I received word that our application moved through the Accreditation Board and was approved by the full board of the U.S. Chamber this month. There are over 7,000 Chambers in the country and less than half percent are accredited. Your chamber is one of the best in country.

On a personal note, we were complimentary on a producer for a strong accreditation application — a true testament to the health and efficacy of our pro-business voice in Alaska!

The next time we publish, I'll be introducing you to an exciting new leader for Alaska's pro-business association. We also have a full advocacy agenda for the legislative session and some exciting programs and events coming up. One of them — the Alaska Chamber Health Plan (ACHP) — is a total game changer for small businesses!

By Cory Baggen

Board Chair, Alaska Chamber

This is going to be an eventful year for Alaska Chamber members. In this message, I want to thank Curtis W. Thayer for his incredibly successful service as Chamber president and CEO.

The next time we publish Business to Business, I'll be introducing you to an exciting new leader for Alaska's pro-business association. We also have a full advocacy agenda for the legislative session and some exciting programs and events coming up. One of them — the Alaska Chamber Health Plan (ACHP) — is a total game changer for small businesses!

Curtis finished a number of the Chamber's long-term projects. Our advocacy platform is strong. Business issues are moving even with contentious political and regulatory environments in Juneau and Washington. I've been proud of our Chamber for years, and now we have a national accreditation award in recognition of decades of free market excellence.

Our membership has grown, and I think we'll see even more new faces with the introduction of the ACHP as a new service for Alaska small businesses. Given the focus on new services and an incoming executive, 2019 just might be the best time to sponsor a Chamber event.

Event sponsorship always pays dividends, but this year will be a great chance to introduce new, incoming members to the companies that make advocacy, networking, and now healthcare possible for Alaska businesses.

I was born and raised in Alaska, but Chamber events have allowed me to see parts of the state that I might otherwise have never experienced. Naturally, our Legislative Fly-In is in Juneau to meet with lawmakers.

The annual conference moves around Alaska, but requires a venue large enough to host hundreds of business professionals. Our yearly Community Outreach Trip has no such constraints.

This year we will visit Denali, one of the most iconic locations in a state rich with iconic locations. Registration for these outreach trips is limited. Register early and join us May 21-23 in full view of the Great One at McKinley Chalet Resort.

The Chamber website hosts the full agenda and registration details. Chamber staff will also be able to help with sponsorship details.

May will be here before we know it, so sign up today and I hope to see you there!

I have had an eventful term as board chair. We've navigated important elections, tax initiatives, workers comp reform, and more. The board has been discussing a health care offering for long enough that I don't want to put it in print for fear of dating myself. Through all of that, Curtis has impressed me with a tireless work ethic and experienced advice.

You made it look easy, Curtis. From all of us at the Chamber, thank you for your service.

From the Chair: An exciting year lies ahead

Our advocacy platform is strong. Business issues are moving even with contentious political and regulatory environments in Juneau and Washington. I've been proud of our Chamber for years, and now we have a national accreditation award in recognition of decades of free market excellence.

The Chamber will always stand ready as a shield against unforeseen obstacles or threats to Alaska business. We maintain the access, resources, and connections needed to protect the private sector from a variety of challenges.

Our workers' compensation system was failing our injured workers, it piled crippling costs on employers, and held us at a competitive disadvantage with the rest of the nation.

There were certainly moments of light over the years. The Chamber worked with former Representative Kurt Olson to affect several small, incremental improvements. Comprehensive reform, however, remained elusive.

That changed last year with the introduction of Senator Cathy Giessel's Senate Bill 112. The bill protects workers and employers with evidence-based treatment guidelines, reemployment benefits, and a streamlined dispute process.

It provides much-needed time frames for defining total, permanent and partial disability. And thankfully — finally — we have a bill that caps attorney fees.

A functioning workers' compensation system should provide protection for workers and employers.

There is a lot of work to be done, and we headed in the right direction.

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The Chamber must always remain vigilant. However, the accomplishments that I'm most proud in my time with the Chamber are our proactive initiatives controlling costs and increasing opportunity for Alaska companies.

Thank you for your partnership and support during my time as President, and I look forward to many more years of camaraderie as fellow members of the Chamber.

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Welcome
New Members

Alaska Interpreting Alliance, Inc.

An interpreter and woman-owned company, Alaska Interpreting Alliance, Inc. provides only professional, RID Nationally Certified Interpreters to fulfill your interpreting needs. Their services include on-site interpreting, video remote interpreting (VRI), training, consulting, mentoring, deaf language models, deaf education specialists, and more. Visit them online at alaskainterpretingalliance.com.

Alaska Policy Forum

Founded in 2006, Alaska Policy Forum’s vision is an Alaska that continuously grows prosperity by maximizing individual opportunities and freedom. Their mission is to empower and educate Alaskans and policymakers by promoting policies that grow freedom for all. Visit them online at alaskapolicyforum.org.

Colville

With decades of experience delivering services in Alaska, the Colville group of oil field supply companies are well suited to provide the quality services you need on the North Slope. Arctic logistics are what they do, and Alaska’s North Slope is where they live. Colville is both Alaska-based and a local Arctic supply company. Visit them online at colvilleinc.com.

