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AFN/AVCP virtual Roundtable on Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Search and Rescue

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) has held a series of virtual roundtables in 2021 focusing on different themes across the State’s regions. The last roundtable in the 2021 series was held on December 27th and was co-hosted by the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP). The roundtable was titled, “Challenges at the Northern Boarder: YK Delta Search and Rescue.”

The roundtable was organized on the heels the recent experiences of the stranded Pilot Station hunters during Fall 2021 river freeze up. The focus of the discussions was how search and rescue efforts can be improved going forward. Hunters seeking greater food security are encountering new weather and ice conditions which cannot be predicted. Things are changing on the ground and hunters are experiencing new challenges in availability of animals and hunter safety. The roundtable focused on how we can bring additional resources into our search and rescue system to support the best possible outcomes.

The virtual meeting included participation by Ana Hoffman, AFN Co-Chair; Joe Nelson, AFN Co-Chair; Julie Kitka, AFN President; Vivian Korthuis, AVCP CEO; Gordan Westlock Jr., Alakanuk SAR; Rex Nick, Pilot Station SAR; George Smith, Scammon Bay SAR; Mike Riley, Bethel SAR; Brent Latham, AVCP Community Services Division Director; Lt. General David Krumm, Alaskan Command; Major General Torrence Saxe, Alaska National Guard; Commissioner James Cockrell, State of Alaska Department of Public Safety; and Alaska State Trooper Lieutenant Paul Fussey.


Ms. Korthuis shared the following comments on the significance of holding a virtual roundtable on search and rescue:

“Search and rescue is a continuation of people in our communities, living off the land, taking care of each other and making sure that everyone comes home safe...

The volunteer search and rescue teams that live amongst us, are those leaders that are specific, with knowledge of the land, the water and the surrounding community space. So, we really do owe them a great appreciation and gratitude. Those are the people that when an emergency or trauma happens within a community or within a family, many times they’re the most quiet people in the whole community, they are the ones that have the knowledge and know how to act and behave in a situation where things are chaotic...

AVCP Tribes made a wish list when we first started talking about public safety and those things that are priority for our region. One of the items on our wish list is that we build with our partners at every level, public safety which includes search and rescue...

AVCP will continue to work towards supporting our local volunteer search and rescue programs as they are crucial in keeping our communities and our neighbors safe.”
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Bethel Employee of the Year:
Buck Buckowski

Buck is a two-time winner of the AVCP Employee of the year. Nothing says why Buck is so important to the AVCP family than the nominations he received for employee of the year. I will nominate Buck Bukowski for Employee of year. Buck is a hard worker and is always willing to help wherever he is needed with no questions asked. Buck is a huge part of AVCP. His job literally touches all parts of our organization. He works tirelessly ensuring our buildings are safe and secure, while providing warmth and regular maintenance. He works all hours of the day and night including weekends. He has been instrumental in staff getting new fancy work-stations, desks, and chairs. The amount of work it takes to make this happen is tremendous and Buck does not get enough praise.

Quyana Buck for all that you do for AVCP and our Region.
The IT Department has been very busy since COVID-19 changed the way we work. IT help build out and maintain remote work systems such as VDI, OKTA, MIP, Microix, Microsoft 365 and File Shares.

2021 Top Accomplishments:

- Remote Access / Remote Work Opportunities
- VDI Implementation completed in March of 2021.
- Remote Applications accessible through VDI:
  - RiteTrack
  - MIP
  - Microix
- IT Remote System Administration
- Clark Number Pool for Finance
- Laptop Preparation to assist in continued Remote Work.
- OKTA One Click Access, Single Sign On & Multi-Factor Authentication for:
  - VDI
  - Microsoft 365
  - Concur
  - ADP
  - Adobe Professional
  - Programs Data Assessment & RiteTrack Implementation
- Through the Data Assessment and Team, IT was able to assist with the following
  - Security Matrix Implementation for AVCP Programs (Also an IG Risk Assessment Requirement)
  - RiteTrack Short Term & Long Term Schedule
  - Assisted Legal in selecting a Platform for IG Risk Assessment Implementation
  - KnowBe4 KCM for IG Risk Assessment Tasks and Tracking, which will also be used for IT Security preparation.
  - KnowBe4 Security Awareness Training – to begin covering Risk Assessment Training requirements.
- System Upgrades
- Current Virtual Server Environment Host Upgrades (Servers used for Email, Microix & MIP, File & Print Sharing and other onsite Applications)
- Email Server Upgrade from Exchange 2010 to Exchange 2016.
Dear Mr. Alvin Jimmie,

On behalf of Association of Village Council Presidents, we want to express our immeasurable gratitude to Alvin Jimmie for all the great years of service he has accomplished in the Village Public Safety Officer Program. We would also like to take this time to express a wholehearted appreciation to Mr. Jimmies Family who had allowed him to work in such a demanding, dangerous, yet necessary field.

We want to thank Alvin for all the time, effort, encouragement, and hard work he has poured into the VPSO program. His many years of service and dedication to improving safety procedure and conditions in numerous communities has not gone unnoticed.

We have truly enjoyed working with Alvin. As said by many colleagues here at AVCP, Alvin is known for his cheerful and positive demeanor. You were such valuable member to our team; your infectious laugh will be greatly missed in the workplace. We look forward to seeing you along the road.

Once again, thank you for all your contributions to the Village Public Safety Officer program. You have truly been a blessing, we here at AVCP wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

With Sincere Gratitude,
AVCP Family
AVCP would like to congratulate William “Bossa” and Hazel Alstrom II who were honored with the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) President’s Award for Parents of the Year. William and Hazel were nominated by AVCP and recognized virtually at the 2021 AFN Annual Convention.

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.

AVCP would like to thank our employees for their years of excellent service. Here is to many more years to come.
AVCP extends our deepest condolences to the family of Yukon Kuskokwim Delta leader Martin B. Moore, Sr. City Manager of the City of Emmonak, and past Calista President and Board Member and former member of the Alaska State House of Representatives. Mr. Moore received the Public Service award at the AVCP Annual Convention in 2019. This award recognized Martin for his demonstrated dedication, competence, and sensitivity in the area of public service. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family. With permission from the family, they want to extend their appreciation for the support and are requesting any messages or condolences be sent to doracmoore@gmail.com.
After AVCP’s holiday potluck, our staff wanted to extend the celebration by bringing the leftover food to Grant aviation. Some people had been weathered in for days and were very grateful for the food/drinks. We hope everyone is able to make it home safely. Happy Holidays!
NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

The AVCP Community Services Facebook Page is a collaboration of Tribal Justice, Tribal Services, and the VPSO program which all come together to make the Community Service Division dedicated to supporting AVCP’s 56 Tribes by sharing relevant information aimed towards Tribal sovereignty, public safety, and exercising the Tribe’s ability to function at their highest capacity.

AVCP Community Services Division
@AVCP_CSD · Nonprofit organization

About

101 A Main Street 99559

This Page is a collaboration of Tribal Justice, Tribal Services, and the VPSO Program which all come together to make the Community Services Division. We share relevant information aimed towards Tribal sovereignty and public safety. See less