



AVCP Quarterly

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **8 New VPSO's Graduate**
March 11th
- **Fish & Game Commissioner Campbell Visits AVCP**
- **Tribal Court Training in Bethel**
- **Casa Seeks Volunteers**

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From The President's Desk

AVCP was established in 1964 by visionaries, our elders, village leaders, who saw a need for our villages and region to work together. Their primary efforts were to protect the land and resources that our people lived off of, protect our children, and promote education in the changing world.

Today, over forty years later, AVCP has become a strong regional entity, promoting the welfare of our Yupik, Cupik and Athabascan people from Lime Village to Kotlik onto Platinum and Russian Mission. Criss-cross the location of the villages, and it is about the size of Florida, larger than 26 states.

AVCP started contracting BIA programs back in the late 1970's, and today compacts many Federal government services and State programs, such as the Village Public Safety Program, where we have the largest number of VPSO's covering the region. We have added new programs over the years, including the recently added Indian Reservation Roads Transportation Program.

We have a variety of programs that we administer here at AVCP, which include transportation planning, education, childcare and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, just to name a few. How these programs work, the projects we are working on and the services available to our clients will be reported by each respective program director in this newsletter, as well as in future

Checking The Subsistence Net

Commissioner Campbell and John Moller were treated to a special outing during their visit to Bethel in January. After their meeting with AVCP, Mike Hoffman and Marcie Sherer escorted Cora and John down river to watch Johnny Evan check his white fish subsistence net. It also gave them an opportunity to travel on the river which is a vital pathway in allowing travel between villages on the Kuskokwim.

Before the visitors arrived Johnny had to chop through about two feet of ice before he could free his nets. Then he waited patiently for them to arrive. After they arrived, he explained how the nets were set and then as he pulled the net, he explained the rest of the operation. Not only

newsletters.

AVCP recently established a position of Vice President of Business Enterprises. This position is essential as we see a need for more funding to come to the region and villages. Over the last ten years, we have seen approximately \$10 million dollars come into the region from Economic Development Administration. Compare that to other regions in the State of Alaska that have brought home between \$40 million to \$300 million. We know we can do better and an increased amount can be attained in partnership with the villages in the region.

This newsletter is a step in providing more information on programs and developments within the AVCP region. We look forward to comments and questions from the readership.

Quyana,
Myron P. Naneng, Sr.



Fish & Game Commissioner, Cora Campbell; Rural Advisor for Governor Parnell, John Moller; AVCP Executive Vice President, Mike Hoffman; AVCP Tribal Services Director, Johnny Evan

does the catch feed his family, some of the fish will be shared with the elders in his home community of Napaskiak. Johnny also explained that even though Bethel recently had blizzard conditions and wind chill temperatures down to 60 below, the nets still had to be checked. Although he was busy with the dog racing activities, his family braved the harsh weather to check the nets.

On this day his efforts were rewarded with several shee-fish and about a dozen whitefish.

AVCP Remembers Joseph Mike



Joseph Mike of
Kotlik

Joseph Mike of Kotlik passed away January 30, 2011 after being medivaced to the hospital in Bethel. He was better known in his village as Joe Mike. He was a respected village leader and gentleman who served as Tribal Council President of Kotlik for many years. He also served as an AVCP Executive Board member from October 1995 to October 2005, representing the Unit 1 villages of: Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Emmonak, Chuloonawik, Bill Moore Slough, Hamilton, Kotlik, St. Mary's, Pitka's Point and Mountain Village.

Joe not only looked out for the welfare of his village members and staff but also those living in the surrounding villages. He made sure his villages received assistance of all the programmatic services they would benefit from.

Joe was a huge supporter of AVCP and occasionally called to offer encouragement to our staff. He supported the efforts that he knew would make a difference in the region. He will be remembered for his thoughtfulness and positive outlook.

On one of Myron Naneng's trips to Kotlik, Joe showed him the knots he had tied on some of the willows. The growing willows still have the knots. They have grown larger and tighter over the years. Joe left a mark in his village that will be visible for many, many years. Just look closely at the willows that he tied near his home.

