

ALASBO

News Link...



A newsletter publication of Alaska Association of School Business Officials

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is published for the members of the Alaska
Association of School Business Officials
and its affiliate members.

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www.alasbo.org

For publishing information, contact:

Duane Guiley

e-mail: guiley@gci.net

Editing and layout by
Amy Lujan, Nome Public Schools
stanandamy@aol.com

Production by
Cindy Reilly, Matsu School District
Cindy.Reilly@matsuk12.us

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President's Message

Rene' Spracklen, Copper River School District

Greetings to all ALASBO members! Spring has sprung and summer is right around the corner. It is that time of year when schools are approaching the finish line for the academic year. In the Business office we are making the final sprint trying to get year-end items out to the schools for completion before they abandon us during summer vacation. What were we thinking when taking on professions that require us to work all summer long?

The Board of Directors is still in the process of getting Executive Director, Duane Guiley up to speed on ALASBO. Thanks again to Melody Douglas, Tammy White, and Dave Jones for helping out this year during the transition.

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President's Message (Continued)

During the Leadership Conference this summer we will be planning the December Conference "ALASBO – Needs you!" I have not heard from anyone on items they would like to see in the conference, so we will be using the conference evaluation forms to outline our sessions schedule.



ALASBO - Needs You! Annual Conference December 3-5, 2007

The Professional Development Committee has met this year and had some power lunches. If you are a member who is willing to lead one of these sessions or has a topic idea to share please contact Chad Stiteler at the Anchorage School District or David Means at the Juneau School District.

If any members need help, please feel free to contact any ALASBO member for assistance and we will try to accommodate you the best we can. I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to Cindy Reilly for doing all our ALASBO emails to the membership.

On a sad note, Heather Brown has notified me that she will be retiring this summer and will have to vacate her director seat. Heather has been a "GREAT" Grant Administrator and has helped many districts over the years. We will all miss her presence in Juneau. THANK YOU Heather for lending a helping hand to everyone and we wish you happy times during your retirement.

Well I wish you all the best during our year-end and audit preparation time. Lastly, everyone try to get out and have some fun this summer!

*"To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own."
- Anne Morrow Lindbergh*

Executive Director's Message

Duane Guiley, ALASBO Executive Director

I would be remiss if I didn't begin by extending my personal thanks to Tammy White and Melody Douglas for their past and present leadership of ALASBO. Next I have to thank the

Board and membership for giving me the opportunity to step in and provide staff support to the Board and association as we implement the new strategic plan. Many times we have heard reference to the phrase "Team ALASBO". The association would not have progressed to this point without the dedication and commitment of several past and present volunteer members. We should all acknowledge them and their efforts as well.

If you haven't had the opportunity to volunteer for a committee or serve as a board member, or if you think its time to reengage, your chance is coming. The future of this organization depends on new and continuing members making the effort for the benefit of the organization as a whole. Most relationships I built through participation in ALASBO in the early eighties continue to this day. This association is our peer group. Once you make the connections, help is only a phone call away.

As your executive director in training, to date I have participated in the international ASBO Leadership conference in Toronto, Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) Strategic/Fiscal Plan meeting, ALASBO Legislative Fly-in, and the legislative news/school funding power lunch. Thanks to Dave Jones for great facilitation of the legislative fly-in and the power lunch.

The professional development opportunities at the ASBO Leadership conference were amazing. All of the sectionals were informative, interactive, and well presented. Those of us who did attend were able to sample training, hotels, restaurants, and other activities as a primer to the annual fall meeting. Toronto will go all out to make the October conference a success and well worth your attendance. As of last week we had 16 rooms booked at one of the conference hotels. If you haven't already done so, make plans to join us.

On May 7, I will participate as staff in the ACSA Board of Directors Meeting and have made travel arrangements to attend the annual ASBO affiliate executive directors' meeting in June.

Throughout the month of May, I will be reconnecting with the major sponsors of our annual meeting, recruiting additional association partners, meeting with the hotel staff and preparing for our proposed ALASBO summer leadership training session to be held in Soldotna on or about July 22 through 25. And it's only just begun. Wish us luck. With your help, I'll do my best to represent you well.

ALASBO-Reflecting on the Past for the Future

Tammy White, former Executive Director

Anchorage was the site of the first official ALASBO meeting in November 1974. The meeting was for two days with 57 people representing 25 districts out of 31. From this beginning ALASBO has been run by volunteers.

The first President elected was Tom Freeman, our Founding Father. As time went on it became obvious that ALASBO was best suited with the purpose to provide leadership through the school business official. The organization always welcomed superintendents and board members that attended the meetings, knowing the intent was for improvement of the business functions supporting the educational process.

