November 5, 2012

Hello all!

The 2012 Annual Conference hosted by Sitka rivaled Homer for the largest participation on record with about 85 in attendance. Stan, Kristi, Chuck and the rest of the staff presented a well-received program. Well done Sitka! And thank you for the wonderful weather the whole week!

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. It couldn’t be done without your support.

**The 2013 conference will be hosted by Valdez October 21-25, 2012 which is the week following Alaska Day.** Mark your calendar and plan to be there!

At the Conference banquet the membership of AAHPA recognized former Sitka Harbormaster Ray Majeski and former Petersburg Harbormaster Jim Stromdahl as Life Members of the AAHPA. Harbor Employees recognized were Administrative Assistant Sue Kurle of Ketchikan, Harbor Officer Mark Allen of Haines, and Administrative Assistant Johanna Young of Juneau. Congratulations to all!

During the annual business meeting Resolution #2012-01 supporting the Matching Harbor Grant Program was approved. There is about 15 million in projects pending. This resolution updated last year’s resolution. Last year it was fully funded at 23 million clearing the back log of applications and was the first time the program was fully funding in 5 years. Mike Lukshin reported the support of AAHPA is critical to the success of the program.

Another Resolution #2012-02 supporting a change State Derelict Vessel statues as approved. This is to strengthen the State’s derelict vessel program. Mike Lukshin drafted the resolution which Steve Corporon tweaked slightly. Steve Corporon noted that when the current statute was approved the State owned all the harbors and that at least 75% of them have been transferred to the local municipalities. There is a gap in the ability for those receiving the harbors to have any enforcement rights regarding these vessels if they don’t have their own statutes. This is intended to help that problem.

From last year - Resolution 2011-2: House Bill 184 Update – Steve Corporon reported it died in House Finance. It is unknown if Rep. Peggy Wilson will try to resurrect it. Communities that currently don’t put their raw fish tax towards their harbors did not support it. Steve polled the group as to how many got all their fish tax for harbors, how many didn’t get any and how many got some the result was about 1/3 to each group.

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Also from last year - Resolution 2011-1: COE funding Update – Steve Corporon reported this one was to encourage the Corp of Engineers to carve out a pot of money for the rural areas of the Pacific Northwest to include Alaska and Hawaii. Not a large enough population and economic impact results in much less funding for our projects. It did not go anywhere.

The 2012 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 user name is: harbors and password is: downloads.

Seattle Boat Show - Steve Corporon reported that Ketchikan, Kodiak and Juneau participated in the 2012 show, reimbursing the cost of the booth to the AAHPA and sharing the time and cost for manning the booth. AAHPA pays the NWTA annual dues which enables any AAHPA member to participate under the AAHPA umbrella. If anyone else is interested in participating please let Kim or any of those participating know. Anyone can send down materials to hand out without any cost. Costs aren’t bad as transportation from airport on light rail to the site and hotels are convenient and offer specials. They have used the Silver Cloud to stay as it is right across the street. They need at least 6 people to split up the time with at least 2 persons each day. Need 3 for weekends – show lasts 10 days. Last year’s attendance was down but sales were up. Dates are January 25-February 3, 2013 at CenturyLink Field. Those attending should be prepared to answer questions about Alaska and not just harbors. Wrangell has their visitor’s bureau folks manning their booth with great success in getting visitors. There was a question about this venue as opposed to the Fish Expo. Marty Owen attends both and says this one focus is on recreational boating community and this show is one where you are promoting your community as much as your harbor. The Fish Expo held in same venue in late November and it is the work boat place where you see mostly fishermen and is three day show. AAHPA is a member of the NWMT Association and this enable any of our members to participate without having to pay that membership fee. Steve noted that AAHPA bought the booth backdrop about 4 years ago which is used for the show.

Conference Grant/Scholarship – (No one asked for it 2012.) – We have offered this the past few years as assistance money for smaller communities that have not attended this conference to be able to do so. If anyone can think of a community that could use this – let Kim know or speak to them yourself so they don’t feel strong armed to join. Kim noted that it is a $1,000 that is paid toward the cost of attending the conference and that the conference registration fee is also forgiven. It is reimbursable so they have to provide receipts for their expenses. So far it has been enough to cover airfares and hotel for those that have received it.

Clean Harbors Certification – Bryan Hawkins of Homer and Rachel Lord with the Clean Harbors project suggest anyone with questions contact them a bhawkins@ci.homer.ak.us or rachel@inletkeeper.org Fox news aired a segment on October 25th on Homer’s clean harbors program. Bryan noted that most harbors already have most of the infrastructure needed to get certified.

Future Conferences listed: 2013 – Valdez - October 21-25, 2013; 2014 – Ketchikan – October 13-17, 2014; 2015 – Port MacKenzie/Anchorage – not confirmed; 2016- Unalaska – still planning on it; 2017 – Whittier – not confirmed; 2018 – Seward. Seward also said they could step in earlier if needed and possibly cover 2015 or any other one. Steve noted we try to go back and forth to north and south. It was noted that PCC will have to work around our schedule since we already have our dates set if they want their Alaska members to be able to attend.
IRS/Ak Dept. Labor Issues – Steve Corporon reported that as noted last year AAHPA was under pressure to update their IRS status and clean up employee practices. Dept. of Labor would no longer allow Kim to be contract labor as she didn’t meet criteria and is actually an employee because she does not do this sort of work for anyone else. The IRS issues require an update to the Articles. They found they did not qualify for a 501(c) (3) but are a 501(c) (6) which is a not for profit organization.

Update AAHPA Articles & By-Laws as needed for Non-Profit Status/Membership so the following were approved. We inserted the words “501(c) (6) tax exempt,” not for profit “organization”.... in Article I – Name which was done. Our members need to recognize that “donations” to us are not deductible, however as a business expense they are. An additional By-Laws change to add “or private” to Article IV Sec. A. was approved. This will allow Adak a corporate membership submitted as by Elaine Smiloff, Harbormaster of Port of Adak. There was some discussion because Adak is a corporation owned port and AAHPA Articles don’t support Adak being a corporate member with current wording although that appears to be the correct membership category. Updated Articles will be available for review on the website very soon.

2013 Election year – Phil Benner of Haines has been appointed to the Nomination Committee. Those wishing to retain their seats or stand for election should contact Phil Benner. All positions are up for election/re-election. Members of the Board include Past President – vacant and automatically filled by outgoing President, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and three Directors with one alternate usually elected as well.

At the end of the annual meeting Vice President Carl Uchytil noted that conference income increases the last couple years are directly to be related to membership levels so he wants members to encourage others to join and perhaps take advantage of the scholarship opportunity. There is strength in numbers. Try to reach out and try to encourage representation of all areas of Alaska. President Steve Corporon commented on how important it is to give testimony at local and state government meetings on harbor issues and that it is pretty easy to do so with modern communications. If issues come up he thinks are relevant he may call on members to testify. It was also suggest that members may wish to bring the resolutions passed by this group back home and get their local governments to do one as well. If anyone needs a word copy of those documents feel free to email Kim for them to tweak as needed.

I hope this finds everyone well, prepared for winter and ready for the holidays. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Kim