

CITY OF LIGHTS CELEBRATES AWARD WINNING COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN THOUSANDS OF MINIATURE LIGHTS

The 19th annual Anchorage Chamber of Commerce City of Lights program kicked off with a dramatic community lighting ceremony on Oct. 21 in Town Square Park. More than 400 people are estimated to have attended the ceremony which included speeches from local dignitaries recognizing all residents in the Municipality of Anchorage for its designation as a 2002 All-America City, and posting of the Colors by the Chugiak Navy JROTC.

"I commend the City of Lights committee, its Chair Tony Izzo, and the staff and hundreds of volunteers for their hard work and effort that made this the most successful City of Lights ceremony in the 10-years that I've either observed or participated in the program," said George Vakalis, Anchorage Chamber Board Chair.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference that was held at the Egan Center. In recognition of that event, the Anchorage Chamber's City of Lights committee invited Ulali, the First Nations woman a cappella trio, to sing from a combination of their strong personal roots and from their own personal contemporary style. "I think the committee did a great job of recognizing the diversity in this community and displaying that at the ceremony," said Izzo.

The ceremony was made possible by nearly 500 military and corporate volunteer teams that worked for two weeks through rain and shine to string more than 250,000 miniature lights. Corporate sponsorships pay for the lights that have been strung throughout downtown, at the Welcome Sign near Ted Stevens International Airport and the Veteran's Memorial among other key locations throughout the Municipality. The



Chugiak NJROTC presented the colors at the Anchorage Chamber's community kick-off celebration. U.S. Senior Senator Ted Stevens, Mayor George Wuerch and delegates from the AFN conference were also included in the ceremony.

Anchorage Chamber's committee worked with Barbara Crittenden in Eagle River to coordinate a simultaneous ceremony at that location.

"The kickoff was a genuine feeling of 'Our Hometown' of Eagle River," said Crittenden. "We began with a candlelight ceremony and a prayer for world peace lead by Father Leo Walsh of St. Andrew Parish...Robin Hopper and the Homestead Elementary Choir sang America, The Beautiful," she added emphasizing this is the 5th consecutive year the community

of Eagle River has come together to participate in the event.

"The Municipality of Anchorage extends from past Girdwood all the way to Eklutna," said Izzo. "Next year, I would like to see a ceremony coordinated in Girdwood as the All-America City Award recognizes all residents. The award is a rare achievement as it has only been given to six other cities four or more times in its entire 50-year history. Municipality residents should be proud of that distinction."

As in past years, the committee is encouraging all residents to participate in the program. They have teamed up with Hawaiian Vacations to give one lucky winner tickets for two to Hawaii. Participants simply need to call the City of Lights hotline at 677-7112 to leave their address and a phone number. In March, after the last musher has crossed the finish line in Nome, one winner will be chosen at random.

"We felt it was important to encourage participation this year rather than create an objective contest where the committee is charged with choosing which home is more beautiful than the next," said Izzo.

& Views

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Newsletter Editor: Stacy Schubert

The deadline to submit your business news is the 15th of the month. Photos submitted will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The Anchorage Chamber reserves the right to edit all information submitted for publication.

For information on benefits, services and committees, call the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce office at 272-2401.



**Anchorage • Star of the North
Chamber of Commerce**

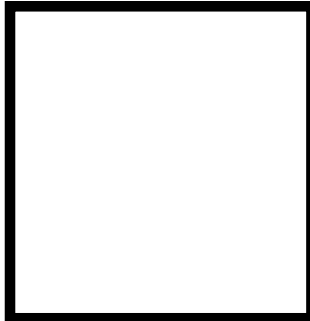
Display the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce logo at your business and in all printed and promotional materials. You've paid for your membership; let people know you are working to make a difference in Anchorage.

To obtain a camera-ready Anchorage Chamber image contact:
memadmin@anchoragechamber.org,
or call 677-7104.

Special thanks to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce corporate sponsors:

BP EXPLORATION **ConocoPhillips**

Message from your Chair



The past six weeks have been extremely busy for the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff.

The Board of Directors has taken position on the following issues:

Opposition to Ballot Measure 1
(Constitutional Convention)

Opposition to Ballot Measure 3
(Initiative to Establish an Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority)

Support of Bond Proposition A
(Guarantee of AHFC Bonds for Veteran Home Loans)

Support of Bond Proposition B
(Bonds for Transportation Projects)

Support of Bond Proposition C
(Bonds for Education Projects)

The specific positions taken can be found later in this newsletter. The specific details and resolutions that were approved can be found on our Website at www.anchoragechamber.org in the public affairs section.

