



**ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF HARBORMASTERS
AND PORT ADMINISTRATORS**

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Hello all!

The 2009 annual conference was superbly hosted by Kodiak Port and Harbor Director Marty Owen and his staff which proved to be another educational and enjoyable experience. They are to be commended for all their effort to make this years conference an outstanding experience for all the attendees. **The 2010 conference will be hosted by Wrangell next October.** We will let you know as soon as the date is set.

A big thank you to all the sustaining members that sponsored breaks, lunches, dinners, etc. Our annual conferences would not be the success they are without you! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

It should also be noted that our conference presentations are a big part of why we have the attendance of our Harbormaster and Port Directors each year at the conference. Some folks make presentations almost every year to keep us informed on what is happening across the State. Along with that are all the other presentations that help us operate our ports and harbors as efficiently and professionally as possible. On behalf of the members of the AAHPA, thank you all for your work for us.

Bi-annual elections of AAHPA officers and board of directors were also conducted during the conference with Ketchikan's Port and Harbors Director Steve Corporon elected as President of the AAHPA. He replaced Juneau Port Director John Stone who will continue to serve as Past President on the Board of Directors. Juneau Harbormaster Phil Benner was elected to the position of Vice President and Port and Harbor Director Marty Owen was re-elected Treasurer. Homer Port and Harbor Director Brian Hawkins; Seward Harbormaster, Kari Anderson; King Cove Harbormaster David Bash; and Sitka Harbormaster, Stan Eliason, were elected to serve on the Board of Directors.

At the Conference banquet The Annual Harbormaster/Employee of the Year Committee recognized Matt O'Boyle of Skagway as the recipient of the Third Annual Harbormaster of the Year. The Harbor Employee recognized was Donna Ryan of Ketchikan. Congratulations to them for well deserved recognition!

During the conference there was again discussion regarding the Municipal Harbor Matching Grant Program and funding for it. Communities that have grant applications in should lobby to make sure the program receives funding. The AAHPA President will write another letter to ADOT recommending that ADOT support/fully fund all the requests/projects submitted for the Alaska Municipal Harbors Matching Grant Program. Skagway has already written their letter.

Develop dredging standards for the State of Alaska - John Stone reported that a multi-department team (DEC, Corp of Engineers, AAHPA, ADOT, AK Fish & Game, NOAA, US Fish & Wildlife Service are some of the agencies involved) is working on a dredging framework. One request they have is that AAHPA might host documents or links to the project on our website. It would include drafts of the dredging framework so everyone could review it and reports associated with it. John will find out

more. They are trying to come up with Alaska specific standards. Right now someone wanting a permit will find they pick the most stringent standards in the country and apply them to Alaska. This project may take another five years.

There was also a dues increase approved which required a change to the Constitution and By-Laws to increase Corporate dues to \$150, Associate dues to \$35 and Sustaining dues to \$225. It had been at least eight years since there had been an increase. This was deemed necessary to support an increase in Association operation expenses and be able to continue to offer a conference attendance grant/scholarship. The change has been posted on our website under Articles and By-Laws.

Participation at the Seattle Boat Show was also discussed with Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak and possibly some others planning to attend and promote boaters visiting all Alaskan harbors. Marty Owen reported that Ketchikan, Kodiak and Juneau have paid for the booth for 2010. 2009 was the first year it was done with the new backdrop and it really drew folks into the booth. The show is January 29 through February 6, 2010. Steve Corporon thought assisting in the booth is a learning experience, especially for someone that is new to it. They will welcome help to man the booth and hand out information from other harbors for 2010. Harbor guides are useful handouts. Those participating did see folks that visited the booth come into their harbors. They also talked to the Puget Sound Cruising Club and folks from there showed up in Kodiak.

Resolutions – John Stone reported a draft resolution having to do with the clean harbor program. The resolution is to support the clean harbors program and help steer where it ends up. Harbormasters should have input to a check list to be developed. The resolution was passed in concept and is now available for anyone wanting a copy.

During the Annual meeting it was decided to discontinue automatically sending out hard copies of the Annual Directory. It is quite expensive to mail out hard copies - \$850 last year. Kim will still be able to send a hard copy to someone that can't download it from the website. It will be downloadable under "downloads" with a password so non-members cannot download it. Email Kim to request the user name and password. The website has all the same information that is in the directory and will be more current than the directory due to ongoing membership changes. A member can email her that something has changed and she can do it within a few days. (Kim will send out an email announcement to all members when the 2010 version is available on the website.)

Our website, www.alaskaharbors.com, was also discussed and work on it continues. Please email Kim at aahpa@gci.net if any changes or updates to your website/directory listings are needed. As soon as the conference presentations are received on CD we will put it on the website under downloads requiring the password to access it. It is anticipated this will be available by mid-December.

I hope this finds everyone well and preparing for the holidays. I will be out of the country myself from November 20 to December 15, 2009 in the event anyone tries to contact me and doesn't get a response. I will check my mail immediately upon my return.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Kim

Kim Elliot, Executive Secretary
Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators