

ALASBO

News Link...



A newsletter publication of Alaska Association of School Business Officials

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

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*Would you like to receive this newsletter in print,
rather than e-mail? Send a message to Amy Lujan at
the above address.*

President's Message

Laura Hylton, Lake and Peninsula

Happy spring everyone! I for one am glad the ice is receding and fishing can begin. It has been a year with its ups and downs for LPSD; overall it has been a successful year and as the frantic close out activities commence I can't help but be thankful for a good year and the upcoming calm of summer break.

The ALASBO Fly-In on March 31-April 2 was a great event. Thanks to Amy for all her planning and fun activities. We were able to visit most legislators on the education and finance committees, along with the legislators from our respective districts. The meetings went well, although unfortunately all the legislation related to school finance was not passed. Good reason to keep in touch with your legislators over the break and continue to communicate your successes and concerns.

An item raising concern related to legislative interaction is Ballot Measure 1 on the August

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primary ballot, the so called Anti-Corruption Act which has also become known as the "Gag Rule". This measure potentially prohibits and in some cases makes it a crime to lobby the state legislature if you or anyone in your extended family works for, contracts with or provides services for pay to government entities or participates in any activity funded by federal or state dollars. This is a large list of people in Alaska who could no longer communicate with legislators, severely limiting the voice of the people in the governmental process.

ALASBO's legislative efforts as well as school employees' efforts are among those potentially banned from lobbying. The ALASBO board will review the issue at our June meeting and may issue a resolution against Measure 1.

Please take a few minutes to review the ballot measure and plan to vote in the August election. Some informative websites include:

www.akml.org/gaglaw

www.stopthegaglaw.com.

Thank you to the professional development committee for all their work in creating the survey related to planning for the December conference. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to complete the survey and encourage your co-workers to do the same.

I am looking forward to summer leadership in Wrangell and hope to see many of you there. If you plan to attend please register as soon as possible to help Amy with the final planning.

Have a good summer!

Executive Director's Message

Amy Lujan, ALASBO Executive Director

All in Juneau are breathing a sigh of relief; the legislators have left town! Now, the first cruise ships have arrived, a sure sign that summer is just around the corner.

ALASBO members were "on the hill" during our **Legislative Fly-In**, March 31-April 2. Our group of six members first met with staff from EED, AASB and ACSA to develop Talking Points, which are available on our website, www.alasbo.org, under news. Over the next two days, we split into teams, visiting 28 offices. We

saw the legislators at least half the time, meeting with staff to review our Talking Points and answer questions when the legislators were swamped with late-in-session business. Several of us were also able to testify on HB317, a bill that called for increases to the base student allocation and the block grant for FY12 and FY13.

Unfortunately, HB317 did not pass. However, it was a good year for education overall, with significant funding for capital projects, though these bills are still awaiting approval by the Governor and by the voters, in the case of the statewide bond proposals. A summary of the session results will be available shortly from the EED.

Over the summer, you can expect to see candidates touring your districts. Be sure to ask them their position on education funding. Take the opportunity to explain how the multi-year plan for funding the base student allocation in FY09-FY11 added stability to education funding in Alaskan school districts and enabled administrators to keep the focus on educational programs. Since FY11 was the last year of the 3-year BSA increases and HB317 did not pass, we will once again be in the unfortunate situation of not knowing the FY12 BSA level until next spring. Let's advocate for action early in the next session!

Help ALASBO Serve You Better!

If you have not already done so, please take 15-20 minutes to complete the ALASBO professional development survey, which is available through a link on our website, www.alasbo.org, on the news tab.

In February, I attended the **ASBO Leadership Conference** in Orlando, along with a group of about eight ALASBO members. This conference featured world-class management training by the Disney Institute. Those of you attending the ASBO Annual Conference in September will have an opportunity to access this training. The conference also included a meeting of the Affiliate Executive Directors Group (AEDG), where I have a chance to pick up valuable information from my colleagues working in other state ASBO affiliates.

Believe it or not, we are already planning for the annual conference in December! As in the past, intensive program planning will take place at our **Summer Leadership Conference**, July 30-August 1 in Wrangell. Review my separate

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article for additional information about Summer Leadership! This year's focus will be on responding to the **member survey of professional development needs** that is currently in process through June 15.

