

THE ASTAC MESSENGER



Fall 2012
Quarterly Newsletter

General Manager's report: Annual meetings in review

The Annual Meeting Team successfully made our rounds the week of July 9. Here's the outcome:

Outcome of the bylaw amendment changing the period of time to complete annual meetings from June through August to July through December: This bylaw amendment passed.

Explanation of income tax benefit (expense) on the Summary

Consolidated Statement of Operations: In 2011, ASTAC was able to take advantage of special tax rules to accelerate the depreciable lives of our fixed assets above and beyond what we expense on our financials. The result was an income tax benefit; in other words, we can use this benefit in the future to decrease our tax liabilities. This accelerated tax depreciation, combined with our book net income, resulted in a tax loss. In 2010, we utilized the same tax strategy; however, our book net income was higher, and therefore we were not able to reduce our taxable net income to \$0 or negative. Consequently, we owed taxes in 2010.

Retirement of capital credits for a deceased member: Upon the death of any member or patron, if the legal representatives of the estate provide a certificate of death and a request in writing that the capital credited to such member or patron be retired prior to the time such capital would otherwise be retired under the provisions of ASTAC's bylaws, the Board, at its discretion, has the power to retire capital credited to such member or patron provided that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired by doing so.

Thank you to everyone who came out to participate in this year's annual meetings.

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See our website for details.



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SWOOSH COMPETITION

COMING IN OCTOBER Third annual Swoosh basketball free-throw competition

A free-throw competition in each of the villages ASTAC serves.

FIRST PLACE WINNERS: From each village receive \$100 and are entered into the drawing for the grand prize.

GRAND PRIZE: Includes a trip for two to the **Carrs/Safeway Great Alaska Shootout basketball tournament** in Anchorage during Thanksgiving weekend!

Competition schedules will be posted on www.astac.net and Facebook this fall. Second place winners will also receive a prize.

CONGRATULATIONS

To our Board members elected in the 2012 elections for Nuiqsut, Barrow and Prudhoe Bay.

- Tim Tyler, Prudhoe Bay
New member
- Margaret Pardue, Nuiqsut
Re-elected member
- Marietta Aiken, Barrow
Re-elected member

ASTAC congratulates 2012 scholarship winners

Congratulations to Jalene Kanayurak from Barrow and Turbic Shugluk from Atqasuk, winner of this year's ASTAC scholarships!

ASTAC annually awards \$1,000 scholarships to two senior high school students from our service territory. The most qualified and deserving applicants will receive the scholarships, with the restriction that only one scholarship can be available to a Barrow student, while at least one scholarship will be awarded to a student from another North Slope resident community.

The scholarships are available to all high school seniors living in the ASTAC service area.

The applicant must have a C grade average or higher with plans to enter a vocational school, junior college or four-year university.

Photo contest

It's that time of the year again; ASTAC is looking for beautiful outdoor shots of the region for the annual calendar and phone directory cover. **Winner will receive \$250.** Go to www.astac.net for details on how to submit entries.

Wireless data launches with a celebration in Barrow

ASTAC threw a party for Barrow customers on May 15 to celebrate the arrival of wireless data service in the area. Barrow was the last location to receive wireless data, and to thank customers for their patience, ASTAC treated them to lunch in the Barrow store.

A drawing was also held for free cell phones and other cool ASTAC items! Prizes included:

- Samsung Galaxy Xcover Dust & Waterproof Smartphone
- Sonim Rugged phone with Waterbuoy flotation device
- Nokia 5800 XpressMusic Smartphone
- Nokia E5 Smartphone

Extra hot dogs, chips, and cookies were donated to the Senior Center. Thank you to all who came out to celebrate with ASTAC!

SPOTLIGHT



ASTAC Barrow technician
Bryan Thomas

Barrow ASTAC customers needing assistance may have noticed a new face in the company. Bryan Thomas joined ASTAC as a technician this past February. He and his wife, Laura, and two daughters (along with two cats and two dogs) moved to Barrow five years ago for Laura's work as an archaeologist collecting field data. The family loves the outdoors, something that attracted Thomas to the ASTAC position.

"I love being paid to be outside. Every day is different, and I also enjoy problem solving."

Thomas grew up in Sacramento, Calif., and enjoys hiking, science news and fiction and computer programming.

DID YOU KNOW?

If your children use the Internet, chances are they have been or will become victims – or perpetrators – of cyberbullying. According to Enough Is Enough, an organization working to make the Internet safer for children and families, "victimization on the Internet through cyberbullying is increasing in frequency and scope." For example:

- 95 percent of social media-using teens who have witnessed cruel behavior on social networking sites say they have seen others ignoring the mean behavior.
- 66 percent of teens who have witnessed online cruelty have also witnessed others joining in.
- Only 7 percent of U.S. parents are worried about cyberbullying, even though 33 percent of teenagers have been victims of cyberbullying.

To learn more about cyberbullying visit www.InternetSafety101.com

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