

# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014  
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## DEAR AFN CO-CHAIRS, BOARD MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP,

This summer was all about increasing access to voting and driving use of new absentee and early voting resources. Thanks to the AFN Board and so many in our communities who chose to spend their time and energy helping to increase voter access and turnout. Let's all make sure that the upcoming general election on November 4th brings record participation by Alaska Natives! Remember to register before October 4th, if you have not done so already. Read more on page 4 of this report or visit the Alaska Division of Elections website for further information: <http://www.elections.alaska.gov>.

AFN's staff are in the final stages of planning for our 2014 Convention. Please read on for further details about upcoming deadlines and opportunities to participate in the planning process. Our annual gathering is a great success each year because of your support -- take a look at our growing sponsor list on page 3 to see who has stepped up to make sure we have the resources to fund this year's big event.

And if you're as excited for these final few summer subsistence days, "Celebrate Subsistence" with us by sharing your photos! You may win a round-trip flight on Alaska Airlines. Learn more on page 6.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka, President | Alaska Federation of Natives

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*Thanks to AFN's outstanding 2014 Board of Directors (below) for their tireless work on behalf of our people.*



# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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## CONVENTION UPDATE

### Planning and Fundraising

The Convention Committee's private fundraising goal is \$650,000. Thanks to you, we have now raised \$562,750 toward that goal!

We're close and we need your help getting over the line. AFN sponsors are provided with media acknowledgment, outreach, branding, and exhibiting depending on level of sponsorship. Please contact our office at 907-274-3611 or visit [nativefederation.org](http://nativefederation.org) to discuss the benefits of becoming an AFN sponsor.

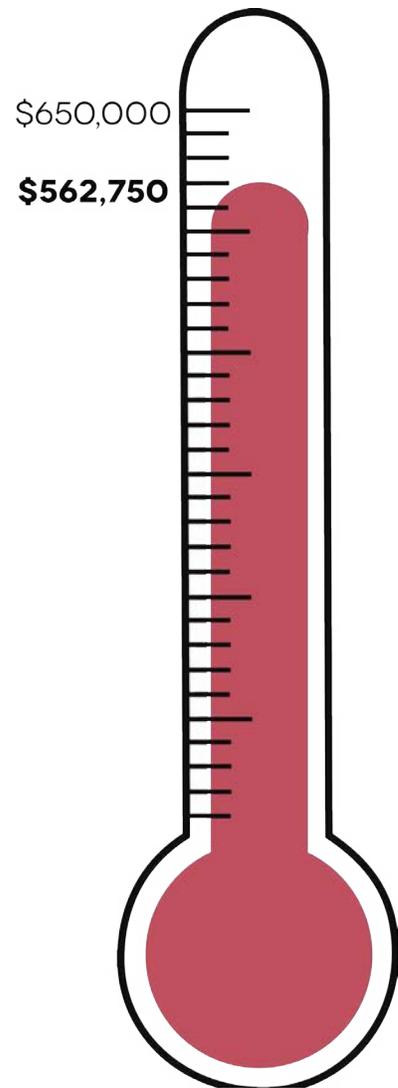
Every year, our sponsors help us convene the nation's largest gathering of Native leaders, national and international observers, invited guests, speakers and attendees. And every year we show our sponsors love.

Special thanks to our top three Denali sponsors:

ANCHORAGE CONVENTION  
& VISITORS BUREAU



RISE AS  
ONE



# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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## TAKE ACTION

### CALL FOR DANCE GROUPS

WE INVITE DANCE GROUPS TO COMPLETE AN INTEREST FORM:

[WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG/ANNUAL-CONVENTION/QUYANA/](http://WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG/ANNUAL-CONVENTION/QUYANA/)

**OUR FINAL LINEUP OF DANCE GROUPS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN EARLY OCTOBER!**

### PRESIDENT'S AWARDS NOMINATIONS **DUE SEPT 19TH**

NOMINATION FORM INCLUDED WITH THIS REPORT

### AIRFARE AND LODGING RATES

ALASKA AIRLINES IS OFFERING A 10% DISCOUNT TO AFN ATTENDEES (SEE ATTACHED PDF)

VISIT [NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG](http://NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG) FOR LODGING DISCOUNTS AND DETAILS

### REMINDER: DELEGATE PRE-REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW

REGISTER ONLINE AT: [HTTP://WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG/ANNUAL-CONVENTION/DELEGATES/](http://WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG/ANNUAL-CONVENTION/DELEGATES/)

ARTS & CRAFTS AND THE EXHIBIT HALL ARE **SOLD OUT**

## CONVENTION UPDATE

Thank You to Our Growing List of Sponsors! Here are our top contributors at the Denali and Katmai levels:

GCI

ExxonMobil

Visit Anchorage

Alaska Airlines

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

Chugach Alaska Corporation

NANA-Teck

Shell Exploration & Production Co.