VILLAGE OF KOTLIK

PO BOX 20210

KOTLIK, ALASKA 99620

(907)899-4326 / 4836 FAX (907)899-4790

RESOLUTION 2011-05

A PROCLAMATION OF JOSEPH PETER "ANRAYUQ" MIKE

FOR HIS DEDICATED AND DEVOTED SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE OF KOTLIK

- WHEREAS:** the Kotlik Tribal Council (COUNCIL) is a federally recognized governing body for the Native Village of Kotlik; and,
- WHEREAS:** the COUNCIL represents the interests of the tribal members of Kotlik; and,
- WHEREAS:** Joseph Peter "Anrayuq" Mike was born on April 13, 1932 in St. Michael, Alaska; and,
- WHEREAS:** While serving for the Kotlik Tribal Council, he would introduce himself as "Joe Mike" to "allanaqs" who visited the Village of Kotlik; and,
- WHEREAS:** "Joe Mike" has served many years in the Association of Village Council Presidents as an Executive Board Member; and also served in the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation Board of Directors; and,
- WHEREAS:** "Joe Mike" also served many years in various local Kotlik organizations such as the Kotlik City as Mayor; Kotlik Yupik Corporation as a Board Member; and for the Kotlik Traditional Council as Tribal Chairman; and,
- WHEREAS:** the Kotlik Tribal Council respectfully recognizes and honors Joseph Peter "Anrayuq" Mike for all his dedicated services he did for his people from the early 1960's up until 30 January, 2011.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that effective 2 February, 2011, the Kotlik Tribal Council recognizes January 30 as an annual "Joseph Peter Anrayuq Mike Holiday" for the Village of Kotlik.



Joseph Mike at the
2010 AVCP Annual
Convention

Education, Employment, Training and Child Care

The AVCP Education, Employment, Training and Child Care Department (EET & CC) provides services through a consolidation of funds authorized by P.L. 102-477, sources which include U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs funding (Higher Education Scholarships, Adult Education, Job Placement & Training), U.S. Department of Labor funding (Workforce Investment Act – Section 166 Comprehensive and Supplemental Youth Services for Native Americans), and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funding (Native Employment Works (NEW) and Child Care Development Fund).

The Department goal is to promote the economic and social development of AVCP Tribal members in order to reduce joblessness in accordance with the goals and values of the Tribes we serve. We support education, employment, training and economic development activities in order to more fully develop the academic, occupational and literacy skills of our Tribal members. The ultimate goal being, that our members become more competitive in the workforce. We assist AVCP Tribal members and other Native Americans in the region to succeed in the workforce by encouraging self-sufficiency, while helping to familiarize them with the “world of work” and by facilitating the creation of job opportunities and other services related to those activities.

The ultimate goal being, that our members become more competitive in the workforce.

EET & CC Program Highlight - Employment Assistance

Employment Assistance (EA), formerly called “Direct Employment” is a ONE-TIME grant available to those Alaska Native or Native Americans living within the AVCP region. The program is available to those who were previously unemployed or underemployed and have since found full-time, PERMANENT employment. Assistance provided will be on a case-by-case basis and can include transportation, rent (security deposit and 1st month’s rent only), utility deposits, a one-time grocery stipend and transportation stipend, clothes, etc. You must demonstrate a financial need and submit a complete application at least two weeks before you receive your first full paycheck. All payments will be made directly to the vendors and no reimbursements will be considered. There are other qualifications that must be met so please contact us today for more information; 1(800)478-3521 ext. 7486.

AVCP EET & CC Program Deadlines

Program	Deadline
Higher Education	June 30th, November 30th
Vocational Training	Two Months prior to start date
Classroom/Short-term Training	Two weeks prior to start date
Employment Assistance	Open Enrollment

Program	Deadline
ABE/GED Program	Open Enrollment
Work Experience	Open Enrollment
On-the-job Training	Open Enrollment
Child Care Assistance	Open Enrollment

For additional Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Scholarship Contact Information and Deadlines go to page 11.

AVCP-Serving 56 Tribes in Southwestern Alaska Since 1964



“both the Federal and State systems need to make changes to become more efficient and effective in developing policy for the subsistence resources”



John Moller, Rural Advisor for Governor Parnell; Myron Naneng, AVCP President; Cora Campbell, Commissioner of Fish and Game; Mike Hoffman, Executive Vice President of AVCP; Gene Peltola, Jr., Yukon Delta Wildlife Manager

Commissioner Campbell Visits AVCP

On January 28, 2011, Cora Campbell, the Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and John Moller, Senior Rural Advisor to Governor Parnell, paid a visit to AVCP.

