

THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



Alaska Food Coalition Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 16, 2006 10:00 am-11:00 am at Food Bank of Alaska

Members Present

Vice-President, Jim Crockett, Treasurer, Susannah Morgan, and Alaska Food Coalition Coordinator, Henryk Szadziewski, were present at Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) in Anchorage. President, Linda Swarner and Secretary, Nick Timurphy participated by teleconference due to distance.

Annual Member Meeting 2006 Debrief

1. Successes/Improvements for next year

Susannah commented that Juneau as a location was a good choice because members could build a relationship with state employees and legislators. Administrators of the federal food programs also liked it that the coalition was there. Susannah added that the event at The Glory Hole had been a success as well as an area for future improvement; she also observed that the education of legislators was successful too. Jim asked how The Glory Hole event could have been improved. Susannah responded that more press and legislative participation would have been welcome. Linda asked about for a cost comparison between the 2006 Juneau meeting and the 2005 Fairbanks meeting and if there had been any financial burden on agencies to go to Juneau. Susannah replied the Juneau meeting at roughly \$3700 was more expensive by \$500 than the Fairbanks meeting. Nick added that his agency had not had any financial problem with attendance. Linda also mentioned that a seed had been planted about a commission on hunger. Henry brought up Linda's point about teleconferencing the AFC business session of the meeting so that more members could participate. Susannah noted that other improvement areas are increased member participation, advocacy training for the membership prior to legislator visits and a different conference room. Henry responded that state employees had offered their assistance in finding a room for next year.

2. Planning for next year-a timeframe, subject matter and other suggestions

The timing of the meeting caused concern and suggestions for an alternative were solicited by Linda. All executive committee members agreed that February was viable considering the timetable of the legislature. Susannah suggested that the date would have to be set at a September member teleconference. Another teleconference in January, 2007 could include advocacy training and a further May teleconference would debrief the Annual Member Meeting. After discussion by

the executive committee 10 am, Wednesday, September 27, 2006 was the time and date set for the next Member Teleconference.

Linda raised the commission on hunger and Susannah discussed its political feasibility. By attaching the hunger issue to an existing commission as suggested in Juneau more may be achieved. This would also address wider issues beyond hunger. The committee agreed that the coordinator research the existing commissions for possibilities. A decision on subject matter and speakers was deferred to a later date. One suggestion was to focus on one particular federal food program in detail and workshop future activities for the membership to use in their agencies.

3. State/Non-profit collaboration-keeping up the momentum

Susannah put to the committee the idea that she, Linda, Food Bank of Alaska's future Advocacy Program Manager, and the coordinator visit with the state administrators of the federal food programs to debrief and discuss collaboration. This could happen at the end of July/beginning of August. The committee agreed that this was a good idea.

Other Business, Concerns or Issues

The committee discussed diversifying revenue sources for the coalition. Jim raised several possibilities such as Alaska native groups, oil companies and Anchorage municipality. Susannah responded that the End Hunger in Anchorage group would deal with the municipality and added that the coalition is statewide grouping. Susannah continued by saying that the AFC is not a separate 501 (c) 3. Any check from a donor would have to be paid to the AFC's financial agent, Food Bank of Alaska, which could preclude FBA from future funding from that source. In addition, the AFC doesn't want to compete for funding with the membership. The Executive Committee agreed to look out for grant opportunities similar to the UPS Foundation grant, for which the coalition applied in March of this year.

Linda informed the committee of Hunger Awareness Week in Oregon and asked what they thought. The consensus was that an Alaska Hunger Day could be inaugurated, falling on a landmark day for Alaskans.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 am by President, Linda Swarner.

Minutes prepared by AFC Coordinator, Henryk Szadziwski.