

# ALASBO

## News Link...



November 2005

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*ALASBO News Link*  
is published for the members of the Alaska  
Association of School Business Officials  
and its affiliate members.

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## **President's Message**

*David Means, Juneau School District*

I am very excited about the upcoming ALASBO meeting this December. I believe we have an excellent set of speakers presenting a variety of topics that should interest school business officials. One example is Melanie Millhorn of the Division of Retirements and Benefits, who will discuss PERS and TRS. Other topics include many of the current human resources, accounting, technology, and other relevant issues that affect today's school business officials. This is one conference where I will have a difficult time deciding which sectional I wish to attend.

I am also excited about the upcoming changes in ALASBO. Led by our leadership team, we are redesigning ALASBO to better fit the needs of our school business officials. We will have fewer

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### **INSERTS:**

- Annual Conference Registration Form
- Conference Schedule at a Glance
- Lowell Thomas Freeman Professional Development Grant Application
- EMA Year-End CIMS Training

### President's Message (Continued)

committees but will become more focused on our professional development and membership services. One committee will focus on professional development. Initially, it will plan topics at upcoming conferences and arrange for presenters. Later it will expand to provide other professional development opportunities throughout the year in a variety of different ways. A second committee will focus on membership services to provide better communication between members and ALASBO. We combined three committees to form the awards committee. We have set time aside in our conference for the new committees to organize and begin operations.

Of course we still have a few of the former committees. So, if you are interested in Legislative Affairs, there is still a committee for ALASBO members to express educational concerns and to help the Legislature write good legislation and provide needed funding for our students.

If you have not already registered for the December meeting, please review the tentative agenda in this newsletter along with a registration form. If you know of other school business officials or educational leaders who are not attending, encourage them to sign up. This will be money well spent!

See you all next month!

**We Are ALASBO  
Annual Conference  
December 5-7, 2005**



### Executive Director's Message

**Tammy White, ALASBO Executive Director**

There were 23 Alaskans in Boston for the ASBO conference, more than the year before in Cincinnati. For me, the very best part of the conference was the passing of the gavel to Melody Douglas as the next president of ASBO International. She truly represents the best of the best in school business management and Alaska.

There were Alaskans in the choir, on committees, chair and co-chairs of committees, monitoring and presenting sectionals. Alaska is well represented in ASBO. This is the proof of the professional individuals we are fortunate to have in our organization.

Mark your calendars for next year when Melody is President in Pittsburg, Oct 13 – 16, 2006. The theme for the conference is "Shaping the Future". The members who went to Boston started shaping up the plans for the special events we will be supporting to celebrate the first Alaskan to be President of ASBO International.



Although looking forward to Pittsburgh, your board has been working diligently on the December ALASBO conference. The enclosed Schedule at a Glance shows the wide variety of professional development for every staff member in a school business office.

The Board also approved the new committee structure brought forward from this summer's leadership meeting. An explanation of the restructuring will be presented at the General Session on Monday afternoon. At the Annual Meeting, changes to the Bylaws will be voted on by you the membership. The Bylaw Committee approved the changes that were brought forward from the leadership meeting. The proposed changes to the Bylaws were sent to members via e-mail, will be posted on the web and are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Speaking of the web, the new site is on line. There will be some changes needed, and if you see some glaring errors, please let me know so they can be corrected. Check it out at: [www.alasbo.org](http://www.alasbo.org).

As always I am looking forward to seeing everyone (especially Holly) next month in Anchorage.

## ALASBO August Board Meeting

*David Means, Juneau School District*

ALASBO's board of directors met Wednesday, August 17, 2005. They took steps to implement the suggestions of the Summer Leadership Conference. They revised the committee structures effective at the close of December's conference so that the committees can be more efficient and better serve members' needs. In effect, they revised the committee manual. Among other changes there will be members' services committee and a professional development committee. Some other committees will become subcommittees of the board of directors.

The board referred to the Bylaws Committee a recommendation that the members elect a secretary every year at the annual meeting, who then becomes president-elect, president, and past-president. This should provide for more continuity of the executive officers and help them become better leaders. This change will require a members' vote at the annual meeting.