In other news, the ALASBO Board has approved a revised **Committee Manual**, which is posted on our website, www.alasbo.org, under about ALASBO-policies and procedures. President Laura Hylton and I worked with Committee Chair's to update the manual.

Finally, I wish you all well in closing out another school year and planning summer activities! If you have questions about any ALASBO program, please do not hesitate to contact me at alasbo@gci.net, or 907-500-9086. You'll also find useful information at: www.alasbo.org.



REFLECTIONS ON THE LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN

Pamela Roope, Wrangell Public Schools

The Legislative Fly-In held a few surprises for me. For years there have been two people who serve as Wrangell Public Schools district office support staff. There is a very capable administrative assistant/board secretary and a business manager/fiscal officer. Our duties are split as follows: the admin assistant does words and I do numbers. We just hired a part-time person who may become a more well rounded employee, as she helps both of us complete the work. Serving on the board of ALASBO requires one newsletter item, so here's my best shot at "doing words".

In April, right before the legislature finished for the year, ALASBO lobbied for education issues. We shared our stories and insights with the representatives and the senators who make the decisions for Alaska. We began each meeting by saying "thank you" for the way funding has been done for the last few years, through the

multi-year Base Student Allocation commitment. It has made our budget process much easier. We then talked about the needs of students and school maintenance.

The people we met were of diverse backgrounds and had their own stories and insights. They asked us some hard questions about dropout rates. Several asked what we were doing to lower the dropout rate, and if our superintendents worked together to find a solution to lower the rate. We spent a lot of time both talking and listening. What I saw was an amazing diversity of human beings. Their care and love for Alaska and Alaskan students was evident.

I love the diversity of human beings. I love seeing how we use our talents to achieve success, whether it is success in business, family, or friendships. Over the course of a few days in preparing for our "visit to the hill", I saw joy, humor, efficiency, passion; people who "fight for right", energy, mentoring, steadfast professionals, capable and assured people, a friend with the "live and let live" presence of mind. I witnessed tough, honorable people who inspire me to be the best human being/human doing that I can be.

This is what I learned from my visit on the hill: stay joyful in the midst of illness; stay passionate; fight for what is right; use your energy; be a friend; live and let live; practice being a steadfast professional; efficiency helps smooth the way for everyone; and use humor, because everyone needs a good laugh. We are drawn to laughter and were created for joy. All around us there are people we can learn from; we just need to slow down a bit and open our eyes. Let's find the good in each other because it is going to take all of us working together to find the best solutions to funding, dropout rates and accountability. Think about attending the ALASBO Legislative Fly-In next year. It is not an easy task but it is a rewarding one.



ALASBO LEADERSHIP NEEDS YOU!

Amy Lujan, Executive Director

Mark your calendars for the ALASBO Summer Leadership Conference July 30 – August 1, in Wrangell, Alaska!

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This will be the 6th ALASBO Leadership conference and the first time it's been held in southeast Alaska! We will enjoy Wrangell's stunning environment for our meetings at the Stikine Inn and the new Nolan Center. Participants are encouraged to stick around for Sunday afternoon's bear viewing trip to Anan Wildlife Observatory, a fantastic place to observe both black and brown bears at a salmon stream. Check out www.wrangellalaska.org for more info; you won't want to miss this opportunity!



WHAT IS THE ALASBO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE?

The Leadership conference is where ALASBO Board members, past-presidents and committee members gather to focus on strategic planning issues and on annual conference planning. This year's planning will focus on responding to the member survey of professional development needs that is currently in process.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Even if you are not a Board member, past-president or committee member, if you are interested in helping develop ALASBO, we would like to invite you to the Leadership Conference. We need all interested members to be involved in ALASBO's future!

WHAT'S THE COST?