They were invited so AVCP could have the opportunity to inform them on what some of the subsistence resource issues of the region are and how the residents are affected by the decisions the Board of Game, the Board of Fish and the lawmakers in Juneau make.

Commissioner Campbell looked at the meeting as an opportunity to learn and gather information which will help her understand AVCP’s perspective. It also gave her an opportunity to explain her vision for the department and some of the changes that she would like to implement.

Commissioner Campbell answered questions and was very receptive to the recommendations put forth by the group. She was very open to the opportunity of building a healthy working relationship with the organizations of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. She also stated there is a need to build a better relationship and improve communication

with the Federal Agencies that are involved with the decision making for this region. She acknowledged that both the Federal and State systems need to make changes to become more efficient and effective in developing policy for the subsistence resources.

More rural representation on advisory boards of both State and Federal agencies was another issue discussed and agreed on by all parties.

Although AVCP will probably not agree with all of Commissioner Campbell’s decisions, we do feel that we have a voice and she will listen to our concerns. She will be looking for our input to help guide those involved in making decisions that affect our region.

This summer, Commissioner Campbell plans to visit several villages in the region during the peak subsistence fishing season which will allow her to witness the importance of the peoples’ need to be able to participate in their traditional ways of providing and gathering food for their families.

Others in attendance at the meeting included Greg Roczicka, Director of Natural Resources, ONC; Gene Peltola Sr., President/CEO, YKHC; Mary Pete, Director, Kuskokwim Campus & Gene Peltola Jr., Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge Manager.



AVCP Tribal Services Director, Johnny Evan, checks his subsistence net.

Teguluku Ataam Yup'iim Angutnguyaram Ayuqucia



The State of Alaska, Department of Corrections has a new program that they are implementing in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta called the Sexual Offender Treatment Program. It is for males who have hurt others in a sexual way. These men are the grandfathers, fathers, sons, brothers and uncles related to many in the region. Most of these men will want to return home when they complete the residential part of their treatment. The Department of Corrections wants to make sure their return home is safe for the village. The program will teach these men different tools to guide them, but the men also

Sexual abuse ends when we begin to talk.

need the help of their village elders, the Public Safety officers, family members and many others in the community. These people will act as a SAFETY NET (ikayurtet) to remind the men of those tools they were given so that they don't ever hurt anyone again in a sexual manner. The Department of Corrections will use this news-

letter to provide information and to seek guidance about how to make the men in the program successful and to keep the communities safe. In the next newsletter descriptions of the different parts of the program will be provided, along with suggestions about how the villages can help the men that return home.

Communities

Unite For Safety and Healing

Additional Resources Concerning Sexual Abuse

Stop It Now.org

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

Safer Society Foundation

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

National Children's Alliance

Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project

Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC) Bethel, AK

Center for Sexual Offender Management

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers

Faith Trust Institute "Working Together to end Sexual & Domestic Violence"

Circles of Support & Accountability (COSA)

Community SAFETY NET

For more information call 907 543 1149

AVCP Information Technology Upgrade

Network Manager, John Charlie said, "IT could not have happened without due diligence of the IT Staff."

The Information Technology (IT) Department completed a momentous task over the weekend of February 25th. The crew moved the data cables from the old server to the new server. This updates the server room at AVCP and will provide faster service. It will also provide greater security for the equipment and its data. The move went off without a hitch as information is still flowing! They are now waiting on Teleco to move the telephone cables to the new server room. That upgrade should happen in March and will improve telephone services for AVCP.

The new look was so inspiring that IT thought about spending the night in their newly remodeled room. They can relax a bit more knowing the IT equipment has a new and cleaner environment.



John Charlie, Aaron Mute, Robert Lincoln (Not pictured: Wilson Naneng)

Yuut Yaqungviat



Trevor Peterson, Alaska Airlines Bethel Station Manager, presents check to John Amik, Yuut Yaqungviat Director.

