



## 2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION "SUCCESS BEYOND BARRIERS"

### ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

1577 C STREET, SUITE 300 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501 • MAIN (907) 274-3611 • FAX (907) 276-7989 • WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG

# AFN/NCAI Tribal Conference

## **Save This Date: October 17, 2012!**

You are invited to attend a very important tribal conference scheduled for October 17th, one day prior to the start of this year's Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage, Alaska.

### **Purpose**

The primary purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for tribal representatives to hear important reports on statewide and national issues critical to tribal governments in Alaska. We will have high level federal and state officials present to provide you with current information and to hear your concerns on issues important to Alaska tribes.

Another important purpose of this gathering is to listen and record concerns of participants on the challenges that face Alaska Natives and Alaska tribal governments. Not only will we have federal and state officials there to hear you, AFN and NCAI officials will be in attendance to learn more about your concerns as well as suggested solutions to our challenges.

Finally, we would like some input as to how we should go about addressing the priority issues of our people. Too often we spend a lot of time talking about our problems and the negative impacts on our people and tribes. We should spend some time defining our problems and concerns as well as more time suggesting solutions.

### **Location**

This conference will be held at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. This location is great for getting us away from distractions always present when so many of our people are in town.

### **Time**

We will start the conference promptly at 9:00 AM and complete our work by 3:00 PM. We ask participants to be there by 8:30 AM to fill out a registration form and gather handout material. Refreshments will be available to help you start your day off right!

### **Setting Priorities**

We will take time early in this conference to find out what your priorities are and then we will work our way down the list making every effort to suggest solutions or plans of action until we run out of time.

### **Follow-up**

The concerns and suggested plans of action will be reported on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> to the delegates of the AFN Convention. We will then collaborate with federal and state officials on ways we can partner together to make a difference on the problems facing our people. If we need help at the national level we will work intimately with the National Congress of American Indians and others in getting proper attention to what we do at this conference.

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*We need your help!*

*Let us join forces and make a difference on issues important to our tribal people!*



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# AFN/NCAI Tribal Conference Registration & Preferences

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe \_\_\_\_\_

Position in Tribe (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

We want to cover topics that are most important to tribes at the conference and have the right public or organization people there to hear and discuss these issues. Please select your 4 highest priority issues from the list below with the number 1 being your highest priority.

Priority #	Topic
	<b>Program funding</b> – The national debt and stagnant economies will make program funding more difficult to come by and the federal and state programs will not keep pace with the cost of running a household.
	<b>Energy &amp; high cost of living</b> – Rising energy costs dramatically drive up the cost of living and doing business in rural Alaska. There seems to be no end in sight.
	<b>Tribes taking land into trust</b> – Having tribal lands held in trust by the federal government is a very important protection vehicle for sustaining tribal lands. Illegal federal regulations prohibit Alaska tribes from taking land into trust.
	<b>Education</b> – A good, well rounded education is vital for our youth to compete for jobs; both in rural communities and in urban centers. What can we do to improve Native children achievement? What can we do to ensure Indian Education is reauthorized?
	<b>Subsistence</b> – Federal and state policies on subsistence are weak and ineffective in ensuring subsistence rights are adequately protected. The Native way of life is constantly threatened as a result of overharvest by other user groups.
	<b>Healthcare</b> – Is healthcare for Alaska Natives sufficient? Can we do anything to improve access to healthcare?
	<b>Federal Roads</b> – Just how important are local roads, airports and trails? What can we do to retain the existing formula on funding distribution instead of what is proposed by the Senate MAP-21?
	<b>Law Enforcement &amp; Tribal Courts</b> – Should it be a state, federal, or a local responsibility to ensure citizens are safe and there is justice locally? Why does the state fear tribal courts?
	<b>Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)</b> – The federal government requires so much of a clan or a tribe in order to repatriate a Native artifact yet NAGPRA grants are very small. Should ANCSA Corporations be eligible to secure NAGPRA grants?
	<b>Housing</b> – Federal housing will be up for reauthorization next year; are we ready to stave off efforts to cut federal housing?
	<b>Tribal Consultation</b> – Alaska tribes get left out of the federal consultation with tribes even though there are more than 230 federally recognized tribes in Alaska. What can we do to get proper consideration?
	<b>State / Tribal Relations</b> – There are so very many good reasons for the state and tribes to work cooperatively for the benefit of our common citizens; why so much resistance?
	<b>Corporate / Tribal Relations</b> – Is there value in tribes and ANCSA Corporations working together on common concerns? If so, how can we make that happen?
	<b>Global Warming</b> – Should we be more concerned with the impacts of global warming?