Culmination Motorsports

Located in Anchorage, Culmination Motorsports specializes in European automobile service and restoration with an emphasis on restoration and service of Porsche 911, Porsche 356, and air-cooled Volkswagen cars. Whether it is a complete restoration or basic service, you can be sure it will be completed with an exceptional level of quality and care. Visit them online at culminationmotorsports.com.

Coastal Real Estate Group

Founded in 2010 with a new vision for real estate in Ketchikan, Coastal Real Estate Group is a top-selling group of Ketchikan realtors who came together to establish a company with customer service as its top priority. Combining more than 100 years of experience in the Ketchikan real estate market, Coastal Real Estate Group is taking real estate in Alaska to a higher level. Visit them online at coastalak.com.

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Copper Valley Telecom

For over 50 years, Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative (CVTC), dba Copper Valley Telecom, has proudly served the Valdez and Copper River Basin areas. They provide high-quality communication services including landline telephone for residents and businesses, calling features, long distance, high-speed Internet connectivity, and wireless voice and data. In addition, they provide high-capacity special access services for businesses and telecommunication carriers over a fiber and microwave network. Visit them online at cvinternet.net.

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The Landing Hotel

Located in Ketchikan, Alaska, The Landing Hotel is conveniently situated across the street from the Alaska Marine Highway Ferry Terminal and the Tongass Narrows from the Ketchikan International Airport. Whether you're visiting Alaska’s First City for business or pleasure, their accommodations ensure a relaxing, productive stay with home-style comforts. Visit them online at landinghotel.com.

Pruhs Corporation

Located in Anchorage, Alaska, Pruhs Corporation primarily operates in the concrete construction: roads, highways, sidewalks, etc. business / industry within the heavy Construction, except building construction, contractor sector.

Serlin Haley, LLP

Across the nation, officials at all levels of government are debating – and questioning – the role of business in society. Companies are under attack. Serlin Haley LLP is the voice of business in the political arena – not only in only one state capital, but in statehouses and city halls across the nation. Visit them online at serlinhaley.com.
Alaska Chamber Health Plan

VIGNON,
COMMITMENT,
LEADERSHIP AND
ONE BANK
THAT BELIEVED IN US

Bethel Native Corporation has grown from a $10 million operation to a $99 million enterprise while meeting the challenges of Alaska’s ever-changing economy.

First National has helped Bethel Native Corporation succeed. We believe in strong leadership, clear vision and a firm commitment to growing Alaska’s economy.

From custom loan structures and lines of credit to payroll disbursement and dividend pay-outs, First National is the one bank who can help your business sustain success every step of the way.

Promises kept. Trust earned. Since 1922.

We believe in Alaska.
FNBA Alaska.com

Save the Date
Plan to Participate!

2019 Community Outreach Trip
May 21-23
Denali

2019 Fall Forum
October 22-24
Cordova

Mark your calendars and check our website for more information at alaskachamber.com.

Whether you’re a family business, partnership, or the owner of a small company, you don’t have to face the challenges of entrepreneurship alone. Building a network of partners is often the best way to accomplish a shared interest, and access to competitive health care benefits is something we can all get behind.

The Alaska Chamber Health Plan (ACHP) is an association health plan. These nationally available plans allow small businesses to band together to obtain health care coverage as if they were a single large employer.

On January 1, 2019 association health plans became available for chambers of commerce to offer as a member benefit. We’ve wasted no time in making this exciting new offering available for Alaska employers. These association plans allow the Alaska Chamber to negotiate better deals for our members when buying insurance — a big benefit for small business.

We’ve teamed up with Risq Consulting and Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska to create this new member benefit. Expect to learn more about ACHP over the coming months as we publish video and print materials about the plan, and Chamber staff presents to local chambers around the state.

Open enrollment begins May 1 with policies effective July 1. Below are some important facts and tips about ACHP:

• ACHP participation is available for businesses with 2 to 50 employees
• Enrollment is available for Alaska Chamber members and/or members of a participating local Alaska chamber
• ACHP participants have access to medical, dental, and vision coverage
• Choose from three medical plans and two dental plans
• Vision coverage is embedded in all plans
• Competitive health care plans help Alaska businesses recruit and retain employees
• Lower health care costs promote a healthy business environment in Alaska

Learn more about ACHP online at www.alaskachamber.com/health.
By Alaska Chamber staff

On January 30-31 the Alaska Chamber hosted its members in Juneau for our annual Legislative Fly-In and first quarter Board meeting. The annual two-day trip provides Chamber members a unique opportunity to build relationships and speak with the Governor and our members of the State House and Senate on how issues impact their business in Alaska.

More than 80 Chamber members met with elected officials as advocates for Alaska’s business community. In addition to legislators, we met with the Lt. Governor Kevin Meyer, as well as Office of Management and Budget Donna Arduin. We also enjoyed time with Governor Mike Dunleavy at the Governor’s Mansion.