The board decided to hold an annual leadership conference. Last summer's conference recommended that future conferences look at ALASBO's strategic plan and develop (or become) a future's task force.

The board also authorized the executive director to contract for clerical assistance, primarily as she prepares for the annual meeting. Tammy White serves as ALASBO's executive director as a volunteer, but there are times and tasks that an administrative services will help ALASBO's operations, and thereby provide better services to its members.

## Proposed ALASBO Bylaws Changes

The Bylaws Committee is proposing the changes below, which will be put to a vote of the membership at the December conference.

### ARTICLE III OFFICERS Section 1.

(a) The officers of the Association shall be President, a President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary.

(b) The **Secretary shall serve the first year as the Secretary the second year as President-**

~~Elect shall serve the first year as a President-Elect and the second third year as President.~~

~~(c) The Secretary shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.~~

~~(d) (c)~~ The President shall appoint a treasurer for his/her term of office.

### ARTICLE VI NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 2.

(a) The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of four (4) members; **all shall be past presidents**, which shall submit a slate of at least one name for each vacancy to be filled at the annual meeting. Nominations shall be solicited from the members by the nominating committee and shall be accepted from the floor.

## ASBO Conference Report

*Rene' Spracklen, Copper River School District*

First I would like to say thanks to ALASBO for the opportunity to attend my first ASBO Annual Conference through the financial aid of the scholarship and the support of Copper River School District. I enjoyed it thoroughly.

All of the Discussion groups that I attended were payroll related. It is always good to get updates in our professions. I enjoyed the group discussion of Work Smart 21 the most. This was on workers compensation; the staff from Rhode Island did an excellent job. I really appreciated them sharing their forms and the program to reduce risks and costs under workers' compensation. I enjoyed meeting several new people.

It was great seeing one of our own from Alaska become President of ASBO International. Way to go Melody Douglas! I would like to encourage all ALASBO members to attend the 92<sup>nd</sup> ASBO Annual Meeting and Exhibits October 13-16, 2006 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It would be great for many Alaska School Business Officials to support Melody in her role as President in 2006. Again thank you.

*Rene' was a recipient of the Lowell Thomas Freeman Professional Development Grant, which supported her ASBO conference attendance. Look for the insert in this newsletter to apply for the 2006 grant. Other opportunities will be available at the ALASBO December conference.*

## Alaska Districts Receive Awards

The following Alaska districts have received recognition from the ASBO International.



**Certificate of Excellence** – for preparation of the FY04 comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR)

- Aleutians East Borough School District
- Anchorage School District
- Bering Strait School District
- Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
- Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
- Southwest Region Schools



**Meritorious Budget Award** – for preparation of annual FY04 budget

- Kenai Peninsula Borough School District



## ASBO International News

**Melody Douglas, ASBO President Elect**  
**Kenai Peninsula Borough School District**

It was great to see Alaska ASBO members enjoying the educational and networking opportunities available at the annual conference in Boston!

The ASBO Board met on October 20, 2005 and much was accomplished! The Board:

- Approved a process for updating and trimming the Policy Manual over the next year
- Approved the 2006 Election Rules
- Nominated Neil Sullivan as ASBO's representative to GASB
- Approved the updated Professional Standards and Ethics Statement
- Received a Future's Task Force update
- Received an international affiliate visitation report

- Met with Jeff McCausland about a proposal for the Eagle Institute
- Met with Roger Young and Lee Prevost about ASBO's new Facilities Masters Award Program
- Received a report about a potential project with Standard & Poor's
- Discussed proposals for the 2010 conference location

One of the highlights of the conference was the keynote address by Roger Crawford; what an inspirational man! He is a motivational speaker and athlete. *Sports Illustrated* calls Roger "one of the most accomplished physically challenged athletes in the world". Even though Roger has four impaired limbs he rose to compete in NCAA Division One tennis. His message of hope and possibility includes such nuggets as:

- Don't let what you cannot do get in the way of what you can do.
- Choices not circumstances determine our possibilities.
- We choose whether to dwell on possibilities or problems.
- You will never be rich enough to afford pessimism.
- Challenges are inevitable, defeat is optional.
- Celebrate Thanksgiving 365 days a year.
- Never neglect the lagniappe.
- The Olympic Torch inscription is:  
citius altius fortius  
"faster, higher, stronger"

Roger also told us that, "Lagniappe is a French Cajun word that means 'beyond full measure' or 'to give a little extra'. How can you give a little extra to those in your work environment, in your community or at home? You just can't go wrong with an extra hug, kind words, a surprise when least expected, a helping hand, a friendly note, or the gift of time. When it comes from your heart, people notice the slightest unexpected gesture and develop very positive feelings about YOU. Just give it a try and see what happens!"

Check out Roger's website for more inspiration: [www.rogercrawford.com](http://www.rogercrawford.com).

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 92nd Annual Meeting & Exhibits; Shaping the Future, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 13-16, 2006! Check out [www.asbointl.org](http://www.asbointl.org) for more information.

Please let me know of any concerns, suggestions and ideas you would like addressed concerning ASBO International. I may be reached at 907-714-8847 or [mdouglas@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:mdouglas@kpbsd.k12.ak.us).

## **Celebrate December – ALASBO Style!**

*Chad Stiteler, Yukon Koyukuk School District*

Celebrations around the world speckle the month of December with inspiration, appreciation of knowledge and good company: Winter Solstice, Las Posadas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Boxing Day, Buddha's Enlightenment and of course, most importantly, the Annual ALASBO conference. Mark your calendar and get your registration turned in for the December 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> "We are ALASBO" conference in Anchorage.

Each year, scarred, battle worn, yet victorious school business officials come together for our own enlightenment at the Captain Cook in Anchorage for three short days of inspiration. We find answers to burning questions, solve the near disasters within our own districts, and enjoy the camaraderie of other business officials. The December ALASBO conference is one celebration not to be missed!

Wells of knowledge are available to all of us through ALASBO. The elected officials and leaders of ALASBO have decades of historical, current and upcoming information readied for eager eyes and ears. We'll all feel smarter just sitting next to Dennis Niedermeyer, or at least that's what he'll tell us...

You'll find the brilliant staff of the state department eager to provide answers and the newest updates on everything they do for us. Della Mathis will decipher E-rate, today's version of Latin and trigonometry combined. School transportation and food service issues are a breeze with the resources of 50 other districts available. Key politicians update us on the current legislative session and all members have the opportunity to meet and greet the folks we need to influence to create better schools.

Year after year, the keynote speakers are smart, inspiring and so funny we have to be careful not to snort-n-laugh while in front of our colleagues. From communication to best practices and school business news, you're sure to walk away smarter from the ALASBO conference and back to a job that's easier!

In the evenings, you can find out how fun accountants really are when Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. and Altman, Rogers & Co. provide evening receptions boasting the best view in town from the top of the Cook's tower. Many other vendors provide a great show of support through information on their products and services, but also help fund the conference through the vendor show and everybody's favorite opportunity, door prizes!

Go ahead, mark your calendar, complete the registration and make your job easier. The conference benefits everybody, experienced and new. Plan to celebrate knowledge and good company with the brilliant and exciting school business officials in Anchorage, December 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.



## **KENYAN FIRST GRADER IS A GREAT-GRANDFATHER**

*Editors note: This item appeared in the New York Times in 2004. It reminds us to protect and nurture our public education system, and to continue to be life-long learners ourselves!*

Kimani Nganga Maruge is 84 and a great-grandfather who never spent a day in school. But when the Kenyan government declared a year ago that primary education would be free through grade 8, millions of new pupils showed up at neighborhood campuses to register. Maruge was among them. Officials were stunned that many older citizens had sought to take advantage of free education. "We never knew that such people would come," said S. K. Karaba, senior deputy director in the Department of Education. "They still want to be taught. There is an urge."



Alaska Association of  
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