Aleut International Association
Annual Report 2016

“Promoting continuity of culture and protecting the resources needed to sustain it.”
AIA Events

- GLACIER Meeting:
- USA becomes the chair of Arctic Council
- 275th anniversary celebration of Vitus Bering’s discovery of The Commander Islands in Nikolskoye, Russia.

Photo Left to Right: Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory, Chantae Kochuten, Jim Gamble, Liza Mack, Arlene Gundersen, Laresa Syverson, and Vera Belobrova
Arctic Council Permanent Participants, Senior Arctic Officials, and others at the October 2015 Senior Arctic Officials meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. AIA representatives in photo: Jim Gamble, Arlene Gundersen, Thomas Mack, Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory, and Vera Belobrova.
AIA Volunteers and Collaborations

• *The Aleut Corporation, Thomas Mack* representative at Arctic Economic Council
• Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association,
  – *Karen Pletnikoff*, representative at Emergency Preparedness, Prevention, and Response Working Group (EPPR)
  – *Dr. Cody Chipp*, Co-Chair of the Arctic Human Health Expert Group
  – *Sue Unger*, representative for EALLU: Arctic Indigenous Youth, Climate Change and Food Culture project
• *GCI, Jenifer Nelson*, Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure in the Arctic.
• *Liza Mack*, Co-Chair Social, Economic, and Cultural Expert Group

Photo: EPPR Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response meeting in Washington DC, September 2015
Community Based Observation Networks for Situational Awareness.

- Provides real-time observations within a cultural context.
- Increases community members’ capacity to enhance security and safety.
- Ultimately trained as first responders.
Observers in Gambell, Alaska and recently added Unalaska and Wales, Alaska.
Recently began testing Field Information Support Tool using smart phones.
Arctic Marine Indigenous Use Mapping: Tools for Communities (AMIUM)

- Thank you to the Oak Foundation, Korea Maritime Institute, and Circumpolar Conservation Union for their support with this project!
- Provide resources for indigenous communities to produce high quality maps of important marine use areas.

Photo Left to Right: Justin (Jong-Deog) Kim from Korea Maritime Institute, Jim Gamble, and Chinsoo Lim
- Testing use of tablets to create maps using ESRI Collector and accompanying guidebook for creating maps.
- Will ultimately help communities develop capacity to conduct research and participate in decisions affecting marine use areas.

Photo Credit: Amazon.com
St. George Project

Thank you to the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for your support!

This project will bring together members of selected Alaskan and Russian Aleut communities, including students, national marine sanctuary experts, and practitioners to discuss the benefits and opportunities presented by national marine sanctuary status and other marine protection measures.

Photo Credit: Sharon Merculief

Thank you to the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for your support!
Mednij Island Dialect

This project is researching Aleut language adaptation related to the Mednij Island dialect, a unique mixed language spoken only by a handful of elders, through Aleut experts from Alaska and Russia.

Data from this project will be archived at the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA), Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, and the Alaska Native Language Archive.
Future AIA Projects

CONAS – Togiak, Sand Point, Gambell, and Savoonga
This year AIA was awarded two grants from Alaska Native Fund and the North Pacific Research Board, that fund the continuation of our CONAS project to gather unique insights and observations of changing conditions in the Arctic.

Community Based Monitoring/Black Carbon
AIA made Arctic Council history by successfully submitting a grant application through the Arctic Council’s Project Support Instrument and became the first Permanent Participant led project to be approved. We expect the funding to come through sometime in 2016 to begin work on phase II to look it options for identifying sources of black carbon and mitigation measures communities can take. We would also like to thank the Swedish EPA for providing funding to help us get to this stage in the project!
Marketing & Fundraising

- First ever AIA Raffle fundraiser with a Samsung Galaxy S7, 50,000 Alaska Air Miles, and more as prizes!!!!

- Signed up with Amazon Smile so that when an individual signs up with AIA as their nonprofit beneficiary, then AIA receives 0.5% of eligible purchases as a donation.

- Razoo is also a new tool to accept donations directly to AIA: https://www.razoo.com/us/story/Aleut-International-Association
Community Outreach

• We have begun work to improve outreach in our communities and Alaska.
  – Attended the APICDA Community Conference in April
  – Presented to the Alaska Native Village Corporation Association in April
  – Attended the Annual Aleut Picnic at the Aleut Corporation in conjunction with the end of the Urban Unangan Culture Camp in May.
  – Presenting at the Aleutian Life Forum in August
  – Will have a table at the Aleut Villages Conference in October!
In the Coming Year:

- Search for a new venue for our gaming permit.
- Will submit an application with National Science Foundation during their next RFP for multi-year funding to continue CONAS.
- Find representatives for CAFF, and AMAP, working groups in the Arctic Council.
- Find funding to send Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory to Nikolskoye to hold a bentwood visor workshop.
AIA Board of Directors

- Arlene Gundersen, President of Sand Point, Alaska
- Irina Timonkina, Vice President of Nikolskoye, Russia
- O. Patricia Lakanoff-Gregory, Secretary/Treasurer, of Unalaska, Alaska
- Ivan Vozhikov of Nikolskoye, Russia
- Arnold Dushkin of Unalaska, Alaska
- Vera Belobrova of Nikolskoye, Russia
- Lorraine Jonsson of False Pass, Alaska
- Valentina Sushkova of Nikolskoye, Russia
- Delores Kochuten, Alternate Board member of King Cove, Alaska