Hello all!

The 2013 Annual Conference hosted by Valdez rivaled Sitka and Homer for the largest participation on record with about 85 in attendance. Diane, Steve, Sara, Jenessa, Kyle and the rest of the Valdez staff presented a great program and fantastic food! Great work Valdez! And, wow! Wonderful weather the whole week! I believe our increased participation is a reflection of the quality of the conferences we are putting together and the dedication of our group to this organization.

To all our sustaining member partners that attended, made presentations and otherwise supported the conference - THANK YOU! Your ongoing participation and sponsorship of the breaks, lunches and banquet is greatly appreciated. It couldn’t be done without your support.

The 2014 conference will be hosted by Ketchikan October 13-17, 2014 which is the week prior to Alaska Day. Mark your calendar and plan to be there!

At the Conference banquet the membership of AAHPA recognized Port and Harbor Director Bryan Hawkins of Homer as Harbormaster of the Year 2013. Harbor employees recognized include Sr. Harbor Officer Tim Mahoney of the Port of Dutch Harbor, Port Engineer Gary Gillette, AIA, Port of Juneau, Senior Assistant Harbormaster Les Zetterberg and Assistant Harbormaster Andrew Mulder both of Ketchikan, Deputy Harbormaster Norm Regis of Seward and Marine Equipment Operator Kyle Rennie of Valdez. Congratulations to all!

Biennial elections of AAHPA officers and board of directors were also conducted during the conference with Ketchikan’s Port and Harbors Director Steve Corporon moving to the position of Past President and Haines Harbormaster Phil Benner elected President of the AAHPA. Juneau Port Director Carl Uchytil was re-elected to the position of Vice President and Sitka Harbormaster Stan Eliason was elected to fill the position of Treasurer moving from the Board of Directors. Port and Harbor Director Marty Owen who declined to continue to serve as Treasurer was elected to the Board as Director. Homer Port and Harbor Director Brian Hawkins was re-elected as Director; Nome Port and Harbor Director Joy Baker and Hoonah Harbormaster Arlen Skaflestad were both unable to continue as Directors. To fill the vacant seats are Jean Barrett of Dillingham as Director and Pete Williams of Bethel as Alternate Director. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

During the annual business meeting Resolution #2013-01 supporting the Matching Harbor Grant Program was approved. The total requested amount is $8,120,000 to be funded in the 2015 Capital Budget which reflects $16,240,000 in projects pending. This resolution updated last
year’s resolution. Last year was not quite fully funded. Mike Lukshin commented that the support of AAHPA is critical to the success of the program.

**Resolution 2013-2:** AS 12.55.135. Sentences of Imprisonment For Misdemeanors – to add harbor officers. This resolution will bring punishment for assaulting a port or harbor officer or employee up to par with that of a police officer or EMS personnel was approved.

**Resolution 2013-3** - Abandoned & Derelict Vessels Task Force – in support of the formation of an Ad-Hoc Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Task Force within the State of Alaska that would assist in bringing together State and Federal agencies and interested stakeholders from throughout the State to begin development of a statewide database and program for dealing with derelict and abandoned vessels. It does include asking for a member of the AAHPA Board of Directors to be appointed to serve on it.

The 2013 Resolutions, this newsletter, conference presentations, downloadable 2014 membership directory, updated Article of Incorporation 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 and password have not changed. Email Kim if you need them. It was also suggested 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.

IRS/AK Dept. Labor Issues – Steve reported after almost 3 years AAHPA is re-established as a non-profit 501(c)(6) corporation. AAHPA is in compliance with IRS and Alaska Department of Labor regarding Kim’s position. Note that donations by individuals are not tax deductible but are deductible as a business expense.