Visit Yuut Yaqungviat

online for information on classes and how to enroll.

www.yuutyaqungviat.org

or call

1-888-543-7209

Daryl Smith, a pilot for Lynden Air Cargo visits with students at Yuut Yaqungviat.



In 2004, AVCP established Yuut Yaqungviat, LLC (*"Where People Earn Their Wings"*), a rural aviation and flight training center providing commercial pilot training. To date, we have graduated 16 students, and 13 are now employed by aviation services in the Bethel area.

Air travel is essential to life in rural Alaska. All medicine, food, supplies and mail fly to communities in the region. A shortage of trained pilots continues while pilots are imported from the Lower 48 states that stay in the area for an average of 2 years and then leave. The wages paid to temporary pilots are exported out of the state, once obtaining additional training building flight hours. Experienced pilots leave the state to work for regional or national air carriers causing staff shortage, and results as a training burden for Alaskan air businesses in Bethel.

Yuut Yaqungviat, LLC, continues to make a change to that gap, by training local people in Southwest Alaska. Training is done under real-time conditions. We provide air safety training that pays big dividends with Alaskan residents from our region. In effect, their wages stay in our region with multiple benefits and there is increased

investment in rural Alaska as people build homes and care for their families, with greater yield for local small businesses.

For every pilot, we estimate \$500,000 is injected into the economic growth in villages over a 10 year career, with about 25 to 30 years of employment. We have graduated 16 students who earned their certified professional pilot's license. Of the 16 students, 15 were Alaska Native. In addition, 41 private pilot certificates have been issued and 22 instrument ratings have been issued, 2 students are working towards their instrument rating, and 4 are working towards their private pilot certificate.

The commercial and transportation center of Bethel provides about 250 commercial pilot and passenger and freight services jobs for our region. With local employees, retention rate in these jobs is much higher. The rewards we see are positive opportunities for the young adults in the region. Once employed, they promote healthy lifestyles and leadership, combat drug and alcohol abuse, and disparity among youth in isolated communities.

Alaska Airlines Donates \$15,000 to Yuut Yaqungviat

Early this February Alaska Airlines donated \$15,000 to Yuut Yaqungviat. The money will be used toward tuition for 3 students from the region to attend the flight school. This is the third donation that Alaska Airlines has given the flight school. The first donation came in 2009 and was for \$5000. Last year's donation was in the amount of \$15,000. These donations were also used for student tuition.

Daryl Smith Visits Yuut Yaqungviat

Yuut Yaqunviat recently had the honor of visiting with a local pilot from Lynden Air Cargo during their Friday Lunch speaker series. Daryl Smith dropped by to have lunch with the students at Yuut Yaqungviat and to offer them words of encouragement.

Daryl grew up in Bethel. His parents are Judy and the late Ted Smith who were originally from the Kalskag & Russian Mission area. Daryl graduated from Bethel Regional High School in 1992. In 1994 he finished ground school and in 1995 he headed south to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a pilot.

Daryl attended the Southeastern School of Aeronautics in Georgia. He bypassed any break to complete his course work in 9 months, graduating in December of that year. (continued on p. 7)

AVCP Tribal Justice to Host Regional Tribal Court Development Training

March 30-31, 2011, Tribal Justice will be hosting a Regional Tribal Court Development training. The speakers for the two day event include: Myron Naneng, AVCP President; Kevin Illingworth, Tribal Management Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks; April January, AVCP Tribal Justice Director; Steve Sumida, Pribilof Aleuts, Inc.; Natalie Landreth, Native American Rights Fund Staff Attorney & Counsel; Carol Brown, Esq. AVCP Tribal Advocate; Ernie St. Germaine, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; John McIntyre and Daniel Bill, AVCP ICWA prevention Coordinator and Rural Social Worker; and Meagan Foster and Tiffany Zulkosky, Office of Senator Begich, (via video teleconference).

The purpose of the training is to keep the tribes of the region updated on current issues that affect them. The three main topics include: ICWA Kaltag Case presented

by Natalie Landreth; Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 presented by Natalie Landreth and Carol Brown; and Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act of 2010 (ASFVA) presented by Tiffany Zulkosky and Meagan Foster.

Other topics include Traditional Elder/Youth Justice, Alaska Tribal Court Resources, Tribal/State Relations, Healthy Families/Qasigmiutaat and Relying on Traditions to Protect our Children.