TCC

Wells Fargo

Afognak Native Corporation

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

BP

Bristol Bay Native Corporation

Coastal Villages Region Fund

ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.

Donlin Gold

Iliisagvik College

KeyBank

Lynden

Pebble Limited Partnership

Sam's Club

Southcentral Foundation

Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation

Alaska Communications

Bering Straits Native Corporation

Bristol Bay Native Association

Chenega Corporation

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Spenard Builder's Supply

BDO USA, LLP

Caelus Energy LLC

Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau

Hotel Captain Cook

Mt. Edgecumbe High School

The Eyak Corporation

Alaska Travel Industry Association

Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention -- AK Chapter

UAA - Continuing Education Dept

# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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## NATIVE VOTE

### Federal Court Decision in Native Voting Rights Case

The Alaska Federation of Natives fully supports U.S. District Judge Sharon Gleason's decision in favor of the plaintiffs of the *Toyukak v Treadwell* voting rights case. In her partial ruling, Judge Gleason agreed with the Native voters' argument that the state Division of Elections failed its duty to Native speakers with limited skills in English.

This is a major step forward for Alaskan voter participation. The Native elders in the case rightly pointed out that the U.S. Voting Rights Act requires that the state provide election material in the Yup'ik and Gwich'in languages. The law is the law. We are pleased that Judge Gleason agrees.

We hope this signals a new chapter for Alaska's elections, in which the state will stop fighting its own voters and really work to improve access equitably and increase voter turnout statewide.

We all owe the Elders and village plaintiffs a debt of gratitude for standing up for our constitutional rights. Special thanks also to the Native American Rights Fund legal team for its effort on this difficult but critical case.

## Get Out the Vote

2014 ELECTION DAY  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

NEED HELP FINDING YOUR POLLING  
PLACE? VISIT:

[WWW.ELECTIONS.ALASKA.GOV](http://WWW.ELECTIONS.ALASKA.GOV)

*AFN staff got out the vote in August (below)!*



# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Minimum Wage Increase

The Alaska Federation of Natives last month chose to officially support Ballot Measure 3 to raise the minimum wage in Alaska, joining Alaskans for a Fair Minimum Wage (AFMW). AFMW is a coalition that advocates raising the Alaska minimum wage to a level that would better allow working Alaskans to afford basic necessities.

Alaska was the first state to adopt a state minimum wage higher than the federal level and maintained the highest minimum wage in the nation for the first 32 years of statehood, our leaders did this because it was the right thing to do for Alaska. You cannot pay your heating bill and pay for groceries at the same time on the current minimum wage in Alaska.

Passage of Ballot Measure 3 will raise the state minimum wage from \$7.75 to \$8.75 by January 2015, and to \$9.75 by January 2016, with an automatic annual cost of living adjustment built in for future years (either based upon the Anchorage Consumer Price Index or to be at least \$1 above the federal rate, whichever is higher.)

Ballot Measure 3 will be on the November 4th ballot. Alaskan voters will have the opportunity to increase Alaska's current minimum wage to a level more appropriate to our cost of living and ensure that level is maintained regardless of inflation.

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## TAKE ACTION

### GSA ADMINISTRATIVE RULING – ANCSA VILLAGE CORPORATION ELIGIBILITY FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY

GSA RULED IN AUGUST THAT VILLAGE CORPORATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS IN THE FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY PROGRAM. THE REGION 10 OFFICE WILL BE REACHING OUT TO THE STATE AGENCY FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY HERE IN ALASKA INFORMING THEM OF VILLAGE ANC'S ELIGIBILITY.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,  
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT:

**DEBORAH VO**

**ALASKA NATIVE/RURAL  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

OFFICE OF SENATOR LISA  
MURKOWSKI

510 L STREET, SUITE 600

ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

(907) 276-3023 ~ DIRECT

# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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## SUBSISTENCE

### Co-Management Advocacy

In mid-August, AFN sent a series of letters in support of the Ahtna Co-Management Project bill to our Alaska delegation, Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the Hawaii delegation, and John Tester and John Walsh (both D-Montana) seeking commitments of support.

