President's Report
- 13. Thank You to Our Sponsors
- 14. Tyonek / AFN History
- 15. Sponsor Ads
- 32. President's Awards
- 36. Julie Kitka Acknowledgment
- 37. Subsistence Listening Sessions
- 39. Here's to the Next 60 Years...
- 40. Save the Date



1966

About AFN

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs. AFN is governed by a 38-member board, which is elected by its membership at the annual convention held each October.

Our Mission

Alaska Native people began as members of full sovereign nations and continue to enjoy a unique political relationship with the federal government. We will survive and prosper as distinct ethnic and cultural groups and will participate fully as members of the overall society. AFN's mission is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community.

Our major goals are to:

- Advocate for Alaska Native people, their governments and organizations, with respect to federal, state and local laws;
- Foster and encourage preservation of Alaska Native cultures;
- Promote understanding of the economic needs of Alaska Natives and encourage development consistent with those needs;
- Protect, retain and enhance all lands owned by Alaska Natives and their organizations; and
- Promote and advocate for programs and systems which instill pride and confidence in individual Alaska Natives.



ROOTED IN LAND AND TRADITION:

Rising in Our Voices

For sixty years, the Alaska Federation of Natives has united Alaska Native peoples in advocacy, leadership, and purpose. Our 2026 theme, Rooted in Land and Tradition, Rising in Our Voices, reflects both our foundation and our future. Grounded in the lands, waters, cultures, and traditions that have sustained our peoples since time immemorial, we come together to elevate our collective voice in shaping policies, protecting our rights, and strengthening our communities. As we celebrate this historic milestone, we honor those who came before us while empowering the next generation to carry our shared vision forward —rooted in our heritage, united in purpose, and rising together.





Dr. Worl speaking at the 1993 AFN Convention.

Keynote Speaker - Dr. Rosita Worl

Rosita Worl, whose Tlingit names are Yeidiklasókw and Kaaháni, is Tlingit of the Shangukeidí (Thunderbird) clan from the Kawdliyaayi Hít (House Lowered from the Sun) in Klukwan. Kaaháni serves as the president of Sealaska Heritage Institute. SHI's mission is to perpetuate and enhance the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian cultures of Southeast Alaska. She is an anthropologist and conducted research throughout Alaska and the circumpolar arctic and served as assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast. Kaaháni has a Ph.D. in anthropology from Harvard University and a B.A. from Alaska Methodist University.

She also holds an honorary Doctor of Sciences degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Dr. Worl has received many honors, including the American Anthropological Association Solon T. Kimball Award for Public and Applied Anthropology and a National Humanities Medal presented to her by U.S. President Joe Biden at the White House in 2024. She has served on multiple national and statewide boards focusing on Alaska Native and Native American interests.

NATIVE VOICES MATTER, VOTE!

**GENERAL
ELECTION**

VOTING ON
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER | **3**

Take a look at our Regional Voter Toolkits

Each toolkit includes resources to help individuals, families, and communities understand the voting process and participate confidently within their region.



Anchorage Early Voting Begins October 19!

Location	Dates/Hours	Ballots Available
Anchorage City Hall 632 W 6th Ave, Room 105	Monday - Friday Oct 19 th - Nov 2 nd 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (Not open on weekends)	House Districts 1-40
Midtown Mall 600 E Northern Lights Blvd	Monday - Friday Oct 19 th - Nov 2 nd 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (Open on weekends)	House Districts 1-40
Southcentral Foundation: Shesh T'qelani 4175 Tudor Centre Drive	October 27 – November 2nd 9 am-4 pm, excluding weekends.	House Districts 1-40



Learn more about voting by visiting AFN's Voting Resource page: <https://nativefederation.org/voting-resources/>

Every vote is a stand for our people, our rights, and our future. It is a promise to defend our community and protect what our ancestors fought to preserve, so that our Indigenous ways of life remain strong and continue to thrive for generations to come.

-Benjamin Mallott,
President of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN)

HOW TO FILL OUT YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

Take your time. Follow the instructions.
Make your vote count.

**BEFORE YOU
SEND IT**



Learn more about absentee voting here:



- ✓ Ballot completed
- ✓ Ballot inside gray secrecy sleeve
- ✓ Sleeve inside return envelope
- ✓ **Signature completed**
- ✓ **At least ONE identifier provided**
- ✓ **Witness signed**
- ✓ Envelope sealed
- ✓ Correct postage applied

The Yakama Nation loaned the Alaska Federation of Natives \$225,000 to establish itself 60 years ago.



First AFN President Emil Notti with Robert Jim, Tribal Chairman of the Yakama Nation in 1966.



First AFN President Emil Notti with Thom Leonard and Gayla Hoseth honoring the Yakama Nation in Seattle in 2025.

Standing Together. Protecting Our Rights. Building Our Future.

2026 has been a year of advocacy, action, partnership, and progress for the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Across Alaska and beyond, AFN has continued to bring Alaska Native voices to the forefront of the issues that shape our communities, our families, our cultures, and our future. From defending subsistence rights and strengthening Tribal sovereignty to protecting the right to vote, addressing the overrepresentation of Alaska Native people in the criminal justice system, and expanding services in rural communities, AFN has remained focused on one central goal: ensuring Alaska Native people have a meaningful voice in the decisions that affect our lives.

This year has also reminded us that our work is interconnected. Our lands, waters, cultures, health, economies, and political rights are all part of the same story—and protecting one strengthens all the others.

Defending Subsistence and Our Way of Life

The year began with an important victory for rural subsistence rights. In January, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review *United States v. Alaska*, leaving intact the Ninth Circuit's decisions affirming federal authority over rural subsistence priorities under Title VIII of ANILCA, including the protections established through the Katie John cases. AFN stood with Tribal and organizational partners in defending these protections and reaffirming that subsistence is fundamental to Alaska Native cultures, economies, food security, and ways of life.