In addition to our advocacy efforts, members heard from a number of speakers. Senate President Cathy Giessel, Senator Natasha von Imhof, and Senator Bert Steman presented at the traditional Legislative Leadership luncheon. Department of Revenue Commissioner Bruce Tangeman addressed the efforts underway for a sustainable budget. Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation CEO Angela Rodell provided an annual update on the health of Alaska’s Permanent Fund and what we can expect for the short and long-term investment climate of the fund.

During a joint luncheon with the Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce at Centennial Hall on Thursday, keynote speaker Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development Commissioner Julie Anderson shared how her department would support Governor Dunleavy’s message that Alaska “open for business.”

Once again, we would like to thank all those who were able to attend and make this year’s Fly-In a great success. This two-day event would not have been possible without the support of the Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce, our sponsors, and elected officials.
Annual Fly-In connects Alaska Chamber members with legislators, governor

1. Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce President Mike Satre welcomes Alaska Chamber members to Juneau.

2. Alaska Chamber members pose with Gov. Mike Dunleavy at the Governor’s Mansion.


5. Alaska Chamber members Kristina Woolston, Kevin Barry, and Chamber Member Services Director Pete Nolan meet with Sen. Dave Wilson.


7. U.S. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Chris Eyler provides a federal update.

8. Alaska Permanent Fund Corp. CEO Angela Rodell provides an annual update on the health of Alaska’s Permanent Fund and what we can expect for the short and long-term investment climate of the fund.

9. Department of Revenue Commissioner Bruce Tangeman addresses the efforts underway for a sustainable budget.

10. Alaska Chamber members Andy Pennington, Tom Brady, and Chuck Brady meet with Sen. Lora Reinbold.

Explore Denali
...with your fellow Alaska Chamber members!

Register today to join your fellow Alaska Chamber members in Denali, Alaska for our 2019 Community Outreach Trip on May 21-23. Space will be limited. View registration and sponsorship opportunities at alaskachamber.com.
ABW: Spotlight on Matanuska-Susitna students

The end of the school year is approaching. For enterprising Alaska teenagers, summer is a time for seasonal jobs, educational camps, and volunteerism. For many, Alaska Business Week (ABW) is a chance to develop a professional network and resume while learning business skills.

ABW is the business community’s response to the need for grassroots training of Alaska’s next generation of employers. Private sector professionals are simply the best mentors for young, aspiring business men and women.

ABW camps are where business professionals work directly with young Alaskans, teaching them how to run a company profitably and ethically.

As important as that mission is, the effort would be worthless without the students themselves. In this Business-2-Business spotlight, we’ll focus on three Matanuska-Susitna Valley students that attended ABW camps over the past several years.

They are each impressive in their own way and representative of the hard-working, motivated young people who attend ABW each summer.

Jennie Erskine: Mat-Su Business Week 2018 (Wasilla High School)

Jeni Erskine is a Houston High School student who attended the Wasilla-based business week camp in 2018. She developed an early affinity for the accounting components of the curriculum. With her guidance, Jeni’s group vied for the top spot in the competitive business simulation.

Her obvious work ethic and interest in technology captured the attention of Peter House, ABW guest lecturer and CEO of the Valley-based IT consultancy Deep Tree. An IT internship is in the works for summer 2019. Jeni’s camp participation was made possible by a memorial gift from the Leroy Johnson family, advancing Leroy’s vision of local small business ownership.

Glenn Steer: Alaska Business Week 2018 (Alaska Pacific University)

Glenn Steer is no stranger to hard work. He is the son of Iliediator numbers and grew up working at the family-owned Sheep Mountain Lodge. Glenn attended the 2018 statewide ABW program located at the Alaska Pacific University campus in Anchorage.

When not in high school, Glenn has his own construction company. He builds floating docks for Valley property owners and took time away from work to learn how to better promote his business. Glenn’s ABW experience was sponsored by Marathon Petroleum (Tesoro/Andeavor) and the Matanuska Telephone Association.

2019 SUMMER CAMPS

- **KOTZEBUE**
  - April 29 - May 3
  - 8am - 5pm, Monday - Friday
  - UAF Chukchi Campus

- **ANCHORAGE**
  - July 8 - July 12
  - 8am - 5pm, Monday - Friday
  - King Tech High School

- **MAT-SU**
  - July 22 - July 26
  - 8am - 5pm, Monday - Friday
  - Colony High School

Alaska Business Week offers weeklong summer camps for high school students

Alaska Business Week is a fun, intensive entrepreneurship experience for high school students. ABW runs one-week programs teaching the basics of business, leadership, and entrepreneurship.

Participants compete as teams in a dynamic business simulation with the guidance of adult mentors from the business community. After completing the program, students have a competitive edge on workplace readiness, college preparation, and overall life success.

At ABW, students get personal experience working with real business leaders, company founders and CEOs. At the start of each camp, students form dedicated teams or “companies” to compete in a gamified business simulation. The curriculum is designed to promote leadership, ethical decision-making, public speaking, collaborative teamwork, and profitable entrepreneurship for Alaska communities.

ABW: Spotlight on Matanuska-Susitna students
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