During the same period, AFN sent follow-up letters of support regarding the co-management executive order to Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Mike Connor and USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie seeking support within the administration.

AFN will continue these conversations with in-person meetings this month in Washington DC.

**PLEASE CONSIDER USING THE TEMPLATES PROVIDED ON PAGES 7 AND 8 TO CUSTOMIZE AND SEND YOUR OWN LETTERS OF SUPPORT. TOGETHER OUR VOICES ARE STRONGER AND THE POWER OF OUR REQUESTS IS AMPLIFIED.**



**RISE AS ONE**

OCTOBER 23 -25  
ANCHORAGE, AK

[WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG](http://WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG)

# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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## SUBSISTENCE

### Letter of Support Template

[Date]

Senator Ron Wyden  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Via email: sarah\_bittleman@wyden.senate.gov

Re: Alaska Native Subsistence Co-Management Demonstration Act of 2014

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of [Your Organization], I am writing to urge you to support the Alaska Native Subsistence Co-Management Demonstration Act of 2014 (Act). [Describe your organization]

Subsistence is the lifeblood of our people, the foundation of all Alaska Native cultures, and the mainstay of food security in rural Alaska. Alaska Natives have a vested interest in managing sustainable hunting and fishing resources, and thousands of years of history monitoring those resources.

The Ahtna Co-Management Project would allow Native people to have a meaningful seat at the management table for game, one of our most important resources. The dual management system, where the federal government manages hunting and fishing on federal lands and the state manages state and private lands, is confusing and not working. A better approach would be for the federal, state, and Ahtna tribal governments to enter into this co-management demonstration project to collectively manage the wildlife on traditional Ahtna lands.

We have asked Congressman Young to introduce his draft legislation, and will be working with his staff to finalize the language. We urge you to support this legislation. Enclosed are a white paper, a section-by-section analysis, and the draft bill language. If you would like more information or for us to discuss the issue further with you or your staff, please let us know. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name and Title]

# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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## SUBSISTENCE

### Letter of Support Template

[Date]

Secretary Thomas Vilsack  
Department of Agriculture  
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Room 200-A  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of [Your Organization], I am writing to ask you to support and promote an executive order establishing co-management of fish and wildlife as an administrative priority. [Describe your organization]

Subsistence is the lifeblood of our people, the foundation of all Alaska Native cultures, and the mainstay of food security in rural Alaska. Alaska Natives have a vested interest in managing sustainable hunting and fishing resources, and thousands of years of history monitoring those resources. An executive order would establish that federal and tribal co-management of Alaska's fish, wildlife and other natural resources on public lands is an administrative priority. We shared a draft copy of an executive order on co-management with Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie when we briefed him on Alaska Native issues. We have also briefed John Podesta and others in the White House on this issue, as well as Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor.

Co-management projects can be set up in different ways. We are working with Congressman Don Young to introduce legislation that would set up a co-management structure for the management of wild game in the Ahtna region of Alaska. An executive order would be effective more quickly on a broader range, and would signal the President's belief in the importance of working with tribes in Alaska to manage our most important resource. We ask that you actively support and promote within the administration such an executive order.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Your Name and Title]

# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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## CELEBRATING SUBSISTENCE

### AFN Launches Call for Photos

AFN is calling on our community to help us celebrate the beauty of subsistence! Last week we launched a call for photos inviting people to share photos of themselves, their friends and their family members fishing, berry picking, hunting - you name it - with AFN.

**THE BEST PHOTOS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE AFN SUBSISTENCE COMMITTEE IN MID-OCTOBER AND ONE LUCKY WINNER WILL RECEIVE A ROUND-TRIP TICKET TO ANY US DESTINATION ON ALASKA AIRLINES!**

Up to three photos per participant can be submitted at [nativefederation.org/celebratesubsistence](http://nativefederation.org/celebratesubsistence)

We'll be posting photos and captions to AFN's social media accounts throughout September and October, and sharing them as part of our special subsistence programming during this year's AFN Convention in October.

Prizes will also be given to photos with the most "likes" on social media.

Winners will be announced during the 2014 Annual AFN Convention.

**CONTEST ENDS OCTOBER 10, 2014.**

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS BY  
**OCTOBER 10TH**

AT [NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG/  
CELEBRATESUBSISTENCE/](http://NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG/CELEBRATESUBSISTENCE/)

## CELEBRATE SUBSISTENCE



**CALL FOR PHOTOS**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

1577 C Street, Suite 300 | Anchorage, Alaska | 99501 | 907.274.3611 | [afninfo@nativefederation.org](mailto:afninfo@nativefederation.org)



August 19, 2014

Senator Ron Wyden  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Via email: [sarah\\_bittleman@wyden.senate.gov](mailto:sarah_bittleman@wyden.senate.gov)

Re: Alaska Native Subsistence Co-Management Demonstration Act of 2014

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I am writing to urge you to support the Alaska Native Subsistence Co-Management Demonstration Act of 2014 (Act). AFN is the largest statewide Native organization and continues to be the principle forum and voice of Alaska Natives in dealing with critical issues of public policy and government. AFN's members include 153 federally-recognized tribes, 134 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums.

Subsistence is the lifeblood of our people, the foundation of all Alaska Native cultures, and the mainstay of food security in rural Alaska. Alaska Natives have a vested interest in managing sustainable hunting and fishing resources, and thousands of years of history monitoring those resources.

The Ahtna Co-Management Project would allow Native people to have a meaningful seat at the management table for game, one of our most important resources. The dual management system, where the federal government manages hunting and fishing on federal lands and the state manages state and private lands, is confusing and not working. A better approach would be for the federal, state, and Ahtna tribal governments to enter into this co-management demonstration project to collectively manage the wildlife on traditional Ahtna lands.

We have asked Congressman Young to introduce his draft legislation soon after Labor Day, and will be working with his staff to finalize the language. We urge you to support this legislation. Enclosed are a white paper, a section-by-section analysis, and the draft bill language. If you would like more information or for us to discuss the issue further with you or your staff, please let us know. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka  
President



ALASKA FEDERATION  
OF NATIVES

August 18, 2014

Secretary Thomas Vilsack  
Department of Agriculture  
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Room 200-A  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I am writing to ask you to support and promote an executive order establishing co-management of fish and wildlife as an administrative priority. AFN is the largest statewide Native organization and continues to be the principle forum and voice of Alaska Natives in dealing with critical issues of public policy and government. AFN's members include 153 federally-recognized tribes, 134 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums.

Subsistence is the lifeblood of our people, the foundation of all Alaska Native cultures, and the mainstay of food security in rural Alaska. Alaska Natives have a vested interest in managing sustainable hunting and fishing resources, and thousands of years of history monitoring those resources. An executive order would establish that federal and tribal co-management of Alaska's fish, wildlife and other natural resources on public lands is an administrative priority. We shared a draft copy of an executive order on co-management with Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie when we briefed him on Alaska Native issues. We have also briefed John Podesta and others in the White House on this issue, as well as Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor.

Co-management projects can be set up in different ways. We are working with Congressman Don Young to introduce legislation that would set up a co-management structure for the management of wild game in the Ahtna region of Alaska. An executive order would be effective more quickly on a broader range, and would signal the President's belief in the importance of working with tribes in Alaska to manage our most important resource. We ask that you actively support and promote within the administration such an executive order. We look forward to your appearance at our Annual Convention in October, and we would be thrilled if you could announce then that you have helped get a co-management executive order in place.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka  
President



August 19, 2014

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Via email: [megan\\_alvanna-stimpfle@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:megan_alvanna-stimpfle@murkowski.senate.gov)

Re: Alaska Native Subsistence Co-Management Demonstration Act of 2014

Dear Senator Murkowski:

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I am writing to urge you to support the Alaska Native Subsistence Co-Management Demonstration Act of 2014 (Act). AFN is the largest statewide Native organization and continues to be the principle forum and voice of Alaska Natives in dealing with critical issues of public policy and government. AFN's members include 153 federally-recognized tribes, 134 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums.

As you know, subsistence is the lifeblood of our people, the foundation of all Alaska Native cultures, and the mainstay of food security in rural Alaska. Alaska Natives have a vested interest in managing sustainable hunting and fishing resources, and thousands of years of history monitoring those resources.

