November 1, 2014

2014 Ketchikan Conference Newsletter

The 2014 Annual Conference hosted by Ketchikan surpassed Homer, Sitka and Valdez for the largest participation on record with about 90 in attendance. Steve and his staff presented a diverse and informative program and wonderful food! A big thank you goes out to our Ketchikan hosts for a job well done! This year we did enjoy seeing a few new faces reflecting the ongoing turnover and growth of our group. This growing participation is a reflection of the quality of the conferences 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 2015 conference will be hosted by the Port of Anchorage on October 12-16, 2015 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 retired Port and Harbor Director Marty Owen of Kodiak as a Life Member of AAHPA. Harbor employees recognized include; Douglas Unruh of Juneau Docks & Harbors, Nicholas Burns of Ketchikan Ports and Harbors, and Henry Pollan and Tina Olson, both of Haines. Congratulations to all!

During the annual business meeting Resolution #2014-01 supporting the Matching Harbor Grant Program was approved. The FY2016 Capital Budget request is $14,262,722. This resolution updated last year’s resolution. Last year only the Tier I projects were funded.

Resolution 2014-2: 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. This was carried forward from last year. More effort to get some action on it is planned. Carl Uchytil requested that documented incidents be shared with those involved with the lobbying efforts. Steve Corporon concurred with Carl and went even further looking for incidents where there was little or no punishment for an assault.

It was reported that lobbying was successful in support of an Ad-Hoc Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Task Force within the State of Alaska and they have met three times. The conference presentation will be posted on our website soon.
ASCE Harbor Report Card – Carl Uchytil reported that AAHPA was invited to provide support for American Society of Civil Engineers (AK Section) to rate Alaska’s infrastructure which includes pipelines, roads, bridges, dams, airports, and ports/harbors to create a type of Alaska “report card.” He was notified that the person that to lead the effort last year resigned so Kate Mickelson and another member from Anchorage are going to try to coordinate the effort. For the harbor’s portion he was approached to participate and find some AAHPA members to assist. Last year 5 stepped up to include himself, Steve Corporon of Ketchikan, Peggy McLaughlin of Unalaska, Bryan Hawkins of Homer, and Steve Ribuffo of Anchorage. Kate Mickelson and the Anchorage member are working on a template and hope to have a meeting in November to get the ball rolling. The ratings are not a reflection of how you are doing but they will be a tool to help leverage money in the future.

Conference Grant/Scholarship – AAHPA implemented this program to encourage smaller communities to attend the conference. If anyone knows of a community that could use this – let Kim know or speak to them yourself. The available grant was increased to $1,500 toward the cost of attending the conference. The conference registration fee is also waived for the grant recipient.... This year the grant recipient was Seldovia.

Seattle Boat Show – President Benner noted that Lon White of Kodiak is organizing participation at the Seattle Boat Show. Juneau, Ketchikan, Homer, Kodiak have participated the last few years. Valdez has indicated interest in participating for 2015. He noted Wrangell participates independently from AAHPA. He also encouraged those that don’t visit to provide information about their facilities to display at the show. Dates are January 23–February 1, 2015. If anyone else wants to participate at the show please contact Kim so she can get them in the loop on the weekly information from the Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA).

Future Conferences listed: Port of Anchorage – dates of October 12-16, 2015 with the 12th and 16th primarily travel days; Unalaska/Dutch Harbor – will host 2016; Petersburg will host 2017, and Seward will host 2018. AAHPA tries to alternate conferences from the northern and southern regions of the State each year.

AAHPA Scholarship for high school graduates interested in a maritime career – Steve Corporon had brought this up at the Board meeting and it was supported by the board members. Steve suggested two five hundred ($500) dollar scholarships be awarded each year. One for a vocational bound maritime student and one for a college bound maritime student. He has already completed an application which the Board supports. Application forms will be emailed out by Kim to the corporate members to get out to the high school guidance counselors in their communities for interested students to complete and return. It will also be available on our website soon. Deadline to mail or email applications to Kim will be March 31, 2015. If anyone knows of possible candidates they should tell them about this scholarship and where to get an application. He suggested a panel of three AAHPA members to review the applications and approve the awards and will ask for a couple of volunteers to do so.

Alaska Municipal League (AML) – During the board meeting AAHPA participation at AML’s annual meeting held in Anchorage every 3rd week of November was discussed. There are advantages to AAHPA to gain support from AML for funding harbor needs and derelict vessel issues. This would entail taking the display used at the Seattle Boat Show and having it there along with developing some sort of informational handouts. This will put harbor needs across the State in front of the attendees that include legislative members and community leaders. There is not time to put it together for AML’s 2014 November meeting but will plan for 2015.
Savannah Worley of AML suggested AAHPA presence would probably further our goals. Michael Lukshin suggested having someone participate in their February meeting in Juneau to lay the groundwork for the legislative session. It was agreed to do everything possible to participate and call on Carl Uchytil to promote our agenda. It was noted that as the legislative season begins most of the members have people going to Juneau to promote their needs and everyone needs to remember to ask those people to be sure to talk about the matching grant program and how important it is to our ports and harbors. Also be sure to do resolutions to support the program and have your mayor take them – even small communities make a difference. It also keeps your communities aware of what you are doing with your participation in AAHPA activities. Mike Lukshin also suggested that every community should have the harbor grant funding on their community’s priority list somewhere – it doesn’t have to be at the top of your list but it may get there eventually and it will be seen by the legislative body.

President Phil Benner hopes to attend the AML’s 2015 Anchorage meeting and perhaps AAHPA members on the road system might help at the three day meeting. Savannah Worley talked about how AML assists by calling people in affected communities so they will know when they are needed to testify on legislation they are concerned with. She also pointed out that ports and harbors are important to all of Alaskans whether you have one or not. They are gateway communities and often the main avenue into the interior or the bush. Carl Uchytil suggested that information such as the ASCE “report card” would be helpful to use for these lobbying efforts. All AAHPA members need to start compiling report of the condition of their facilities and what is needed to maintain them.

AAHPA website updates pending: The 2014 Resolutions, this newsletter, the AAHPA Student Scholarship Application, conference presentations to include Call of the Ports and Call of the Vendors, the downloadable 2015 membership directory, and other updates will be put on the website as soon as possible. Call of the Ports presentations will be put in the Gallery and Call of the Vendor presentations will be posted with the company descriptions under the Sustaining Members tab. The other presentations will be placed under the Downloads tab and require a user name and password. 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.

On a final note, I want to thank everyone for their patience when I do not immediately respond to emails or phone calls. If I am going to be away from home for more than a few days I will send out a message on the group email list notifying you all.

I hope you all had a Happy Halloween and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Kim Elliot
AAHPA Executive Secretary