The training is free and open to Tribal Judges, Tribal Court Clerks, Tribal Council, ICWA Workers and other interested participants. Interpreters will be provided. For more information, please contact AVCP Tribal Justice Director, April January at 800-478-3521 or ajJanuary@avcp.org

**Stay updated
on current
issues. Plan on
attending The
Regional Tribal
Court
Development
Training March
30 & 31.**

Darren Charles of Nunapitchuk Earns His Wings

On December 8, 2010, Darren Charles earned his FAA Private Pilot License. The important thing to understand is, an applicant does not get a license, he does not receive a certificate, he EARNs the right to carry a little piece of plastic in his wallet. Earn is the correct verb. To earn a Private Pilot License from the FAA is a daunting challenge; it is a Federal License, it is a big deal.

Darren Charles, 20 years old, from Nunapitchuk, Alaska, graduated from high school at Mt. Edgecombe in Sitka, Alaska. He is the son of Molly and Wille Charles. Darren is the oldest of a family of 2 brothers and one sister. His instructor, Roberto Guerrero prepared him so he passed his check-ride on his first attempt.

On a clear, windy day in December, Darren departed Bethel with Bruce Perry, FAA designated examiner. The flight included S-Turns, Turns Around a Point, Steep Turns,

Stalls, and Soft Field Take Offs and Landings, among other things. Darren felt that he almost blew his ride on the S-Turns, because of the stiff wind. An S-Turn is where you fly across a line ground feature in the shape of an "S", with semicircles of equal size. This maneuver is harder with a strong wind because the pilot must account for the wind effects, maintaining a constant altitude and airspeed. If you are careless with your timing, your "S" can turn into a pretzel.

Darren felt that his Steep Turns were his best maneuver, and they are his favorite maneuver, he likes the feeling of G-forces, and the satisfaction of rolling out on the correct heading and altitude. The flight ended up with simulated soft field operations at Napaskiak, and on his return to Base, he was met with the usual congratulations at Yuut Yaqungviat Flight School in Bethel. Darren plans to continue with his Instrument Rating on his way to becoming a Commercial Pilot, and then maybe he will get his driver's license.



Roberto Guerrero, Darren Charles and Bruce Perry

Daryl Smith (continued from p. 6)

By no means was it an easy road. Although he did manage to find some support, scholarships were hard to come by. He also utilized student loans to put himself through school.

Other problems he encountered included culture shock. Daryl said he was lost his first two weeks in Georgia. He had a hard time finding a place to live and coming up with a way to make money so he could eat. It was also so hot he wanted to set up a cot in the Koegers grocery store because it had air conditioning.

Daryl offered this advice to the students, "Stay focused, stay relaxed." He also told the students to stick to their books because there is so much to learn. He encouraged

them to get their instrument rating. Daryl also told them to stay away from the drugs and alcohol. He also pointed out how great of an opportunity the students now have with the flight school here in Bethel and the scholarship opportunities available to them. He also stated that the employment offer with ERA upon receiving a commercial pilot license is unheard of when graduating from another school.

Daryl said he feels pretty lucky in his flying career. He had so much support from the other local pilots in the area and now someone is paying him to have fun and he gets to travel the world for free.

...assist the family
in achieving self
sufficiency

Please call your
Eligibility Technician if
you have questions or
need further
information.

1-800-478-7400.

The project will
focus on men and
boys regaining
culture and
traditional rules in
the Yup'ik way
of life.

Temporary Assistance For Needy Families

4 Goals of TANF

1. Assisting needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes
2. Reducing the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage
3. Preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies
4. Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

What are Supportive Services? They are services available to families who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and are meeting their 25 hours of approved work activities identified in their Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP). This also includes those clients who are "voluntarily" participating in the FSSP.

Supportive services are an extra help, other than the monthly benefit check, which will assist the family in achieving self-sufficiency through various areas whether it be in finding a job/career, keeping a job, or in ways that will help to meet the required work activity hours.

