

Nunaput umyuallgutkut pinirluteng-llu, Tegganerput qigcikluk pirpakluki-llu, ayagyuaput-llu ciuliqagcimaut yuuyarakun



Vivian Korthuis and the Division Directors at the 2021 Virtual Annual Convention



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Charlene Wuya taking attendance at the 2021 Virtual Annual Convention

# AVCP ANNUAL CONVENTION ADDRESS



## Introduction

My name is Vivian Korthuis. I serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the Association of Village Council Presidents. Welcome tribes, tribal members, delegates, executive board, guests and staff to the 57th AVCP Annual Convention.

This is the second virtual convention for AVCP in a row. The theme for this year's annual convention is "We will survive this pandemic, with hope and resiliency."

My message this year will be a little different. Every year I try and summarize AVCP's accomplishments in the past year and provide encouragement for the next year. This time, I'd like to share 5 of the lessons that I have learned about AVCP and how important our organization is to the region.

## Lesson 1: *Make decisions and keep moving forward*

This past summer, on June 1st I returned to my office after 65 weeks of remote work at home during the first year of the pandemic. Like many of you, I was at first very apprehensive to leave my house after quarantining for so long. At work, I sat at my desk and noticed that my calendar on the wall still showed March 2020. The first thing I did in my office was to check to see if anyone else was there. It was very quiet.

I sat in my chair and just took it all in. My mind went back to the day in March of 2020 when I made the decision to send all AVCP staff to work from home. That decision was made based on the most current CDC guidelines, recommendations and guidelines from YKHC and foremost, in collaboration with the AVCP Executive Team.

The lesson I learned during this time is that making decisions is not easy. But we continue to make decisions every day. These decisions can be very heavy. Living through Covid is not easy. It's not easy for all of us at any level—at home, at work, at school and in every one of our villages. The important thing is that we make those decisions to protect people, to protect families, to protect communities and to protect our region.

## Lesson 2: *The importance of working together and showing recognition*

We know that we cannot do anything by ourselves, especially under the crisis conditions we have experienced in the past year and a half in our region. AVCP has worked with our sister organization YKHC since the beginning of the pandemic. We have relied on the medical experts and government agencies not only to get the most current information out to our employees, but to help facilitate the many, many questions our staff had.

Dr. Hodges, YKHC Chief of Staff, has been very gracious and has made herself available to call into our weekly staff meetings, our COVID Task Force meetings and has met with the Executive Team numerous times. We are very happy she has accepted the invitation to be this year's AVCP Annual Convention Keynote Speaker.

In addition, we are very happy that the AVCP Executive Board has passed and forwarded to the annual convention a resolution recognizing the work of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation. I also want to thank the Tribes directly, for recognizing and thanking YKHC for its critical role in our region to address the pandemic. Thank you to Dr. Hodges and all of YKHC for doing the incredible work you have done for all of us.

### **Lesson 3: Don't Stop. Keep Going.**

A couple weeks ago I was approached by an Elder who spoke to me while I was waiting for an appointment at the hospital. We spoke just a couple minutes, but what he said is what I needed to hear. He told me that the work AVCP is doing in our region is on the right track and is appreciated. He said, "Don't stop. Keep going." I wanted to make sure that this encouragement by the Elders is shared and spread throughout our region.

Our youth, our schools, our families, our communities, our tribes, our villages, our organizations, and our region can't stop. We need to keep going.

### **Lesson 4: This will pass**

On September 20th, the Anchorage Daily News reported over 2,000 new cases of Covid over the weekend and five new deaths. COVID-19 has touched every village within our region, and we have lost family and friends. We need to remain diligent – get the vaccine, wear masks, wash your hands and stay home if you are sick. Dr. Hodges has told the AVCP staff many, many times that the way out of Covid is to get vaccinated.

I've been on countless of virtual meetings about Covid-19 since the pandemic started over a year and a half ago. Last year, AVCP pivoted our services to operate under the pandemic, and we have learned to protect our employees but continue to provide the services that our region needs. We have put in place every protection recommended by experts and encourage everyone to get the vaccine and follow guidelines or mandates in every one of our communities. I know it's very hard to hear this now, but in the long run, there will be a time when the pandemic is not with us. This will pass. Our goal is to get through Covid, standing up.

### **Lesson 5: Protect our Way of Life**

There are many layers of challenges in our region right now. Despite the public safety crisis, the pandemic and now the salmon disaster, we need to keep moving forward.

