

THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



**Alaska Food Coalition Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, 8 December, 2005
2:00pm-3:00pm at Food Bank of Alaska**

Members Present

Vice-President, Jim Crockett, Treasurer, Susannah Morgan, Program Director at Food Bank of Alaska, Ruth Riley-Elvsaas and Alaska Food Coalition Coordinator, Henryk Szadziewski, were present at Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) in Anchorage. President, Linda Swarner participated by teleconference due to distance, and Secretary, Louise Charles was not present because of illness.

1st Quarter Member Teleconference Debrief

The coordinator recapped the issues from the last member teleconference on 27 October, 2005. The salient points were:

- Agencies reporting a drop in money and food donations. This was attributed to donations being made to agencies involved in relief work for Hurricane Katrina victims.
- The lack of a poverty legislation tracker in the Alaska anti-hunger network. A suggestion was made by Linda Swarner that the Alaska Food Coalition be involved in this kind of work.

Coordinator's Report

1. Member Update

The membership number stands at 36, an increase of 6 since the member teleconference. The Eagle River-Chugiak Food Pantry is the newest member. A list of possible members is still running and the coordinator invited the officers to make suggestions. Linda and Susannah agreed that their respective newsletters would carry a membership drive article.

2. Mini-grants

The results are in and are expected to be publicly announced next week. An e-mail notifying the officers of the awardees would be sent out before going public.

3. Capacity-building Project

A survey has been sent out to FBA partner agencies, AFC members and some non-FBA agencies identified through research. This research involved calling city administrators, village councils, village non-profits and chambers of commerce statewide. With the information gleaned from these sources, anti-hunger agencies were contacted in order for

them to be sent a survey. Surveys are being returned at a rate of approximately two a day so far. 38 surveys are in from a total of approximately 200. Follow up calls to rural areas on the surveys will begin next week. Work on a database which will house the community and food pantry information is in progress. The community side is ready and much of the data has been entered. The food pantry side is being developed by David Morgan and when ready, data will be entered from the surveys.

4. Hunger Study

Publication is due in January with results for review expected in December. Susannah updated the committee on the statistical anomalies which have held up the release date of the report.

5. Website

This has been updated with various changes to out-of-date information regarding contact details, links etc...A new arrangement with Information Insights has been agreed to run the website at an estimated cost of \$720 per annum for work on the website and \$87 per annum for hosting and registration. The officers also agreed to scrap the unused "Share Your Ideas" page and possibly create a knowledge bank of ideas instead.

Agenda 2nd Quarter AFC Member Teleconference

Items for the agenda as approved by the committee were:

- A Coordinator's Report
- A member decision on the location and date for the annual face-to-face meeting
- A Treasurer's Report
- A discussion on the viability of the AFC being involved in tracking anti-poverty legislation

Time/Date/Location 2nd Quarter AFC Member Teleconference

The officers agreed to hold the next Member Teleconference on 25 January, 2005 from 10:00am-11:30am at the Frontier Building, Anchorage.

Suggestions for dates and locations of the Annual AFC Member Meeting

The committee members decided that either Juneau or Anchorage would be the best places for the Annual AFC Member Meeting in April or May. Some reservations about holding the meeting in Juneau were expressed and it was determined that Linda would contact Commissioner Karleen Jackson on the feasibility of a Juneau venue. Susannah also expressed concern about the travel budget, suggesting that in future the paying of travel expenses to the meeting should be turned to a scholarship fund.

Other Business, Concerns or Issues

Jim discussed the possibilities of longer working hours for the AFC coordinator and if this could be worked into the upcoming grant request from the state. The Committee agreed that the grant and the awarding process were unclear and that the coordinator would contact the state about how the process worked and how it might be done differently. Linda also alerted the officers to the Alaska School Nutrition Association Annual Conference on January, 30th, January 31st and February 1st, 2006. Susannah said she would attend on the first two days and added that the meeting would be a good opportunity to make contacts.

The meeting was adjourned at 3pm by President, Linda Swarner.

Minutes prepared by AFC Coordinator, Henryk Szadziewski.