The State and Local Government Committee is researching the following issues and will be recommending to the Board of Directors an appropriate position:

Municipality of Anchorage Operating and Capital Budget, Capital Improvement Plan and the Proposed Sign Ordinance. With regards to the sign ordinance, a sub-committee has been formed. If you would like to serve on this sub-committee, contact Anchorage Chamber staff. This ordinance, if approved as currently drafted, could cost businesses millions of dollars.

Recently the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors took a position against shifting the cost of fire hydrant maintenance and fire flow (maintaining adequate water pressure for fighting fires) from the fire service area (taxpayer) to the AWWU ratepayer (those people that receive water from AWWU). This would have created an inequity and a significant increase in costs for businesses. The municipal assembly felt the same way and postponed the issue indefinitely.

In addition to those items mentioned, the staff, the City of Lights Committee and many volunteers were very involved in getting ready for the 19th annual Anchorage Chamber of Commerce City of Lights Kick-off ceremony, which was held on October 21, 2002. It was the best ever - thanks to all for making it a great success.

On another topic, recently a news release was submitted by staff of one of the gubernatorial candidates. It indicated that two well-known individuals would be hitting the campaign trail on behalf of the candidate and that they would be attending several events statewide of which Anchorage's City of Lights Ceremony was mentioned. It is unfortunate that this information was portrayed in this manner because several of our members were concerned that the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce had changed its longstanding policy of not being involved in political campaigns and of not endorsing one candidate over another. Our policy in this regard has not changed - the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce does not endorse any candidates.

As issues or events surface, we will keep you informed. If you have suggestions on how we can better serve you, please let me know.

George Vakalis,
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Chair



One quarter of a million lights will stay turned on throughout the Municipality until the last musher crosses the Iditarod finish line in Nome in March.

Chamber Event

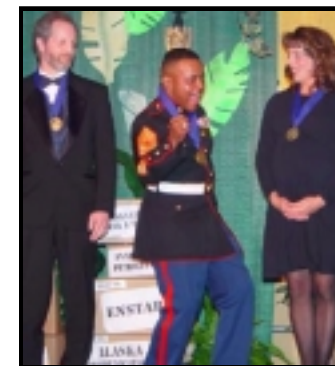
Gold Pan Gala recognized Anchorage's top community service contributors in "It's a Jungle Out There" style



Both the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) and Anchorage Home Builders Association were (AHBA) were recognized for distinguished community service by an organization. AEDC went home with the 2002 Gold Pan.



The Distinguished Service by an Individual Gold Pan was presented by President April Jensen to Eleanor Andrews. Joseph Young and John P. Bagoy were finalists in that category.



MSgt William "Top" Dill was recognized for service to youth by an individual. Several of his NJROTC students skipped their high school homecoming to support him that evening. Dennis Christensen and Junior Achievement were also finalists for this award.



Rick Morrison received the Outstanding Anchorage Chamber Service by a Member Award. Chris Hyatt and Bill Evans were also recognized for their efforts.



Sadler's Home Furnishing and Municipal Light and Power were honored for their Distinguished Community Service by a Business. ML&P's Mike Scott accepted the Award on behalf of the utility.



The evening ended with a dynamic performance by the incoming 2002-2003 Board of Directors and introduction of the newest "Big Kahuna," a.k.a. Board Chair George Vakalis

Special thanks to Photographer : Cindy Trevors

2002-2003 Board of Directors

- George Vakalis, 2002-03 Board Chair, Anchorage School District
- Bob Bailey, Alaska Distributors Co.
- Susan Bramstedt, Alaska Airlines
- Eric Britten, CSX Lines
- Bob Bulmer, Alaska Executive Search
- Barbara Cash, RIM Design
- Sherry Combs, BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.
- Bill Evans, Dorsey & Whitney LLC
- Cheryl Frasca, Municipality of Anchorage
- Linda Hall, National Bank of Alaska Insurance Services
- Mark Hanley, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- Morry Hollowell, Yukon Equipment
- Tony Izzo, ENSTAR Natural Gas Co.
- Lindsay Knight, Gold's Gym
- Mark Korting, RE/MAX Properties, Inc.
- Ron Kukes, Alaska First Bank & Trust
- Ed Lamb, Alaska Regional Hospital
- Shane Langland, Eagle Enterprises
- Rick Morrison, EERO/Volkswagen of Anchorage, Saturn of Anchorage
- Phil Okeson, Hawaiian Vacations
- Mary Ann Pease, ACS
- Kathleen Porterfield, KPMG LLP
- Mike Sexton, Anchorage Daily News
- Jamie Slack, VECO Corporation
- Tom Tierney, KBYR Radio
- Tom Wilson, TAW Consulting