Military base schools became regular public schools in 1975. The Regional Education Attendance Areas soon followed with the Molly Hooch case. With this change the number of school districts totaled 52. Providing professional development to the new districts through teaching state and federal compliance, food service management, accounting, custodial and maintenance issues, became the focus of the ALASBO meetings.

ALASBO focused their attention on ASBO as Tom Freeman served on the National Board of Directors of ASBO in 1982 through 1984. As his term ended he ran for President of ASBO International. It was a great professional and personal experience even though he was not elected.

Through these years ALASBO was involved when a foundation formula was created that stood the test of time for many years and was respected for its fairness. The foundation formula was used for many years until it was changed by Senate Bill 36. ALASBO members have been successfully influential taking on the OASIS project, and several chart of accounts implementations.

ALASBO has maintained a worthy presence on the national and international level. In 2000, the membership decided to run another Alaskan, Melody Douglas of Kenai, for the Board of Directors of ASBO. Several of the original founders of ALASBO directed numerous passionate members to work on the campaigns to not only a successful election to the Board but also to be of service for Melody as President of ASBO International in 2006.

The successful election of Melody Douglas was a direct reflection of ALASBO learning from our founders and taking the steps towards the future. As an organization we are recognized on the international level for our expertise in school business management. Although our membership is among the smallest of the states and provinces of North America, over 25% of the Alaskan members of ASBO are involved either on an ASBO International committee (many have chaired these committees over the years) or on review of Meritorious Budget Award and Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting applications.

The following six districts received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2005: Aleutians East Borough, Anchorage, Bering Strait, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough and Southwest Region. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District also received the Meritorious Budget Award. Two Alaskan members won ASBO scholarships to attend the Annual Conference and four ALASBO members will receive a complimentary one year membership to ASBO.

In 2003 Dave Jones from Kodiak received an ASBO International Eagle Service Award for his contributions to his community. Lucienne Smith from North Slope received an ASBO International Pinnacle of Achievement Award for her district's outsourcing initiative in 2006. These awards are the highest honors to be received by school business officials.

On a State level we continue to provide professional development to school business office staff at our annual meetings. ALASBO offers the district's staff a network to assist in the support of the educational process. This includes a board liaison assigned to each district and the camaraderie we have built over the years. Since 1999 ALASBO has celebrated the success of our members by presenting the School Business Official of the Year award.



Looking toward the future, ALASBO has held two summer leadership conferences focusing on

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ALASBO Reflections (Continued)

the next steps for the organization. These steps are reflected in the goals and objectives of the current strategic plan: provide quality professional development, elevate the professional stature of the staff of the school business office, and ensure the stability of the association.

April 2007 will mark a new milestone for ALASBO as the first non-volunteer position is established for our part-time Executive Director, Duane Guiley. The future for ALASBO is only limited by our energy and imagination.

Good-Bye, ALASBO!

Heather Brown, Department of Education and Early Development

Wow, thirty years have gone by really fast, at least faster than I thought they would. I always thought that when the day for retirement came, I would be gone in a flash. But over the years, I settled into a routine, and found that I like my job. I like my job because I like the people I work with and I like my customers. We can sure get lots of work done, when we work together.

I am writing today to tell you all how much I have enjoyed working with you as business managers, district administration and office staff and as members of ALASBO. My contact with district staff has personalized my work, giving it meaning and purpose. The working relationships that have developed over the years are wonderful. I really appreciate the open communication and helpfulness that I find every time I call a school district business office. I hope I have been able to help you as well.

ALASBO has helped to broaden my view of your role as school finance officials, and to understand, all that you must do to keep schools running smoothly and safely. Kids and schools are what we are all about. The more I understand, the more I admire each of you for your dedication to education and to the children of Alaska.

It was an honor to serve as an elected board member on your ALASBO Board of Directors. This experience has been enriching and a highlight to my career with education.

My initial plan is to take the summer off, spending more time with family, and fish,

garden, fish, work on the house, and fish some more! God bless!

Catch some big ones, Heather!

2007 Legislative Fly-In

Dave Jones, Kodiak Island Borough School District

We met in Juneau for our annual ALASBO Fly-In from April 11 to April 13, 2007.

Eddy Jeans and the folks at the Department of Education hosted us in the State Board Room on Wednesday. We started the day by having Carl Rose, AASB Executive Director, brief us on the legislative session to date in regards to education issues. We then had Mary Francis, ACSA Executive Director give us her perspectives on educational issues on the hill. Last but not least, Eddy Jeans talked to us about some of the items that were being discussed and looked at as potential funding mechanisms for the FY08 school year.