Recently, I was asked "What is the plan for the salmon disaster?" At the time, I could not answer the question. But I knew that we had to use the process of improvement at AVCP to get the answer and create a strategy with input from everyone.

AVCP created a strategy to address the decline and collapse of the salmon fisheries with input from staff, administration, and executive board. It can be found on our webpage and is published in local newspapers. We shared it at our quarterly tribal teleconference meeting recently and now ask our tribes to provide input by participating in upcoming meetings and efforts to gather information.

### **Closing**

I have said many times over the past 18 months that "We need to lean into the pandemic and come out the other end standing up."

This is still my message. In March of 2020, I asked staff to lean into this crisis, and to come out the other side standing up. That is what we are doing at AVCP. We will continue to look to the horizon. We will use what we have learned and continue to make improvements no matter what challenges we face.

In closing, I would like to recognize and thank all the AVCP staff for all the hard work and innovation that goes on in order to continue to provide services to our Families, Villages, Tribes and to our whole Region.

We will make decisions and keep moving forward.

We will continue to partner and work together.

We won't stop and will keep going.

We know this will pass.

We will protect Our Way of Life.

Thank you. Qu yana.



# AVCP 2021 RESOLUTIONS

Please note that these resolutions have been shortened for brevity. To see the full versions of these resolutions, visit <https://www.avcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/resolutions.pdf>

All resolutions were submitted by The Association of Village Council Presidents Executive Board and signed by Chairman Thadius Tikiun and Chief Executive Officer Vivian Korthuis

## **RESOLUTION 21-09-01**

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of the Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors calls for the reintroduction and passage of the Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That, to this end, the members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation co-sponsor this legislation.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.

## **RESOLUTION 21-09-02**

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of Continued Advocacy and Support for Bering Sea Protections

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors affirms AVCP's continued commitment to advocating for the protection of the Bering Sea and its resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors affirms AVCP's continued commitment to partnership through the Bering Sea tribal coalition, including supporting the Region's participation in the Bering Intergovernmental Tribal Advisory Council.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.

## **RESOLUTION 21-09-03**

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors affirms its continued support of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors urges the Alaska State Legislature and the Executive Branch to increase funding for the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, in order to effect full and successful implementation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors sponsors this resolution to the 2021 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held October 21-23, 2021.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.

## **RESOLUTION 21-09-04**

TITLE: In Recognition of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation's COVID-19 Response

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Full Board of Directors of the Association of Village Council Presidents recognizes the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation for its continued service to the tribes and communities of the AVCP Region

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.

## **RESOLUTION 21-09-05**

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of Defending the Power Cost Equalization Fund

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Full Board of Directors of the Association of Village Council Presidents supports the continued implementation of Power Cost Equalization and the protection of the Power Cost Equalization Fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents will work with tribes, organizations, the Legislature, and other entities to protect the right to affordable energy in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and rural Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors sponsors this resolution to the 2021 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held October 21-23, 2021.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.

## **RESOLUTION 21-09-06**

TITLE: A Resolution to Respond to the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors calls for action to respond to the Crisis of Missing and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors calls for AVCP Administration to continue to advocate for law enforcement resources in rural Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors calls for AVCP Administration to continue and expand prevention services to support healthy communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors calls for AVCP Administration to explore ways to collaborate with tribes, governmental, and non-governmental agencies to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples in rural Alaska.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held virtually, this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.

## **RESOLUTION 21-09-07**

TITLE: A Resolution Calling for a Field Hearing on the State of Salmon

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors continues to recognize and support the cultural, nutritional and economic importance of salmon to the people of the AVCP Region in perpetuity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Administration work to arrange a field hearing with the Congressional delegation to discuss the State of Salmon in Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors sponsors this resolution to the 2021 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held October 21-23, 2021.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.

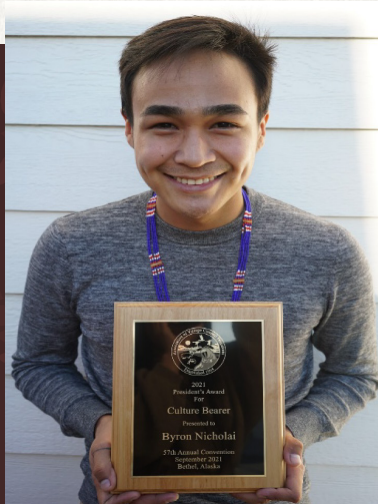
## **RESOLUTION 21-09-08**

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of Legislation for State of Alaska Recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Association of Village Council Presidents Full Board of Directors fully supports and calls for the reintroduction and passage of An Act providing for State recognition of federally recognized tribes.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Association of Village Council Presidents during the Association's fifty-seventh annual convention held this 22nd day of September with a duly constituted quorum of delegates present.

## 2021 ANNUAL AWARDS



*Culture Bearer: Byron Nicholai, Nunakauyak Tribe*

Byron Nicholai is a Yup'ik youth from southwest Alaska who grew up in the village of Toksook Bay. From a young age, he was taught to drum and dance and has been practicing the traditions ever since. Byron went to Nelson Island High School where he graduated in 2016. Since then, he's been an advocate of the Yup'ik culture by doing workshops and sharing stories in different schools and communities all around the world.



*Healing Hands: Charlene LeAndra Nukusuk-Long, Native Village of Hooper Bay*

Charlene's parents are Albert & Martha Simon from Hooper Bay. She is married to Justin Max Long and together they have three sons. Charlene is always open to helping anybody at the best of her ability. Charlene puts God first in everything. Her favorite bible verse is Psalms 34:18 "The lord is close to the brokenhearted; and saves those who are crushed in spirit". Her favorite sayings include the words from her grandpa Paul Nukusuk "Find something you love to do, and you will never work a day in your life."



### *Elder of the Year: Jimmy P. Stevens Sr., Nunapitchuk Tribe*

Jimmy P. Stevens Sr., Tumaralria, was born in Akiak to David Stevens of Akiachak and Julia Kasayulie of Akiak. Jimmy married Edith Andrew from Nunapitchuk and together they have 7 children.

Jimmy is highly dedicated to the health and well being of our Region's youth and families. He willingly shares his personal life experiences as a way to teach lessons and help others learn healthy coping skills. He loves to talk to others and share stories about hunting, fishing, and growing up on the Kuskokwim River.

Jimmy says, "If we follow our elder advice, we will live easier."



### *Parents of the Year: William "Bossa" Alstrom II and Hazel Alstrom, Yupiit of Andreafski and Algaa'ciq Tribe*

William "Bossa" Alstrom II is the last child of William and Hilda Alstrom. Hazel's parents are the late Charles Paukan Sr. and Maggie Paukan. Together they have three boys, Mitchell, Ethan, and William III.

Bossa and Hazel coach elementary and middle school basketball where they are second parents to many students.

Bossa and Hazel were encouraged to pass down subsistence knowledge and the Yup'ik way of life to their children by the late Charles Paukan. They have taught their boys to hunt, camp, trap, work on their catches, and share with the community.

Their guidance is to keep moving forward no matter what situation you are in.



### ***Public Service: Sharon Williams, Napaskiak Tribe***

Sharon Williams was born in Anchorage, Alaska to the late Christine and Isaiah Egoak Jr. Sharon is married to Evan Williams and together they have seven children.

Sharon graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2010 with a degree in early childhood.

Sharon's responsiveness and leadership to the AVCP's VPSO program was the key to the initiation of the Napaskiak Public Safety Building Project. Her ability to work across organizations with the tribe, city, and AVCP showed great value and commitment to improve the quality of life for the people of Napaskiak and chip away at the region's number one priority of public safety.

Her favorite saying is, "We are in this together for the health, safety, and well-being of our people."



### ***Public Service: Sally Martin, Native Village of Goodnews Bay***

Sally Martin was born to Gloria Golia in Dillingham and traditionally adopted to Christian & Susie Bavilla of Goodnews Bay. Sally married Samuel Martin and together they had five children.

Sally is an active and strong Tribal Leader, serving as the Mayor of the City; a Community Representative for Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation; and on the Advisory School Board. She ensures that the Yup'ik language is incorporated in school by reading the Yup'ik Pledge of Allegiance to classrooms. Sally is a leader, drummer, and dancer for the Goodnews Bay Dance Group.

Sally's personal and professional opinions are valued and she is an asset to the school, community, and medical field.



### *Youth Leadership: Kaylee King, Native Village of Atmautluak*

Kaylee King is the oldest of six sister's and her parents are Derek King of Mekoryuk, and Victoria Pavilla of Atmautluak. Kaylee works as an intern at KYUK and has been advocating for this region by taking a stand against the use of single use plastics and is a strong advocate for home-grown teachers.

Kaylee will be attending UAA to pursue journalism with the eventual goal of returning to KYUK. She has proven herself, not only a strong leader among her peers, but within her community.