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- Bruce Bustamante, Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Larry Crawford, Anchorage Economic Development Corp.
- Mano Frey, AFL/CIO
- Pat Gamble, Alaska Railroad
- Lee Gorsuch, University of Alaska Anchorage
- BG John Brown, U.S. Army Alaska
- MG Phillip Oates, Alaska National Guard
- Rod Pfeiffer, Anchorage Downtown Partnership
- Mort Plumb, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport
- Col. Dutch Remkes, U.S. Air Force
- Bob Roses, Anchorage Education Association
- Dick Traini, Anchorage Assembly
- Rebecca Hubbard, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce



Chamberline: Your Link to the Business Community

Natchiq, Inc. announces the relocation of their corporate and subsidiary offices. Its new address is 3900 C Street, Suite 701, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5969. New contact numbers are (907) 339-6200 (phone) and (907) 339- 6219 (fax).

PSI Environmental & Instrumentation hired Senior Environmental Engineer Scott Yancey.

Archaeological treasures from the Smithsonian Institution will be on display at the **Anchorage Museum of History and Art** in its newest exhibition, Looking Both Ways: Heritage and Identity of the Alutiiq People, through Feb. 28, 2003. Call Janet Asaro at (907) 343-6151.

The Employment Security Division, **Anchorage Job Center** Midtown, Business Connection recently won the 2002 National Prism Award for "Excellence in Business Services." Contact Sharon Chriss, Employment Services Supervisor, Anchorage Job Center Midtown at (907) 269-4764.

The American musical RENT written by Jonathan Larson and directed by Michael Greif, will play the Atwood Concert Hall for one week only, January 7 - 13, 2003. RENT is part of the **AT&T Wireless Broadway & Beyond Series**, presented by the **Anchorage Concert Association** and **Jam Theatricals**. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at all Carrs locations, the box office at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, or by calling 1-800-478-SEAT.

Steven Foster of Raymond James Financial Services is presenting a seminar "How To Stay Ahead In Today's Market" Thursday, Nov. 14, 2002. For more information call 561-4400 or e-mail rcpt@gci.net.

ARC invites you to welcome to Anchorage 10 public health specialists from Chukotka, a vast region in the Russian Far East. These leaders in public health will spend four weeks in our region on the U.S. State Department's Community Connections Program, meeting their American counterparts and learning about public health and health care management in the U.S. Contact Irina Dubinina at (907) 786-4325 or afiyd@uaa.alaska.edu

The **Anchorage Volkssports Club** continues to offer a daily 10km historical walk from the Westmark Hotel, 720 W 5th Ave, dawn to dusk thru Dec 31. Ask at the front desk for the Volkssport file box. Contact Mike Devitt at (907) 271-4348.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) recently granted the **Alaska Public Radio Network (APRN)** \$570,000 over four years for the production of a new statewide weekend program tentatively titled *Weekend Alaska*. APRN partnered with member station **KSKA 91.1 FM** to submit the grant and produce the pilot. Log onto www.aprn.org to listen to the pilot.

Pita Jelley Benz has been named as commercial real estate manager for **Wells Fargo Bank Alaska**. Benz will oversee commercial real estate relationship managers and commercial real estate loan servicing for the bank. Benz has 17 years of experience in commercial lending and returns to Wells Fargo after 20 years of service with the bank prior to her departure in 2000.

Mark your calendar for **SWAMC's** annual meeting to be held January 23 - 25, 2003 at the **Anchorage Hilton Hotel**. The agenda is already features sessions on a fiber optic connection from Kodiak to Shemeya, specialty food marketing, the Coastal Zone Management Program, and more. Contact Wanetta Ayers at (907) 562-7380.

The **Anchorage Symphony** welcomes guest conductor Jung Ho Pak and clarinetist Charles Neidich to the Atwood stage November 9 at 8:00pm at **Alaska Center for the Performing Arts**. Tickets are available at any Carr's location or by calling 800-478-7328.

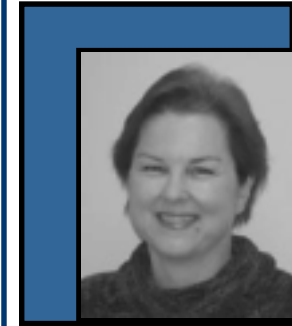
The **Wilson Agency, LLC** announced that Jennifer Dundy-Cobb, Sr. Account Executive; Margery Pratt, Sr. Benefit Specialist; Barbara Brice, Jr. Benefit Specialist have all been recently designated as Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (CEBS) by the International foundation of Employee Benefit Plans and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Kathy Day, APR of **Kathy Day Public Relations (KD/PR)** has joined PRConsultants Group, a nationwide group of public relations and marketing specialists that services the needs of national accounts in local markets.

Humpy's has been included in the September issue of the Bon Appetit magazines listing of the top neighborhood restaurants, the only restaurant from Alaska included in this issue.

Bezek * Durst * Seiser has added registered architect Wayne Allen to its design studio.

News, Events and Staff Spotlight



Beth Kenney
Membership
Retention
Coordinator

Beth Kenney is the newest addition to the Anchorage Chamber team and is the November featured staff member. Beth is charged with working closely with the Organization's new Membership Committee to enhance and develop membership, to retain current members, develop the demographics of membership, listen to members needs and requests, and work with the University of Alaska, the Small Business Development Center and APU to bring new members into the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. Beth also will work closely with the Ambassadors volunteer group and is responsible for the monthly Business After Hours networking events and the annual BIZ Fair.

Beth at a glance...

"My position at the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce will give me the opportunity work closely with our members, listen to their needs, and create marketing opportunities for their businesses. I want you as members to have all the networking opportunities you desire, educational, technical and marketing assistance. Service to members is my primary focus."

Business Connection Breakfast Holiday Showcase

Take this networking opportunity to help you select the perfect gift for someone special this season. Flower arrangements, tools, fitness memberships, fishing charters, shopping sprees, and hotel getaways are sure to make everyone happy! **Harry's Bar & Grill**

Tuesday, Nov. 12 2002, 7 a.m.

Prepay by 2:00 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11, 2002
www.anchoragechamber.org or 272-2401



November Business After Hours

Costco Wholesale on Dimond presents the next Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. Take this great opportunity to complete your Christmas shopping and try some of their great hors d'oeuvres before you plan your next holiday party.

Fantastic door prizes, games and food for everyone will sure a successful event. Take some time to visit them. Bring your family; try some food, shop or just browse. Costco employees look forward to seeing you there!

November
Business After Hours:
Costco Wholesale on Dimond
Event date:
Thursday, Nov. 21, 2002;
5:00 - 6:30p.m.
Call 272-2401 to R.S.V.P.

The Ambassador's "Get On Board with the Anchorage Chamber Train Ride" was a huge success. Tom Heisler and Lindsay Knight provided entertainment for the group.

Upcoming Events

Monday, Nov. 4: Make It Monday Forum: Bond Issues; noon at the 4th Ave. Theatre

Wednesday, Nov. 6: Ad hoc Sign Ordinance Committee, 4:30 p.m. at the Anchorage Chamber Board Room

Monday, Nov. 11: No "Make It Monday" scheduled in recognition of Veteran's Day

Tuesday, Nov. 12: Business Connection Breakfast Holiday Showcase, 7 a.m. at Harry's Bar & Grill

Wednesday, Nov. 13: State and Local Government Affairs Committee, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Alaska Regional Hospital 7th Floor Physician's Conference Room

Monday, Nov. 18: Top Forty Under 40 Luncheon, noon at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, R.S.V.P. to 272-2401 or online

Thursday, Nov. 21: Business After Hours, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Costco on Dimond

Monday, Nov. 25: Make It Monday Forum: Base Realignment and Closure, noon at the 4th Ave. Theatre

Board Report

Support and Opposition: Taking Action

October 23, 2002--In light of the upcoming election the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors recognized the urgency of various business issues and took a stand on several hot topics in October. Initiated by the Organization's State and Local Government Affairs Committee, the Board was able to review in great detail every issue.

One resource the Board used when making their decision was an "Issue Paper" created to provide in-depth analysis of each issue and an evaluation of pros and cons. Those issue papers and complete copies of each resolution in their final format are available to the public on the Anchorage Chamber's Web site, www.anchoragechamber.org public affairs section. The Committee's Chair and Ex-Officio Board Member Tom Williams was instrumental in creating the Issue Papers.

Among the positions the Board of Directors took, one is in **Opposition of Ballot Measure 1 calling for a Constitutional Convention**: The resolution says in part, "a constitutional convention, if called, would have plenary power to rewrite the state constitution entirely, or to amend or rewrite any portion or portions of it...the costs of holding a constitutional convention are not known, but may reasonably be expected to run into the millions of dollars; and...there is no need to call a constitutional convention at this time because, even though there may be several important constitutional amendments that should be proposed by the legislature, none of them is so comprehensive as to constitute a revision of the constitution that only a constitutional convention could propose."