The Ahtna Co-Management Project would allow Native people to have a meaningful seat at the management table for game, one of our most important resources. The dual management system, where the federal government manages hunting and fishing on federal lands and the state manages state and private lands, is confusing and not working. A better approach would be for the federal, state, and Ahtna tribal governments to enter into this co-management demonstration project to collectively manage the wildlife on traditional Ahtna lands.

We have asked Congressman Young to introduce his draft legislation soon after Labor Day, and will be working with his staff to finalize the language. If you would like to meet during the August recess to discuss this project, we will be happy to work with your staff to arrange a meeting time. Again, thank you for your hard work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka  
President

# ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES



## CELEBRATE SUBSISTENCE

### CALL FOR PHOTOS

AFN is calling on our community to help us celebrate the beauty of subsistence! Snap a photo of yourself, your friends and your family members fishing, berry picking, hunting -- you name it -- and share it with AFN.

### WIN A ROUNDTRIP TICKET

Share your best photos and you may just be the lucky winner of a roundtrip ticket to any US destination courtesy of Alaska Airlines!



### SUBMIT PHOTOS AT [NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG/CELEBRATESUBSISTENCE](http://NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG/CELEBRATESUBSISTENCE)

We'll post your photos and a caption from you to AFN's social media accounts and share them as part of our special subsistence programming during this year's AFN Convention in October.

**CONTEST ENDS OCTOBER 10, 2014**

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE AFN CONVENTION  
**ANCHORAGE, OCTOBER 23-25, 2014**



# RISE AS ONE

1577 C STREET, SUITE 300  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501  
PHONE 907-274-3611

FAX 907-276-7989  
AFNINFO@NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG  
WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG

## 2014 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Please check the Award for which you are applying (choose only one):

- |                                                                    |                                                      |                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culture Bearer                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Della Keats "Healing Hands" | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Walter Soboleff "Warrior of Light" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elder of the Year                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Health                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Eileen Panigeo MacLean Education       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hannah Paul Solomon "Woman of Courage"    | <input type="checkbox"/> Roger Lang Youth Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Glenn Godfrey Law Enforcement          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parents of the Year                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter-Fisher               | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business                            |                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Lu Young Youth Leadership              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gin'tith (Richard Frank) Military Service |                                                      |                                                                 |

### Nominee's Information:

Name (First & Last)

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Business

Cell

Email

Tribal Affiliation

Information on family history, siblings, place of origin, etc.:



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WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG

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## 2014 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Activities National/Statewide/Local:

Please provide information on special talents, skills and past experiences relevant to the designated award category:



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WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG

## 2014 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Please provide distinctive quotes, well-known guidance given, or any other information that is exclusive to the Nominee:

### Sponsor Information:

Name (First & Last)

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Business

Cell

Email

Tribal Affiliation



# RISE AS ONE

1577 C STREET, SUITE 300  
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PHONE 907-274-3611  
FAX 907-276-7989  
AFNINFO@NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG  
WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG

## 2014 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

### Requirements for submitting Nomination:

1. By submitting this nomination, you affirm that he/she is of good moral character, have no knowledge of any matters raising questions regarding the nominee's stability or any past conduct reflecting upon the nominee's honesty or integrity. i.e., a person of good moral character should not have been convicted of a crime in any jurisdiction that was classified as a felony; or any crime involving dishonesty; or any crime involving harm to a child or children.
2. **DEADLINE: APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 12, 2014.**
3. Submit typed or printed Form ONLY (by email, mail or fax). You may provide letters of support for the nominee. All information will be used at AFN's discretion and will not be returned.
4. If nominee is selected, a photo will be requested for AFN printed materials.
5. The Sponsor is responsible for the winning nominee's travel, hotel, per diem or any expenses for travel to the AFN Annual Convention. It is recommended that the winning nominee be present at the Convention on Saturday, October 25, 2014 at the Dena'ina Convention Center, Anchorage, Alaska.

### Submit by mail, fax or email to:

ATTN: Judy Jaworski  
AFN PRESIDENT'S AWARDS  
1577 C Street, Suite 300  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 907-274-3611  
Fax: 907-276-7989  
Email: [jjaworski@nativefederation.org](mailto:jjaworski@nativefederation.org)

For questions, please call the AFN Office at 907-274-3611.