2026 President's Report (continued)

But AFN knows that protecting subsistence requires more than defending it in court. Throughout 2026, AFN continued to advance a broader conversation about the future of subsistence management in Alaska, engaging state and federal legislators on the systems governing subsistence and emphasizing the importance of Tribal participation, traditional knowledge, and meaningful decision-making authority.

That work was grounded in AFN's statewide Subsistence Listening Sessions, which brought the urgent need to protect and strengthen Alaska Native subsistence rights into sharp focus. Traveling to communities across Alaska, AFN heard directly from Tribal citizens, subsistence users, elders, and community leaders about the challenges facing traditional ways of life—from declining fish and wildlife populations and changing environmental conditions to increasingly complex and restrictive management systems.

Alaska Native communities must have a stronger voice in managing the lands and resources on which they depend. AFN and Tribal leaders continue to call for greater Tribal involvement, meaningful co-management, and management systems that recognize Indigenous knowledge and prioritize the people and communities whose cultures, families, and livelihoods are sustained by subsistence.

Advancing Voting Rights and Civic Engagement

Protecting the right to vote remained another major priority in 2026.

In March, AFN applauded the Alaska Legislature's passage of Senate Bill 64, comprehensive election legislation that would have addressed longstanding barriers facing rural and Alaska Native voters. The bill included Tribal identification as valid voter ID, rural election liaisons, ballot curing, ballot tracking, and prepaid postage for absentee and mail ballots.

Although Governor Mike Dunleavy later vetoed the legislation, AFN continued to advocate for an override. In May, the Legislature ultimately fell short of the votes needed to overturn the veto.

AFN called the outcome a missed opportunity for Alaska voters, particularly those in rural and Alaska Native communities who continue to face disproportionate barriers to participation. The work did not stop there.

Through Get Out the Native Vote, AFN, First Alaskans Institute, and Cook Inlet Tribal Council continued working to ensure Alaska Native voters have the information, resources, and support they need to participate in elections.

2026 President's Report (continued)

Ahead of the August primary, AFN and its partners raised concerns about staffing shortages at rural precincts and called on the State to ensure every community had properly staffed polling places, trained election workers, language assistance, and reliable access to the ballot.

As Alaska moves toward the November general election, GOTNV is also helping rural voters navigate new federal requirements affecting election mail. With more than 130 Alaska precincts relying on the U.S. Postal Service and air carriers to move election materials, AFN continues to emphasize the importance of planning ahead, returning ballots early, and understanding the unique challenges facing rural voters.

For AFN, voting is more than participation in an election. It is an expression of self-determination.

Bringing Data and Solutions to Criminal Justice

In 2026, AFN also helped bring greater attention to one of the most serious disparities facing Alaska Native people: disproportionate involvement in Alaska's criminal justice system.

AFN released a landmark study examining Alaska Native incarceration and recidivism and identifying culturally grounded recommendations for reducing these disparities.

The study found that Alaska Native people make up approximately 14–19 percent of Alaska's population but account for 44 percent of those incarcerated in state prisons. The report also found a 60 percent recidivism rate among Alaska Native individuals after release.

Rather than simply documenting the problem, the study identifies practical areas for action, including restorative justice, early intervention, mental health services, housing, substance-use treatment, workforce development, digital access, and improved access to federal resources.

The work represents an important part of AFN's commitment to advancing solutions grounded in Alaska Native communities, culture, experience, and knowledge.

AFN's Kendra Kloster testified before the House State Affairs Committee and Senate State Affairs Committee in February 2026.



2026 PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

AFN's Alaska Day: Advancing Self-Determination and Economic Opportunity

In March 2026, Alaska Native leaders, Tribal representatives, Native corporations, and advocates gathered in Washington, D.C., for AFN's Alaska Day.

Held March 4 and 5 at the AT&T Forum, the event brought Alaska's priorities directly to the nation's capital under the theme: Local Leadership, National Partnership: Advancing Self-Determination and Economic Opportunity. Alaska Day provided an important opportunity to strengthen relationships with federal policymakers, elevate the priorities of Alaska Native communities, and ensure Alaska Native voices were part of national conversations affecting Tribal sovereignty, economic development, infrastructure, resource management, and self-determination.

The gathering reflected AFN's ongoing commitment to bringing Alaska's unique perspectives to Washington while building partnerships that support stronger communities at home.

For Alaska Native peoples, advocacy at the federal level remains essential. Decisions made in Washington have direct impacts on our lands, waters, economies, education systems, health care, public safety, and ability to exercise our inherent rights.

Alaska Day also demonstrated the strength of collaboration across Alaska Native organizations and institutions. With support from Tribal organizations, Alaska Native corporations, businesses, and community partners, AFN brought together a broad network committed to advancing Alaska Native priorities.

From our communities to the nation's capital, AFN continues to amplify Alaska Native voices and build partnerships that move our priorities forward.





Standing With Indigenous Peoples Across the Arctic and Indian Country

AFN's work in 2026 has extended beyond Alaska.

In February, AFN expressed solidarity with the people of Greenland and affirmed the importance of Indigenous self-determination, self-governance, and the ability of Indigenous peoples to determine their own political future. AFN emphasized the longstanding connections among Inuit peoples and Indigenous communities across the Arctic.

Later in the year, AFN joined Tribal leaders from across the country at the NCAI Mid Year Convention to elevate Alaska's salmon crisis and connect the challenges facing Alaska Native communities to the broader Indigenous struggle for food sovereignty, cultural continuity, stewardship, and Tribal self-determination.

These efforts reflect AFN's belief that while our communities are unique, many of the challenges facing Indigenous peoples are shared—and our collective voice is stronger when we stand together.

But 2026 has also demonstrated the strength of our collective voice.

We have defended subsistence rights. We have challenged barriers to voting. We have brought data and community-driven solutions to criminal justice reform. We have built partnerships to improve rural health. We have stood with Indigenous peoples across the Arctic and Indian Country. And we have continued preparing the next generation of Alaska Native leadership.