Thanks to our vendor sponsors and because of ALASBO's belief in the importance of this event, meals and hotel rooms in Wrangell for member participants are provided. Your major cost is airfare to Wrangell. There is a \$100 fee for the bear-viewing trip on Sunday afternoon, if you wish to participate.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Once again, with continued funding from the Swarner family, we are able to offer a professional development grant in memory of the late Dick Swarner to a committee member who would like to attend ALASBO Leadership for the first time. A grant of \$500 will go toward the cost of attendance. The application is attached and on our website. **The deadline is June 1!**

SCHEDULE

- Friday, July 30, 7 PM – Opening dinner at the Stikine Inn with sponsor presentations (Board meeting at 6 PM)
- Saturday, July 31 – meetings all day at the Nolan Center; evening dinner and golfing at Muskeg Meadows
- Sunday, August 1 – morning meetings; 1-6 PM trip by boat to Anan Wildlife Observatory
- Monday AM, August 2 – depart Wrangell (or Sunday evening, if not bear viewing!)

Note that some people are planning to arrive Thursday; that's no problem, since room block begins on Thursday, but you'll be responsible for your room charge, at about \$100/night plus tax. Also note that family members and guests are welcome.

The **registration form** for ALASBO Leadership has been sent to all members via email and is available on our website, www.alasbo.org, under events-conferences-upcoming. **Please return it by June 15.** I look forward to seeing many of you this summer in Wrangell!

ALASBO



Member Spotlight

Charlene Jimenez, Annette Island

Tell us about your school district

AISD is a small, rural school district, located on the Annette Island Indian Reserve in Southeast Alaska. Annette Island Indian Reserve is the only "Reserve" in Alaska, making the Metlakatla Indian Community a unique home for the Annette Island School District. The district is a K-12 district with enrollment of less than 300.

How long have you been in school business?

2.5 years

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How did you get into this business?

I started by working as a substitute for the district. I had substituted in the district office a few times, got pulled in on temporary job. One thing lead to another and here I am!

What do you like best about your job?

Never a "dull" moment! There are constant changing challenges.

What advice do you have for those new to school business?

Establish a good support system: people, tools and resources.

How have you benefited from membership in ALASBO?

I appreciate the networking and support systems.

What do you like to do for fun?

FUN....who has time for fun?? (I play with my 3-year-old grandson...we like to play pretend hunting!)

If you could visit anyplace in the world, where would you go and why?

Mexico and England....places my grandparents are from.

Tell us something about yourself that most people don't know?

If I told ... than more people would know There goes the mystery!!

What is your proudest accomplishment?

First thought is my children (4) and grandchildren (2 and one on the way)! Career wise I'd have to say, "I'm still here!"



SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Cindy Reilly, Yukon-Koyukuk

The Awards Committee has been extremely busy the past few months with three awards opportunities to manage. Two of them have been decided in the past couple of weeks and the third, the Richard M. Swarner Shaping the Future Leadership Grant, will be decided by early June.

Congratulations to our Mack Easton Memorial Scholarship winners. **Rea Roy of Kodiak Island** is planning to pursue an Accounting degree from Brigham Young University. Her career goal is to return to Kodiak to work either in a local business or in her school district as an accountant. **Elizabeth Ahkivgak from Mt. Edgecumbe HS** is our other winner. Ms Ahkivgak is from Barrow, and she plans to attend the University of Alaska with a goal of becoming a science teacher.

These accomplished young women were chosen from a very tight field of 73 applicants, any one of whom would've done us proud. Ms. Roy and Ms. Ahkivgak will each be receiving \$1,000 toward their education. We would like to acknowledge the sponsors of this scholarship once again: **Alaska Education and Recreational Products, LLC; GCI SchoolAccess; and Mikunda, Cottrell & Co.**

I am also pleased to announce the winners of the Lowell Thomas Freeman Professional Development Grant for attendance at the 2010 ASBO International conference in Orlando. They are: **Pam Roope of Wrangell and Lee Ann Andrew of Southwest Region School District.** There were eight applicants for the Freeman Grant, and once again the choice was extremely difficult to make. The Freeman Grant, sponsored by **C.O.R.E., Inc.**, will pay \$1,250 toward travel by each of these members.

