Ciunerkaput Piniliulmaluku Paitamteggun
Embracing our Legacy to Empower our Future
AVCP 50th Anniversary Poster Contest Winner, Dolly Lamont.
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AVCP Mission Statement


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.
AVCP Region and Tribes

Proudly Serving 56 Tribes in the YK Delta since 1964

Akiachak · Akiak · Alakanuk · Andreeafsky · Aniak · Atmautluak · Bethel · Bill Moore’s Slough
Chefornak · Chevak · Chuathbaluk · Chuloonawick · Crooked Creek · Eck · Emmonak · Georgetown
Goodnews Bay · Hamilton · Hooper Bay · Lower Kalskag · Upper Kalskag · Kasigluk · Kipnuk
Kongiganak · Kotlik · Kwethluk · Kwигillngok · Lime Village · Marshall · Mekoryuk · Mountain Village · Napaimute · Napakiak · Napaskiak · Newtok · Nightmute · Nunakuyak · Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk · Ohogamiut · Oscarville · Paimute · Pilot Station · Pitka’s Point · Platinum · Quinhagak
Red Devil · Russian Mission · Scammon Bay · Sleetmute · St. Mary’s · Stony River · Tuluksak
Tuntutuliak · Tununak · Umkumiut

Association of Village Council Presidents

2014 Annual Report

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President’s Report

Myron P. Naneng Sr., AVCP President

Happy 50th Anniversary, Tribal leaders and members of Association of Village Council Presidents.

As we celebrate our 50th year anniversary, we can look back to honor and thank many of the leaders who have helped shape AVCP to the organization that it is today. The founding fathers of AVCP had the vision that created a regional organization to pursue the passage of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act that eventually passed in 1971. They had the vision to unify the region for its interest, the interests of Yupik, Cupik and Athabascans of the 56 villages it now represents.

AVCP and its leadership have looked at the needs of the region and established programs and/or organizations that address these certain needs. Health services, with the formation of Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Housing needs, with the AVCP Regional Housing Authority. While AVCP continues to provide Bureau of Indian Affairs programs first under contract and today with the compacts on behalf of the tribes.

Over the years, when it was a fledgling organization, the leaders held meetings without pay, sleeping on the floors of the KVNA building or at local schools in villages whenever they met. Today, AVCP has contracts and compact programs that exceed $90 million and $64 million dollars in assets. AVCP has established programs for the benefit of tribes and tribal membership in villages. In 2015, we anticipate $17 million to $22 million worth of Transportation projects in villages.

Now, AVCP has a business arm, a limited liability entity, to pursue businesses that can provide if successful funds that are not as forthcoming from the Bureau of Indian Affairs as before due to sequestration and defunding of some programs by US Congress. Some of these declines are caused by the change in priorities within BIA, where some programs are not provided in Alaska, but are provided in reservations in the Lower 48, such as Education and Law Enforcement. Also, some BIA program funds have been redirected with Department of Interior to USFWS, and Bureau of Land Management. We now have to be more vigilant in pursuing the funds to be brought back to programs that have funded programs in Alaska for the tribes.

On the plus side of this change, we are now collaborating with other Federal agencies to leverage funds to provide the needed services for the tribes and tribal membership. We are now working with USDA and its housing program to leverage whatever limited funds we have with the HIP program that will help individuals build homes in villages.

We have worked with US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration in getting projects that have and will provide employment and training for our young people. Some of the economic activities that have been prevalent in our region before are declining due to decline in resources.

Our region has been impacted by the declining runs of Chinook and other species of salmon and has caused hardship on families that rely on salmon for food. This has a big economic impact on families, as we don’t equate what we harvest for food in terms of economic value, as it has more value spiritually, economically and family and community well-being. Our
villages have been successful in dealing with declining resources, such as migratory birds and moose. Today, our region is involved with the management of these resources for the benefit of our people.

Funding declines from the Federal government has had a big impact on programs that AVCP provides, however, other organizations such as YKHC have been impacted as well. When one organization is not receiving the funds to provide services, then we are all impacted. This is not just a health concern, but is a social and economic concern for all of us.

Despite this decline in Federal funding, AVCP has done well on State contracts. Village Public Safety Officer Program, other State funded programs, TANF, Childcare, LIHEAP have stayed steady, and however, we are at the whim of funding levels provided by State Legislature.

AVCP continues to stand on a firm financial position, despite the need for additional funding for some of the programs, which we continue to work on. We continue to look for other opportunities to expand programs, not only at the Federal and State level, but for other grants that will benefit tribes and our tribal membership.

With this trend, and the strong staff that is willing to provide the services, we look forward to the next 50 years as a viable strong organization that will benefit the region, the tribes and tribal governments.
Allanivik Hotel

Don Black, General Manager

The year began with the opening of the Mud Hut Restaurant, as advertised at last year’s convention. Although, we quickly became known as the cleanest restaurant in town, we were still challenged by expectations that taxed the capacity of the facility. As the restaurant’s team grows stronger, they are becoming better at maximizing the capacity of the limited space available in the kitchen, dining and conference room.

A more recent milestone was to re-open our coffee drive-through, which has been much busier than anticipated. Additional efforts are underway to maximize the revenues generated through the drive-through by providing some hot “on-the-run” food as well.

Our current task is to continue to maintain the standards of quality that have been established, but to now do it more efficiently.

The restaurants impact has been positive, not only to the community, but also to the hotel. The popularity of the Mud Hut has become a contributing factor to increased revenue, not just for the Allanivik Hotel, but the overall Allanivik Complex as well.

The Allanivik Complex has experienced growth in revenues for the past five years. 2014 promises to be our best year yet, with revenues already above those of 2013. The gross revenue is expected to surpass $2,000,000 this year.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<td>25.8%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
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<td>$821,000</td>
<td>$1,033,000</td>
<td>$1,227,000</td>
<td>$1,351,000</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
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*Projection

Room revenues have been increased by leveling out the seasons. Customarily the greatest demand has been during winter months, with a seasonal slow-down occurring during the summer. This year has shown consistent business throughout the year, without the summer slack. We have increased the demand for our product. We have captured additional dollars that make up the difference between what the room is valued and the amount that Medicaid pays. Some room remodeling has occurred, that allows us to start attracting the more profitable higher end business. We also continue to increase our rates to a level dictated by business as a level to be able to sustain the property.

The Complex was able to more effectively fulfill one of its primary missions this past year, by providing a place for AVCP programs to hold conferences that allow them to implement their objectives. In prior years, the hotel was more at odds with the programs. This year we were able to complement the programs by providing a venue that was in harmony with their needs. We averaged 2.5 weeks of programs each month during the winter. Remarkably enough, these programs were a factor in our increased revenues, but not a major factor, as AVCP business displaced other business that would have filled up the hotel most evenings as well. However we appreciate not only the business, but also being able to be part of the overall mission of AVCP.
Once we complete the current rooms that are under construction, we will have a hiatus on remodeling work. Remodeled rooms are being converted to business class, to attract this higher tier business. However, remodeling all of the rooms to rooms with one king-sized bed would reduce our two-bedded room inventory, which is needed for us to accommodate the AVCP social groups that stay with us. However, the business-class rooms allow us to quantify who the business travelers are. My expectation is to expand the hotel, at which point we can for fully drill down into this business and provide services to meet all tiers within the market.

Business is turned away on an average of 3-4 days a week, due to space being unavailable. Although we are working on ways to drive some of this business to the weekends, to allow us to capture more business, the reality is, the Allanivik is inadequate to meet the needs of the Bethel transient lodging market. The only way to meet that demand is to expand the property. When determining the size of the projected new facility, we looked at increasing the property to 50-60 units, but found this too to be inadequate for the demand of the business we currently have, but also for the business we want to attract. So we have opted for the first hotel profitability threshold of around 75 rooms. Seventy-five is the first threshold within the hospitality business that provides the economies of scale to provide for a profitable facility…something we have been trying to do with 28 rooms.

The expansion concept would be to complete the remodel of the 500 building and add approximately 65 rooms into a full service facility. Our work with the Cold Climate Housing Research Center and other green design companies would make this a model of green technology and energy efficiency in a region haunted by energy costs, and although larger, could be cheaper to operate, and although almost three times the size of the current facility, would require only 5 to 6 additional staff members.

**Design Concept** on how it would look. Although we want to keep the design simple, the plan is to also make it an iconic representation of the culture upon which it is established.
Aviation Maintenance School

Jeff Hoffman, Program Manager

The AVCP Regional Aircraft Maintenance School at this time is under review by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the course curriculum is in its final stages. The timeframe has been prolonged due to the FAA Review process and the required changes needed that must meet the FAA regulations. I want to express my thanks to AVCP Administration department in helping with this process. As of July, we were able to secure additional funding for the last of the required training equipment for the school. It came from an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant in the amount of $691,991. An additional funding source came from a Rasmuson Foundation grant in the amount of $25,000 for training aids. Again thanks for the help from AVCP Administration and the Grant Writers for securing additional funding for the school. Aviation is very important for our region in transportation, emergency situations, and transporting much needed goods and materials to the people. The aviation community is looking forward to the schools completion so they can start hiring from the first graduating class to fill aircraft mechanic positions which in turn will provide much needed employment and economic stimulus to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region. When the FAA Certification is completed and granted, the AVCP Regional Aviation School will be looking to recruit 15 motivated students to attend and complete the 18 month course. AVCP understands the need for training in certified Aircraft technicians, as well as commercial pilots.
Business Enterprises

Marc D. Stemp, Vice President of Business Development

The AVCP Business Enterprises Department identifies, develops and manages the social enterprise business opportunities in support of the AVCP mission statement.

The enterprise activities include the Allanivik Hotel, Mud Hut Restaurant, Yuut Yaqungviat LLC., AVCP Regional Aviation Maintenance School, Yupiit Piciryarait Museum, and the role of the Economic and Energy Development Director currently staffed by Brent Latham.

Economic Development

AVCP is a planning partner for the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA). Under this partnership AVCP is responsible for the creation, implementation and updating of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS). The AVCP CEDS department promotes economic development within the Yukon-Kuskokwim region in a collaborative approach to improve the region’s per capita income as well as the physical infrastructure.

AVCP has been involved in various projects such as the formation of the Western Alaska Emergency Operations Center (WEAOC), Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR), Alaska Small Business Development Center, VISTA including the development of an E-Commerce site for the marketing of traditional Alaska Native arts and crafts, and energy efficiencies via a relationship with Cold Climate Research Center and the Department of Energy–Office of Indian Energy.

Western Alaska Emergency Operations Center (WEAOC)

AVCP Plans to utilize the vacant Front Street Building that is adjacent to the Kuskokwim River. This location makes it an ideal facility to serve as the headquarters of the AVCP VPSO program as well as the command center for any regional emergency related disaster whether industrial or weather related. AVCP is implementing energy efficiency modifications to the facility utilizing ARRA funds from a Department of Energy (DOE) grant. A Capital Improvements Funding Request will again be submitted to the Alaska Legislature for further financial assistance in renovating this facility.

Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR)

AVCP believes that the ARDOR program provides needed economic opportunity to the region and worked with our Legislative Representatives to have the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) program reinstated this past Alaska Legislative session. The program has been revamped whereby the AVCP Region will be one consolidated ARDOR. AVCP recently submitted an application on behalf of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Economic Development Council to the Alaska Department of Commerce for consideration.

Alaska Small Business Development Center / Alaska Yup’ik and Crafts – VISTA

AVCP was successful in entering into a cooperative agreement with the Alaska Small Business Development Center (AKSBDC) to assist approximately ten (10) small businesses in the developmental stages. In conjunction with this new opportunity, the AVCP Business Development Department, Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Department, along with the Orutsaramiut Traditional Council are working together to promote economic development for the benefit of TANF and Vocational Rehabilitation clients. The group agreed that selling Yup’ik Arts and
Crafts had great potential and that an e-commerce website along with the assistance of a VISTA volunteer would provide great economic benefit for the region. We look forward to working with our VISTA representative Peter Keller for the next twelve months.

**Native American Bancorporation (NAB)**  
AVCP owns approximately 2.0% of the outstanding stock. NAB is currently raising additional capital via the sale of common stock through a Private Placement Memorandum.

NAB has undergone considerable financial stress given the global recession and is presently restructuring its operations with a focus on growing the loan portfolio and decreasing operating costs.