We spent the rest of the day discussing the issues and creating a "Talking Points" handout to share with legislators on Thursday and Friday.

When we went to the Capitol Building on Thursday morning, we found it to be a "Kinder/Gentler" place than in previous years. It was a noticeably friendlier environment! Smiling faces were commonplace and we were greeted warmly in the offices we visited. Our group provides a unique perspective for legislators, and we have built some good relationships over the past few years. I believe our hands-on, district related examples provide good insight to legislators and staffers.

Duane Guiley, our new ALASBO Executive Director joined us for our visits, and it was surprising for me to see the number of legislators and staff members who recognized Duane and were happy to see him again. It became very clear that Duane is respected on the hill and will be a positive asset for us!

I left the hill with good expectations for substantial increased state funding for the FY 08 school year.

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Legislative Fly-In (Continued)

We would like to acknowledge and thank APEI for sponsoring lunch for us on Wednesday at the Zen restaurant, and AML/JIA for sponsoring a dinner reception at the Hanger restaurant on Wednesday evening.

Member Spotlight: Edith Hildebrand

For this quarter's edition of the "Member Spotlight" feature, Chad Stiteler has picked Edith Hildebrand for the spotlight!

Tell us about your school district – The Yukon Koyukuk School District

- serves over 1200 students K - 12
- has schools that range from 10-70+ students
- has a total of 11 schools (including 9 rural schools, 1 correspondence school, and 1 charter school)
- has an annual budget of over \$12 million.

How long have you been in school business? 2 years.

How did you get into this business? From a small community of less than 100 in interior Alaska, I transferred to a bigger school 18 miles down the river because my home school only went to the 10th grade. I graduated from high school, way back "when" and met my future husband there. I spent a few years in college, attaining my BBA in Business Management from UAA, followed by 10 yrs working for non-profit organizations, primarily in Human Resources. The 8+ years in HR (both in Fairbanks & Kotzebue) were very challenging, but I loved the field. I moved over to UAF for a couple years as a mini grants manager. I decided to take advantage of the tuition waiver and went fulltime for two years to get a long-distance Masters Degree in Rural Development with a focus on Youth Education. What an experience, working 8-12 hour days, and spending many sleepless nights, working on the degree, which I got in 2005. The long distance story started with my husband's transfer to beautiful Kotzebue where he was stationed with the State Troopers. When we transferred to Fairbanks, I went back to Human Resources. One day, I got a call from my current supervisor about the CFO, starting me in the world of school business. What a busy two years, trying to work the numerous areas of school business with limited staff and funding. You can relate! I wouldn't have been able to function though without the help of many

DEED staff, Mike Fisher, Chad Stiteler, Lucienne Smith & Jeff Frier (to name just a few) and working many long hours.

What do you like best about your job? My satisfaction is that I'm working with schools and for the very district that I come from. But more importantly, fighting for youth education and seeing the importance of them attaining their education from their home communities.

What advice do you have for those new to school business? When you go out the area schools and see the students in the classrooms, you get an appreciation for your work. If you have a question or aren't sure of how to tackle a problem, call other ALASBO members. Most likely, they have experienced your types of problems some time in the past. They may have a simple fix, and you don't spend many wasted hours reinventing the wheel.

How have you benefited from membership in ALASBO? Just knowing that I could call someone helps a great deal. Although I work for a small district, other even bigger school districts are facing the same issues. Networking and troubleshooting have helped me a great deal.

What do you like to do for fun? I love to exercise, especially running. I also utilize a couple other machines at home. My husband and I spend quality time with our 15 year old son (and just recently our 19 year old daughter who just finished her first year of college.) We love going to the movie theater. I don't know why, but we've been doing that for eons. The hubby and I just recently invested in a couple nice brand name bikes for evening rides. Summers in Fairbanks are prime for riding!

If you could visit anyplace in the world, where would you go and why? I would love to take another trip to Hawaii or one of the tourist attractions in Mexico with my family. I've never been to Mexico and would like to bask in the sun for at least a week. Hawaii has always been one of my favorite vacation spots. After spending many -40 degree days in Fairbanks, the warmer climate appeals to me.

Tell us something about yourself that most people don't know? My most valued times are spent in a small community in Interior Alaska.

What is your proudest accomplishment? I am proudest of my family- My husband Darrell, children Shawna & Eddie, all make life interesting. They have taught me to enjoy what life offers.



**Alaska Association of
School Business Officials**

C/o Cindy Reilly
Matsu Borough School District
501 N. Gulkana
Palmer, AK 99645

Mark Your Calendars!

- ***October 12-15 – ASBO Annual Conference, Toronto***
- ***December 3-5 – ALASBO Annual Conference, Anchorage***