Here are some examples of supportive services payments:

Childcare; eldercare; job searching; referral, placement, training or tuition payments; transportation: gas vouchers either work related or subsistence gathering, airfare for trainings; vehicle repairs on snow machines, sleds, boats, motors, and four-wheelers; driver's license; housing; first and last month's rent; counseling; treatment; eye glasses, dental, medical, CDL or heavy equipment license; interview clothing; emergency shelter; special tools; clothing; equipment; and any other equipment needed to complete subsistence work activities.

TANF Winter Clothes Project

The TANF Program has started a Winter Clothing Project. If any of the TANF clients attend a workshop, training, conference, or any other gathering that would benefit their family or their community they will become eligible to receive winter clothing for their whole household. A family member from four different families attended a village workshop called "Qalaruciaraq Wangkutnun Tusngauq", which qualified all of their household members to receive top quality winter clothing, consisting of coats, snow pants, snow suits, and boots through the

AVCP TANF Winter Clothing Project.

The total amount spent on the families are as follows: Family of two: \$910.98; Family of three: \$1,148.98; Family of six: \$1,560.92; Family of eight: \$1,573.94
Grand total: \$5,194.82, not including the shipping and handling.

Thank you to Diane Nicholas, Case Manager, for encouraging TANF clients to attend the workshop. Congratulations to the families!!

ICWA Receives Domestic Violence Grant

The ICWA department partnered with several local agencies and applied for a state funded grant to address domestic violence issues in the Bethel region. They were awarded \$200,000 per year for three years.

The goal of the Association of Village Council Presidents' pilot project, *Building Awareness-A Healing & Wellness Plan*, is to tackle the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Bethel region by addressing and increasing awareness of the root causes of domestic violence, sexual assault and related issues such as substance abuse and suicide. The project will focus on men and boys regaining culture and traditional rules in the Yup'ik way of life, and for tribal leadership to engage in building capacity for culturally appropriate responses to address and end domestic violence and sexual assault.

AVCP and its partner agencies felt that to begin to completely address domestic violence and sexual assault, they need to get to the root causes of them. Domestic violence and sexual assault, along with the high suicide and substance abuse rates are symptoms of a larger issue, historical trauma. Historical trauma is a result of racism so the partner agencies plan to begin addressing the problems with education and awareness through a series of trainings: Undoing Racism, Historical Trauma-Train The Trainers and Healthy Families-The Yup'ik Way. By June 30, 2011, they hope to have held two Undoing Racism trainings and one Historical Trauma training.

Partners who helped write the grant included: Tundra Women's Coalition, Orutsarmuit Native Council, Office of Children's Services, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Lower Kuskokwim School District, Bethel Youth Foundation, Kuskokwim Campus, & the City of Bethel.

Indian Child Welfare Act/ICWA

Currently, AVCP’s ICWA department has 12 regular staff and one part-time contractor. ICWA cases are handled by a team of 4 people: Brenda Lindsey, Brooke Katasse, Sarah Jenkins, and Deborah Alstrom, who work closely with ICWA compacted tribes. This team works alongside Tribal ICWA workers to represent tribes and their positions on ICWA cases in all ICWA case proceedings. This team also strives to work in partnership with Tribes, families, and OCS towards permanent, safe, and culturally appropriate homes for children involved in the state’s child welfare system.

Foster home recruitment and ICWA Compliance issues are handled by a team of two: John McIntyre and Lucinda Alexie. They currently work under a grant funded by the state to address and work to improve the low numbers of licensed foster homes in Alaska, particularly native foster homes. They also work with other staff members to address and reduce the numbers of children in custody and in out-of-preference placements or non-native foster homes.

Prevention and a variety of training services are offered by Prevention staff: Ann Koester,

Winifred Kelly-Green, Sophie Jenkins, Laura Jung and Joseph Green. Prevention staff provide services that we hope will lead to less children in state custody and overall healthier children, families and communities within the AVCP region. They provide week long *Healthy Families—The Yup’ik Way* presentations, Qasgimiutaat events, Child Protection Team training, and also coordinate Rural Human Services program, and assist with family support for children and families involved with OCS.

AVCP Rural Social Services staff works with OCS and families, accepting referrals from OCS for families at risk of having their children removed from their care. Daniel Bill, Anna Maxie-Larson, and Dennis Hensley provide services for families within their own home to ensure the family and the children’s needs are met. This program is funded through a grant from the state with the goal of reducing the number of children from this region in out-of-home care or state custody.