**Yupiit Piciryarait Museum**  
Eva Malvich is the Museum Director/Curator who has successfully energized the museum with numerous exhibits along with fundraising efforts. A more detailed report is enclosed in the Yupiit Piciryarait report.

**AVCP Flight School (Yuut Yaqungviat, LLC)**  
Due to diminishing funding along with federal cuts and sequestration, the AVCP Flight School temporarily closed this past fall. The School graduated 51 private pilots along with 21 instrument rated private pilots, and 16 commercial pilots since its formation in 1999. In order to achieve financial sustainability, AVCP is pursuing certification as a regional nonprofit aviation training center in order to utilize the Alaska Education Tax Credit program that is available via the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Program. This certification process is a priority for AVCP.

**AVCP Regional Aviation Maintenance School**  
The A&P School will complement the AVCP Flight School. There is a chronic need for FAA certified aircraft mechanics. The A&P School is presently working with the FAA to obtain certification of the school curriculum. A more detailed report is enclosed in the Aviation Maintenance School Report.

**Energy**  
The AVCP Business Development Department is also pursuing funding opportunities via the Department of Energy – Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. At the present time, AVCP is negotiating a cooperative agreement with DOE to assist ten (10) communities in the development of their economic and energy plans.

**AVCP Services International, LLC dba The Allanivik Hotel and Mud Hut Restaurant**  
AVCP Services International, LLC is a “for profit” entity solely owned by AVCP. The purpose of this new company is to pursue profitable business ventures to help offset the continuing decline of social services funding. This new entity now owns and operates the Allanivik Hotel and Mud Hut Restaurant. Don Black is the general manager, who is planning on significant property improvements including room renovations as well as food preparation.
Cultural and Environmental Sciences (C&ES)

Steven R. Street, Director/Archaeologist

Archaeology, Historic Preservation and NEPA Compliance

Ben Balivet, NEPA Coordinator, has now been on the job for one year. Because our department is short staffed, Ben has absorbed many of the duties of the Environmental Planner position and has spent an inordinate amount of his time complying with the requirements of our EPA GAP grant, including training tribal staff in using the “GAPOnline” system for entering grant work plans and quarterly reports, as well as providing hands-on assistance to tribal environmental staff in their own villages. C&ES staff members have traveled several times during the year to provide technical assistance at tribal offices, including trips to Tuluksak, Napakiak, Akiak, Chuathbaluk, Kwigillingok and Tuntutuliak, to name a few. The NEPA Coordinator and AVCP Archaeologist frequently collaborate with tribal staff to protect the human environment in our villages. Environmental concerns usually include problems with solid waste and landfills, as well as water quality and sewage disposal.

Because Native Allotments and federally-restricted Townsite lots are administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, all real estate transactions must comply with federal law and protect the rights of the land owners. The AVCP Archaeologist and NEPA Coordinator are primarily responsible for insuring that all activities on these properties follow implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106. Many other federally-funded programs at AVCP, such as the Housing Improvement Program (HIP), Transportation (IRR) and Forestry/Fire Management must also follow these statuses whether they are implemented by AVCP or by the tribes directly. Tribally-directed programs often have neither the staff nor the resources to conduct these evaluations themselves and they need assistance. Over the last few years, tribal governments have become more concerned about the long-term management of historic resources that are threatened by erosion and looting. The best way for tribes to protect these resources is to enact tribal ordinances which clearly explain what the tribal governments expect and identify the people agencies should contact in the communities. The AVCP Archaeologist can assist with this on a case-by-case basis.

During the field season each year, from before breakup until late September, our staff must complete all of our necessary field work before the snow falls and the ground freezes. This year, the AVCP Archaeologist traveled with Moxie Alexie, Realty Specialist, nearly 1,000 river miles roundtrip from Bethel up the Kuskokwim to the South Fork of the Hoholitna River. We were able to perform field surveys on several Native allotments, evaluate three known historic sites, and identify one site that will qualify under the National Historic Preservation Act as a “Traditional Cultural Property.” That means that, even though there may be no physical remains that can be located by an archaeologist, a site can still be considered a very significant cultural property because of its importance to local people. This designation is becoming more common and indicates that professional archaeologists and historians are giving more importance to what Native elders say rather than to what scientists find.
ANCSA 14(h)(1) Historic and Cemetery Sites Program

Steven Street, Archaeologist

Monica Shelden, ANCSA Oral Historian

Calista Corporation is the ultimate beneficiary of the ANCSA 14(h)(1) program and will own and manage hundreds of significant historic sites throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta that are currently on public land. AVCP manages our ANCSA 14(h)(1) Historic and Cemetery Sites program in close cooperation with the Calista Corporation Lands and Natural Resources Department, as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs ANCSA Office. Over the next few years, it will take a cooperative effort among these organizations, tribal elders, scholars and land managers to consolidate oral historical records, traditional knowledge, and archaeological documentation in order to respond to rapid development in the Y-K Region. During 2014, the need for contemporary elder knowledge became acute because of several pre-planning initiatives in the Middle Kuskokwim area, including the EIS preparation for the Donlin Gold project, preliminary work towards a commercial corridor between the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers, and BLM long range management initiatives. AVCP is currently collaborating with contractors, including Calista Corporation, URS, CH2M Hill, and E3, among others, to consolidate traditional knowledge and current information about significant cultural properties for planning purposes. We also continue to collaborate with Quinhagak Heritage Inc., Qanirtuuq Incorporated, the University of Aberdeen, and Calista Elders Council on various components of the on-going “Nunalleq Archaeology Project” in Quinhagak. Additionally, the AVCP Archaeologist is collaborating with Calista Elders Council on the upcoming third stage of the NSF-funded “Yup’ik Environmental Knowledge Project.”
EPA Indian General Assistance ("GAP") Program

Ben Balivet, NEPA Coordinator/EPA Peer Assistance

Sophie Chaliak (2013-2014), Environmental Planner

Our newest Environmental Planner, Sophie Chaliak, resigned from her position at AVCP during May of this year. Frequent staff turnover in this position within the C&ES department is a constant problem for us. It also seems to be a common problem for most tribal offices. Several factors may contribute to this; specifically, the position is a challenging, technical job that requires the employee to produce written quarterly and annual reports, manage stringent grant requirements, travel, provide consultation to village staff, and also keep abreast of current EPA regulations and technical publications. Many employees also have young families and demanding familial commitments that conflict with professional career goals. Our department is trying to cope with these challenges by implementing more career mentoring and improving our departmental culture with the hope that we can increase employee retention in the future.

Policy decisions by the EPA during 2013-2014 caused significant difficulties for tribal environmental programs and especially for the larger Alaskan tribal consortia, such as AVCP. Two elements of the new GAP guidance policies adopted by the EPA in 2014 were of particular concern: 1) The EPA GAP program would no longer cover transportation costs for “backhauling” hazardous wastes out of tribal communities after 2014, and 2) The EPA would not fund tribal consortia under the GAP program without resolutions from 100% of their member tribes. This would have meant that statewide tribal consortia, such as ANTHC, would be required to have tribal resolutions from all 229 Alaskan tribes in order to receive EPA GAP funding!
These requirements were clearly unrealistic and are not in line with the needs of our remote communities. Luckily, tribes resisted these requirements and reacted with outrage. Nearly 50 of AVCP member tribes submitted resolutions and letters of support for the AVCP environmental program. AFN also threw its support behind Alaskan tribal consortia. Ultimately, the EPA backed off on both of these issues for the time being and granted waivers for two years to tribes involved in backhauling and also awarded grants to tribal consortia for fiscal year 2015. In the future, however, there are no guarantees that the EPA will not hold us to much more stringent requirements, especially in an environment of sustained budget reductions.

AVCP is continuing to support tribal environmental programs in their efforts to backhaul hazardous wastes through at least FY15. This summer, we have again worked closely with several villages on the Kuskokwim River and in collaboration with NAPA in Bethel to move lead acid batteries out of the region. Moving batteries by boat to Bethel and then transferring them to NAPA remains the only cost-effective way to get lead acid batteries out of the villages. Ben Balivet, NEPA Coordinator, is a “hands-on” person who enjoys working with people and helping in any way he can. He has also continued to be the point man for meeting tribal staff at the beach to transfer lead acid batteries to NAPA. We have also managed to consolidate significant amounts of “e-waste” (electronic goods and old computer equipment) and hope to be able to move a container van’s worth of e-waste out of Bethel. Unfortunately, we lack the capacity and funding to do more, though we recognize the increasing need in our communities, especially with the reliance on electronic equipment of all sorts.

If you have any questions or comments about any of our ongoing projects in the AVCP Department of Cultural and Environmental Sciences (C&ES), please call the Director, Steven R. Street, at 907-543-7355 or send an email to sstreet@avcp.org. Quyana cakneq!
Economic & Energy Development

Brent Latham, Economic and Energy Development Director

The AVCP Economic & Energy Development Department is new to the organization. It was established in July of 2014. AVCP leadership formed this department to help address the economic and energy challenges in our region.

The AVCP Economic & Energy Development Department’s mission is to advance the collective economic and energy development interests of the Yukon-Kuskokwim people, businesses, and communities. This department helps promote economic and energy development opportunities to improve the quality of life and influence long-term responsible development.

As of current, AVCP leadership and the department has been involved in creating a resource center. The goal of the resource center is to gather partners with similar purposes to leverage one another to serve our people more efficiently and effectively. AVCP’s partners and possible partners include:

- Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) Program
- Alaska Small Business Development Center (AKSBDC)
- Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC)
- Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS VISTA Volunteer Program)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- Department of Energy (DOE)
- USDA Rural Development

State of Alaska ARDOR Program

AVCP is working with the State of Alaska Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) Program to create an ARDOR for the AVCP region. Our region used to encompass three designated ARDORs; Lower Yukon, Lower Kuskokwim, and Interior Rivers. With the re-authorization of the ARDORs Program in 2014, our region can only have one designated ARDOR that serves the entire region.

Our department has been diligently working with the State of Alaska on the application for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Economic Development Council (YKEDA) to become the designated ARDOR for the AVCP region. To be designated as an ARDOR we have to create an entity that has a name, board of directors, by-laws, business license, and support from 75% of the communities.

YKEDC’s bylaws were completed in early August; the AVCP CEDS committee became the board of Directors for YKEDC; we have obtained a business license and getting close to obtaining the support letters needed.
**Alaska Small Business Development Center (AKSBDC)**

AVCP and AKSBDC partnered in April of 2014. The purpose of the partnership is to provide one-on-one business advice to small businesses in the AVCP region. In partnership with AKSBDC, we provide free one-on-one business advice and have the opportunity to provide free to low cost business development workshops.

**Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC)**

AVCP and CCHRC signed an MOU in November. The purpose of this MOU was to promote affordable and energy efficient homes in the AVCP region. AVCP in partnership with CCHRC are constructing two energy efficient duplexes that will serve as housing for the aviation students. The duplexes will showcase an affordable and energy efficient building design. The design utilizes the integrated truss construction method and the buildings will be monitored by CCHRC to showcase the energy efficiency of the buildings.

We, AVCP & CCHRC, are also promoting the construction of an integrated truss manufacturing plant in the AVCP region. The integrated truss home is a CCHRC design. The truss manufacturing plant would utilize local lumber, lumber mill, and barges. This project idea has the potential to boost the local lumber and barge industries.

**Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS VISTA Volunteer Program)**

AVCP partnered with the VISTA Volunteer Program to promote internet marketing, web creation, and e-commerce. The project name is Growth through Internet Marketing in Western Alaska. The overall goal of this project is to make the Alaska Yup’ik Arts, Crafts, and Clothing E-Commerce Project and the Social Enterprises under AVCP sustainable through marketing.

Our VISTA Volunteer has joined the department on August 11, 2014. His first year objectives are to launch the Alaska Yup’ik Arts, Crafts, and Clothing E-Commerce Project and construct a website for the Allanivik Hotel that has the capacity to make reservations online.

We vision to house and disperse VISTA Volunteers with specific business development, web creation, internet marketing, and e-commerce skills throughout the region. We hope to continue the partnership with the VISTA Volunteer Program to promote sustainable communities.

**Economic Development Administration (EDA)**

AVCP has been a planning partner with the EDA since 2008. Our primary objective with the EDA is the upkeep and implementation of the AVCP Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document. Within this document lies goals, objectives, and an action plan to address economic development opportunities.