We will be accepting applications for the Swarner Grant until June 1. This \$500 award will be given to an ALASBO member who has served on an ALASBO committee but has never attended the Summer Leadership Conference, for attendance at the conference July 30-August 1, 2010 in Wrangell. Those interested in becoming more involved in our professional organization should take advantage of this

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opportunity, which has generously been funded by the Swarner family in memory of former ALASBO member Dick Swarner. The application has been emailed to all ALASBO members and is available on our website, www.alasbo.org, under opportunities-grants.

As committee chair, I would like to thank the members of the Awards Committee who have worked very hard this spring on making thoughtful decisions for these scholarships. Other committee members are: Bette Gilliland, Liz Hayes and Jimmy Love of Kenai; Isabelle Harrington of Iditarod; Cindy Herring, Cindy Schmelz and Barb Urban of Mat-Su; Holly Holman of Unalaska; Antonia Moses of Kashunamiut; Robin Mullins of Fairbanks; and Dennis Niedermeyer, Honorary Member. When you have a chance, please thank these folks for their volunteer work on behalf of ALASBO.



ASBO INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Amy Lujan, Executive Director

Registration has opened for **ASBO's Centennial Celebration**, the 2010 Annual Meeting and Exhibits in Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), Florida, September 24-27, 2010!

Yes it's true: ASBO International has been bringing school business professionals together for 100 years now! In addition to carrying on the tradition of high quality professional development and networking opportunities, this year's annual conference offers some special opportunities:

- **World-class training by the Disney Institute** – It's not all fun and games at Disney; they've got a business to run! And, they do it extremely well. The Disney Institute trains staff from all professions on the leadership skills required to run a top-notch organization. Those of us who attended the February ASBO Leadership Conference can attest to the high quality of this training. Disney Institute speakers will provide a keynote address on Saturday. I also encourage you to take advantage of the special post-conference session available on Monday, September 27.

- **Centennial Gala** – This year's conference will feature a "birthday bash" to celebrate ALASBO's history, with dinner and dancing at a once-in-a-century event! ALASBO will be purchasing several tables so our members and guests can enjoy this event together.

- **Disney Magic!** – One thing you'll learn in central Florida is that there's magic everywhere! The ASBO conference will open with a reception at Epcot, and attendees will have a chance to explore the theme park that evening. You may want to stick around a few days extra to explore the many parks and attractions in the area. Bring the family!

- **Bridges to the Future** – If you've been in the school business profession as a supervisor for five years or less, consider applying for one of 20 scholarships to attend the annual conference, sponsored by MetLife. **The application is due June 1** and is available on the ASBO website.

You can get more information and register for the conference at www.asbointl.org. Be sure to book your room at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort through the website as well. Nearly all conference activities will take place at this resort, and ALASBO will have a hospitality suite there as well.

ASBO International expects to roll out a very exciting new **certification program** this fall as well. We are fortunate to have two ALASBO members on the development team: Jenny Martens from Nome and Dave Jones from Kenai. This program will for the first time provide a nationally recognized credential for school business officials, the Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations! If you're interested in being part of the beta testing this summer, contact Pam Weber: pweber@asbointl.org.

Finally, ASBO International continues to offer **high quality professional development and recognition programs**. If you're not already familiar with these programs, take some time to browse ASBO's website and consider how these programs can enhance professional performance in your district:

- Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE)
- Meritorious Budget Award (MBA)
- Pinnacle Award
- Eagle Award
- Eagle Institute

ALASBO

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ACSA Names Executive Director

Bruce Johnson has been selected to succeed Mary Francis, who has served as Executive Director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators for the past eight years. Mary is retiring as of June 30 to split her time between Washington and Arizona. Johnson currently works for the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB). He is a past Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development, and he has served as Superintendent of Mt. Edgecumbe High School, Kodiak and Juneau Borough School Districts. ALASBO is an associate member organization of ACSA and has one vote on the ACSA Board.

Your Moment of EXCEL Zen

TROUBLE ALIGNING EXCEL CURRENCY SYMBOLS

When I'm working with numbers in Accounting format, if all the numbers are the same length, the currency symbols line up nicely. However, if the numbers are different lengths, some of the symbols are a bit off.

For example, in the screen shot below, the \$ sign in cell B4 is a bit to the right of the symbol in B5. It's not much, but it looks sloppy, and some fonts show the effect more obviously than others. I added the blue line to make it easier to see the variations in column B.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1		Amount		Amount		Amount
2		\$ 100.00		\$ -		\$ -
3		\$ 100,000.00		\$ 375		\$ 375
4		\$ 1.00		\$ 694,390		\$ 694,390
5		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000
6		\$ 100.00		\$ 10,133		\$ 10,133
7		\$ 100.00		\$ 1,000,000		\$ 1,000,000
8		\$ 101,301.00		\$ 1,705,898		\$ 1,705,898

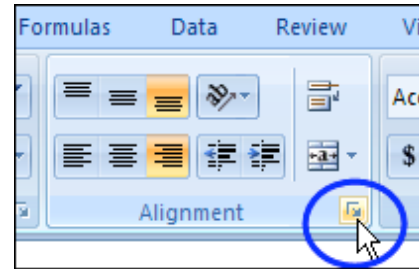
I've spent way too much time trying to fix the problem, with custom formatting, different fonts, and yelling. Even fist shaking didn't help -- very odd! If only I could, I'd learn to live with using the currency format instead. The dollar signs aren't supposed to line up in that format, so it's much less stressful.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1		Amount		Amount		Amount
2		\$100.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
3		\$100,000.00		\$375.00		\$375.00
4		\$1.00		\$694,390.00		\$694,390.00
5		\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
6		\$100.00		\$10,133.00		\$10,133.00
7		\$100.00		\$1,000,000.00		\$1,000,000.00
8		\$101,301.00		\$1,705,898.00		\$1,705,898.00

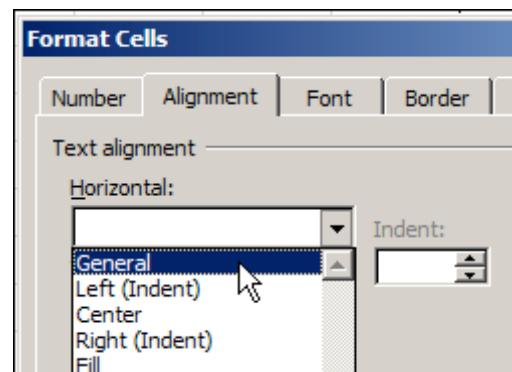
But...I was determined to find a fix. I just knew that there had to be a way to get what I wanted, how I wanted it.

Finally after another attempt at lining up the dollar signs, I found the solution to the uncooperative dollar signs! I checked the horizontal alignment for the cells, and discovered that I had them formatted as Right aligned.

I clicked the button at the bottom right of the Alignment group on the Ribbon's Home tab, to open the Format Cells dialog box.



(For you keyboard short cut commandos, Ctl + 1 will open the Format Cells dialog box)



Then, on the Alignment tab, I changed the Horizontal alignment to General, and clicked OK. And... "Tada!", all the dollar signs lined up, without a single dollar sign out of place, even with the different font and sizes.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1		Amount		Amount		Amount
2		\$ 100.00		\$ -		\$ -
3		\$ 100,000.00		\$ 375		\$ 375
4		\$ 1.00		\$ 694,390		\$ 694,390
5		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000
6		\$ 100.00		\$ 10,133		\$ 10,133
7		\$ 100.00		\$ 1,000,000		\$ 1,000,000
8		\$ 101,301.00		\$ 1,705,898		\$ 1,705,898



Mark Your Calendars!



2010 ALASBO Power Lunch Teleconference Schedule

11 AM to noon, the 3rd Tuesday of each month
call 218-844-3377, code 252726 (spells ALASBO!)

June 15	ARRA Reporting
July 20	Time & Effort Reporting
August 17	Child Nutrition Services
September 21	Retirement Eligibility
September 21	W-2's & 1099's
November 16	Indirect Cost Form
December	ALASBO CONFERENCE



- **July 30-August 1 – ALASBO Leadership Conference, Wrangell**
- **September 24-27 – ASBO International Conference, Orlando**
- **December 5-8 – ALASBO Annual Conference, Anchorage**