Any questions—please contact Cheryl Offt at 543-7400 or cofft@avcp.org

Department Purpose

The ICWA Department’s purpose is to provide for the best interests of Alaska Native Children in child protection cases by meeting the requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act with a focus of finding permanency for children. It is also our aim to provide prevention awareness and services for all AVCP Tribes and to assist Tribes in the development of their own services to prevent child abuse and neglect.

ICWA STAFF

Cheryl Offt

Brenda Lindsey
Kendra Hoffman
Brooke Katasse
Sarah Jenkins
Deborah Alstrom

Ann Koester
Winifred Kelly-Green

Director

Department Secretary
ICWA Associate/Assistant
ICWA Paralegal
ICWA Social Worker
ICWA Social Worker (Anchorage cases)
ICWA Prevention Coordinator
ICWA Prevention Coordinator

Laura Jung
John McIntyre
Lucinda Alexie
Daniel Bill
Anna Maxie-Larson
Dennis Hensley
Sophie Jenkins

Joseph Green

Family Support Coordinator
ICWA Compliance Coordinator
ICWA Compliance Coordinator
Rural Social Services
Rural Social Services
Rural Social Services (Part Time)
Office on Violence Against Women OVW Coordinator
Prevention Services Part-time Contractor

New Village Public Safety Officers Graduate

On March 11, 2011, eight more VPSO's graduated from the Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka. They will have completed a ten week course for Rural 1st Responders. This will bring the total of VPSO's in the AVCP region to 27. Those graduating are: Jonathan Russell, Roaming Officer stationed out of Aniak; Robert Pitka, Aniak; Joseph Okitkun, Kotlik; Rachel Nelson, Kwigillingok; John Samuel, Platinum; Jerome Kelly, Quinhagak; John Uttereyuk, Scammon Bay; Fred Lamont, Roaming Officer stationed out of St. Mary's.

Congratulations on a job well done!



Wassillie Pleasant and his wife Elena.

"Hey Wass, we'll miss your joking around and smart remarks...piura a Wass, agay'utem nayularniaratek aipan'llu."- Max Olick.

VPSO Wasillie Pleasant Retires

Village Public Safety Officer, Wassillie Pleasant worked for the AVCP VPSO Program for many years. He retired December 10, 2010. A celebration of his years of service was held at AVCP and was attended by his co-workers, friends and his family members. Wassillie Pleasant will be missed by all in AVCP VPSO Program. He will always be remembered for his kind sense of humor, funny jokes and stories. His hard work and dedication is very much appreciated throughout the region.



Two generations of VPSO's: Wassillie and his son John Pleasant

"My Dad's retirement from the VPSO Program was somewhat hard for me to accept because, most of my life, I've seen him wearing the same VPSO Uniform that I wear today. That is who he was and who I knew him as, besides being my Dad. Who knows, 20 to 30 years from now, my son will probably be in the same uniform that my Dad and I have worn, and have the same reflections. If that day ever comes, I will pass on the badge that my Dad had retired to me, to my son." John Pleasant



Possibly a 3rd generation VPSO?



VPSO Wasillie Pleasant and his family

Additional Scholarship Information For Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Organizations

Please contact the appropriate agencies for your area. Reminder: Apply for scholarships between January and mid-April every year. Some are semester based.

Organization	Deadline(s)	Eligibility
AVEC, Inc. 1-800-478-1818 or 907-561-1818 Fax: 1-800-478-2389	College: April 15th Voc. Training: 2-3 months prior to start date Application available at www.avec.org	Member of AVEC or residing in Household whose head-of-household is a member
Calista Scholarship Fund 1-800-277-5516 Fax: 907-279-8430	June 30th Application available at www.calistacorp.org	Enrolled or a descendant of a share-holder
Coastal Villages Region Fund 1-888-795-5151 or 907-278-5151 Fax: 907-278-5150	Fall: May 31st/Spring: Oct. 31st Application available at www.coastalvillages.org	CVRF Community Members
State of Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development 1-888-282-3526 or 907-543-1601	At least two months prior to start date	Depends on the program
United Utilities, Inc. 1-800-478-2020 ext. 5214 Fax: 907-563-3185	April 9, 2011 Application available at www.unicom-alaska.com	Communities served by United Utilities, Inc.
Yukon-Delta Fisheries Development Association Scholarship Fund 1-877-958-6625 or 907-949-1202	Feb. 14th-UA Foundation Two months prior for Vocational Training	YDFDA Community Members
YK Health Corporation PA Health Care Professional Scholarship 1-800-478-3321 ext: 6981 or 907-543-6981 Fax: 907-543-6061	No Deadline Application available at: www.ykhc.org	Tribal Members and Descendants
Education Housing Assistance Grants See or call your local Tribal office	Limited Funds available/First come-First served	Enrolled Member to a Tribal Village
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Check with your school's Financial Aid Office	
www.scholarships101.com	Possible scholarships after a profile on website	
www.aigcs.org	For Graduate College students	