**Department of Energy (DOE)**

AVCP and DOE are in the process of developing a cooperative agreement. The goal of the cooperative agreement is to facilitate the development of 10 community energy plans. The energy plans will identify the energy challenges of a community and the energy infrastructure. The plan will also identify prioritized energy projects that would help address the energy challenges of the community.

**USDA Rural Development**

AVCP is in communication with the USDA to house their offices in the AVCP Administration Building. One of AVCP’s greatest strengths is outreach to our 56 Tribes. We hope to work with the USDA to distribute their material and opportunities throughout the region.
Education, Employment, Training & Child Care

Jennifer C. Hooper, Director

The AVCP Education, Employment, Training and Child Care Department (EET&CC) provides services to compact and non-compact Tribal members through a consolidation of funds under P.L. 102-477. Funding comes from three federal agencies - the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The programs we offer include Higher Education, Adult Education, Job Placement & Training, Section 166 Comprehensive Adult and Supplemental Youth Services for Native Americans, the Child Care Development Fund and Native Employment Works. We also provide assistance to tribes who want to develop TERO’s for their communities and to assist individuals who need to overcome particular barriers for employment (rent, child care, transportation, etc.). These programs include Work Experience, On-the-Job Training and Employment Assistance.

Adult Education
Lack of a GED diploma continues to be a key barrier hindering people from becoming self-sufficient. Potential clients who dropped out of high school years ago find out later that they need that high school or GED diploma for a job, a training program or for whatever purpose. We do not have a formal ABE program at AVCP anymore; the funds just aren’t there. Any individuals that contact us, who need to work on their GED, are referred to the Regional Adult Basic Education Center in Bethel. We are continuing to explore different ideas, with the hopes of starting up a larger program again. Until those efforts are solidified though, we are doing what we can.

Higher Education
The AVCP Higher Education (HE) program provides scholarship awards to clients as they further their education at a Post-Secondary Education institute of their choice. Scholarships are provided only to those tribal members that are enrolled in tribes participating in AVCP’s Compact. Tribes that contract directly with the BIA for their Higher Education program funds are excluded from our program; they receive funds under their own P.L. 93-638 contract and provide services to their enrolled tribal members. In 2013, 40 tribes compacted with AVCP for HE and 214 students were funded with scholarships.

Training
The focus of our training program is to assess, counsel and assist clients prepare for self-sufficiency through providing a variety of training opportunities. These opportunities are offered to clients through a number of differing methods and services. Vocational training assistance (technical, occupational and apprenticeship), our most widespread program, provides 1 to 2 year grants to tribal members who need to gain the technical skills necessary to become qualified for jobs that are offered now and in the future labor market. We provide funding assistance to both compact tribal members and non-compact tribal members, at two different award levels. In 2013, 46 adults and youth were provided training assistance.

Employment
Employment Assistance (EA) provides one-time grants to clients who are recently hired to a new, full-time, permanent job and need financial support (rent, transportation, special work clothes or tools, eyeglasses, etc.) while they wait for their first
full pay check. Most of the clients we serve are relocating to major hubs, such as Bethel or larger communities, where jobs are more readily available year round. In 2013, 7 clients were provided Employment Assistance.

The Work Experience (WE) and On-The-Job Training (OJT) programs provide individuals the opportunity to be trained in a local business or field. Businesses contact the EET&CC Department requesting participation in either program and, as long as they are deemed a qualified business and they hire eligible participants, they are provided funds to hire. The main goal of both programs is to attain unsubsidized full-time employment for our participants, once their training period is over, primarily with their supporting business or organization. In 2013, we had 1 participant in the WE program and none in the OJT program.

Summer Youth Program
The AVCP Summer Youth Program provides funds directly to participating tribes and communities. The program allows for youth to participate in a work experience program directly with local businesses and other organizations. Worksite agreements are developed and youth are able to learn what employers expect in various worksites, including basic work skills, attitudes, values and ethics that employers expect.

A signed MOA is required for each tribe. An appointed SYP Coordinator is typically hired (can also be the local Tribal Administrator or staff person) in each community and they are required to follow the process of recruiting employers, verifying that adult participants (supervisors/mentors and those adults having direct and continuous contact with the youth participants) and have submitted and passed the State of Alaska Criminal Justice Information request (criminal background check). They also distribute employment applications to youth, collect timesheets, and distribute salary payments, following their tribe’s policies. This process includes employers signing the worksite agreement with the tribe, which outlines how they will work with the youth. In the end, the youth should have gained experience in all aspects of the “working world,” which later helps to begin the training process for what they can expect when they start working full time for a living. In 2013, 36 tribes submitted MOA’s and there were 399 youth that participated in the program.

Child Care
Child Care support services are available for those clients that need childcare for children under 13 years of age (19 if disabled). Parents are required to either be working or attending some sort of education program; training, college or going to school to get their GED. Funds are provided directly to parents on a sliding fee scale, who in turn use the funds to pay providers caring for their children. Tribes can also contract directly with the Office of Child Care for their discretionary CCDF funds and then will receive their Mandatory CCDF funding allocation from AVCP to assist their enrolled tribal members. In 2013, childcare assistance was provided to 133 families with 341 children.

EET&CC staff travels to the villages and provide information to help inform tribes and tribal members of our programs. We want to recruit as many participants as possible who have the need and the desire to become self-sufficient. Our 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 are here to support education, employment, training and economic development activities to allow our members to be more competitive in the workforce and to succeed in the world of work.
Financial Services

Alexandra Werba, Vice President of Finance

It has been an extremely busy year for AVCP’s Financial Services Department. First off, I would like to give an update on the accounting system conversion. Last year I reported that we would be operating on new accounting software beginning January 2014 and it gives me great pleasure to say that we met this deadline. We made a smooth transition to the new software and some of the accounting employees have been cross trained in different areas to ensure consistent service at all times. Although it was a successful changeover to the new system, we have yet to show our ability to produce monthly reports to AVCP’s Department Managers. The anticipated deadline for this is October 2014, just in time for the new Federal fiscal year.

Also, effective the first part of January 2014, AVCP has moved all payroll functions back in-house and employee paychecks are now generated at the Bethel office. Due to the hard work and dedication of the employees in the payroll department, this was a seamless switch and we have reported and paid all payroll taxes timely for the first and second quarter of 2014. Payroll is also upgrading to a more user friendly time keeping interface that will give all employees, both in Bethel and outside of Bethel, the ability to clock in and out for more accurate timekeeping. All together with the transfer to the new accounting software and the changes to payroll, AVCP will be saving an estimated $93,000 in Administrative related expenses per year.

In May AVCP hired a Grant Compliance Officer who is assisting our team with creating a process to ensure compliance with grant conditions including: budget management and control, timely drawdown and reimbursement requests, sub-grantee oversight, monitoring of matching funds, and timely financial/program reporting. As of July 2014, AVCP has 75 grants totaling $90,192,605. We have restructured our grant management team into three areas, all of which will have a Finance Administrator (FA) assigned to monitor compliance and spending of assigned grants. We look forward to continued improvements in this area over the next year.

Last, and certainly not least, I would like to recognize the members of our accounting team, who have all been an instrumental part of our continued efforts to improve AVCP’s Financial Service Department. Alaina Aloysius does Accounts Payable for AVCP; Samantha Bill assists with filing and data entry; David Charles works in Travel; Wassilie Ekamrak is in training as one of the three FA’s in grant management and also does Purchasing for AVCP, Hotel Reservations for Travel, and Accounts Payable for the Hotel Division; Edward Evon works in Payroll; Marilyn Martin does AVCP’s bank and investment reconciliations, manages AVCP’s fixed assets and also assists in overall management of the accounting team; Hilda Oscar is one of the three FA’s in grant management and will be monitoring several of AVCP’s grants; Claudia Palacios is the Grant Compliance Officer and is one of the three FA’s in grant management; Lucy Pitka works in Travel; Cloyd Teter works in Travel; and Phillip Tulik works in Payroll. All of these individuals are dedicated to their work at AVCP and I am excited for the future plans we have in place for our department.
**Head Start**

**Sheila Beaver, Head Start Director**

**Mission Statement**

AVCP Head Start, partnering with the parents and community, provides a positive and safe learning environment for the children with respect to different cultures and languages, to open the doors to a bright and successful future.

**2014 School Readiness Goals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expectations Met</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children engage in a variety of physical activities</strong></td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children practice basic personal care routines</strong></td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children eat a variety of nutritious foods</strong></td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children demonstrate awareness &amp; understanding of safety rules</strong></td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children adapt to diverse settings</strong></td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children will understand and follow rules &amp; routines</strong></td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children regulate their feelings &amp; impulses</strong></td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children sustain attention to tasks and persists when facing challenges</strong></td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children approach daily activities with creativity &amp; inventiveness</strong></td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children demonstrate awareness of cause &amp; effect</strong></td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children find multiple solutions to questions, tasks, &amp; challenges</strong></td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children demonstrate knowledge of numbers &amp; counting</strong></td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children demonstrate some knowledge of size, volume, height, weight &amp; length</strong></td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children demonstrate awareness &amp; appreciation of their own &amp; other cultures</strong></td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children use creative arts to express &amp; represent what they know, think, or believe or feel</strong></td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children demonstrate phonological awareness</strong></td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children demonstrate appreciation &amp; enjoyment of reading</strong></td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children demonstrate knowledge of letter's &amp; symbols</strong></td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teacher Credentials

Lead Teachers  
1 Head Start Lead Teacher with Bachelor’s Degree  1 Teacher with an Associate’s
6 Head Start Lead Teachers with Associate’s  2 Teacher with a CDA
2 Head Start Lead Teachers with CDA’s  6 Teachers working toward their CDA’s
Lead Teachers and Teachers are enrolled in ECE classes toward either their Bachelor's or Associates degree in Early Childhood Education

Average Daily Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akiachak</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chefornak</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalskag</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kotlik</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinhagak</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Mission</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scammon Bay</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuluksak</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AVCP Head Start FY14 Funding Source

Federal  US Department of Health& Human  $ 2,308,675
State  Department of Education and Early Development  $ 357,948

AVCP Head Start serves 221 children and families in 11 communities.
This past year we did not meet our funded enrollment of 221 children. This is due to families moving away from the villages and where we have a waitlist, we do not have room to enroll these children.
Housing Improvement Program

Sam White, Housing Improvement Program Director

This year and last the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) has worked on three public safety building pilot projects in Mountain Village, Aniak, and Kwigillingok. With the previous public safety building projects, I have looked into and checked what we would be able to improve on the buildings. This year we added ramps to make it easier to access for the VPSO’s and made the buildings foam paneled instead of stick frame.

Through the Housing Improvement Program, we are working with the VPSO Department and Department of Public Safety for a renovation project on a VPSO duplex in Mountain Village. The Hip Department had to renovate an old YKHC Clinic into a duplex; with a three month time frame we were able to finish this project on time.

The Housing Improvement Program will be finishing four new homes in Chevak, Kalskag, Kotlik, and Russian Mission from funding that was approved two years ago. Also we will be overseeing two new pilot projects. The first pilot project will be with the Cold Climate Research Center, building two new student duplexes next to the Allanivik Hotel. The other pilot project will be working with BIA and USDA on building homes for families that score in the middle ranges of the HIP Guidelines.

Both HIP homes and Public Safety buildings are built from locally hired workers and I would like to thank the tribes for their assistance and cooperation for their help in hiring knowledgeable carpenters and laborers. I would like to also thank the village corporations and the local city governments, who also cooperated with AVCP to get all sites located for the buildings being built.

Ribbon cutting of the new VPSO Building in Aniak
Human Resources

Deborah L. White, Director

The AVCP Human Resources Department’s focus is to assist all of the AVCP Programs by supporting the employee needs for the organization in a variety of directions and processes.

The Human Resources Department (HR) provides these services through management of the personnel process from selecting and on boarding the employees, through to retirement. There are three (3) major focus areas within Human Resources: Employee/Manager support; Benefits Management; and Staff Development. At this time, the department has a full-time staff of six personnel, each bringing a particular expertise to the program and then translating that to the varied needs of the Association.

Goals

- A diverse, highly skilled, productive, healthy, and efficient workforce.
- Fair and lawful treatment of all employees.
- Providing mentorship to assist the development of highly effective supervisors, leaders and managers, through focused and consistent training.
- Operational excellence in the delivery of all Human Resource services and functions.
- Alignment of HR policies and processes with the organization’s needs and goals.
- Providing an environment of continuous improvement, collaboration and teamwork.
- Ensuring there are common systems that provide honest and valuable feedback to all levels of the organization.
- Creating methods of engaging employees to use their best talents.
- Ensuring employees understand the company goals with regular updates and how the employees can affect those goals.

Strategy

Compensation and benefit packages support AVCP’s efforts to recruit and retain a highly performing and diverse workforce. The HR Department provides a high level of service to its customers by making use of available knowledge, skills, and technology and through one-on-one interaction with those customers. All members of the HR Department are representatives for our employees and fill an advocacy role, when appropriate. In filling this advocacy role, HR staff is mindful of the need to balance employee rights against the legitimate business needs of the organization.

- HR-sponsored training and development activities are provided to enable supervisors and employees to improve their skills and abilities in carrying out their present roles and ensure safe and effective work habits.
- HR Staff provides appropriate career development opportunities to enable employees to better themselves by developing the skills for supervisors and managers to grow into more advanced management roles in the organization.
- The HR Department carries out the AVCP Personnel Policies and in an open and honest fashion, welcoming input and advice from our customers.
• The HR Department partners with upper management by providing professional and expert advice and services on those matters that impact upon personnel issues.

Core Values of Human Resources
The staff of the Human Resources Department has adopted values and ethical codes that describe how we interact with our customers and with one another in conducting our business.

Integrity
We interact among ourselves and with others honestly, thereby building relationships based on trust. We always respect the confidentiality entrusted to us.

Respect
We exercise patience and sensitivity in dealing with the concerns and problems of others. We will be open-minded, forthright, and fair in our interactions with our customers and with one another.

Customer Focus
We anticipate, understand, and respond in a timely and effective manner to the needs of our customers. We welcome customer feedback and rely on this to help identify improvements in our operations.

Communication
Effective communication is the foundation of our personal and business relationships. We actively seek to understand the perspectives of others by listening with an open mind and communicating honestly, with appropriate discretion.

Competence
We capitalize on the knowledge, skills, and abilities mastered through our education, training, and experience. In doing so, we will achieve the highest level of customer satisfaction and operational excellence.

Team Spirit
We cooperate and collaborate with each other and our customers. We are enthusiastic in conducting our day-to-day duties and mindful of the needs of one another and our customers.

I believe the key is listening to understand that each area of an organization is slightly different, requiring a unique set of resources and support. By understanding the importance of the AVCP and regional culture, the direction the Senior Management of AVCP want to go in and the vision of the President/CEO Myron Naneng, and Executive Vice-President Michael Hoffman, HR can assist in the journey to get to that vision.

The success of AVCP’s HR Department, as a strategic business partner within the management of AVCP, is because we pay attention to the company’s needs and goals while ensuring employees’ rights and needs are met. We work towards consistent trust and confidence from the AVCP leadership and personnel. The department’s responsibilities vary from benefits and compensation to training and organizational effectiveness and by looking ahead to the direction of AVCP and contributing to the growth and strategic direction of the entire company.

Accomplishments in 2013/2014
• Creation of a staff development training including Brown Bag Lunches (BBL), monthly one-topic training for managers and supervisors on key functions. Examples are: Travel Policy Process; Employee Evaluation Process; Harassment and Sexual Harassment Training; Payroll; Grants Compliance.
• Development of the quarterly full day Supervisory Training for all management levels of AVCP.
• Revamping the New Hire Orientation and adding the Information Technology Orientation.
• Revision of the Employee Handbook, including signature pages for key policies.
• Revision of all Job Descriptions.
• Revision of the Annual and 90-Day Evaluation template to include job specific appraisal.
• Marketing of AVCP healthcare insurance to better plan at a significant rate savings per year.
• EEO survey completed in June 2014. Native hire percentage for AVCP – 91.545%.

Goals for 2014/2015
• On-line application and job opening process completed.
• Intranet and Internet HR websites.
• Annual Evaluation process changes.
• Annual employee orientation revamped.
• Improved benefit management and sourcing.
• Development and revision of the current database structure for the HR Department.
• Continued staff development efforts with AVCP Departments.
• Completion of the HR Department Strategic Plan.

HR Staff Members

Helen Merdian, Benefits Coordinator

Lema Pete, HR Coordinator

Vyola Tinker, HR Technician

Lauri Weston-O’Brien, Staff Development Coordinator

Deborah White, HR Director

We truly believe that employees are AVCP’s most valued resource and greatest asset
Indian Child Welfare Act

Cheryl Offt, Director

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 goal to provide prevention awareness and prevention/early intervention services for ALL AVCP Tribes and to assist tribes in the development of their own services to prevent child abuse and neglect. ICWA currently compacts for ICWA services with 31 AVCP tribes, and we offer ICWA advocacy, ICWA legal assistance, ICWA training, for the ICWA compacted tribes. When a tribe compacts their ICWA with AVCP, the tribe, the families and the children receive assistance from a team of people at AVCP ICWA. A tribe who contracts their own ICWA can still access AVCP ICWA department for guidance, technical assistance and training, but AVCP would not have the authority to handle non-compacted tribes ICWA cases.

Currently the AVCP ICWA Department has nine regular staff, and a contract with Alaska Legal Services for three ICWA Attorneys to provide legal services for our ICWA cases. ICWA cases are managed by Sarah Jenkins, who works closely with ICWA compact tribes. Sarah supervises the ICWA Advocates, the ICWA office manager, and directs the work of the ALSC attorneys. This team works alongside Tribal ICWA workers to represent tribes and their positions on ICWA cases in all ICWA case proceedings. This team 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. Through this team effort, we expect OCS to follow ICWA and we hope more Native children find permanency in Native homes.

The AVCP Healthy Families the Yup’ik Way program and staff provides services that we believe will lead to increased reunification, fewer children in state’s custody and overall healthier children, families and communities within the AVCP region. AVCP Healthy Families provides 3.5 days of Healthy Families the Yup’ik Way workshops on a monthly basis, and will also travel to villages upon invitation by the tribe for village-based events. Healthy Families is open to ALL tribes and has travel scholarships - contact Winnie Kelly-Green for more information.

AVCP ICWA also works to coordinate the Rural Human Services program a two year certificate program with UAF/KuC, and will have RHS mentors to work with and support a brand new cohort of RHS students this fall 2014. AVCP also assists with family supports for children and families involved with OCS through family contact services offered by our Family Support Specialist. AVCP’s ICWA department also is a member of the Tribal State Collaboration Group, a group of Alaska tribes, tribal agencies and OCS, that meets three times a year to work towards improving tribal state relations, work and services for ICWA families across the state.

The ICWA department has also been actively offering and supporting Undoing Racism workshops for partnering agencies, tribes, and community members, and youth through the first Freedom School in Bethel. The Undoing Racism workshops are offered to help build awareness around the topic of race and institutional racism, and how it impacts the work we do for
our Native children and families. *The next Undoing Racism workshop is coming up Oct 28, 29, and 30 in Bethel. If interested in participating, please call the AVCP ICWA department.*

ICWA is available by your tribe’s invitation for ICWA trainings for tribal councils, Healthy Families events and other ICWA or tribal child-welfare related information and assistance.

**Staff Members**

Cheryl Offt  
Director

Dolly Lamont  
Office Manager

Sarah Jenkins  
ICWA Manager

Melanie Fredericks  
ICWA Advocate

Linda Ayagarak-Daney  
ICWA Advocate (Anchorage-based)

Winifred Kelly-Green  
Healthy Families Coordinator

Lucy Mochin  
Healthy Families Facilitator

Joseph Green  
Healthy Families Facilitator

Laura Jung  
Family Support Specialist

Kendra Hoffman  
RHS Mentor/Coordinator

Joy Anderson  
Alaska Legal Services Attorney

Pearl Pickett  
Alaska Legal Services Attorney

Sydney Tarzwell  
Alaska Legal Services Attorney
Information Technology

John P. Charlie, Network Administrator

First of all, I extend my appreciation to all the work and expertise of IT Staff this year. I would like to reintroduce the staff; Robert Lincoln who is the key staff member in answering all the Help Desk calls and designates them to appropriate IT personnel for immediate resolution using software to keep track of all IT calls. Aaron Mute, who is responsible for network resources including file servers, firewalls, client-tracking applications, routers and switches. Wilson Naneng, who was added to the IT team in an effort to provide service to Tribal Members by handling IT support requests in member villages. The IT staff is instrumental in providing the services needed that our day to day operations are seamless and I commend them for their determination in making the AVCP IT infrastructure operate efficiently.

As mentioned previously, the IT department is working to support and enhance the technology tools required for day to day operations at AVCP. Some of which are maintaining applications required to keep track of client and business transactions, and Microsoft Exchange email system. Extending our email services to the tribes, upgrading the telephone system and expanding IT support Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

Deployment of other application software is still under development which may be used corporate wide to track AVCP services to users and clients. We have completed Social Services, Head Start, Housing Improvement, EET & CC, and TANF. The software will allow all client services departments to use one software, where in the past we were using many. There are still a few more departments that are being built so that they too will utilize this software. Due to the complexity of the Federal and State requirements that this new tool required is constantly being modified to meet those needs so that each program can enter the data seamlessly.

The Microsoft Exchange email server was deployed early in the year and we will continue to enhance the features of the new email service to improve our communications within AVCP and Tribal members.

In an effort to improving communications within AVCP and Tribal members, we continue to offer email services in compliance to the resolution that passed in FY 2009. Each participating Tribal member will have a unique email address (e.g. john_doe@napaskiak.org, jane_doe@tuntutuliak.org, cangyuli@nunakauyaq.org, etc.). But all will share common addresses internal to the email system. We now have a few tribes that are utilizing this service which include Napaskiak, Tuntutuliak, Pilot Station, Toksook Bay, Lower Kalskag, and other AVCP affiliates.

Another project we are working on is the AVCP telephone system. We have gone out to seek proposals from potential vendors to upgrade the AVCP telephone system and replace the current outdated system with something that meets today’s technological requirements. The new system will help improve our services within AVCP and to our Tribal members and partners.

In closing, and as always, we at AVCP IT services are constantly doing what we can to keep the day to day operations as smooth as possible by keeping our servers up to date, configuring desktop systems with standard supported software and updating periodically for security purposes, and training the IT staff to meet the support requirements of new technology. Making sure our telephone system is working properly to meet AVCP’s day to day operations. We at AVCP IT bid you a successful and prosperous year.
Natural Resources

Timothy Andrew, Director

This reporting period for the Natural Resources Department has been one of the most demanding and highly controversial year due to low Chinook salmon productivity and the low abundance in both the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. We encountered a barrage of meetings starting with the Fish & Game Advisory Committee and Regional Advisory Council meetings in the fall and early winter, discussing both fish and game resources, then on to the Alaska Board of Game, Alaska Board of Fisheries, and then the Federal Subsistence Board. We continue to witness increased populations of several migratory bird species and moose in various areas of our region. I have yet to hear reports of diseased marine mammals as we have encountered in the past. We continue to encounter the low productivity of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd which resulted in hunting by registration permit to allow for accurate and timely reports last year. We are continuing providing safety from wild land fire in the villages that have wood resources encompassing their communities. We continue to advocate for the conservation and subsistence utilization of all the food resources we depend on for food security through the Alaska Board of Game, Alaska Board of Fisheries, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the Federal Subsistence Board, the Alaska State Legislature, and United States Congress, including various departments in both federal and state arenas. We have developed effective partnerships with international organizations like the Inuit Circumpolar Conference to let our food security issues be known and addressed. We look forward to continue serving our villages with dedication and hard work by our limited staff to protect and conserve our wild food resources. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to the years ahead.

Migratory Birds

Duck Stamps

Duck stamps have always been a major concern for our people in the villages. AVCP, in cooperation with the Alaska Federation of Natives, are continuously traveling to Washington DC to meet with our congressional delegation in hopes of resolving this issue with a permanent solution to exempt Alaska Native subsistence migratory bird hunters from this
requirement. Two years ago, there was compromise language in the bill to make this requirement under Secretarial discretion on the exemption. If this legislation had passed, the Secretary of Interior would have the authority to waive or require the possession of a duck stamp for our subsistence hunters. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass. This past year, Senator Lisa Murkowski inserted language in the Sportsman’s Bill to exempt subsistence hunters from the requirement to possess duck stamps in our hunt for migratory birds but the bill failed due to political issues surrounding unrelated desires of other senators. We thank the Alaska Congressional delegation, Alaska Federation of Natives, along with our other Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council-Alaska Native contingent for their support and advocacy.

Oregon Farm Bureau

Since the inception of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan, some of our goose populations have soared to historical population levels. The most abundant, at the time of the printing of this report are the Pacific White-fronted Goose. The next most abundant species are the Cackling Canadian goose. Just as reported last year, the Cacklers are continuously creating crop depredation issues on the Oregon farmlands. There has not been any measurable progress in our negotiations with the Oregon Farm Bureau, however final counts of the cackling Canada geese was expected to be released in July 2014. We have yet to see the report and suspect that it will be published soon.

Other Migratory Bird Issues

Two years ago, an estimated ten swans were thrown into dumpsters in Bethel with only the breast meat salvaged; AVCP submitted a proposal to require all parts of migratory birds, with the exception of the viscera, be salvaged to meet local and regional salvage standards. The Alaska Board of Game considered the proposal in their November 2013 meeting in Kotzebue, but deferred the issue to their statewide meeting in Anchorage in March 2013. We advocated for total utilization, but the Alaska Board of Game increased the salvage requirements to thighs and drumsticks in addition to the breast meat. Furthermore, the issue was considered by the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council in their spring meeting held in Anchorage in April 2014. The council adopted the proposal, thus eliminating the waste of precious subsistence food. Additionally, we are working with other regional management bodies in addressing the utilization of migratory bird parts in making cultural and traditionally made handicraft. Several of our Alaska Native members in the populated areas of Alaska have fallen victim to prosecution by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for selling handicrafts that contain migratory bird parts and feathers. Representative Don Young has drafted federal legislation that authorizes the use of feathers and other non-edible parts of migratory birds taken for subsistence uses to be used in the making of traditional Native handicrafts. We are working with his staff on this legislation.

Marine Mammals

AVCP Natural Resources continues to be involved in marine mammals through our membership in the Indigenous People’s Commission of Marine Mammals, the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee, the Alaska Ice Seals Committee, and the Alaska Eskimo Walrus Commission. We still have yet to find the additional money to fund the meeting of the Imarpigmiut Ungungiit Murilkesitiit. Arctic shipping continues to be an issue. The decreased presence of ice in the Arctic means more commercial vessel traffic through Arctic waters including the eastern coast of the Bering Sea, this can likely result in various kinds of disturbances including subsistence hunter/commercial shipping vessel interaction, migration deviation of marine
mammals, etc. All these issues are very complex and require time to adequately protect the interests of our villages and our hunters.

Moose

Moose in the AVCP region are faring exceptionally well with the exception of Unit 19A which still remains in restrictive hunting opportunities status. With the huge numbers of moose in the new “Unit 18 Remainder,” AVCP advocated for the elimination of the Lower Yukon and the Unit 18 Remainder borders and increased the bag limit to two moose and for the extension of the moose hunting season to March 15 on state jurisdiction land and March 30 on federal jurisdiction land. The Lower Kuskokwim moose populations are still building and a census has not occurred for several years. As of the printing of this report, a harvest objective of 100 moose is currently in regulation within a harvest window of September 1-10. An RM615 permit is required within the Lower Kuskokwim Moose Management Area.

Caribou

The Mulchatna Caribou Herd still remains a concern for managers and users alike. The last count estimate of the herd was less than 30,000 animals. This is a precipitous drop from over 220,000 animals in 1996 to less than 30,000 animals today. This drop has led to more restrictions in order to conserve the current population and to rebuild the herd. After the initial drop in the population, the Alaska Board of Game lowered the population objective from 100,000 to 130,000 to 80,000 to 100,000, then finally to 30,000 to 80,000 animals. Much of the caribou herds across the globe are in the state of decline, and the Mulchatna Herd is no exception. It has yet to be determined why the caribou populations are declining, but many speculate the primary reason to climate change.

Fisheries Program

Professional Fisheries Biometrician retained

This year, as many other years, was one of the most contentious years relating to the management of Chinook salmon
resources on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Due to changes in the run forecasting by the Department of Fish & Game and the highly controversial nature of Chinook salmon management on the Kuskokwim, AVCP hired a professional biometrician, William Bechtol, Phd., to review and provide expert analysis on the Bethel Test Fishery model and the interpretation of the daily information generated by the department. Many issues related to the management model was discovered and Mr. Bechtol provided valuable analysis, insight, and recommendations to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group. His overarching knowledge of scientific models and implication to salmon management proved very valuable for the conservation and preservation of one of the most valuable fisheries in the state of Alaska.

**Lower Yukon Subsistence Chinook ASL and Genetic Sampling**

The Lower Yukon Subsistence Chinook ASL and genetic sampling program did not operate this year, primarily due to the highly restrictive subsistence fishing situation on the Lower Yukon. Additionally, our Fisheries Biologist left AVCP in January of 2014 leaving a void in our department.

**Pilot Station Mixed Stock Analysis**

AVCP received $17,761 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to hire a rural resident as a research assistant to conduct genetic sample collection on the Yukon River Pilot Station Sonar Project. AVCP hired Donald Kelly of Pilot Station for his 16th season as a Fisheries Technician. Donald's position is part of a mixed-stock analysis project for Yukon chum salmon. Regional genetic stock contributions and run timing estimates for Yukon chum have been estimated using samples collected in the Pilot Station test fishery since 2004. The information collected at the Pilot Station test fishery combined with collections from other projects assists fishery managers in meeting escapement goals and ensuring sustainable harvest rates. This information is critical information for salmon managers for maintaining the productivity of Yukon River chum salmon.

**Funding from the Office of Subsistence Management**

AVCP received notification of funding from the Office of Subsistence Management Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) for two projects, one of which was entitled *Local and Traditional Knowledge of Whitefish and other Non-salmon Fishes in the Lower Kuskokwim and Tundra Villages*. We received another grant in which AVCP was to act as a local cooperator for developing a baseline measure and prescribing monitoring protocol to estimate previously unreported Chinook salmon harvested by non-local harvesters in the Kuskokwim Delta. Without a fisheries biologist, we could not effectively complete the requirements of the grant. The funding for the two projects was returned to the funding agency.

**Forestry and Wild Fire Protection**

In 2013 AVCP Natural Resources worked on three projects: Upper Kalskag, Pilot Station and Sleetmute.

**Upper Kalskag:**

Travel in July lead to prescription that was in Upper Kalskag. The project combined a 10 acre shaded fuel break with an 8 acre maintenance of a 2010 HFR project around a housing subdivision. The 1st part was a "100' wide Shaded Fuel Break" that protected the community tribal center and 7 homes along with 16 home lots. The 2nd part was "maintenance on a 2010
HFR project. This was cutting back on encroaching vegetation and cutting all grasses around a housing subdivision and school.

* Project acres completed: 18
* Project acres responsibility: 15
* Homes protected: 22
* Housing lots protected: 16
* Resulting in 244 piles
* Project dates: 8/12/13 until 10/31/13
* Crews employed: it was a 6 man crew with a total of 9 people employed.

**Pilot Station:**

Work started on the Pilot Station project, completing last year’s. HFR work by burning the piles that were from the mechanical thinning of 2012 and this last phase of the project has resulted in Pilot Station being the only community in Alaska with a defensible zone completely around the village.

The work that was completed also included 4 acres of maintenance via grass cutting of the 1st original phase which was located adjacent to the north.

* Project Dates: 10/12/13 to 10/15/13
* Crews Employed: 7 man crew working 8 days
* Piles Burned: 233
* Acres Protected: 160

**Sleetmute:**

A pile burning project was scheduled to complete the 2012 HFR project but because only 1 crewmember application was received the project was postponed until this coming Fall season.

The project has 33 large piles that we are planning to burn in late September/October. Steps have already been taken to make this happen this season.

**Additions to the AVCP Forestry and Fire Accomplishments 2013/2014**

Between the Fall of 2013 and the Spring of 2014, I was part of a committee that was tasked with reviewing and rewriting the EFF crew management guide. This is the who, what and how's of our emergency fire fighters crews and what happens from before they are hired till after they return from being deployed on a fire.
Many changes and improvements came out of this with focus on the 'crew rotation'. Our crews should have a better chance of getting out on fires every year.

The final revisions and additions to the Forest Management Plan are near completion. There will be greater information and data on native allotments. AVCP and its contractor are using the latest in aerial photos and GIS data to complete the additions to the Forest Management Plan.

2014 funding: Our funding for 2014 for our HFR projects will be $25,300. This reduced funding leads to a larger focus on maintaining or the maintenance of our prior HFR projects. We will be going back to Pilot Station to do a maintenance project that will focus on grass-work of the greatest risk areas of our fire break around the community.

There are indications that the HFR funding is due to increase this upcoming year. This is a result of a federal budget rather than operating under a continual resolution.

Other important announcements

The Natural Resources department, in August, hired Kevin Bartley as a Subsistence Coordinator to facilitate the formation of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers Intertribal Fisheries Commissions. During the month of May 2014, AVCP and the Tanana Chiefs Conference cooperatively sponsored initial meetings on both the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. The Yukon meeting was held in St. Mary’s and the Kuskokwim meeting was held in Bethel. Additionally, Mr. Bartley will work with the Bering Sea Elders Group and the Alaska Seafood Cooperative to facilitate a working relationship for a more effective management of marine fishery and subsistence resources. We look forward to his contribution to the Natural Resources department.

Timothy Andrew, Director

Vacant, Fisheries Biologist

Kevin Bartley, Subsistence Coordinator

Michael Burley, Community Wildland Fire Protection Specialist.
Office of Self-Governance

Martha Whitman-Kassock, Self-Governance Compliance Coordinator

The Self-Governance Office at AVCP was established in February 2014 when I was hired as the Self-Governance Compliance Coordinator. This position creates a single point of contact for the Office of Self Governance (OSG) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The self-governance office at AVCP coordinates the Self-Governance Compacts between the Tribe, BIA, and OSG, to ensure that the Compact obligations of the tribe and BIA are met; and that the integrity of the Compacts is not jeopardized. Responsibilities of this office include but are not limited to:

- Coordinating, communicating, and representing the tribes regarding any issue that impacts and/or affects self-governance of the Tribes.
- Internally and externally negotiating, developing and monitoring compliance with applicable Tribal, federal, and state laws, regulations, contracts, cooperative agreements, memoranda of understanding, memoranda of agreements, and any agreements, that affect, associate and/or commit cooperation of the Tribal self-governing body and/or impact Tribal Sovereignty.
- Acting as the BIA Self-Governance Compact Coordinator, to ensure that the Compacts are adhered to by the Tribe and BIA.
- Participating in annual Compact negotiations.
- Working closely with all Federal, State, and other entities that might affect the ability to carry out the terms of the Compact.

Currently, our office is working on a summary of BIA programs handbook that will provide valuable information to the tribes on the programs that are available for compact. Also, a PDF library of past Compacting resolutions is being created that will provide important historical information regarding AVCP’s Self-Governance Compact.
Realty

Gina R. Douville, Realty Director

The mission of the Department of Realty is to discharge, without limitation, the fiduciary trust responsibility with a high degree of skill, care, and loyalty and to ensure that trust assets and resources are managed in accordance with the legal principles and standards governing the performance of trust functions. Presently, we provide trust services to forty (40) communities. As always, we remain committed to excellence in providing trust services.

The Department of Realty endured a rigorous trust evaluation by the Office of the Special Trustee, Office of Trust Review and Audit (OST/OTRA) in 2012. The purpose of a trust evaluation is to ensure that trust assets and resources are managed in accordance with the legal principles and standards governing the performance of trust functions. The Auditors concluded that no findings were identified, which needed to be addressed by Management, and the overall performance of the administration of trust functions were satisfactory. The Department of Realty is not scheduled for a trust evaluation in 2014 based on continued satisfactory performance.

Land Transactions Services

The Land Transactions staff provides counseling to landowners to enable them to make informed decisions regarding their land. Often, land transactions benefit individual owners of federally restricted land and communities as a whole because they are necessary to accomplish community projects such as an airport expansion or installation of water and sewer lines. Other examples of land transactions are gift deeds, sales, private and commercial leases, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) leases, rights-of-way (ROW), revocable use permits (RUP), mortgages, removal of restrictions, partitions, subdivisions, gravel/sand leases, and land exchanges. Federal requirements for most land transactions include federally reviewed and approved appraisals, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. The Department of Realty coordinates with the Cultural and Environmental Sciences staff to ensure compliance with NHPA and NEPA. The staff also provides rights protection services for owners of federally restricted land, which includes performing field examinations, resolving restricted land boundary line disputes, investigating reports of trespass, negotiating settlement agreements, and other similar services.

Since the last report, we have completed some very complicated land transactions through cooperative efforts by state and federal agencies and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporations. One case involves an acquisition and ROW on two native allotments. In order to repair and resurface an airport runway, AVCP granted a RUP in accordance with the newly adopted Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Permission to Survey is currently in progress. Another case involves an acquisition and ROW for power poles along an airport road on a native allotment. The Permission to Survey was never approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which further complicated the case. AVCP discovered that the easement was erroneously granted by the BIA at the time the acquisition was approved, so we are now working on getting suspense account monies distributed to the landowner and the damage deposits returned to the contractor. Another case involves after-the-fact ROWs for water and sewer line easements and service line agreements across several restricted townsite lots. The contractor planned, designed, and constructed the project. Due to all parties’ confusion in dealing with three separate entities and due to the project construction in phases over a 5-year period, the ROWs and service line agreements were never seen through completion. The three entities included the recipient of federal funding for the project,
the recipient of the award, and the contractor who actually did the construction of this project. Several attempts were made to initiate the BIA requirements relating to the preparation of legal descriptions and required documents to be included in the grant of easements. An environmental review in accordance with the NEPA and the NHPA were required because the project was federally funded. However, there was also confusion as to who was responsible to prepare the NEPA review. An environmental review in accordance with the NEPA was prepared by the recipient of the award with a recommendation that the recipient of the federal funding approve a determination of eligibility for categorical exclusion for this project. This was never completed. Appraisals were completed, reviewed, and approved by Office of Special Trustee/Office of Appraisal Services (OST/OAS), however by this time the water and sewer lines were installed without consideration to the landowners and grants of easement from the BIA. Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau Indian Land Surveyor (BILS) was formed, which required all legal descriptions to be reviewed and approved for all realty transactions. Surveys were never completed for the project to BIA’s requirements, so there were no surveys to be submitted to the newly formed BILS office for review and approval. AVCP, BIA, and BILS were determined to make every attempt to get these old ROWs completed and approved. AVCP proposed a contract with the BLM for the preparation of exhibits. Pursuant to the Solicitor’s Opinion dated May 30, 2012, the Solicitor gave AVCP its blessing that a BLM Surveyor can execute the Surveyor’s Affidavit as to its accuracy. As a result, AVCP was able to contract with the BLM for the preparation of exhibits to be used to formulate accurate legal descriptions in order for the BIA to retroactively approve easements for the installation and/or the continued presence of utility facilities. Upon receipt of the Affidavits of Completion from the contractor the BIA will approve these after-the-fact cases.

Probate and Estate Services

The Probate and Estate Services staff is responsible for administering and managing the estates of deceased owners of federally restricted land in our region. The staff’s primary responsibility is to gather information and to obtain various legal documents in order to complete probate packages. The probate packages are forwarded to the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) for decision. After a formal or informal hearing, a decision is made identifying the new owners of the land.

Since the last report forty-eight (48) probate packages have been completed and submitted to the BIA, and forty-four (44) decisions have been issued by the OHA. Presently, there are eighty-two (82) active probate cases.

The most significant change is that AVCP has discontinued the practice of Indian Will writing. The Department of the Interior’s Office of the Solicitor will no longer provide review of these Wills, and the BIA has recommended the discontinuation of the practice for all staff and tribal service providers. Restricted landowners interested in writing an Indian Will are referred to the Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC), who has offered to provide assistance.

During the 23rd Annual Tribal Provider’s Conference in December 2013 AVCP was recognized and praised by Administrative Law Judge, James Yellowtail for submitting the most thorough probate packages and documenting “exhaustive search efforts,” which greatly assist in the decision process.
Native Allotment Acquisition

The Native Allotment staff performs many essential functions, which include assisting Native applicants to meet the stringent eligibility requirements of use and occupancy, verifying accurate legal land descriptions, resolving land conflicts, reviewing legal documents for accuracy and completeness, counseling the Native applicants, and acting as a liaison between the Native applicants and outside agencies. The staff also maintains working relationships with such entities as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), ANCSA Corporations, and various state agencies.

Since the last report there are twenty-six (26) Native Allotment parcels pending adjudication. The parcels fall under the categories of State Title Recovery, ANCSA Title Recovery, and Non-Title Recovery.

Archaeology and NEPA

The Archaeology staff manages archaeological resources through a combination of public education, conservation, law enforcement, and information recovery. Archaeological assessments and consultation undertaken by the staff are required by law under Section 106 of the NHPA and the NEPA. The 1992 amendments to NHPA require that Federal agencies closely consult with tribes, both for projects on and off tribal lands. The staff can assist with this process, as well as, assist with cultural heritage projects undertaken at the local level. Federal authority extends only to federally restricted land. However, federal and state agencies and federally funded or licensed private organizations must comply with federal law regardless of whether the land is federally restricted land or fee land.
Social Services

Nicholas Hoover, Director

Energy Assistance Program

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Grant Period 10/1/2013-9/30/2014
Affordable Heating Program Grant Period 7/1/2013-6/30/2014

The 2014 program year was again funded by both the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Alaska Affordable Heating Program (AKAHP). The total budget for FY 2014 LIHEAP was $2,706,442, of which $2,163,153.80 went to Heating, Crisis, and Weatherization Assistance benefits. The total budget for FY 2014 AKAHP was $1,956,900, of which $1,482,420 went to Heating Assistance benefits. The combined benefit amount of $3,645,573.80 was awarded to 2,078 households.

The Crisis Heating Assistance Program (CHAP) provided 28 gallons to 486 households from January 10, 2014 through April 25, 2014. LIHEAP was awarded to 1,522 households from January 16 through July 18, 2014. AKAHP-only benefits were awarded $36,591 to 70 households, and as supplemental benefits totaling $1,088,564.08 to 1,109 LIHEAP recipients from January 16 through June 18, 2014.

The program start period for EAP is “on-time” in comparison to previous years. For the upcoming FY 2015, period 10/1/14-9/30/15 we plan to begin the Crisis Heating Assistance and Energy Assistance Programs with the AKAHP funding received this summer, and the 10% carryover allotment from FY 2014 LIHEAP, in October in order to provide this important service during the coldest months of the year rather than midseason. We will then include LIHEAP payouts when received in late November or December 2014.

For the past several years our Weatherization Program has focused on Toyo and wood stove replacement. We will be increasing the allotment for this program from 10% to 15% and look to expanding services to windows and door replacement as well as educational material to help people improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

This year we worked in close partnership with AVCP’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Any applicants we received who were, or had, TANF clients in their household were referred to TANF Supportive Services which can provide heating assistance to their clients in good standing with up to 100 gallons of heating fuel, or 1 cord of firewood 4 times per year. Then, if that resource is depleted and clients are still in need of assistance, TANF SS would refer them back to EAP. This has been a success in a wider distribution of government benefits.

BIA Welfare Assistance Program

Grant Period 1/1/2014-12/31/2014

General Assistance (GA) Program CY 2013 was a slow year for us as we focused our staff on the Energy Assistance Program. We awarded $721 in benefits. In CY 2014 YTD we awarded $2,333 to 6 households and continue to seek new clients.
Burial Assistance Program  CY 2013 we awarded $20,674 to 18 deceased Tribal Members. In CY 2014 YTD we awarded $16,641.85 to 11 deceased Tribal Members.

In April and May of this year, 3 of our staff attended the BIA Welfare Assistance training event in Anchorage. Since then we've been able to get our program up and running to serve our Compacted Tribes.

Title VI Older Americans Program:

Grant Period 4/1/2014-3/13/2015

The 3-year grant period 4/1/2011-3/31/2014 was successfully closed out. We were able to continue on another 3-year grant for period 4/1/2014-3/31/2017 for the same 12 villages. We received the first year’s grant of $118,860 which will be awarded to 3 school districts to provide meals to 567 Elders. We are also assessing a possibility of taking on Bethel into our service area. We will also explore expansion into other services provided by this program.

Donations Calendar Year 1/1/2014-12/31/2014

Burial Donations To date in 2014 we have donated $39,968.13 to the families of 73 deceased Tribal Members. Policies were published to ensure continuity in contributions. We learned that not all 56 villages within AVCP’s Region were taking advantage of this, so we are working on educating all Tribes of this assistance made possible by raffle proceeds.

General Donations We are slowly expanding donations to non-burial related requests. These are general requests from organizations or Tribes hosting community events such as summer festivals, potlatches, and fiddles for causes such as raising funds to support their Search and Rescue organizations and other local causes. We are currently not supporting individual or group requests such as sponsoring. Policy is being developed for this committee.

Raffle For the AVCP 50th Anniversary Convention 5th Annual Raffle, we are giving away $50,000 in prizes.

50th Anniversary Convention Prizes:

1st: $25,000  2nd: $10,000  3rd: $7,500  4th: $2,500  5th: $1,000

6th: $1,000  7th: $1,000  8th: $750  9th: $750  10th: $500

Ticket price: $10 per ticket, or a book of 5 tickets for $40.

Drawing held at the end of the Annual Convention at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center on October 9, 2014. All proceeds fund the AVCP Donation Program.

Summary This has been a successful year for our department. We restructured our staff duties and hired two new Energy Assistance Clerks who’ve greatly improved the processing times for EAP applications. We plan to bring on more staff as we increase the services provided by our programs. We are proud to serve the People of our region.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

John McIntyre, Director

Program Description

The goal of our program is to provide comprehensive services that meet the basic needs of the families in our region, improving our communities by enabling families to become self-sufficient by strengthening individuals.

The primary goals of the AVCP TANF Program are the four purposes of TANF, as described in section 401 of the Social Security Act.

- To assist needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes;
- To reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
- To prevent out of wedlock pregnancies; and
- To encourage the formation and maintaining of two parent families.

AVCP TANF is a temporary assistance program that assists needy families with dependent children under the age of 18, or families with children under the age of 19, who are still enrolled in school, as full time students. AVCP TANF also assists pregnant women in their last trimester of pregnancy that have no other children. AVCP TANF is a program that provides services to all qualified clients, regardless of nationality, and to all qualified clients who qualify for services under the four purposes of TANF.

Accomplishments

AVCP TANF has worked hard in providing services to its clients, and has accomplished the following activities.

AVCP TANF program averaged a total of 572 active TANF cases each month, for FY 2014, which is from July 2013 to June 2014, AVCP TANF paid a total of $4,483,943.00 cash benefits. Also in FY 2014, AVCP TANF paid a total of $867,680.40 in supportive services. The total paid for services by AVCP TANF in FY 2014 is $5,351,623.40.

AVCP TANF also provided three Tribes with funding to administer an Elder and Youth program, which promotes and prevents youth from becoming dependent on welfare, and working toward self-sufficiency. The total amount spent for the Elder & Youth projects was: $17,500.00.

AVCP TANF provided funding to Campfire Alaska Rural Program in 13 villages in the AVCP Region. Campfire Alaska Rural Program provides a day camp for rural child, which teaches healthy life choices, as well as cold water safety and swimming lessons to children. In FY 2014 AVCP TANF paid $164,485.00, for this program.

AVCP TANF also provided Clean-Up Green-Up funding to 20 villages in the AVCP Region. This program teaches children respect for our land and communities, and teaches children about healthy living. Each Tribe was provided snacks as well as prizes for children that participate in the activities. AVCP TANF paid a total of $16,273.85 for this program.
If you have any questions please call 1-800-478-3157 and ask for TANF. Quyana.

**Staff**

AVCP TANF staff consist of: Director, Case Manager Supervisor, 2 Eligibility Specialist II’s, 2 Case Manager Specialists, Float Village Case Manager, Data File Clerk, (CSED) Data Entry Clerk, Administrative Assistant, 6 Eligibility Technicians.

AVCP TANF also has Village Case Managers in the following Village: Akiachak, Alakanuk, Bethel, Chevak, Eek, Emmonak, Hooper Bay, Kasigluk, Kalskag, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kotlik, Kwethluk, Mountain Village, Napakiak, Nunapitchuk, Pilot Station, Russian Mission, St. Mary’s, Scammon Bay, Tuluksak and Tuntutuliak.

AVCP TANF opened offices in FY 2014 in the villages of: Chefornak, Napaskiak, Quinhagak and Tununak. AVCP TANF has also opened an office in Aniak that serves the villages of: Aniak, Chauthbaluk, Napaimute, Crooked Creek, Red Devil, Sleetmute, Stony River and Lime Village.
**Transportation**

**Clarence Daniel, Director**

**Program Purpose**

AVCP entered into an agreement with the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) for the assumption of the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP). The success of AVCP Transportation Program is dependent upon pooling and leveraging funds from the TTP with the much larger sources of funding opportunities. The Transportation Department’s purpose is to promote the economic development of villages through planning, designing, constructing and maintaining priority projects in the AVCP region.

**Program Description**

The department is responsible for assisting Tribes that are compacted with AVCP in Tribal Transportation Program (TTP):

1. Developing and updating long range transportation plans for member tribes
2. Developing and updating tribal safety plan for member tribes
3. Developing an AVCP Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
4. Submitting and updating the BIA inventory for the participating tribes
5. All activities associated with planning and designing projects to address transportation and roads needs
6. Construction of projects to standard—either through force accounting or contracting with construction contractors
7. Managing the funds and reporting associated with all of the above

**Program Accomplishments**

1. Construction projects ongoing and completed in Scammon Bay and Eek.
2. Construction project started in Alakanuk, Kongiganak, Chevak, and Oscarville
3. Construction ready in Napakiak
4. Ongoing design projects in Hooper Bay, Hamilton, Pitka’s Point, and the Ilkivik port and road.
5. Project planning in Platinum and Kipnuk
6. Awarded TTP Safety funds to create safety plans
7. Updated LRTP’s and priorities
8. Maintenance program being administered

**Goals**

1. Continue to update LRTP’s and priorities with Tribes as necessary
2. Consistently have at least 2 construction projects per year and enough projects in design to sustain this goal.
3. Implement the program policies and procedures.
4. Proceed to deal with Transportation issues at the national level to ensure that any new regulations introduced or proposed will not adversely affect AVCP Transportation and rural Alaska in general.

5. Kuskokwim to Yukon Road – pursue additional funding to complete design

6. Continue to seek, investigate and develop other funding opportunities

7. Complete trail marking project with consortium tribes with Federal Lands Access Program funds.

8. Discuss development of core construction crew with our consortium tribes.

We would like to thank all the AVCP Tribes that either joined or decided to remain in our transportation consortium. We believe with the rising cost of living that is affecting our region, this consortium will have the ability to leverage our funds with other funding opportunities to get our transportation projects completed in the most efficient manner. Maintaining a certain level of funds is vital to the success of the transportation department for these reasons: (1) to supplement the absence of funding sources eliminated by MAP – 21; and (2) to have the ability to enter reimbursable agreements for additional funding sources that become available.

We have hired 5 of the 9 people that received their welding and carpenter certifications. Additionally, we again partnered with Yuut Elitnaurviat to train 8 CDL drivers and about 10 certified flaggers. We are again pursuing training opportunities for consortium member tribes for our upcoming projects.

We submitted six applications to TIGER VI funding: Chevak, Napakiak, Kongiganak, Hooper Bay, Oscarville, and Pitka’s Point. Results and awards have not yet been announced.

It has been a quiet reauthorization year; there are different versions and proposals floating around. AVCP worked with Kawerak and Central Council Tlingit and Haida to come up with reauthorization language that addressed Alaska specific issues but was in line with the Unity Caucus proposal.

Thanks for your continued support with us while we continue to investigate ways to develop this department to its maximum potential.
Tribal Justice

Carol J. Brown, Tribal Advocate/General Counsel

Tribal Justice Highlights

The 6th annual Tribal Justice Conference was held this year, convening for the first time at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center, also breaking its attendance record from prior years. Speakers included the Chairman of the Tribal Law and Order Commission, U.S. and State senators and representatives, representatives from the Department of Public Safety, Native American Rights Fund, University of Alaska Tribal Management Program, AVCP ICWA Department, and Alaska Legal Services. The focus was on Tribal Justice and public safety, but improving the welfare of children was also discussed through the use of an inter-active “community cafe.” With the conference growing annually, we expect future conferences will continue be held at the Cultural Center.

The Tribal Justice Department has had a change of staff this summer. Joseph Slats, from Chevak, is now serving as the Tribal Justice Director. Mr. Slats is working on numerous initiatives, including establishing an agreement for referrals from Bethel State Courts of first time offender, juvenile, and misdemeanor cases to the Tribal Courts. This will give the offender an opportunity to avoid a criminal record entirely and also provide a restorative justice component to the justice system. Prior to accepting referrals from the Bethel State Courts, there are a number of tasks that will need to be completed.

The first effort will be the development of a Judicial Task Force whose focus and efforts will be to have fully trained and functioning courts in the entire AVCP region. This Task Force will be comprised of a carefully selected group of individuals with vision, experience and knowledge of Tribal Courts.

A group of individuals will also be identified to become facilitators in restorative justice, circle sentencing and peacemaking training for judges. This training is crucial in order to facilitate successful case management; especially important because of the geographic and remote nature of our villages. The circle concept will involve a process in which community members and the offender come together to assist in healing not only the affected individual or family, but the offender and the community as a whole.

The Department is also keen to the positive progress the State of Alaska is slowly making toward recognizing the authority of and working with tribal courts. After the formation of the Judicial Task Force and training of facilitators, we will begin a dialog with the Bethel State Court judges and tribal courts to discuss developing a cooperative agreement to refer first time offender, juvenile, and misdemeanor cases to tribal courts. This will include efforts toward ensuring tribal court orders are enforced by VPSO’s, Alaska State Troopers, Village Police Officers and Tribal Police Officers. We will start meeting with Phillip’s Treatment Center, YKHC, Tundra Women’s Coalition, Office of Children Services and correctional centers to begin the dialogue to establish these cooperative agreements.

Finally, we will be stepping up efforts to ensure more frequent resources and trainings are available to all of our Tribal court clerks and administrators through all phases of a case, including appellate review. The Tribal Justice page of the AVCP website is now capable of being interactive. As a result, information on these and other topics of importance will be more readily available.
Tribal Advocacy Highlights

The following are highlights of some of the legal advocacy efforts advanced by the AVCP Tribal Advocate on behalf of the region.

Medical Examiner/Health & Social Services – Amendment to Duties and Procedures

An amendment to the state’s medical examiner laws was signed earlier in 2014 through House Bill 301, sponsored by Representative Herron. This amendment clarifies obligations of the State Medical Examiner regarding costs of the transportation of human remains for autopsies, encourages cooperation between the State and local and regional health organizations to improve the process for autopsy examinations, and clarifies guidelines of the process with more user-friendly and less confusing language. Efforts are underway to develop a checklist and summary of rights to be provided in both English and Yup’ik to be circulated region-wide and posted on the Tribal Justice page of AVCP’s website. Working with AVCP’s Social Services Department, this checklist will assist grieving families in navigating through the process more effectively.

Alaska Supreme Court Affirmation of Tribal Court Jurisdiction (Simmonds v. Parks)

This case, which was decided on July 18, 2014, affirmed the Tribal Court jurisdiction of the Minto Tribal Court in a termination of parental rights dispute. The Tribal Advocate assisted in providing evidentiary information for AVCP Tribes, Stony River, Eek, Tuntutuliak, Mekoryuk, and Umkumuit in their “friend of the court” brief prepared and represented by Alaska Legal Services. In this case, the Alaska Supreme Court held that the Tribe’s termination order is entitled to full faith and credit. This decision overturned a lower court ruling that held the Minto Tribe lacked jurisdiction to terminate the parental rights of an individual who was not a member of the Tribe. One of the several other positive outcomes includes affirming the tribal court exhaustion rule.

Arming VPSO’s

Regional non-profits now have the authority, under House Bill 199, to decide whether to arm its Village Public Safety Officers. Working together with the VPSO Department, testimony was provided throughout the legislative process, including gathering statistical data for informational purposes. The bill provides for comprehensive firearms training for up to 20 qualified VPSO’s per year, which will be funded by the Department of Public Safety. The Tribal Advocate will work closely with the VPSO Department as criteria and protocols are developed, keeping the communities and Tribes updated as the dialogue continues with the State of Alaska and other regional non-profits.

Tribal Transportation

Working together with the AVCP Transportation Department, efforts were extensive during 2013 and 2014 to attempt to lessen the damage to transportation funding created by MAP-21 (tribal transportation re-authorization.) We continue to be involved on a national level to ensure Alaska Tribes, who have a unique geographic nature, are acknowledged and considered and our transportation needs are appropriately addressed.
**Subsistence/Natural Resources**

Assisting AVCP President Naneng, efforts continue on establishing an inter-tribal fish commission which includes securing funding for the commission, gathering legislative support, and working closely with the Tanana Chief’s Conference.

**Tribal Sovereignty Recognition**

Advocacy continues on improving the government-to-government relationship between the State of Alaska and Alaska Tribes through formal testimony and continual dialogue and information sharing with key state officials.

**Safe Families & Villages Act**

This bill, when passed, will establish the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Self-Governance Program in the Office of Tribal Justice and provide grants to Tribes to implement inter-governmental agreements with Alaska. These agreements will cover matters such as the enforcement of state law, employment of law enforcement, deputation of tribal law enforcement officers, enforcement of punishments imposed under Tribal law, and searches and seizures of alcohol and drugs at local airports. This bill also amends the Violence Against Women’s Act by repealing the limitation on Alaska Tribes over domestic violence crimes. We will continue to advocate for passage of this bill and will provide periodic updates on the Tribal Justice page of the AVCP website.

**Carol Brown**, General Counsel - cbrown@avcp.org

**Joe Slats**, Tribal Justice Director - jslats@avcp.org
Tribal Services

Johnny Evan, Director

Tribal Operations

Tribal Services provides financial management and reporting support for Aid to Government (ATG) funds and offers tools to strengthen tribe's self-determination and helps build local capacity to guide and manage their own destiny. The department coordinates training and technical assistance needs as requested for tribal operations areas such as; reviewing and amending constitutions and by-laws; preparing and adopting ordinances; holding tribal elections, tribal enrollment; conducting meetings and tribal authority. Other focus areas include training and capacity building to help tribal councils and staff to successfully perform their respective roles & responsibilities, such as budget preparation, effective accounting records, procurement practices, and property management. The tribal government assessment identifies these tasks which are converted to a working document. These tasks are finished through many travels, one-on-one meetings, communication through the telephone or email, and training/workshops.

Summary

On an annual basis, Tribal Operations Specialists conduct tribal government assessments for all Aid to Government (ATG) compacting tribes, make recommendation letters, and develop individual village work plans to remedy the identified discrepancies on the tribal government assessment. The assessments are the result of having to bring workshops here to the Bethel region as tribes do not have sufficient funds and travel and training, or traveling out to member tribes to issue Tribal Identification Cards, which are now a requirement for health related services. Based on the assessments, Tribal services contracted several outside agencies to providing the necessary trainings that enhance their ability to operate as tribal governments.

Tribal Services Process

- Identify communities with governmental issues
- Assess village interest in dealing with management issues
- Visit village for fact-finding
- Develop a proposed work plan
- Present the assessment and work plan to the community
- Finalize the work plan with the village’s council and agree on their responsibilities
- Provide technical assistance
- Assess progress and adjust work plan if necessary
Assistance Criteria

- Compacting Procedures
- Budgeting
- Monthly Financial Statements
- Tribal Constitutions/Ordinances/Enrollment/Elections
- Access to internet
- Resolutions
- Capacity Assessments
- Community work plans

Staff

Johnny Evan, Division Director

Virginia Charlie, Division Secretary

Sharon Rodgers, Tribal Operations Specialist

Angeline Whitman, Tribal Operations Specialist

Doris Daniel, Tribal Staff Accountant

Wilson Naneng, Tribal IT Technician
Village Public Safety Officer Program

Alvin Jimmie, VPSO Director

Program

The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program was designed to train and employ individuals to be first responders to public safety emergencies such as basic law enforcement, search and rescue coordination, fire protection and prevention, emergency medical services, water safety, community policing, public safety education, disaster coordination, and probation and parole monitoring. The presence of these officers has a significant impact on improving the quality of life in participating villages. As a result, the VPSOs are generally the first to respond to many calls for help from community members; hence their motto: “First Responders – Last Frontier”

Mission

The Village Public Safety Officer Program began in the late 1970’s as a means of providing Rural Alaskan Communities with needed public safety services at the local level. The program was created to reduce the loss of life and property due to crimes, fires, lost person(s) and the lack of immediate emergency medical and criminal assistance in villages.

Funding

Funding for the VPSO Program is provided by the legislature through the Department of Public Safety. The funds are awarded to participating Regional Native Nonprofit corporations through grant requests. The primary purpose of regional contracting is to place the local administration of the Program into the hands of an organization more aware of the specific needs of the areas to be served and to deal with a workable number of contracts while retaining a certain amount of regional flexibility. Each contractor, with the concurrence of Department of Public Safety, selects which communities will participate.

AVCP VPSO Program Update

In FY 14 (July 2013 to June 2014) we were allocated 29 VPSO positions for AVCP Region. We had 26 VPSOs for the majority of the fiscal year.

3 bedroom units were built in Napaskiak, and Napakiak for VPSO Housing. The funding for these projects came through with efforts from the prospective village, AVCP Regional Housing Authority (RHA) and AVCP, Inc. AVCP RHA assisted in building them along with the AVCP Housing Improvement Program (HIP). With the budget shortfall in Napaskiak, we assisted with approximately $20,000 for it to be completed. Any governing body can apply for the grants used to help build and facilitate these buildings.
At the beginning of the year, we monitored our FY14 grant so that we would have enough funding for the fiscal year. We were very stringent in having VPSOs go out and do temporary duty assignments (TDY). Later in the fiscal year, we began doing some TDYs within the region. We also emphasized to VPSOs that monitoring their over-time hours is a must.

AVCP received a State of Alaska FY 2014 Designated Legislative Grant for Village Public Safety Buildings which were built in three villages, Russian Mission, Mekoryuk, and Upper Kalskag. Because of the success of the projects AVCP built 2 more Village Public Safety Buildings. With the left over funding from the State, the HIP Program again build 4 more Village Public Safety Buildings. We are planning on placing them in the following communities; Kwigillingok, Tununak, Mt. Village, and Aniak. We would like to extend our appreciation to Sam White and Shayla Brannon for their continued efforts.

The RRCC (Regional Readiness Coordination Committee) plan is to provide a structure in which organizations within the YK Delta can collaborate on planning, communication, information sharing and coordination of activities before, during and after emergencies occurring in the area. The RRCC consists of volunteers from the following organizations in Bethel: AVCP Inc., LKSD, YKHC, AVCP RHA, AK National Guard, City of Bethel, and AST. Please utilize this organization; if you would like assistance please call me at 545-0469, I am the contact person that activates the RRCC. We are glad to announce that this fiscal year was a success and everything went without any incidents.

This year the Statewide VPSO Program made history by assisting in VPSOs becoming armed and having that set into law. We (Statewide VPSO Coordinators/Directors) are going to be meeting at the end of September 2014 to further discuss the issues regarding the matter.

Goals

For Fiscal Year 2015, our goals are as follows;

1. We will try to assist communities/villages by providing more roving VPSOs within the AVCP Region to work in villages, depending on our FY15 TDY Budget.
2. Post one or two VPSO in every community within AVCP Region.
3. Continue to apply for Grants to build new Public Safety Buildings and VPSO Housing in communities in need.
4. Maintain and support all allocated VPSOs and their positions.
Vocational Rehabilitation

Irma Goodwine, Director

Program Budget Summary
The VR Program operates on a $430,094 annual budget which is only a five year grant. The VR is presently operating on its 5th year of its 5 year cycle. It has been awarded 3 times making it its 15th year of operation. The Program will have to reapply for the 5 year grant due July 2015 (usually) competing with other National Tribal Programs. Due to the recent sequestration, the program was initially going to experience a 5% reduction in our budget, but after careful consideration on the cost of living, it decreased to 1.78%. The cut went into effect October 1, 2014.

On-going Outreach/Services
On a continuing basis, the Director and the Counselor do as much outreach through brochures, presentations, partnerships, and travel to villages. We currently carry over 60 cases. Many of the services we provide are as follows and are limited to:

Hearing aids, job coach, equipment, supported employment, vocational training, scholarships, psychological evaluations, on-the-job training counseling, housing, transportation, and other identified services.

Partnership/New Projects
ACTVR (Alaska Consortia of Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation; consists of all 11 Tribal VR Directors in Alaska) is working to improve the relationship with the State of Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) with an MOU that was established in 2000. This allows a partnership between each agency to provide the highest quality of services by sharing cases. It is still a working progress. AVCP VR also partners with many different agencies, including Alaska Traumatic Brain Injury Network, Statewide Independent Living Council, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, UAA Disability Support Services, ATLA, Alaska Center for the Blind, Disability Law Center, all school districts, YK Behavioral Health, YK Developmental Disabilities, Job Center, Access Alaska, and many others. With much collaboration, we are able to serve consumers with high quality services.

AVCP VR’s newest project is the Loan Closet. This will be a program to allow elderly and people with disabilities to be able to borrow available assistive technology when needed. I have been working with ATLA in Anchorage to finalize the process. Anticipated operation will be September 2014.
Yupiit Piciryarait Museum

Eva Malvich, Museum Director/Curator

Museum Exhibits

June, 2014 – August, 2014, Katie Baldwin Basile exhibited her collection of pictures, documents and other objects relating to the Moravian Church Children’s Home near Kwethluk, Alaska. The Alaska Humanities Forum supported Ms. Basile for this project, and we’ve both been featured in the Forum’s November/December 2013 magazine. Alaska Airlines donated $1000.00 for the exhibit.

October, 2014 the organization will celebrate AVCP’s 50th year anniversary, along with an exhibit on the organization’s history (October – December, 2014).

January – March 2015, There is going to be an exhibition of the works from Mike McIntyre. There will be various mediums of art including Uluaqs, Masks, Fish Skin and also music.

April – June 2015 – we’re working with Timothy Miller to exhibit his collection of John Kailukiuak and Ken Lisbourne prints

Donations

Mike and Evelyn Korhonen donated several Yup’ik Eskimo doll figurines made by Martina Oscar in the 1960’s.

The Native Village of Mekoryuk is working with the Smithsonian Institute to return objects back to the area as part of repatriation efforts. The tribe has indicated it will donate pottery, among other objects, to the Yupiit Piciryarait Museum from this collection.

We received several pictures of the Hooper Bay area from the early 1900’s that were taken by people from the Catholic Church. Gonzaga University archives provided a bunch of pictures to our community.

The museum received a donation of slides from Jan and David Wachsmuth relating to the Walter R. Dotter collection of pictures taken on the Kuskokwim River, as well as in Toksook Bay. Mr. Dotter was an anthropologist working on native allotment claims in the early 1980’s.

Jerri Glover of New Mexico donated a baby seal skin purse, a pair of mukluks, a woman’s doll figurine, and a kuspuk bought in the 1960’s by her late nurse friend, Elaine Clement.

Carl Pavilla of Atmautluak donated an arrowhead and other objects from his private collection.

Tim and Joann Andrew donated a jacket from a Bethel fisheries cooperative.

Timothy Miller donated several pins to the museum, including pins from Camai Dance festivals and the 1978 Kuskokwim State Fair.
Billy Kiokun of Mekoryuk donated his mom’s old tools, two uluaqs, one skin scraper and a men's knife.

**Updates**

**IMLS Grant** - Eva Malvich attended a two week-long training sessions with State of Alaska Museum staff in Juneau on November 17 – 23, 2013 and April 6-12, 2014 and learned how to make storage units for museum objects using the best practices from museum professionals. The cost of the ticket, hotel and training was paid for by an IMLS grant awarded to the State museum staff.

During the trip in April, 2014, Eva was able to testify in person on behalf of House Bill 333, “An Act Relating to Natural and Cultural History Repositories” sponsored by Representative Bob Herron. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass. The Museums Alaska board of directors, which Eva is a member of, is looking at options for successfully passing a bill relating to new construction or renovation of museums in the 2015 session.

The museum collaborated with the State Council on the Arts, Bethel Council on the Arts, KuC and others on hosting a week-long doll-making class and small-business class in Bethel, from February 3-7, 2014. Thirty participants attended the class at no cost to them courtesy of grants and in-kind contributions.

The YPCC staff and the Yup’ik Museum staff are working with Graehl Brooks of Native Art Center at UAF, on hosting an August 2014 fish skin class at Eva Malvich’s fishcamp, modeling the successful Bethel Fish Skin Tanning class that was held in Bethel in February, 2014.

The Yup’ik Museum and Anchorage Museum Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center is working together to plan a gut skin residency program, which will allow us to hold a seal gut class in Bethel with local artists and interested parties. The class is scheduled for January 24 – 25, 2015 at the YPCC.

Museum staff collaborated with Calista Elders Council on hosting a week-long Place Name project workshop and information session for interested parties in Bethel from February 4-5, 2014. The meeting was held at the Fish and Wildlife building, and plans to roll out the program were addressed by the group. This name place project is funded by an ANE grant. The Yup’ik museum owns a large collection of photographs that can be used for this project.

The Yup’ik Museum and Lower Kuskokwim School District, are working together on a grant proposal submitted by LKSD, which will allow LKSD to archive and own curriculum developed by LKSD for its Yup’ik language material. In addition, the museum will have access to and distribution rights for all material developed relating to this project.

The Anchorage Museum and the Yup’ik Museum, long time partners, are working together to allow the Museum Coordinator, Miranda Trantham, to get hands-on training on use of mounts with Anchorage Museum staff during their exhibit makeovers starting in Winter 2014.

The museum hosted several large groups of students this summer, who are in Bethel for various school activities. Students from the Akiachak School (6th grade to 8th grade) toured the museum, along with staff and chaperones, in
July, 2014. Two groups from Creighton University toured the museum, in June and July 2014, comprised of college students from the east coast, who visits the museum annually with the help from the Catholic Church in Bethel.

The Alaska National Guard is collaborating with the Yup’ik Museum on a cultural event in Bethel for 200 guardsmen and women. The focus is on learning the Yup’ik Eskimo culture, and cold climate survival, Eskimo-style. It is scheduled for March 2015.

Senator Lisa Murkowski recently announced her nomination of the Yup’ik Museum for the 2015 Institute for Museums and Library Service National Medal for Museums and Libraries award. This prestigious award is given to institutions that make significant contributions to their communities. Awarded annually to outstanding American museums, this honor is bestowed by the Institute for Museums and Library Services and presented by America’s First Lady. This prestigious award is the only national recognition of a museum’s public service role.

Eva Malvich was asked to attend the Quinhagak Yup’ik Material Culture Collection visit in Quinhagak, to coincide with the visit by the University of Aberdeen Museum Curators visit to the Nunalleq site at the end of August, 2014.
### AVCP Full Board of Directors - Revised 07/09/2014

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Association of Village Council Presidents

50th Anniversary Annual Convention

*Ciunerkapuk Piniliumaluku Paitamteggun*

**Embracing our Legacy to Empower our Future**

Honors and Presents an Award of Appreciation to the:

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<th>Past Presidents</th>
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<th>Traditional Chief</th>
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AVCP Would like to thank
Cathy Hoffman
For 28 years of service. Quyana cakneq for all your dedication and hard work!
Quyana Cakneq!

AVCP would like to thank all the sponsors of the 50th Annual Convention.

Reaching your financial goals can start here
Proudly serving Alaska with 49 store locations statewide

Together we’ll go far

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We would also like to thank ONC for putting on the potluck dinner and Northern Lights Water Products for donating the water.

This Annual Report was put together with the help of Directors, Staff and Sponsors.

Quyana Cakneq!

Mike McIntyre

Program Outreach Coordinator