Hello all!

The 2011 Annual Conference hosted by Homer had the largest participation on record with about 90 in attendance. Bryan, Rachel and the rest of the staff presented an exceptional innovative program that was well received by all in attendance. Well done Homer! Thank you!

To all our sustaining member partners that attended, made presentations and otherwise supported the conference - THANK YOU! Your ongoing sponsorship of the breaks, lunches and banquet is greatly appreciated.

The 2012 conference will be hosted by Sitka October 22-26, 2012 which is the week following Alaska Day. Mark your calendar and plan to be there!

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 re-elected as President of the AAHPA. Juneau Port Director Carl Uchytil 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; Sitka Harbormaster Stan Eliason; Nome Port and Harbor Director Joy Baker; and Hoonah Harbormaster Arlen Skaflestad were elected to serve on the Board of Directors.

At the Conference banquet the membership of AAHPA recognized former Juneau Harbormaster Phil Benner as Harbormaster of the Year for 2011. David Bash, Harbormaster of King Cove received recognition as Life Members of the AAHPA. Harbor Employees recognized were William Bousley of Ketchikan, Melody Moline of Seward, Joe Parnell of Haines, and Juneau’s new Harbormaster, Dwight Tajon. Congratulations to all!

During the annual business meeting Resolution No. 2011-01 to support funding for the COE projects related to Alaskan Ports and Harbors was discussed. Steve Corporon reporting that last year Seward City Manager asked support for funding COE projects to carve out a special fund for Alaska and Hawaii which may not fare well based on population density to get any dollars for their projects. He prepared a resolution supporting the idea which was shared with the membership who was encouraged to get their cities to do the same. At this point it is unknown what will happen. AAHPA did this because ports and harbors are crucial to the economics of Alaska’s coastal towns.

Resolution No. 2011-02 – A resolution in support of House Bill No. 184 relating to the sharing of tax revenues from the fisheries business tax and fishery resource landing tax with municipalities has been completed. Resolution No. 2011-03 supporting funding for the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY2013 capital budget has also been completed, both as directed by the membership at conference. Everyone is encouraged to have their municipalities do similar resolutions as well.

Anyone needing a copy to work with can email Kim for one.
The above resolutions, this newsletter, conference presentations and other updates will be put on the website as soon as possible. Those going to the download page will need to make a note that the username is: harbors and password is: downloads.

Seattle Boat Show – Update by Steve Corporon that it went well noting that several years ago the association paid for the display and that Ketchikan, Kodiak and Juneau have committed to participating and splitting the cost among them along with manning the booth and paying those expenses. Other members are encouraged to participate. Boat show booth fee is $1,675 to be shared equally among the participants. Those not attending can send down brochures to be available in the booth at no charge. Hotel has special boat show rates and monorail takes you from the airport to the show location. Attendance and purchases were up from the previous year.

Sea Lion Problems – A letter was sent to NOAA/NMFS in 2010 by President Steve Corporon asking if they had any concrete guidelines that we could share with our members but never got anything back. Apparently they will only address it on a case by case basis with solutions ranging from fire hoses to pepper spray to seal bombs.

Homer Port & Harbor Director Bryan Hawkins had several inquiries about the manual dealing with derelict vessels that their city attorney presented at the conference. Bound copies of the manual can be purchased from the Homer city clerk’s office for $25.00. If you’re interested you can contact them either through the city web site http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk or call 907-235-8121 ext. 2224.

Clean Harbors Certification – Bryan Hawkins reported that Homer is in the final process of clean harbor certification. Rachel Lord of Cook Inletkeeper gave an update during the conference and as an associate member her contact information is available on the aahpa website.

Conference Grant/Scholarship – Kim reported that at the AML meeting in Sitka in August she met Pelican’s Mayor, Clint Bean, and after hearing her presentation he asked for the grant for Pelican which was later approved by the AAHPA Board of Directors. It is the consensus that if funds are available the program shall continue.

At Conference IRS/AK Dept. Labor issues were reported. With the assistance of Dapcevich Accounting in Sitka we are able to report that AAHPA’s non-profit status with the IRS has been reinstated and 2010 short form taxes successfully filed a very little cost to the Association. Paperwork for the Alaska Department of Labor (and the IRS) to bring AAHPA into compliance regarding Kim’s work for the Association is almost completed.

I hope this finds everyone well and preparing for the holidays. I will be visiting family away from Sitka from November 17 to the 27th 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!

Sincerely,

Kim