ASCE Harbor Report Card – Carl Uchytil reported that Kate Mickelson, President of ASCE (also with PND), is working on this project. ASCE gave a report on America’s nationwide infrastructure grading them in accordance with their condition. Nationwide, inland waterways were given a grade of D- due in part to the decaying levees. Ports were given a grade of C due in part to the lack of facilities for Panamax size ships coming soon. They are now scaling down a bit and want to do this by regions and one region is Alaska. Kate is looking for participants and Steve and Carl have volunteered. Kate asked for another 4 people to volunteer on this project. Two from container type ports and two from harbor side. So far Steve Ribuffo of Anchorage, Peggy McLaughlin of Dutch Harbor/Unalaska, and Bryan Hawkins of Homer have volunteered. Contact Carl Uchytil at the Port of Juneau if interested in participating.

During the annual meeting it was found necessary to amend Article V of AAHPA Articles of Incorporation. The change was recommended by Secretary Kim Elliot to bring the Articles into agreement with the way the Board of Directors has been operating for the past 10 years. This was a housekeeping issue which was passed unanimously by the membership.

Conference Grant/Scholarship – 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. The amount was increased up to $1,500 that is available toward the cost of attending the conference and that the conference registration fee is also forgiven. It is reimbursable so the recipient has 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 –Rachel Lord with the Clean Harbors project suggested anyone with questions contact rachel@inletkeeper.org Most harbors already have most of the infrastructure needed to get certified. Haines was certified during the Valdez Conference – Congratulations to Haines!

Seattle Boat Show – Steve Corporon reported that about 6 years ago AAHPA bought a display that is used at the show. Ketchikan, Juneau, Homer and Kodiak will again be participating in the 2014 show. Cost of the booth and furnishings are paid by the participants and AAHPA pays the annual NMTA dues. Other members are invited to come help staff the booth and participate. Dates are January 24 – February 2, 2014. If anyone wants some of their harbor brochures at the booth they should ship them down to the show site to one of the AAHPA participants probably to the Silver Cloud where they usually stay.

Future Conferences listed: Ketchikan – October 13-17, 2014; Anchorage/Port MacKenzie – tentative dates of October 12-16, 2015; Unalaska/Dutch Harbor – will host 2016; Seward will host 2017. AAHPA does try to go back and forth to north and south.

At the end of the annual meeting the Board and members present were given the opportunity to comment. Marty Owen commented that it was nice to see new faces – the future of Alaska’s harbors. He also put in a plug for participation at the Seattle Boat Show asking for more participation. He suggested that a sustaining member that wants to participate that has interests across the state may want to participate – Petro Marine as an example. He said it is difficult to measure the specific benefits to your harbor but it certainly is a benefit to the state tourism. He suggested even coming to volunteer to man the booth a couple of days would be welcomed. Take a break and come do the Seattle Boat Show! Stan Eliason said the Sitka Assembly approved the Bid of Pacific Pile to come in to replace ANB Harbor. Carl Uchytil said he was happy to see the attendance at this conference. He had just been to PCC and the turnout was about half of this one. That may be due to them holding two per year. he commended the group for their participation and the support of all the members to help put on great conferences that benefit those who attend. He reminded everyone to be sure to thank those that sponsor various parts of this annual event. He also encouraged members to tell others of the annual conference attendance grant and get the word out that AAHPA is a group worth getting involved with. Marc Van Dongen wanted to thank Marty Owen for his many years of service to the AAHPA as Treasurer. Carl Ribuffo of Anchorage thanked everyone for responding when he used the AAHPA group email to ask what they were charging for use of their boat launch facilities. He received numerous emails that helped him figure out what could be a new tariff rate for use of his boat launch. He doesn’t know if he will be able to implement it but it would certainly alleviate some of the expense of maintenance. Carl Uchytil also recognized Steve’s work as the AAHPA President for the past four years noting it takes time and effort to do the job and he thanked him for his work for AAHPA thought he had done a “masterful job” and noted he will still be serving on the Board in the capacity of Past President. Steve spoke up and said he plans his second retirement in eight years and will look forward to his continued relationship with AAHPA.

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

Kim