As we look toward AFN's next 60 years, we do so with the knowledge, resilience, and determination of those who came before us—and with our eyes firmly on the generations yet to come.

We are rooted in our lands.

We are grounded in our cultures.

We are strengthened by our communities.

And we are rising in our voices.

Ben Mallott, AFN President





Thank You to Our Sponsors

The Alaska Federation of Natives extends our deepest gratitude to the sponsors who have generously supported this year's convention. Your partnership helps make this gathering possible and strengthens our ability to bring Alaska Native leaders, citizens, organizations, Tribal representatives, and partners together to share ideas, celebrate our cultures, and advance the priorities that matter most to our communities.

This year is especially meaningful as AFN celebrates its 60th anniversary. For six decades, AFN has provided a collective voice for Alaska Native peoples and a place where our leaders can come together to shape the future of our communities and our state. Our sponsors are an important part of that legacy.

Your investment goes beyond supporting a convention. It helps create opportunities for connection, dialogue, learning, and collaboration. It allows us to continue building relationships across generations and regions while honoring the strength, resilience, cultures, and traditions that have carried our people forward.

We are proud to recognize and thank each of our sponsors for standing with AFN and Alaska Native communities. Your commitment reflects a shared belief in the importance of partnership and in the power of coming together with purpose.

Thank you for being part of AFN's 60-year journey and for helping us build the next chapter together.

Formally Organized in Anchorage

The Alaska Federation of Natives, formerly AFNA, was formally organized during a meeting in Anchorage last weekend. The association adopted a constitution and selected a full slate of officers.

Fifty-five Natives attended the congress, including a few from the Tanana Valley Chiefs' Association, which also met last weekend.

The delegates reviewed a proposed constitution presented last October, and made several chan-

The group also adopted a resolution urging the Alaska Congressional delegation to introduce the Native land claims bill in Congress as soon as possible.

Officers of the Federation will be elected every two years, with the first terms expiring in Oct. 1968. Only the president will draw a salary; he is charged with the jobs of recruiting and handling the administrative duties.

Emil Notti of Anchorage was selected as first president. Other

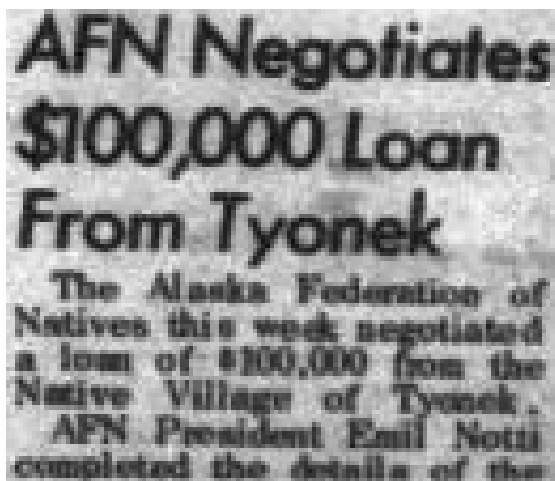
AFN Formed...

(continued from Page 1)

vice president; Byron Mallott, second vice-president; Elva Nannes, secretary; Seraphin Stephan, Sr., treasurer, and Oscar Craig, sergeant-at-arms.

Also established was a 20-member board of directors. They will meet quarterly if funds are available.

1967



1968

Recognizing that individual regional fights would not succeed without a unified statewide front, Tyonek Tribal Council President Albert S. Kaloa, Jr. and the village council stepped up. They provided a \$100,000 interest-free loan to AFN to fund operations, travel, and expenses for delegates to attend meetings.



Washington D.C. (Standing left to right): Albert Kaloa, Jr. (Tyonek), Stanley J. McCutcheon (Tyonek Lawyer), Emil Notti (Ruby), Flore Lekonof (St. George), Cliff Groh, Sr., Barry Jackson (Fairbanks), Margaret Nick, and Morris Thompson (Tanana). Seated left: Willie Hensley. Seated right: Laura Bergt. Photo credit: <https://beringstraits.com/anca-50/>.

When you vote, you make decisions for yourself, your family, your people.

From who gets to fish and where, to the cost of living in your community — **it's time your voice is heard.**



Vote today in Anchorage

Early voting locations: City Hall | Midtown Mall | Southcentral Foundation



Midnight Sun
Independence Fund

From across Alaska to Dena'ina Ełnena: Welcome!

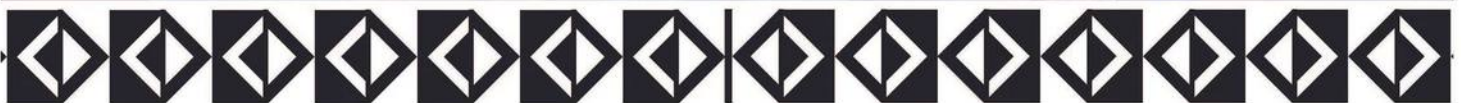
Visit Anchorage proudly celebrates
60 years of AFN.

Stop by the Visit Anchorage table for a
commemorative print featuring art by
Britt'Nee Kivliqtaruq Brower.



VISIT
anchorage
ALASKA

ANCHORAGE.NET





STRONGER CONNECTIONS, STRONGER COMMUNITIES

GCI is working alongside Tribal, local, and regional partners to build networks in rural Alaska that are shaped by community priorities. These long-term infrastructure investments bring healthcare closer to home, open opportunities for students, and serve communities for generations.

With local partners helping us understand cultural and environmental priorities, we've connected rural Alaska communities from the Aleutians to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and beyond. And we're not done.

Come visit us at our booth on the third floor to learn more!

Visit our booth to enter
for a chance to win a
Honda FourTrax Rancher.



Raffle opens on Oct. 22 and closes at 5 p.m. on Oct. 23. Only residents of Alaska are eligible to win. Prize must be claimed in person at the GCI Offices in Anchorage. Transportation of the prize to any other location is the sole responsibility of the winner.



**Your Data.
Your Community.
Protected by ESET.**

Stop by Booth #154



Scan to
explore the
case study



Cybersecurity
Progress. Protected.



**Honoring Traditions.
Supporting Communities.**



At Alaska Commercial Company, community isn't just a word, it's who we are. From hiring locally to supporting schools, events, and families in need, AC is committed to helping our Alaskan communities flourish.

www.alaskacommercial.com



ALASKA COMMERCIAL CO.
Serving Alaskans Since 1867



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

**Shape the future
of healthcare.**

Build your career with ANTHC.



anthc.org/work-with-us



**AMBLER
METALS**

**BUILDING AN
ALASKA-FIRST
TEAM**



LEARN MORE





Honoring & Sharing the Gift of Life



Generosity lives here.
Register your choice to become
an organ & tissue donor today.



Rooted in Our Land.
Strong in Our Future.

beringstraits.com



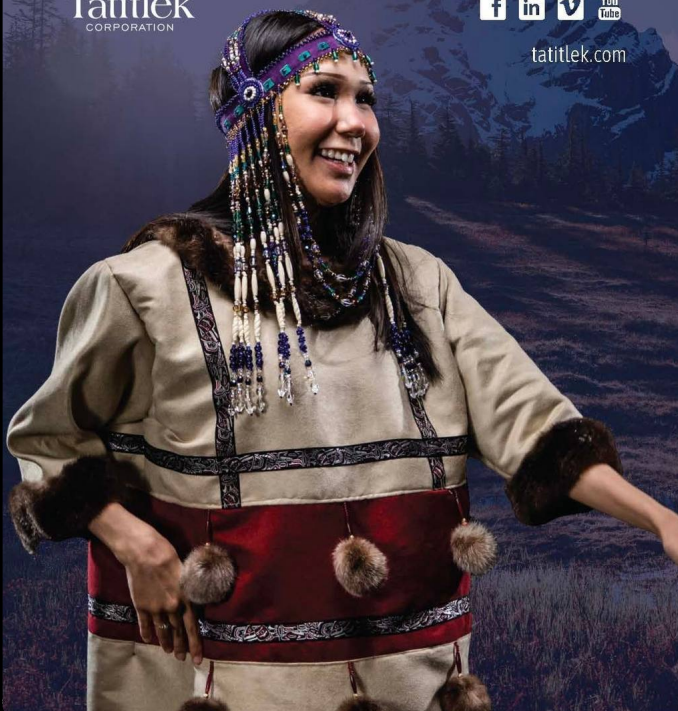
PROUD SPONSOR OF AFN



*Continued success
with strength & unity*



tatitlek.com



We're here to help you succeed

Backed by more than 100 years of experience
in Alaska, we have the financial tools to
help you shape a brighter tomorrow.



Visit our booth
for your chance
to win an iPad Air.

*See contest rules for details
at FNBAlaska.com/AFN

**1 First National Bank
ALASKA**

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER | MEMBER FDIC | NMLS# 640297



Alaska Business magazine
Best of Alaska Business Awards



PROUD TO SUPPORT
AFN
 Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention

**Van Ness
Feldman** LLP
 vnf.com

Alaskan Federation of Natives Convention Passport Acceptance Fair

DATE: October 22-24, 2026
TIME: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
LOCATION: Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center 600 W 7th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501

To make an appointment, scan the QR code, or visit
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/passport-fair-in-association-with-alaska-federation-of-natives-tickets-1999727789650>



Scan here to make an appointment

Appointment recommended, limited walk-ins available

FIRST TIME APPLICANT AND APPLICANTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RENEWAL	MINORS (15 AND UNDER)
Bring with you: - Completed, printed application (DS-11) - Original U.S. citizenship document and a photocopy (example: U.S. birth certificate, Naturalization Certificate, previous U.S. passport, etc.) - Passport photo (2"x2", taken in the last 6 months) - Valid photo ID and photocopy - Payment (No Cash Payments)	Bring with you: - Completed, printed application (DS-11) - Original U.S. citizenship document and a photocopy (example: U.S. birth certificate, previous U.S. passport, etc.) - Passport photo (2"x2", taken in the last 6 months) - Both parents, consent from non-applying parent, or proof of sole-legal custody) - Both parents valid photo IDs and photocopies - Payment (No Cash Payments) - Minors must be present when applying
RENEWING ADULT	
- Completed, printed application (DS-82) - Most recent passport book and/or card - Passport photo (2"x2", taken in the last 6 months) - Payment (No Cash Payments)	

Visit [Travel.State.Gov](https://travel.state.gov) for more information about applying for a passport or to use our free fill-and-print online form filler!



Tune into the
Convention on
KTOO 360TV over
air, cable, satellite
and streaming -
Roku and Apple TV

KTOO

360TV



Delegates get
free rides on
PeopleMover!

NO on 2

ALASKA NATIVE LEADERS ARE VOTING NO ON BALLOT MEASURE 2 THIS NOVEMBER:

Aaron Leggett
Denaina Tribal Leader

Aaron Schutt
Former President and CEO of Doyon Ltd., former Board Chair of the ANCSA Regional Association, hockey coach, Interior

Abel Hopson-Savlu
Community engagement at Arctic Slope Native Association, Utqagvik

Alana Peterson
Business Owner and Tribal Leader, Sitka

Ana Hoffman
President and CEO of Bethel Native Corporation, former co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Y-K Delta

Andrea Akalliq
Executive Director, Native Peoples Action, Native Peoples Action Community Fund, Juneau

Anthony Mallott
Former President and CEO of Sealaska Corporation, Juneau

Ayyu Oassataq
Native Nonprofit Leader, Founding Director of Giga & Ignih Collective, Founder of Inuit Rising, and Small Business Owner of Quilq Munatuguit, Anchorage and Unalakleet

Rep. Bryce Edgman
Alaska State House Representative, Speaker of the House, Dillingham

Crystal Worl
Artist and Designer at Tricker Company, Juneau

Doug Tansy
Former Business Manager of BEW 1547, former Board Chair of Fairbanks Central Labor Council and Building Trades, Fairbanks

Eileen Whitmer
President of Teamsters Local 959, Fairbanks

Emil Notti
Former president of the Alaska Federation of Natives and Doyon, Ltd., Anchorage

Hugh Short
CEO of Pt Capital, Anchorage

Jackie Catalina Schaeffer
Kupiaq Climate and Cultural Activist, Okiqtogruq (Kotzebue)

Jim LaBelle
Retired Alaska Native Studies Instructor, U.S. Navy Veteran, and former Chugach Alaska Corp. Board Chair, Anchorage

Jodi Mitchell
Board Member, Sealaska Corporation and Alaska Federation of Natives; former CEO of Inside Passage Electric Cooperative, Juneau

Joe Nelson
Attorney, Co-Chair of Alaska Federation of Natives, Current and Former Chairman of numerous Alaska organizations and Alaska Native Corporations, Southeast

John Lincoln
President and CEO of NANA, former State House Representative, Kotzebue

Jay Huntington
Government Affairs Director of Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks

Julie Kitka
Former president of Alaska Federation of Natives, Chugach Region

Kristi Williams
Alaska Native entrepreneur and nonprofit founder, Anchorage and Fairbanks

Loaganay Tsits Gitanee
Tribal leader, kelp farmer, Native non-profit leader, and co-founder, Giga & Ignih Collective, Kake

Liz Gouliou Cravalho
Vice President of Lands, NANA Regional Corporation, Tribal and Community Member, Kotzebue

Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Senator, Co-Chair of Senate Finance, and longest-serving legislator in Alaska history, Bethel

Michael Fredericks
President of SALT, Anchorage

Notasha Singh
Stevens Village Tribal Citizen and Tribal health leader, Anchorage

Nicole Borromeo
President of ANCSA Regional Association, attorney, Anchorage

Penny Gage
Energy policy executive, Board Member of Chugach Electric Association, Anchorage/Sitka

Raina Thiele
CEO, R. Thiele Strategies, Former Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs at the Department of the Interior, Anchorage

Rhonda Pitka
Chief of the village of Beaver and Vice President of Tanana Chiefs Conference, Beaver

Rob Lushakwe Allen
Interim General Manager at Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Business Consultant, Sitka

Rep. Robyn Niyuu Frier
Alaska State House Representative, Utqagvik

Rosita Kachani Worl, Ph.D.
Anthropologist and Tribal Advocate, Southeast

Roy "Apagruk" Aglainga
President & CEO of First Alaskans Institute, Anchorage

Sam Kito Jr.
Former President of Alaska Federation of Natives and Founding Member of First Alaskans Institute, Juneau

Shauna Hegna
Former President of Kodiak, Incorporated, Kodiak Region

Skoey Vergen
President & CEO of Aleut Corporation, Anchorage and Akutan

Val Davidson
Former Lieutenant Governor of Alaska, Bethel

Wahlaal Gildak
Barbara Bloke
Board Member Sealaska Corporation, Juneau

Paid for by No on 2, PO Box 210345, Anchorage, AK 99521. Branson Frye, Chair, approved this message. The top three contributors are Unite America PAC, Inc., Denver, CO; Voters for the American Center, Inc., Washington, DC; and NEA, Washington, DC.



"Alaskans should pick their leaders. Not party bosses or dark money from out of state." — *Emil Notti, Former president of the Alaska Federation of Natives and Doyon, Ltd.*



"Most of my friends and family don't see themselves as strictly Republican or Democrat. They're Alaskans and vote the Uncle Ted way. Our election system ensures independent voters like me can fully participate in our democracy, including in the primaries." — *Nicole Borromeo, President of ANCSA Regional Association, attorney*

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY



SEALASKA

First Alaskans Institute



I'M VOTING

NO  **on 2**

TO PROTECT VOTER FREEDOM

Featuring logo artwork by Rico Wolf

**at
AFN Elder
APPRECIATION
& WILLS CLINIC**

Friday
OCT
23²⁰₂₆



DENA'INA CENTER, 2nd Floor, Tubughnenq' Room 5
Honoring Elders with FREE legal help and resources

Register for a free 2
hr appt. by Oct 22:
alaskabar.org/eawc



A volunteer lawyer will
write up your

- **WILL**
- **POWER of ATTORNEY**
- **ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE**

or register in person Thurs. Oct 22, 11:30 - 2:30 in Room 5

Free Resources for Elders

No appointment needed. Drop in from 9 AM to 5 PM

- **MEMORY screenings**
- **AGING & DISABILITY support**
- **DEMENTIA information**
- **FOOD PANTRY Resources**

... and more





FREE 30-minute walk-in advice from a volunteer attorney

**FREE LEGAL
HELP** at
AFN

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER
22** 20
26

11:30-2:30

**Room 5
2nd Floor
Dena'ina
Center**

**DIVORCE/CUSTODY • HOUSING/LAND • PUBLIC BENEFITS
PROBATE • CONSUMER/DEBT • AND MORE**

**You may also drop in to register to have your Will
written up for FREE on Fri. Oct. 23**

Sponsored by the AK Bar
Association Alaska Native
Law Section and:





Rooted in Alaska.



**LANDYE BENNETT
BLUMSTEIN LLP**

LBBLawyers.com | 907-276-5152



*STRENGTHENING
PEOPLE, CULTURE
AND HOMELANDS.*



MySealaska.com | Sealaska.com
FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS



Rooted in Land and Tradition, Rising in Our Voices

**Happy 60th
AFN Annual
Convention!**



Alaska Communications is proud to support connected communities through technology and infrastructure, helping voices from traditional homelands resonate around the world. We wish you a joyous opportunity to be in community with one another.



