



ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION

FALL 2013

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A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy fall everyone. Of course, every fall begins a new school year and this fall is no different. APOC has been working to bring more education to filers for the last two years. APOC is working to become a more educational or preventative agency rather than a punitive agency. The thinking is that more education will help prevent errors that lead to complaints and other penalties.

Last year APOC staff conducted 45 total training sessions for lobbying topics, group reporting, candidates, and POFD/LFD reporting in Anchorage, Juneau, Wasilla, Fairbanks, and Lake and Peninsula Borough that had a total of 492 attendees. This year there have been 19 sessions held in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Wasilla, and Soldotna with 209 attendees. The numbers quoted for 2013 do not take into account the 151 lobbyists or employers of lobbyists that took training on-line. The response from attendees has been positive and we look forward to continuing the practice in the future. Staff is particularly pleased to note that some areas are now requesting training sessions and we are happy to make every effort to meet those requests.

It is interesting that in each year the average attendance per session was 11 people. While this may seem to be a relatively low average, often campaign treasurers and group treasurers deal with multiple campaigns and groups. As a result, even this seemingly low average touches

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many more campaigns and groups than the raw numbers would indicate. The more areas we can impact the better for everyone; better compliance with the law, fewer fines, and more public transparency.

In addition to training, APOC has also been engaging in outreach efforts to bring the mission of the agency and special interest items such as the electronic reporting system to the public. In 2012 there were 15 sessions held in a variety of locations; Homer, Kenai, Wasilla, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Eagle River, Soldotna, and North Pole. These 15 sessions were attended by a total of 332 people, or 22 people per meeting.

This year's topic concerns reporting requirements for ballot initiatives, ballot propositions and ballot questions as there is the potential for many of these in the 2014 primary election. So far this year 178 people have attended a total of five sessions held in Homer, Kenai, Anchorage, Wasilla, and Sitka; an average attendance of 35 people. Later this year presentations are scheduled for Wasilla on October 16 for the Rotary Club of Wasilla and the Susitna Rotary Club; Valdez on November 4 for the community to be held on the Prince William Sound Community College Campus; Glennallen on



.....EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTINUED...

November 5 for the community at the PWSCC Copper Basin Extension Center there; Palmer on November 7 for the Palmer Rotary; Fairbanks on November 12 for the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce; and Seward on November 15 for the Seward Chamber of Commerce.

If a group in your area would like a presentation please contact us and we will do everything possible to accommodate your request.

ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION SEEKS PUBLIC MEMBER

Anchorage, AK 9/26/2013---The Alaska Public Offices Commission is seeking applicants to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Commission.

The Alaska Public Offices Commission is the state regulatory agency that administers laws requiring disclosure of the financial affairs of lobbyists, public officials, and candidates for state or municipal office. The Commission is seeking a person to serve as its public member for a 5 year term beginning in the spring of 2014. After review by the current Commission members, the person selected will be subject to appointment by the governor and confirmation by the legislature.

Members are expected to attend three or more commission meetings each year; meetings may be up to two or three days long. See AS 15.13.020 for a full list of the Commission's duties. Members receive a \$50 honorarium for each day of the meeting, plus reimbursement for travel and lodging expenses and per diem.

Members may not participate in any political activity while serving on the commission and must file a Public Official Financial Disclosure statement (POFD). The POFD is a public record that is required of many state commissions.

Any person interested in serving should send a resume and written statement of interest to: APOC Commission Public Member, ATTN: Chair, APOC, 2221 E. Northern Lights, #128, Anchorage, AK, 99508-4149. For more information about the process or the commission, contact Paul Dauphinais, Executive Director, 276-4176 or (800) 478-4176 (in-state). Applications will be accepted until the close of business on Friday November 15, 2013.



COMMON PROBLEMS FILING THE ELECTRONIC POFD (PUBLIC OFFICIAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE)

Problem: My myAlaska username and password will not work.

Solution: We're sorry but APOC cannot reset myAlaska usernames or passwords. You must go through the MyAlaska website at myalaska.help@alaska.gov to regain access. If you ultimately cannot retrieve your information from myAlaska, APOC can give you a copy of your last electronic POFD for reference. You will not be able to copy your last POFD because APOC cannot access filers' accounts. It's important to keep track of your myAlaska information.

Problem: I logged into myAlaska and did not see the last POFD form I submitted.

Solution: The most common reason filers don't see the last POFD they submitted is because they are logged into a different account from the last time they filed. Make sure that you did not use an account belonging to a spouse, legislative aide, treasurer, or someone else the last time you filed. If you did, you will need that account information to access the POFD in it. The second reason filers do not see their POFD is because they are in the wrong area on the website. Make sure you are looking under POFD and not another type of APOC report.

Problem: I can't download the POFD form.

