

**45th Annual Alaska Chapter AFS Business Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2019**  
**Sitka, AK**

12 PM – 1:20 PM, CENTENNIAL HALL (MAIN AUDITORIUM)

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order (time: 12:31 pm)
2. Determination of a quorum: a quorum was met with more than 20 people present
3. Approval of agenda: move by: Bill Bechtol; second by: Ray Hander; approved
4. Approval of 2018 annual business meeting minutes: move by: Bill B.; second Lisa Stuby; approved
5. AFS Western Division report – Tracy Wendt (get report from Tracy)
  - Commended the Chapter for exemplifying what AFS and the WD stands for: inclusivity, advocacy symposium, public involvement in the meeting, novel ideas (1-minute poster presentations)
  - WD Update: next meeting combined with Parent society meeting this fall in Reno; over 90 symposia submitted; real effort to reach out to the science community (Yukon Territory, marine – Hawaii), will be meeting in Hawaii; WD Submitting comments on WOTUS and willing to submit comments on Pebble; WD Executive Committee extended awards deadline to April 10 –would love to see the Alaska Chapter nominated for Chapter award; WD has small grants available for small projects and research (Student subunit had project funded through this)
6. May 2018 - March 2019 Chapter review:

Reports

- Treasurer's Report – Lee Ann Gardner (Written treasurer's report handout provided)

IRS reporting completed; Eventbrite continues to work well in conjunction with square for on-site sales; table with net gain/loss from annual meeting to annual meeting presented; Lee Ann now finishing first year of four year term, continuing to seek someone to fill in behind her; the position has become much easier over time thanks to Justin Priest and Tyler Dann's work over the past two years; would love to see someone shadow for the next few meetings with travel cost covered;
- Secretary's Report – Scott Ayers  
Brief comments by the Chapter secretary
- Student Representative's Report – Justin Priest  
Coordinate with students and student groups across the state; student volunteers have been great this year; please support student travel
- Past President's Report – Aaron Martin Bylaws (provided by Jeff Falke)

Aaron absent due to work conflict, in Aaron's absence Jeff provided a brief summary of the activities with the Chapter bylaws and that the process was ongoing at that time.

- Vice President's Report – Stephanie Quinn-Davidson

Membership update: 275 people currently registered; last year 331 (WD meeting year); in 2017 we had 288 members; overall we have seen a decline in membership (high 300's to low 400); trend in decline of regular memberships – not sure what's going on if folks are leaving or just not getting involved; increase in students and young professionals; need to figure out what's going on with the general membership numbers

2020 AFS-Alaska Annual Meeting: heading back to Fairbanks; likely to be around same dates; working with Explore Fairbanks on this to make sure we don't overlap with TCC meeting; likely late March; hoping to do exciting new things for the meeting; Randy plans to reach out to HooDoo about social there; Send any other ideas to Stephanie Q-D; perhaps a ski 5K instead of a run 5K; will be soliciting folks to work on meeting committees; shout out to students for driving the trends on inclusivity and code of conduct

- President-Elect – Joel Markis

2019 Annual Meeting program review: Meeting a success for all intents and purposes; spectacular space; registration we have had 122 folks in attendance; challenges this year, clearly (Federal furlough and State Budget issues); 44 students and 18 young professionals;

Electronic presence/website update: we now have access to our Chapter website; webhost charges high \$ to do minimal changes to website; switched to Parent society to do web hosting for our meeting page in 2019; plan is to transition our Chapter website to the new format hosted by Parent society, will allow us to update our bylaws and procedures manuals on the website, meeting photos, etc.;

Communications with Membership update: switching to mail chimp from our current list serve; event bright has been successful; survey monkey – using electronic communications with chapter members for voting now in a timely manner

- Standing Committees

- Finance Assets Oversight Committee (Ray Hander): shout out to Tyler Dann for helping out Lee Ann; 2017/18 our portfolio was pretty flat; our holdings are with WF Advisors and Vanguard (cultural diversity award only); we are using a moderate to conservative risk portfolio so we are doing pretty well given the current flat market; this has served us well since we've been doing this; Other accomplishment this past year FAO submitted a revised chapter finance plan as part of the procedures manual update
- Molly Ahlgren Scholarship Award Committee (Ray Hander): Process went as normal; assess fund to determine amount available for each year at the end of June; mid-December we choose the recipient; Congratulations to this year's recipient, Noah Khalsa

- Awards Committee: Currently without a chair; Jeff serving as interim chair until filled or he can step into it (after his past-presidency term is filled); no meritorious service award nominees this year; no almost Darwin award;
- Wally Noerenberg Award Committee: no nominations this year; also in need of a chair; chair of that committee is limited to those who have not been a past president
- Cultural Diversity Committee: (Cheryl Barnes) Sara Gilk-Baumer unable to attend; committee met in January to finalize award; got another set of great candidates with limited available funds; 2 recipients funded fully (Danielle Lowrey & Jesse Gordon) and one funded partially (Christopher Barahona); worked with EXCOM to implement some of the inclusivity changes that occurred at this meeting (15% meeting discount for those traveling with families to help offset costs; hoping to maybe offer onsite daycare in the future; pro-noun stickers; diverse plenary speakers; meeting code of conduct; free registration for HS students to get them involved; sign-up sheet in lobby for ongoing mentorship program); committee looking to be more active year round and not just during the meetings
- Environmental Concerns Committee (Bert and Nicky not able to attend): Jeff F. very little activity for the past few years, thanks to everyone that attended the Environmental Concerns meeting (the previous night) and the great energy; quick summary we talked about 6 different issues: WOTUS; Donlin Mine; Pebble Mine; Tongass Roadless Rule; Hard Rock Mining; Climate Change; please sign up if you want to assist on these fronts
- Continuing Education Committee (Sara Miller not able to attend): 2 courses offered Alaska Marine Safety happened on Monday; R course was cancelled; looking to try something new to offer trainings at times other than the meetings: 1) R-Course, and 2) Electrofishing course by Jim Reynolds
- Fisheries and Environmental Education Committee: No report

- President's Report – Jeff Falke:

The Executive Committee had a great, productive retreat in February. Interest by WD to bring in Yukon Territory, they have a strong connection to Alaska, going to try to invite them to Fbks for next year's meeting to have discussions on how to involve them more in the Chapter; Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) developing list of possible folks to serve as experts on subjects; update EEC information on the website, also for submission of issues; submitting semi-annual listening call for ECC

7. Farewell remarks from outgoing President – Jeff Falke: enjoyed time on EXCOM (10 months as president – due to meeting cycle); made so many great connections in AK and across division from last year's meeting; we have such a great membership; only regret is that his term is over just as he's getting up to speed on how the Chapter functions; looking forward to role of past-president

8. Remarks from the new President – Joel Markis

9. New Business: None

10. Appointment of new Executive Committee officers

Vice President: Sue Mauger

Student Representative: Donnie Arthur

11. Open forum: No comments

12. Adjourn: Motion by Peter Westley, Second by Ray hander [1:25 pm]