"Rooted in Land and Tradition, Rising in Our Voices"



Kikiktagruk
Inupiat Corporation

P.O. Box 1050 Kotzebue, AK
www.kikiktagruk.com



CHIN'AN
GAMING HALL

OVER
\$25,450,576
IN JACKPOTS AWARDED



CHINANCASINO.COM

20813 BIRCHWOOD SPUR RD., CHUGIAK AK

MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER WITH VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO ID. CHIN'AN GAMING HALL IS COMMITTED TO RESPONSIBLE GAMING. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS A GAMBLING PROBLEM, CALL 1-800-522-4700. © 2026 CHIN'AN GAMING HALL

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF AFN ADVOCACY

**Thriving in the Arctic
and Beyond**



**UKPEAĠVIK
INUPIAT
CORPORATION**

uicalaska.com



**DONLIN
GOLD**

**GROWING OPPORTUNITY.
ROOTED IN RESPECT.**



donlingold.com

NORTHERN AIR CARGO

ROOTED IN ALASKA. BUILT FOR WHAT'S NEXT.



As AFN celebrates 60 years and Northern Air Cargo marks 70, we're proud to keep investing in Alaska's future. Our new Boeing 737-800 carries up to 40,000 pounds of capacity per flight, strengthening reliable service across the state.



EXPLORE
NORTHERN AIR CARGO
SCAN TO LEARN MORE
nac.aero



Rooted in Tradition. Rising Together.

To learn more, visit ciri.com.



ROOTED IN CULTURE

DRIVEN BY PURPOSE

We align performance with purpose by grounding our business in cultural stewardship, long-term thinking, and accountability to the generations who came before us and those yet to come.



EXCITING NEWS!

Chugach Alaska Corporation is proud to announce that Copper River Fleece, a brand with deep roots in Alaska, has officially joined our family of subsidiaries.

United voices.

We wish you a meaningful and productive convention as you stand together to elevate your traditions and communities.



Alaska.
AIRLINES

Club 49 Member: Stephanie P.



**Proud to support the 2026
AFN Annual Convention.**

Rooted in Land and Tradition, Rising in Our Voices



907-729-4955 | southcentralfoundation.com

Proud sponsor of the 2026 AFN
Convention, celebrating 60 years.

BEING HEARD IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

Yuit helps Alaska Native organizations tell important stories that build understanding, strengthen connections, and inspire meaningful action.



YUIT COMMS

Connected Intelligence. Measurable Growth.



1-800-478-0804
1-907-562-2110
www.akwhaler.com



Alaska's Largest Selection of:

- Pulltabs
- Bingo Paper
- Daubers
- Bingo Equipment
- Electronic Bingo
- Raffle Supplies

Fast, Free shipping
No Minimums

Best in State Website
Largest Selection
Best Prices



Helping Alaska's Charities Since 1987

Ahtna

Wise stewardship of Ahtna lands and responsible economic growth for future generations of Ahtna people.

Our culture unites us;
our land sustains us;
our people are prosperous.

www.AHTNA.com

GET READY TO Accelerate Reading Achievement

**Phonics Program +
Decodable Libraries**

Family Engagement · Video Phonics Lessons

JustRightReader.com/meet

Committed to Alaska for more than 50 Years.

Investing in our communities and
building Alaska's workforce.

Waqaa • Yak'ei yagiyee • Dunilggux, chin'an gheli Do'int'a • Aang • Paglagivsi

Did you know? Grant funding is available to nonprofits, Tribes
and other government entities.

Visit Rasmuson.org or scan here to find funding:



Visit us on the third floor to learn more.



Honor history by making it.

Cast your vote on
November 3!

AARP Alaska is a proud supporter of Alaska Native voices, a fierce advocate for livable communities, and a trusted source for Alaska voters.

Find voting information at aarp.org/akvotes



Alaska Pollock Proudly Alaskan.



Alaska's fisheries are more than a resource - they are the foundation for our communities, families, and future generations.

The Alaska pollock fishery is rooted in Alaska and strengthened by the people, partnerships, and communities connected to it. Through science-based management, responsible stewardship, and a commitment to continuous improvement, we are working to protect Alaska's fisheries and the opportunities they provide.

Together, we can help ensure Alaska's fisheries remain strong - today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.



📍 Unalaska is home to the nation's #1 fishing port, by volume.

Learn more



Visit our website
alaskapollockfisheryalliance.com



Follow us
Alaska Pollock Fishery Alliance

STRENGTH ACROSS GENERATIONS

NANA 



redw
Advisors & CPAs

**Protect Your Funding.
Empower Your Team.**

UNIFORM GUIDANCE TRAINING

The Senate delayed the Uniform Guidance overhaul. Don't wait it out. Get your team audit ready now.

Led by experienced Tribal auditors, safeguarding your funding and your sovereignty.

Schedule a
discovery
call today!



METALS THAT MATTER

To provide the essential resources the world is counting on to make life better while caring for the people, communities and land that we love.





We are better together

Every day we go to work, attend school, and live our lives side by side. Our individual experiences come together to help us learn more about the world around us, and ourselves as well.

Wells Fargo is proud to recognize Alaska Federation of Natives

wellsfargo.com/impact

© 2026 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. 8535219-2 MOD: 985



Welcome,
AFN Delegates!



**ALASKA COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

*Amplifying Alaska's generosity.
Guided by Alaska's communities.*

FOR ALASKA. FOREVER.

alaskacf.org



ILISAĠVIK
COLLEGE

ALASKA'S TRIBAL COLLEGE, OPEN TO ALL!



TUITION WAIVERS | ONLINE OR IN PERSON

WWW.ILISAGVIK.EDU

Located in Utqiagvik, Alaska



COASTAL VILLAGES REGION FUND

We strive to develop thriving local economies in
Western Alaska that create opportunities for current and
future generations.



Proudly Representing:

Chefornak Chevak Eek Goodnews Bay Hooper Bay Kipruk Kongiganek Kwigillingok Mekoryuk Napaskiak
Napaskiak Newtok Nightmute Oscarville Pitkin Quinhagak Scammon Bay Toksook Bay Tuntutuliak Tununak

49th 49th
49TH YEAR IN THE 49TH STATE
ALYESKA PIPELINE
SERVICE CO.

**Rooted in Land and Tradition,
Rising in Our Voices**

Proud sponsor of the
Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention

Alyeska pipeline
SERVICE COMPANY

alyeska-pipe.com

**ALASKANS
AGAINST
BIG TRAWL**

PAID FOR BY 907 INITIATIVE

**3 MILLION SALMON.
57.5 MILLION POUNDS
OF HALIBUT.
WASTED.**

LEARN MORE

2026 President's Awards

Eileen Panigeo MacLean Education - Theresa Mae Prince

Theresa Mae Prince is a respected educator, cultural bearer, and community leader from Kotlik, Alaska. Beginning her career as a Yup'ik bilingual educator during the BIA era in the 1970s, she dedicated decades to teaching language, culture, and values to young people. Alongside her educational work, she shared traditional skills and knowledge that strengthened cultural identity and community wellbeing. Theresa continued her own educational journey, earning associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees while working full time and raising a family. Her leadership has extended beyond the classroom through service on the Kotlik Tribal Council, the Kotlik Yupik Corporation, and AVCP Healthy Families. Her lifelong commitment to education, cultural preservation, and community service has left a lasting legacy across the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.



Gin'tith Richard Frank Military Service - Dempsey Woods, Jr.

Dempsey grew up dog mushing in a military household with deep connections to the Alaska Army National Guard. His family still practices a subsistence lifestyle and for many years has provided salmon from their subsistence nets to the people of Kotzebue and the surrounding villages of the Northwest Arctic. Shortly after graduating from high school he enlisted in the Guard and now raises his own family in Anchorage. He's pictured on the left.



2026 President's Awards

Glenn Godfrey Law Enforcement - Darrin Scott Topkok

Darrin Scott Topkok is an Alaska State Trooper whose life and work are deeply rooted in Western Alaska. Raised in the Nome region, Darrin's commitment to public service began at home in 2020, serving as a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) in the communities that supported and shaped him. After taking a break from law enforcement during a move into Nome, he was presented with an opportunity to return to public service in a broader capacity as a "Roving" VPSO. His time serving in this position across the region deepened his passion, dedication, and commitment to public safety—ultimately driving him to apply for the Alaska State Troopers to serve on an even broader scale. In May of 2026, Darrin completed the Alaska State Trooper Academy, officially earning his badge and title as an Alaska State Trooper.



Hannah Paul Solomon *Woman of Courage* - Barbara Franks

Barbara Jean Franks is a Tlingit woman originally from Hoonah, Alaska, whose nearly three decades of suicide-prevention advocacy grew from profound personal loss. In 1997, Barbara's 23-year-old son, Ron, died by suicide. Two days later, her husband of 25 years died from cancer. At a time when suicide remained deeply stigmatized and resources for surviving families were difficult to find, Barbara made a courageous choice: she turned her grief into service.



Barbara returned to school, earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Human Services, and pursued extensive training in suicide intervention, bereavement support, and Critical Incident Stress Management. Through her professional and volunteer service, she has educated and supported individuals and communities throughout Alaska. Barbara served for years on Alaska's Statewide Suicide Prevention Council representing survivors of suicide loss and ultimately became its chair, helping advance statewide collaboration, wareness, and prevention efforts.



2026 President's Awards

Katie John Hunter Fisher - Anthony “Tony” Christianson

Anthony “Tony” Christianson is a lifelong Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, provider, community leader, and advocate who has dedicated decades of service to protecting subsistence, strengthening traditional food security, advancing responsible stewardship, and ensuring rural voices are represented in decisions affecting Alaska’s lands and waters. A longtime leader in Hydaburg, Tony has served as Mayor of the City of Hydaburg since 2006 and as Natural Resource Director for the Hydaburg Cooperative Association. His service extends to the federal level through the Federal Subsistence Board. Appointed in 2012 to represent rural subsistence users, he subsequently assumed the role of Chair, bringing to federal fish and wildlife policy the lived experience of a rural Alaskan, provider, hunter, and fisherman.



Health - Dr. Elise M. Pletnikoff

Dr. Elise M. Pletnikoff is a Sun’aq and Unangan physician, community leader, and mentor who was born and raised on Kodiak Island. She earned her medical degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine through the WWAMI program, with emphasis on Indigenous health and rural and underserved medicine. She completed family medicine residency training at Swedish Cherry Hill and the Seattle Indian Health Board before returning home to Kodiak in 2013.

Today, Dr. Pletnikoff is a board-certified family medicine physician and Chief Medical Officer of the Kodiak Area Native Association. She provides comprehensive care across the lifespan—from newborn, pediatric, prenatal, and adult care to elder and end-of-life care. Her practice is grounded in long-term relationships, cultural respect, and an understanding of the realities facing rural and Alaska Native patients. She also serves patients through Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center.



2026 President's Awards

Roger Lang Youth Leadership - Wallace Ungwiluk

Wallace Ungwiluk was born in Nome and raised in Gambell, Alaska, on St. Lawrence Island, where he developed a strong foundation in his Alaska Native culture, subsistence living, and community values. After graduating from Apangalook High School in 2017, he pursued higher education in the Lower 48, earning bachelor's degrees in Business Administration and Psychology, followed by a master's degree in Management and Leadership from Multnomah University, while competing as a collegiate basketball player. Throughout his academic and athletic career, Wallace established himself as a dependable teammate and leader. He later served as an assistant coach for Lewis-Clark State College, and continues to coach athletics in Gambell, mentoring student-athletes through player development, academic support, and leadership both on and off the court.



Small Business - Heanie and Lee Staheli II

Lee's Sea Air is an Alaska Native, family-owned business in Kiana, Alaska, owned and operated by bush pilots Heanie and Lee Staheli II. Flying runs deep in this family, and every one of their children is a pilot.

Together, they keep our region moving through every season. Their work reaches far beyond air charters and freight. In a place where resupply can be delayed for days, they keep the shelves of their convenience store stocked year-round, so families always find what they need. From fresh milk to generator parts, the Stahelis often have what you need when you need it most. Additionally, their bed and breakfast offers steady, welcoming lodging for visitors and workers far from home.



A black and white portrait of Julie Kitka, a woman with dark hair, looking slightly upwards and to the left. She is wearing a dark jacket with a logo on the collar. The background is dark.Two horizontal bars, one teal and one red, stacked vertically.

Recognizing Julie Kitka

Julie Kitka was the long-time President of the Alaska Federation of Natives, the oldest and largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. For 33 years, from 1990 to 2024, she was honored to serve the Native community in this capacity. Her last day at AFN was September 30, 2024.

She viewed her work at AFN as expanding the imagination of the people, to see beyond the challenges and conflicts, and take charge of our future. She strongly believes in self-determination for individuals and the entire Alaska Native community. Protecting hunting, fishing, and gathering rights has been at the top of her efforts, as well as full implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) and the promises made by the U.S. Congress. Rights and responsibilities go together, and she did not shy away from advocating for the people of Alaska and accepting responsibility to improve opportunities. Thank you, Julie!



Subsistence Listening Sessions: Hearing from Alaska Native Communities

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is traveling across Alaska to listen directly to Alaska Native hunters, fishers, gatherers, Tribal leaders, elders, and community members about the future of subsistence. These regional listening sessions are a critical part of AFN's work to implement AFN Resolution 24-01, Advance Alaska Native Subsistence Rights, and to develop an Alaska Native framework for subsistence management. The sessions provide an opportunity for communities to share firsthand experiences with changing fish and wildlife resources, barriers to harvesting, management decisions, food security, traditional knowledge, and the impacts these issues have on families and communities.

Subsistence: battle over state resources

By Paul Jenkins
The Associated Press

It's called the "subsistence issue" in polite circles. Elsewhere, it's painted as a conspiracy, an attempt to destroy age-old cultures and even a ticket to disaster.

ment takeover of subsistence hunting and fishing management on more than 700 acres of federal land in 1982.

And there are predictions of the possible destruction of last frontier's fish and life — the fragile life of the state's subsistence resources.

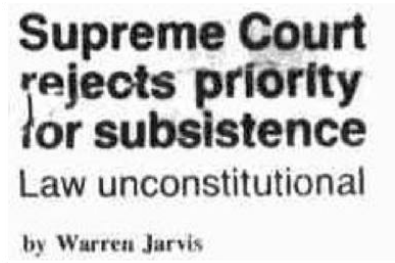
Why These Conversations Matter

For Alaska Native peoples, subsistence is much more than harvesting food. It is a foundation of culture, identity, spirituality, community, and intergenerational knowledge. It connects people to the land and waters and provides opportunities for elders to pass knowledge and traditions to younger generations. Yet Alaska Native communities continue to face significant challenges in exercising their traditional and customary ways of life.

1982

Declining fish and wildlife populations, increasingly complex management systems, regulatory barriers, competing resource uses, and limited Native participation in decision-making can make it more difficult for communities to access the resources they have depended upon for generations.

AFN believes solutions must be informed by the people who live on the land and rely on these resources.



1989

Building an Alaska Native Framework

The listening sessions are helping AFN identify common concerns while also recognizing that each region has unique resources, traditions, management challenges, and priorities. Input gathered from communities will help inform AFN’s Subsistence Strategic Action Plan (2026–2030) and contribute to the development of a broader Alaska Native framework for resource management.

From Listening to Action

The listening sessions are not simply an opportunity to hear concerns—they are the foundation for action. AFN is using what we hear from communities to identify priorities, build statewide consensus, strengthen partnerships, inform legislative and administrative strategies, and develop long-term solutions.

The conversations are helping identify opportunities for:

- Stronger Alaska Native participation in fish and wildlife management;
- Greater recognition and incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge;
- Improved Tribal consultation and government-to-government relationships;
- Reduced administrative and regulatory barriers to subsistence;
- Stronger state and federal protections for Alaska Native subsistence rights;
- Expanded co-management and other forms of shared decision-making;
- Greater attention to food security and the economic value of subsistence;
- Protection and transmission of cultural knowledge and traditional practices; and
- Long-term structural changes that recognize Alaska Native rights, sovereignty, and stewardship responsibilities.



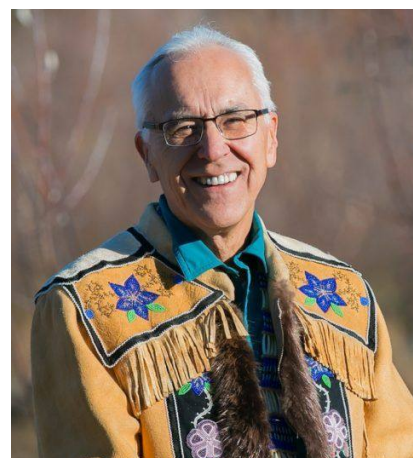
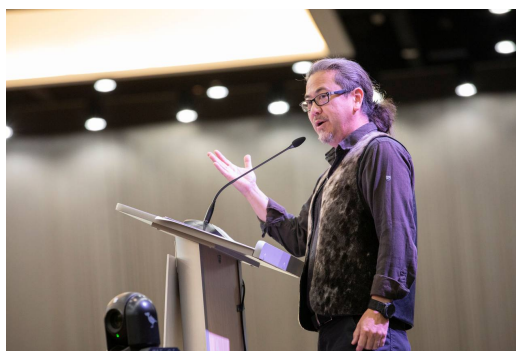
Here's to the next 60 years...



60 Years



1966 - 2026





Save the Date

The 2027 AFN Annual Convention will be held on October 21 - 23, 2027, in Anchorage, Alaska.