CASA Program Seeks Volunteers



Currently, in the YK Delta region more than 300 children are in the State of Alaska's child protection system because of issues of abuse or neglect. To help meet their needs, the Office of Public Advocacy plans to expand the Court Appointed Special Advocate® (CASA) program to the Bethel area this year. In doing so, we are looking for community members interested in becoming a voice for children. This volunteer-based program will recruit, train, supervise and support community members to speak up for the best

interests of abused and neglected children in court and advocate for each child until they are placed in a safe, permanent home, preferably reunified with their parents.

The Alaska CASA program began in Anchorage in 1987. Today, there are also programs in Juneau, Fairbanks, and the Mat-Su Valley. The Kenaitze Indian Tribe of Kenai also has a Tribal Court CASA program, currently the only tribal CASA program in Alaska. Statewide, there are approximately 175 trained CASA volunteers. By making a commitment to become a CASA volunteer, you would join a family of over 68,000 CASA volunteers nationwide.

CASA volunteers work under the supervision of the Guardian ad Litem appointed to the case and work with one case at a time

which they monitor to make sure the child's needs are met. With the information provided to the court by the CASA volunteer, judges are able to make more informed decisions as to what is best for the child. Separate from the Office of Children's Services, the CASA program works closely with child welfare professionals in the case. Considering other professionals may come and go, a CASA volunteer is often one of the few professionals involved throughout the entirety of a child protection case.

CASA volunteers are ordinary people who come from all backgrounds and care about children. They often work full-time jobs, although some are retired. No legal expertise or special education is needed to be a CASA and volunteers typically spend about 10-12 hours a month working on their assigned case.

The next CASA volunteer training will be held in Bethel this April. This 30-hour training will prepare volunteers to advocate for our children in State Court and speak up for them when they need it the most.

For more information about becoming a CASA volunteer in the Bethel area, please contact Carla Snow, CASA Outreach Coordinator, at 907-545-3003 or by e-mail at casa-ykdelta@alaska.gov.

You may also contact Marion Hallum, the Alaska CASA State Director, at 1-877-957-3500 or by e-mail at marion.hallum@alaska.gov. For more information, visit our website at www.alaskacasa.org



**The Association of Village
Council Presidents**

101 A Main Street

Pouch 219

Bethel, Alaska 99559

Phone: 907-543-7300

Fax: 907-543-3369

We're on the web!

www.avcp.org

AVCP Mission Statement

Association of Village Council Presidents
Yuut aturyukngaitnek Paivciluni ikayurluki
Yuungnaqlerkaitnek Cali allat Yuut
Aturyukngait ellmegnek
piyugngarillerkaitnek
Makut Yuut atugekngait. Yuyarait
Piciryarait-llu
Pigiinallerkaakun Ellmegnek, ukut nunat
ilakluki Association of Village Council
Presidents
Yuut aturyukngaitnek Paivciluni ikayurluki
Yuungnaqlerkaitnek Cali allat Yuut
Aturyukngait ellmegnek
piyugngarillerkaitnek
Makut Yuut atugekngait. Yuyarait
Piciryarait-llu
Pigiinallerkaakun Ellmegnek, ukut nunat
ilakluki

The Association of
Village Council Presidents
Provides
Human development, social services,
and other culturally relevant Programs
For the people, to promote
self-determination,
Protection and enhancement of our
Culture and traditions through a
working
Partnership with member villages of the
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta