



Association of Village Council Presidents

Qanemcit Newsletter

December 2016



President's Message

Vivian Korthuis
Chief Executive Officer

A Critical Time In AVCP History

Thank you for the opportunity to work as the Chief Executive Officer for the Association of Village Council Presidents. I ask for all of your help and support to do the best job that I can for AVCP and the whole region. The support I have received has been overwhelming and positive. My family has also given their support and I appreciate all of it.

The past year and a half has been a critical time for AVCP. The process of making AVCP the best it can be, at every level, has started and will continue. The important thing to remember is that there was a conscious decision to make a change by the Full Board of Directors to change the by-laws at the 2016 Annual Convention for the good of the whole region. The Executive Board has also worked very hard and have lead many changes at AVCP. The Quality Improvement Process has started and for the next 2 to 3 years we are going to participate in and witness the outcomes of these decisions. Making decisions is not easy and with the direction and the guidance that the Executive Board has given Administration, we know that AVCP is in good hands.

2017 Priority Issues in the AVCP Region Set by Tribal Delegates

At the 2017 Annual AVCP Convention, held in Bethel on October 4-6, 2016, the tribal delegates met in Unit Caucus to determine the Unit Priorities for 2017. There are 12 Units in the AVCP Region and a total of 56 Tribes in the AVCP Region. Each Unit shared with the Convention its top three priorities. These top three priorities were then analyzed and grouped with similar issues from the other Units to determine the number of times the issue was mentioned. The issues were then ranked by the highest number of times that issue was a priority for the Unit. This Priority List was then created by counting how many Tribes mentioned it was a priority for their Unit. As a result, three themes stood out from this process.

The AVCP's top 3 priority categories, based upon the Unit Priorities for 2017, are Public Safety, Economic Development and Community Wellness. The plan is to give an update at next year's annual convention the work completed to address the priorities. We are committed to working with all our partners to address these issues for the AVCP region.

Building Capacity Through Training

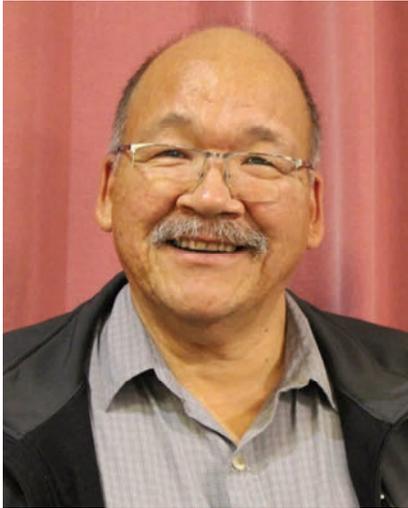
AVCP staff have been extremely busy with training and building the capacity of our employees as well as the Tribes in the region. There was an aggressive training schedule for November and December 2016. The trainings have anywhere from 30, 50 or 90 plus people at a time in attendance. Both AVCP and tribal staff attended these training on such topics as: Land Into Trust, Tribal Action Planning, ICWA, Grants Management, Childcare Training, Healthy Families, Welding 104, Electrical maintenance, Quick Books, and Emergency Technician Training. In 2017 we hope to continue to provide trainings that will help build the capacity of AVCP staff and Tribes. Visit the AVCP webpage for more information on the upcoming 2017 training schedule.

Family Time Important During The Holiday Season

The Holiday Season is here on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and we look forward to all the family gatherings, time off from either school or work, ice fishing, school programs, church functions, snow machining, community basketball tournaments, travel, Eskimo dancing, feasts, and mostly spending time together with our parents, children, cousins and extended family. We are thankful for all of our blessings, especially during this time of the year.

Again, thank you for the opportunity you have given me and I look forward to working with everyone. Quyana.

Livian Kothuis



Executive Board Corner

Raymond Watson

AVCP Chairman

Happy Holidays from the Executive Board! We have been very busy the past few months at AVCP focused on increasing training opportunities for our Tribal Members and staff, and on our Quality Improvement Process as we prepare to close out the calendar year. While we have focused a great deal on internal matters at AVCP, we want to take a moment to acknowledge the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Executive Order that President Obama signed on December 9, 2016. This presidential action came at the express request of our Full Board through the resolution they passed at the 2015 Annual Convention. The Executive Board has worked hard since that time to make that resolution

a reality. This Presidential Executive Order is a huge victory for our Tribes and something wonderful to celebrate in 2016!

2016 has been a year of great change, from the new grants compliance department to our improved By-laws, we at AVCP continue to focus on greater transparency, becoming better stewards of our grant resources, and improving our service delivery model. Looking ahead there is still much work to be done in 2017! The Quality Improvement Process is ongoing as we control measures. We have struggled this past fall to fill key vacancies, which has caused some delays, required long work days and creative solutions, but AVCP is committed to providing the training and assistance needed to build a qualified work force in this region.

Beginning in January, we will also focus on creating a Strategic Plan for AVCP. Updating our Strategic Plan is a vital step to strengthening the organization over the next few years. As part of that process we are planning unit meetings this spring to gather input from our Tribes, we will begin making those arrangements in late January/early February so please keep an eye out for those communications.

Finally, it was with sadness in our hearts that we accepted the resignation of our wise Second Traditional Chief Bea Kristovich. We will be looking to the Full Board to appoint a new Second Chief next fall.

You should expect regular updates from us in the year to come, have a safe and blessed holiday season!

2016 AVCP Convention

The 52nd Annual Convention was held at the Yupiit Pici-ryarait Cultural Center in Bethel, Alaska on October 4—6, 2016. This year's theme was "Working together to achieve positive change for a stronger tomorrow through unity."

This year's convention was filled with a lot of change as Vivian Korthuis became AVCP's First CEO. By-laws pertaining to changing the ways the organization hired & evaluated the CEO was voted in. Also the term of an elected Executive Board member was extended from 2 to 3 years. The administration and Executive Board travelled to meet with as many Units & Tribes before this convention to collect & dialogue their concerns and made the necessary changes for a positive outcome to this organization and future administrations to move forward stronger into the future.

Another Unit was added to separate the vast Unit 2 region, which would make it easier for the newly separated regions to meet together. Unit 2 now serves Andreafsky, St. Mary's, Pitka's Point and Mountain Village. Newly made Unit 12 serves Ohagamiut, Pilot Station, Marshall and Russian Mission.

Executive Board elections were held. Raymond Watson became the new AVCP Chairman. Ruth Riley was elected as the Unit 2 Representative. Michael Martin was re-elected to the Unit 6 seat and Christina Changsak was moved to the newly created Unit 12.

President's awards were awarded to four outstanding individuals from our region. Elizabeth 'Kaligtuq' Evon, a community health aide from Kwigillingok was awarded for Health. Michael Ulroan from Chevak was awarded for Education. Abraham Kelly from Pilot Station was awarded the Hunter-Fisher Award. Olivia Piyuuk Shields originally from Toksook Bay was awarded for Youth Leadership for her advocacy for the Yugtun Language.



Vivian Korthuis addresses the convention after being named the new AVCP CEO.



AVCP Chairman Henry Hunter and AVCP President Michael Hoffman thanks keynote speakers Martin B. Moore and Moses Paukan Sr.



AVCP Employees Melanie Charles and Sam Alexie talk with Unit 4 members to collect the priorities for the region.

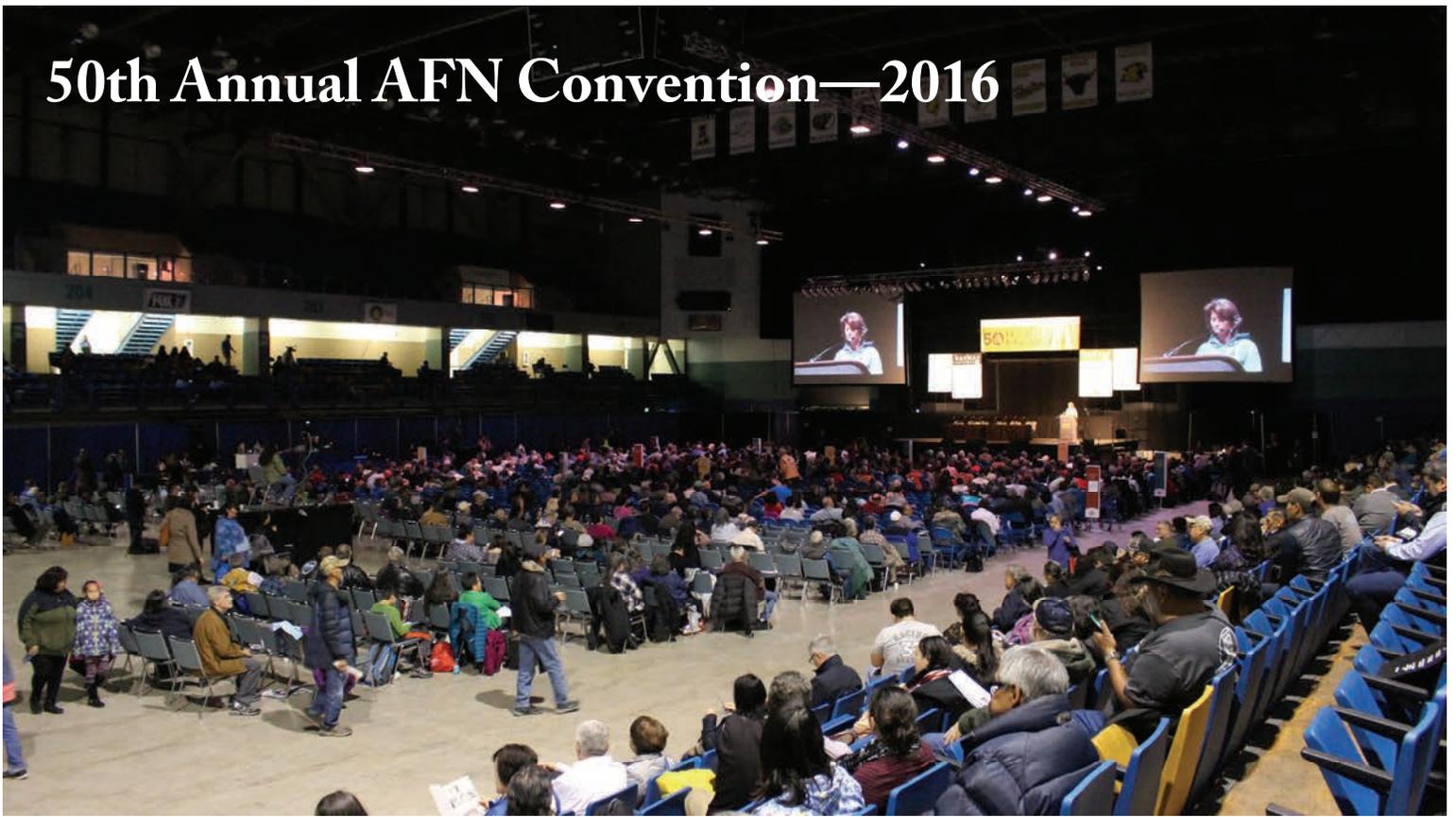


Executive Board member Michael Martin and AVCP Employee Jennifer Hooper meet with Unit 6 members to collect the priorities of their region.



Raymond Watson delivering a speech before Chairman elections, which he won pictured in front of AVCP Chairman Henry Hunter.

50th Annual AFN Convention—2016



Alaska U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski addresses the people at the 2016 AFN Convention.

2016 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) with the theme of “Reflect, Refresh and Renew.” The theme reflects the challenges, innovations and successes within the Alaska Native community over the last 50 years; refreshes our collective accomplishments, achievements and aspirations; and renews our commitment and dedication to enriching the future of Native peoples. The convention was held in Fairbanks, Alaska at the Carlson Center on October 20-22, 2016.

The annual AFN convention is the largest representative yearly gathering in the United States of any Native peoples. Policy guidelines and advocacy statements are set by the dozens of resolutions passed by voting delegates at the Convention. Each year, the AFN convention draws between 4,000—5,000 attendees. Many of our regions Tribal Delegates & Leaders, Artists & Performers attend each year to make sure our region is represented.



Representatives of AVCP and Calista collect votes on resolutions at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Caucus.



AVCP CEO Vivian Korthuis and AVCP Traditional Chief Peter Moore during the 2016 AFN Convention.



Tribal Justice Talking Circle Participants & Facilitators

The AVCP Tribal Justice Center has had a busy year. The Summer/Fall planning for the Tribal Action Plan that took place November 8-10, 2016 at the Yupiit Picarayuit Cultural Center saw that the event went without a hitch thanks to the partnership of the YKHC Behavioral Mental Health Prevention Program (known for its highly successful program, Calricaraq) as well as several departments at AVCP. During the planning stage, the Tribal Justice Center Department took the lead with YKHC's program and involved the Tribal Services Department, Healthy Families, and ICWA Program to share in putting together a framework from which tribes could design their own Tribal Action Plans. The event saw over 100 people participating in group discussions, breakout sessions and one on ones with other tribal partners and community organizations. Elders took a huge part in the Summit and, according to the federal partners, this was the first time they had seen so many elders participate in a Tribal Action Plan process. From the Summit, the following priorities emerged:

1. Address the Loss of Cultural Identity and Work to Enculturate the Y-K Delta Region with the local culture of the Yupik and Cupik people.
2. Address Alcohol and Substance Abuse in a Multi-Disciplinary Approach
3. Develop Community Wellness Overall

These approaches to working in the Y-K Delta Region are across many facets of tribal governance, law and order and health and well-being. The approach for each tribe is to take the framework that has been started and to build off of it. The Summit was sponsored by SAMSHA and IHS, who will use the Tribal Action Plans to approach issues in our communities with resources they have available to tribes. Major sponsorship was provided by AVCP and YKHC.



Monique Vondall-Rieke and Sepreiono Locario, Facilitators during the Summit.

November 7, 2016 the Tribal Justice Center sponsored a Tribal Circle Facilitator Training at the cultural center in Bethel. The training was done by the Kenaitze Tribal Court's Traditional Court Program and approximately 33 people were in attendance.



Elders that attended the Tribal Action Plan Summit.



Nightmute, Alaska Tribal Membership Meeting

On November 4, 2016 AVCP Directors and Department Representatives travelled to Nightmute, Alaska for their Annual Tribal Membership meeting held at the Nightmute Community Hall. AVCP Directors and Representatives gave presentations on their departments and how they would be able to help Tribal Members with the services they provide. AVCP Directors that attended were Nicholas Hoover—Director of Social Services, Tonya Charlie—Director of Realty, Steve Street—Director of Cultural & Environmental Science, Melanie Charles—Realty Probate Specialist and Doris Daniel—Assistant Director of Tribal Services.



2016 BIA Tribal Provider's Conference



AVCP Tribal Justice Director Monique Vondall-Rieke speaks as a panelist in the Alaska Tribal Courts Assessment Project. Bennie Francisco, Trisha Tingle

The 26th Annual Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Provider's Conference was held on November 29th to December 2nd, 2016 in the Dena'ina Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska. Many AVCP & Tribal Employees attend each year.

The BIA Tribal Provider's Conference is attended by over 1,500 attendees each year, including tribal governments, key leaders, village communities and government representatives. During the weeklong conference, attendees have the opportunity to connect with federal representatives on social, government and tribal assistance.

This year, Monique Vondall-Rieke—AVCP Tribal Justice Director was asked to panel with the Alaska Tribal Courts Assessment Project. The panel was introduced by Alaska's Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallot. Monique was recognized and selected for the panel for her experience in establishing tribal courts within the AVCP Region.



Land into Trust training

AVCP hosted Land into Trust training in Bethel at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center on December 12-14, 2016. The Falmouth Institute sent Geoff Strommer and Craig Jacobson of the Hobbs, Walker and Strauss Law firm to provide this training. This event was well attended with about 75 people from Tribes, Corporations, and educational facilities present.

The target audience for this training included Tribal leaders, Tribal Administrators, land planners, and Village Corporations. Important information was provided to attendees on the Land into Trust process, pros and cons, and land status.

Upcoming Events and Trainings:

Christmas Holiday—All offices closed—Dec. 26, 2016

New Year's Holiday—All offices closed—Jan. 1, 2017

Mask making w/ Mike McIntyre—Yupiit Piciryarait—Jan. 27-29, 2016



Merry Christmas

Alussistuaqegcikici!