Solution: The only POFD form available for viewing on the myAlaska website is the POFD template. The POFD template is just for reviewing and cannot be submitted as a POFD. To submit your POFD electronically, you must log into your account and submit the POFD electronically through the system. Paper POFDs are only available from APOC staff and distributed to municipalities that qualify to file via paper.

Problem: I can't go forward to the next page on the electronic form.

Solution: The main reason filers cannot go forward on the electronic POFD is because required information is missing. Scroll to the bottom of the page and you should see instructions in red print describing what is missing. If there is nothing there, or if the page is frozen, contact APOC.

Problem: My myAlaska account shows I filed multiple POFDs, when I only filed one then made amendments.

Solution: Your myAlaska account will store all of your POFDs, including amendments and ones that have not been submitted. The public is able to view the most recently amended and submitted POFDs/LFDs of candidates, the governor, lieutenant governor, and legislative filers, which show as a single report with an option to view prior amendments. If you have reports that show "incomplete" they have not been submitted and the public cannot see them. You can delete incomplete reports, but make sure you do not need them first.

For questions and comments regarding common problems filing the electronic POFD contact July Lam at the Anchorage APOC office (907) 276-4176.

POFDs of municipal filers and members of boards and commissions are not available to the public online, but may be requested from APOC staff members, who are required to provide those reports upon request.



RECENT ADVISORY OPINIONS

AO 13-05-CD was requested by Senator Hollis French on behalf of the French for Governor Campaign. This advisory opinion concerned the use of contribution envelopes imprinted with a “paid for by” identifier accurate in all respects except for the box number in the address. It was determined that the identifier was not inaccurate in any meaningful way; and that the contribution envelopes could be utilized by the French Campaign without violating Alaska’s election laws.

RECENT COMPLAINTS

13-06-CD APOC Staff v. Friends of the Candidate

On July 9, 2013, APOC Staff filed a complaint against the registered group, “Friends of the Candidate”. APOC Staff alleged that the group violated both AS 15.13.070(c)(2) and AS 15.13.074(a) when it made a \$1220 contribution to the registered group, “Sitka Republican Women”, a subordinate unit of the Alaska Republican Party; and AS 15.13.040(b)(2) when it failed to fully report all contributions and expenditures. This case came before the Commission on September 25, 2013. The commission agreed with and adopted the Staff Report’s conclusion that “Friends of the Candidate” violated Alaska law by making a prohibited contribution to “Sitka Republican Women” and by failing to report certain contributions and expenditures in its 2012 30-day and 7-day reports. The Commission assessed a total penalty of \$2370.00 for the violations.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Candidate 101 Training: Friday, October 25, 2013 in the Anchorage APOC Office from 12pm to 2pm.

General Group Training: Friday, November 8, 2013 in the Anchorage Office and by teleconference from 12:00 pm to 2:00pm

Candidate 101 Training: Friday, November 22, 2013 in the Anchorage APOC Office from 1pm to 3pm.

Lobbyist and Employer of Lobbyist Ethics Training: Tuesday, December 3, 2013 Fairbanks Office of the Governor, 675 7th Ave. Suite H-5. 1:30PM Start time.

Lobbyist and Employer of Lobbyist Ethics Training: Wednesday, December 4, 2013 Anchorage APOC Office, 2221 E Northern Lights Blvd., Rm. 128. 9AM Beginner and 1:30PM Advanced.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, October 10: Initiative Proposal Group 3rd Quarter Report Deadline

Friday, October 18: State Holiday - Alaska Day

Thursday, October 31: 3rd Quarter 2013 Employer of Lobbyist and Lobbyist Reports Due

Monday, November 11: State Holiday, Veterans Day

Friday, November 15: Last day a statewide municipal candidate may accept contributions

Thursday, November 28: State Holiday, Thanksgiving Day

Wednesday, December 25: State Holiday, Christmas Day

Monday, December 30: Deadline for Statewide Municipal Candidates to Disburse Leftover Campaign Funds

UPCOMING TRAINING CONTINUED...

Lobbyist and Employer of Lobbyist Ethics Training: Thursday, December 5, 2013 Anchorage APOC Office, 2221 E Northern Lights Blvd., Rm. 128. 9AM Advanced and 1:30PM Beginner.

Lobbyist and Employer of Lobbyist Ethics Training: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 333 Willoughby Avenue, Juneau, 10th Floor, Commissioners Small Conference Room. 9AM Beginner and 1:30PM Advanced.

Lobbyist and Employer of Lobbyist Ethics Training: Wednesday, December 11, 2013 333 Willoughby Avenue, Juneau, 10th Floor, Commissioners Small Conference Room. 9AM Advanced and 1:30PM Beginner.

Statewide Municipal Wrap Up: Friday, December 13, 2013 in the Anchorage APOC Office from 12pm to 2pm.