



Alaska Chamber 2018 Annual Report

65th
ANNIVERSARY
1953•2018



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VISION



To be the leading voice
advancing Alaska business.



MISSION

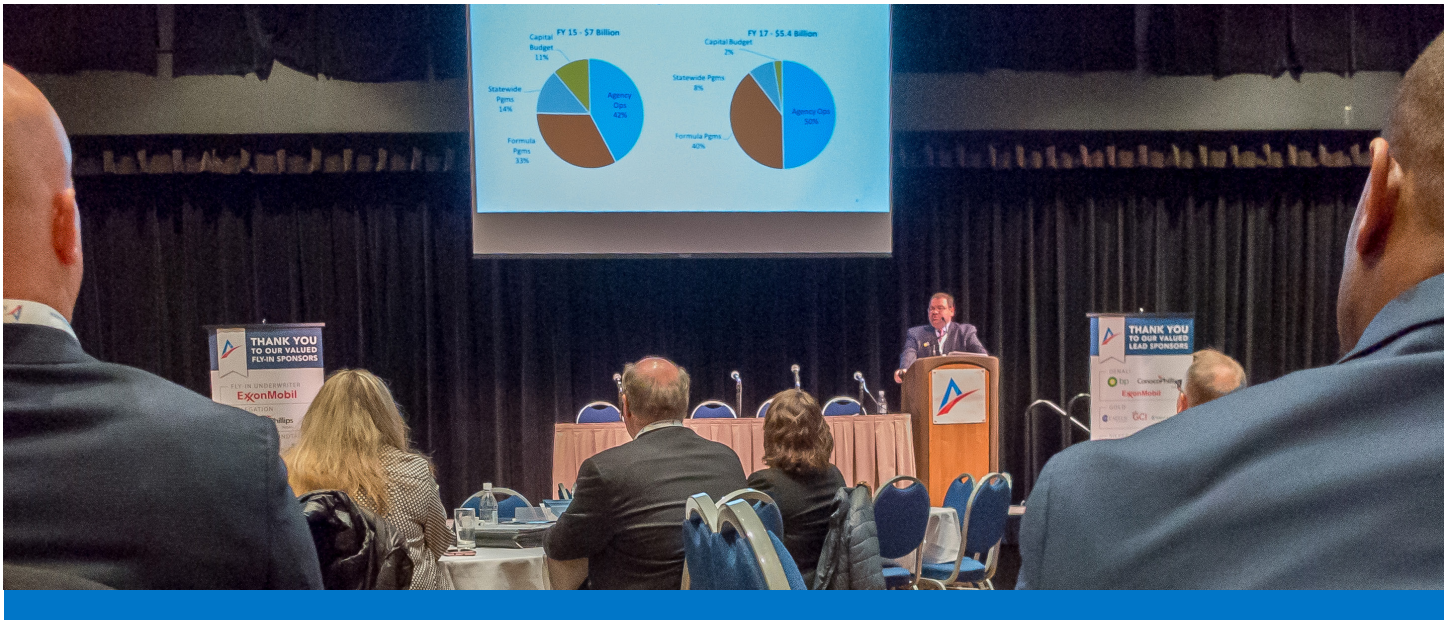
To promote a healthy business
environment in Alaska.



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



To Our Members,

For more than 65 years, the Alaska Chamber has been the voice of Alaska business, helping our members grow and promote collaboration. Working hand-in-hand with business, government, and the community, the Chamber continues to champion economic prosperity and quality of life for Alaskans.

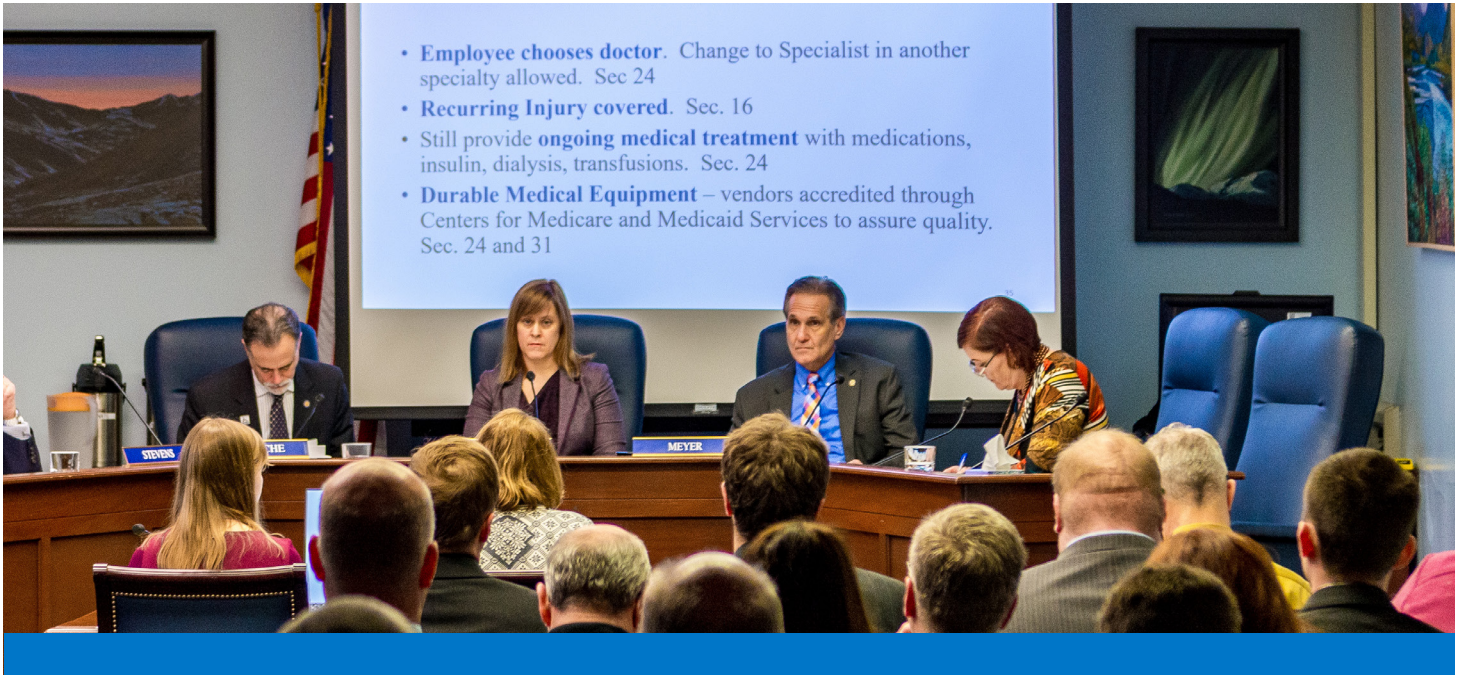
2018 was a strong year for the Chamber as we charged full-speed ahead with bold action on our state and federal priorities. We are only as strong as our members, and the Chamber is continuously working to help enhance the businesses that make our organization an influential alliance. We are pleased to present this annual report, which highlights the Chamber's activities in 2018.

We are honored to continue serving you. Through the strength of our members, we will continue to grow as an organization and as the Voice of Alaska Business for another 65 years.

Curtis W. Thayer
President and CEO

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

The Alaska Chamber ensures the voice of Alaska business is heard in Juneau and Washington DC. We stand behind strong, pro-business legislation and advocate for issues that affect you.



During the 30th Alaska Legislature we **monitored over 300 pending bills** in Juneau. 15 of the 20 bills we supported passed, and 18 of the 20 bills we opposed did not.

Through the **Alaska Business Report Card**, we monitored legislators and the Governor and graded them on how they support legislation on Alaska’s private business sector (alaskabusinessreportcard.com).

A piece of legislation the Chamber supported that will absolutely have a positive

impact on Alaska is **House Bill 331**, a bill to pay outstanding tax credits to independent oil companies.

We defeated **House Bill 115**, a bill that would have taxed nearly all forms of income — personal income, capital gains, pensions, estates and trusts — placing the burden on individuals and their businesses would only exacerbate our current economic situation.

We drafted **Senate Bill 112**, a comprehensive Workers’ Compensation Reform bill —

the first of its kind in 14 years. The Chamber found a staunch ally in Senator Cathy Giessel. We worked alongside her to advance one of the Chamber’s top state priorities, workers’ compensation reform. Together we drafted language that would eventually become SB 112. Through outreach and hard work we managed to get SB 112 out of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee. We will continue to advocate for the reform measures in SB 112 as the new legislature convenes in 2019.

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Alaska Chamber speaks with a strong and credible voice for business, and supports development efforts by helping Alaska businesses expand and succeed.



Presented the results of the **Chamber's annual Public Opinion Survey** to 13 communities around Alaska including: Sitka, Juneau, Anchorage, Wasilla, Whittier, Fairbanks, Kenai, Soldotna, Palmer, Chugiak-Eagle River, Seward, Ketchikan, and Homer.



Hosted one of the final **Gubernatorial Debates** at our annual Fall Forum in Fairbanks, Alaska before the November election to a packed house of 400 attendees.



Took an active role in supporting the **Stand for Alaska – Vote NO on 1** ballot initiative by creating a resolution for other local Alaska chambers to sign on to and garner support from their members.



Continue to **support a reduction in spending** from the General Fund, excluding both the capital budget and Permanent Fund Dividend, from the previous fiscal year's spending level until the State reaches a sustainable level of spending.



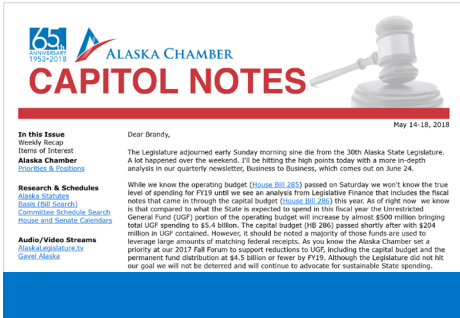
Worked with our Congressional Delegation to support safe and responsible oil and gas exploration and development in the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)**.



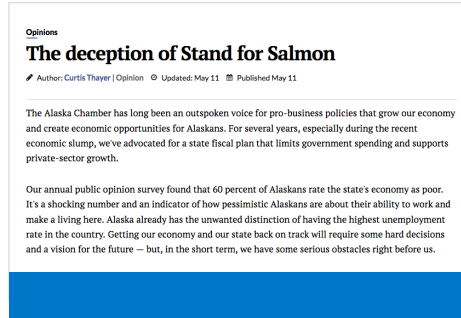
Leading the charge in formulating and developing an **Association Health Plan (AHP)** to offer affordable and competitive benefits package for the Chamber's small business members.

EXPOSURE AND VISIBILITY

Alaska Chamber members gain valuable exposure through legislative updates, emails, newsletters, public service announcements, articles, press releases, Chamber website, and events.



During the 30th Alaska State Legislature, 18 issues of **Capitol Notes** provided Chamber members with the latest information from Juneau and opportunities to engage on the priorities and issues important to the business community.



Several **op-eds** on topics important to the Alaska business community were published in multiple media outlets including such topics as Opening ANWR, Alaska Chamber Public Opinion Survey Results, and Stand for Alaska – Vote NO on 1.



Printed as an insert in the Alaska Journal of Commerce, the **Business to Business Newsletter** publication has been produced and mailed quarterly to 6,000 business leaders in Alaska.



The **It's Your Business Newsletter** publication has been produced and emailed biweekly to 1,400+ members providing them information on Chamber business, programs, membership and upcoming events.



The Chamber's **social media** presence on Facebook reach grew 31+% with page likes totaling ~5,740.



In 2019, the annual **Membership Directory** will be distributed to over 800 members. The 100+ page reference guide features tools for members to make connections with hundreds of reputable businesses, be informed on advocacy, and strengthen business.

NETWORKING

Our annual events bring together top business leaders and elected officials, providing members with exclusive networking opportunities.



More than 80 Chamber members were on hand during the **Legislative Fly-In** to promote the Chamber's priorities to legislators. We met with 55 elected officials as advocates for Alaska's business community.



The **Member Appreciation Reception** was held aboard Holland America Line's MS Zaandam at the Port of Alaska. Chamber members in attendance were recognized during a brief program. In attendance was Governor Mike Dunleavy, as well as representatives from Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan's office.



The **Community Outreach Trip** was a success surpassing its attendance goal. Highlights of this year's trip include tours of both the Valdez Marine Terminal and Silver Bay Seafoods' state-of-the-art processing plant, as well as a Stan Stephens' evening cruise in Port Valdez.



Arguably the most important membership meeting of the year is the annual **Fall Forum** which includes our Conference, Policy Forum and the Top Business Awards. More than 150 individuals and business leaders joined in us Fairbanks, Alaska to celebrate 65 years of pro-business advocacy and grassroots development.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Chamber offers professional development opportunities and education programs throughout the year to its members and staff to inform and enhance their professional and personal skill sets.



Held annually, the **New Board Member Orientation** informs new and existing board members on what the Chamber has to offer, and how to make the most of their membership. The training aims to engage, inspire, and help understand how they can support the mission.



Hosted monthly **Business Bites** luncheons for members on such topics as Alaska LNG Update, Cyber Security Awareness Training, Satellite Broadband for All, and State and Federal Health Care Update.



Three Alaska Chamber staff members completed their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's **Institute for Organization Management (IOM)**. Graduates of the four-year program receive the IOM Graduate Recognition, signifying 96 hours of course instruction in nonprofit management.



The Alaska Chamber team completed the following **staff professional development**: the President and CEO participated in The Foraker Groups's Executive Leadership Initiative, and he along with the team completed the following courses: Cyber Security Awareness Training, First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training, and Workplace Harassment Training.

MEMBERSHIP

We continue to grow our membership base, developing our range and quality of events, and advocate for our members on many fronts in order to support the economic development of Alaska.



Retained **89% of our valuable members** — well beyond the national average for nonprofit associations and organizations.



Successfully added **48 new members** during the year through a variety of recruitment efforts and membership campaigns.



We enjoyed another successful year completing it with nearly **800 members** representing all business sectors.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

The Alaska Chamber was awarded a **Legislative Citation** in recognition of the Chamber's 65 years of pro-business advocacy and economic development for Alaska.



As part of this year's Top Business Awards, the Chamber assigned a special recognition to Alaska's Congressional Delegation — the **49th State Public Service Award**. The special citation is presented to a remarkable individual or group making substantial and continual contributions of statewide significance while working in public service.



The delegation has diligently gathered support for safe and responsible offshore development — a longtime federal priority of the Alaska Chamber. They have fought

for Alaska's right to develop resources by opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to responsible exploration, development, and production. For their steadfast

efforts, the Chamber is proud to present this award to U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, and U.S. Representative Don Young.

TOP BUSINESS AWARDS

Around 200 guests attended the Top Business Awards Gala held at the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel and Conference Center in Fairbanks, Alaska to honor the 2018 Top Business Award recipients.



Governors Frank Murkowski and Bill Sheffield received the **William A. Egan Outstanding Alaskan of the Year** award. Committing a lifetime of service to Alaska, both have served as governors and as chair of the Chamber board of directors.



First National Bank Alaska (FNBA) is the recipient of the new **Rita Sholton Large Business of the Year** award. Under the direction of Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer Betsy Lawer, FNBA ranks among the nation's top banks.



The McDowell Group is the **Bill Bivin Small Business of the Year** recipient, who's mission is to enhance the economic, social, and cultural well-being of its clients. They provide accurate and unbiased insights on Alaska markets and public perceptions.



The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce received the **Local Alaska Chamber of Commerce of the Year** award. The Anchorage Chamber works hard to promote free enterprise and economic prosperity in Alaska, and the organization's efforts benefit businesses far beyond the Anchorage region.



Charles 'Chuck' Brady was honored with a special **Chairman's Award** for his many years of steadfast leadership in the reformation of Alaska's troubled workers' compensation system. Chuck's diligence and patience are paving a pathway to success on what has been an enduring Chamber priority.



First Lady Nancy Murkowski was recognized with the **North Star Award**. When the stage warrants it, the Chamber presents the North Star Award to an individual or organization in Alaska who actively develops and pursues the betterment of all Alaska residents.



ALASKA CHAMBER

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