Ms King also entered a National Public Radio podcast challenge which was created by herself, Ethan Lincoln, and Jamin Crow, in which they made it to the top 15 of over 2,000 entries.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
*To all of the 2021 AVCP Award winners!*

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For additional information, please contact AVCP Communications Director, Gage Hoffman at 907-543-7308 or email at [ghoffman@avcp.org](mailto:ghoffman@avcp.org)

AVCP is a regional nonprofit tribal consortium comprised of the 56 federally recognized tribes of the YK Delta. The geographic boundaries of AVCP extend from the Yukon River Village of Russian Mission downstream to the Bering Sea coast, north up through Kotlik and south along the coastline to Platinum and then extending up the Kuskokwim River to Stony River, including Lime Village on the Stony River tributary. The area encompasses approximately 6.5 million acres, or 55,000 square miles, in Western Alaska.

## 2021 CONVENTION RECAP



*Chief Executive Officer Vivian Korthuis and Executive Board Chairman Thadius Tikiun*

AVCP's 2021 Annual Convention was held at the Cultural Center on Wednesday, September 22nd. The majority of this convention's participants attended virtually due to COVID-19 concerns. Those who did participate in-person were told to take a rapid test within 72 hours of the convention and provide verbal confirmation of their negative status prior to entry. Proper precautions such as masking, social distancing, and other hygienic practices were observed for the few in-person staff in attendance. With the virtual participants, we were able to meet quorum and conduct a successful convention. Quyuana to all who helped and/or participated.

*\*This year's convention was recorded so if you didn't have a chance to participate you can watch the convention on AVCP's website or facebook page.*



*Charlene Wuya taking Roll Call*



*Gage Hoffman advancing slides*

*Pictured: Chief Executive Officer  
Vivian Korthuis, Chairman Thadius  
Tikiun, Parlementarian John Neelman,  
VPSO Manager Alvin Jimmie*



*Meeting in progress*



*Convention meeting angle 2*



*Convention meeting angle 3*

## Introduction to AVCP's Legal Compliance Strategies 'A Spirit of Determination.'

By: Coralette D. Waite, Director of Legal Compliance (AVCP's Compliance Champion)

AVCP was founded on resilience and determination in preparation of the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to fully supports its 56 federally recognized tribes. The main priority being: "to promote self-determination, protection and enhancement of cultural and traditional values."

As a part of that determination, AVCP holds to the same determined culture internally that it reflects and promotes outside. In 2020, AVCP's Legal Team determined to push AVCP into a transformational future from a reactive past by creating Legal GRC (Legal "Governance, Risk Management and Compliance") strategies. This would allow AVCP to look within, make some well needed policy changes and way of functioning, and create a more standardized future. AVCP's Legal GRC strategies are an agent of change. AVCP's Legal GRC was developed in 2020 and became effective in 2021 to promote internal legal compliance and ethical behavior between all AVCP functions by reviewing external laws and regulations and matching them with internal policies and actions to foster recommendations and correction towards complete legal compliance.

### What are AVCP's Legal GRC strategies?

- Protect AVCP. By looking internally at legal compliance, AVCP will be able to praise compliant workflow and correct deficiencies so that it may effectively serve its Tribal Constituents.
- Navigate the complicated regulatory and legal environment. By understanding external regulatory and legal requirements, AVCP will be able to align its internal requirements while clarifying necessary policies and procedures to pursue transformational ethical culture.
- Reduce the cost and impact of non-compliance. By developing proactive compliance strategies AVCP will eliminate non-compliance, mitigate possible penalties that could arise from non-compliance, and engage in ongoing legal compliance monitoring.

AVCP's Legal GRC champions legal compliance and fosters an ethically compliant culture.

### How can you help?

Be determined to participate! With the rollout of AVCP's Legal GRC strategies, all staff, will have an opportunity to participate in various necessary assessments and legal compliance trainings. An all-staff mandatory compliance assessment and training on AVCP's Code of Conduct will be rolled out soon, to be completed by December 31, 2021. With cooperation, each AVCP staff member will become a part of AVCP's transformational future. Engage with Legal GRC, and together we will build on AVCP's already strong existing ethical culture.

# AVCP STAFF NOMINATIONS

Hi All,

We are looking for nominations for our Employee of the Year and Department of the Year.

If you would like to nominate someone or a department, email Lema Pete at [wpete@avcp.org](mailto:wpete@avcp.org) with at least a paragraph stating why you think that person should be nominated for Employee of the year.

Same goes for the Department of the Year, send an email and state why you think that department should be nominated.

Please note, all nominations will need to be emailed to Lema no later than end of day Tuesday, November 9, 2021.

Quyana!