While the Board is in support of "commercialization of Alaska North Slope natural gas as soon as economically and legally feasible," it is opposed to **Ballot Measure 3, an Initiative to establish an Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority** based on several facts. The first is that: "the Initiative's proposed Authority is too limited in scope..."; another is that the "proper role of government is not as an entrepreneur in a commercial business venture, nor as a competitor against private enterprise in business; rather, government's proper role is to support industry in its business and economic growth, and to encourage and facilitate development in ways that are desirable and beneficial for the government and its citizens..." and "the

Initiative's proposed Authority is unnecessary and superfluous, as there are at least three other instrumentalities already in existence which appear capable of doing anything the proposed Authority could do, only better," including the already existent municipally owned port-authority; the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) as it already has the powers to finance, construct, own, and operate a project that is being proposed; and the Alaska Railroad Corporation that has the power to issue tax-exempt bonds, cutting dramatically the financing costs for developing North Slope natural gas.

The Board of Directors supports all three bond propositions on the November ballot: A in support of a state guarantee of \$500,000,000 of tax-exempt AHFC bonds for veterans home loans; B in support of \$102,805,000 of state-guaranteed "revenue anticipation" bonds and \$123,914,500 of state General Obligation bonds for certain transportation projects around the state; and C in favor of \$236,805,441 of state General Obligation bonds for education projects.

The Board did take a position in support of **Programmatic Action to Initiate a Knik Arm Crossing** including conducting an Environmental Impact Study with a security and cost benefit analysis on construction. The Board also stated in its resolution to that effect it supports inclusion of Congressional funding to pursue possible development of a comprehensive study in the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

As mentioned in George Vakalis' piece "Message from your Chair," on page two, the Board of Directors passed a resolution (12-5) opposed to the municipality's proposed ordinance to allow the **Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility (AWWU)** to seek regulatory approval from the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) to **remove the Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) from the categories of water customers for AWWU**, so that the cost for AWWU's capacity to supply ample water to fight fires would be borne by water customers of AWWU, not taxpayers as is currently the case. A handful of Board members testified at an Anchorage Assembly meeting and the ordinance eventually was postponed indefinitely.

—Stacy Schubert,

Anchorage Chamber Communications Director

Chamber Business

Staff changes underway at the Anchorage Chamber

Staff is working through a period of transition at the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. While President April Jensen left the organization after nine-years to seek other opportunities, Rebecca Hubbard, office manager has been filling in as the interim president.

An initial candidate search was conducted by Alaska Executive Search that screened a total of 45-candidates. Among those, George Vakalis says several individuals have distinguished themselves and he is optimistic that a new president will be in place by the first of the year. "Although we certainly miss April, and Rebecca is doing a great job, the candidates who stand out are clearly leaders. The next phase of the interview process will determine who among them has the vision to take the Anchorage Chamber to the next steps outlined in our long-range strategic plan," said Vakalis. Look for more information about the new president in the next edition of News & Views.

On another note, Liz Heisler membership director left the organization to spend time with her family, including her daughter who is expecting her second child. She said it was time for her to enjoy her retirement. She expressed her enjoyment of her position at the Anchorage Chamber and the people she was able to meet because of it. She said we could count on her to remain active as a volunteer Anchorage Chamber Ambassador."

A new position was created to better address the individual needs of membership. Beth Kenney has taken on the role of Membership Retention Coordinator. Read more about Beth and her position on page three of this edition.

Thank you to the Train Ride Supporters:

NANA Management Services, Kathleen's Creative Catering, Snow City Café, Diane's Restaurant & Catering, Natural Pantry, Alaska Railroad, Café Del Mundo, Hawaiian Vacations, Coca-Cola, Glacier Brewhouse, Rust Flying Service, Princess, Renown Charters, Phillips Cruises and Tours, Minuteman Press, and all of the wonderful people and businesses that made the event possible --Liz Heisler

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce is recognizing the following businesses for their donations to the following events:

City of Lights 2002

Dazzling Sponsors

Anchorage Daily News



Beaming Sponsors



Shining Level

Hawaiian Vacations

Glowing Level

KMXS 103.1, ML&P

Twinkling Level

ACS, AFN, Anchorage Parking Authority, Cafe del Mundo, Costco, Egan Center, Great Harvest Bread Company, Hilton Anchorage Hotel, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Spenard Builders Supply, Wal-Mart

Gold Pan 2002

Corporate Sponsors



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Special Sponsor:

ENSTAR Natural Gas, Chugach Electric, CSX Lines, VECO Corporation, Alaska Airlines, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Alaska Communication Systems, NANA Management Services, First National Bank Alaska, EERO/Volkswagen of Anchorage, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Anchorage Daily News, Wells Fargo, ML&P, Alyeska Pipeline

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