

**Please watch future documentation of the approved changes to the Constitution and Bylaws**

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**The Purpose of ANB and ANS**

The Preamble to the Constitution says a lot of things but the what, how and why still leave room for interpretation. We hope to bring forward some insight for this 21st century as the organizations have become over 100 years old.

*To assist and encourage the Native in his advancement from his Native state to his place among the cultivated areas of the world; to oppose, to discourage, and to overcome the narrow injustices of race prejudices; to commemorate the fine qualities of the Native race of North America and to preserve their story, lore, art and virtues; to cultivate the morality, education, commerce and civil government of Alaska to improve individual and municipal health and laboring conditions; and to create a true respect in Natives and other persons with whom they deal for the letter and spirit of declaration of independence and the Constitution and Laws of the United States.*

**Our challenges**

We have come to a point in which more side-boards may be needed for some people to understand how the organization will find its way in this new era.

First, the past 100 years have reflected some very impressive accomplishments. Voting, equal rights before the lower 48 have achieved the same, fair schooling opportunities, and so forth. These were initially won by our past members finding a path in western culture. But with 100 years came more change, more definitions and additional problems for our organizations membership.

The aging group of leaders have accomplished much, but the organization needs to move to the next step and find ways in which the old and the new can co-exist in ways never entertained. Without positive change the organization could fail.

We have experience many phases with the coming of the millennials, the x-gens, and the baby boomers over the years. The things which served the baby boomers may not work for the generation X or the millennials. Thus, it becomes important to form bridges between the generations to address what each group feels are the important issues so that all generations may find value in the organization. Those during the baby boomer generation fought for many rights to be at the table with other people. Now that we as an organization are 'at the table' we need to listen to the generations to see what is important for each so that the efforts of ANB and ANS may serve purpose and be an important tool for all.

The baby boomers and generation X are somewhat at a disadvantage since society has experienced dramatic changes in culture, style, verbiage, toys the generations used, and so forth. What is said one way by boomers may be expressed quite differently by millennials. It becomes more important for learning to accept the generational differences and work to understand one another in an open, honest manner.

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So, what is facing our generations in this age. We still have discrimination facing us all, it just takes on a new face.

As seen earlier miscommunication between our people has become more complicated. Not only are there generational difference within the organizations members there are also societal, race, and sexual miscommunications that clog our discovery and visions. We all need to consider what was said and ask each other - is this what you meant?

We have much difficulty within our culture within each group. Aleut, Southern Tlingit, Haida, Tshimsian, Niss ga'a, Gitskan, Athebaskin, non-native, Northern Tlingit, Interior Tlingit, and so forth sometimes separate us. We need to find ways to form and keep the unity. Many younger people search for their culture and are missing some elders who have the knowledge to teach them what they need to know to be good human beings.

Our people face many problems in education, not only the things above, but just in understanding the learning process brought to us by the western society. We are different in not only race, but in our learning process and the one size fits all approach does not work with the various peoples in other organizations all the time.

All these and many more lay waiting for our people to address the issues, all important. The organization now must learn to accept these new issues, ways of doing things and priorities so we can take them on to work to resolve them as the voice of our people to the greater society. Some things have changed and others remain the same with subtle differences since our ancestor's time. We need to take on some issues, just several at a time so that we are not overwhelmed. We need to take small steps toward our final goals.

So, much of the purpose remains as in the Preamble. We may have more work to come.

**Our charge**

The Alaska Native Brotherhood is filed as a Non-Profit Corporation with the State of Alaska and the Internal Revenue. With the IRS the body is filed as a 501c(5) Labor Union and has tax exempt status but is not a 501c(3) Charitable status organization. As a 501c(3), contributors may ask for and receive a receipt that would be deductible on their taxes. Since we are a 501c(5) we are unable to offer this to contributors.

The organization consists of an ANB and ANS President, ANB and ANS 1st Vice President, ANB and ANS 2nd Vice President, ANB and ANS Secretary, NB and ANS Treasurer, ANB and ANS Sergeant at Arms, some past Presidents of ANB and ANS, and most importantly all the local camps and their members of ANB and ANS (They are the most important element).

The organization will try to keep a Manual of Ceremonies available and updated so that its membership may download on the internet, or request a copy for the camp from the Grand Secretaries.

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The Past Presidents need to serve as the wisdom Keepers and serve as advisors to the organization while passing on and sharing their knowledge. Without Officers learning through a natural way without interference and receiving gentle guidance the organizations would become stagnant with no future leaders advancing to the helm and then as past presidents.

These people are just normal people, mostly of good intentions, trying to do the best they can for the organization with the limited resources the organizations possess.

So, what does Grand Camp have an opportunity to do?

Some roles are:

1. Provide leadership to local camps through positive role models
2. Provide an avenue for delivery of desired outcomes on issues to city, borough, state and federal agencies for local camps as a unified voice
3. Provide training and guidelines for local camps and members in education of effective communications and interactions
4. See that an annual convention occurs so that local camps can interact and find common grounds
5. Find ways to have the organization use its resources provided from the camps and other entities wisely to achieve outcomes economically
6. seek to streamline its processes and present transparency for current, past, and new membership in manners that newer membership can appreciate and accept
7. Work together as ANB and ANS in equal status to remove the last vestige of discrimination from within and externally

**The purpose of the Camps**

The local camps experience the complication first hand as they are also the source of the officers and past presidents. From the local camps are elected the officers.

From this hardy bunch come the doers, the shakers, the dreamers, and the problem solvers.

Each Camp consists of a President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant At Arms, Camp Councils, Life Members, and Junior Members. There is an ANB and an ANS Camp for each community. When there are elections the Grand Camp can try to do an installation of officers at that camp using its officers. If there is an officer in the community, they may use this person(s) to do the installation. If Past Presidents reside in your community. They may also be asked to do the installation. This holds the operational cost of Grand Camp down. A Camp may also request an officer but in that case the camp will be responsible for the transportation and housing of the officer or past president.

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Camps may also file with the State of Alaska as a not for profit organization. There are some camps who pay a significant amount of charitable donation to 501c(3)non-profits, churches and scholarships. They can file with the IRS for their own 501c(3) status. The others wishing to file as legitimate organizations with the IRS may file as a 501c(10) Fraternal Organization. If an organization is a 501c(3) it may not participate in political activities and not allow discriminatory actions in its organization.

In some cases, the camps have formed Joint Camps where the ANB and ANS function as one unit, much like Ketchikan has for many years.

The Junior members are the youth that are growing into future leaders of the organization. It is these who the leaders and past officers need to invest the time and training to bring the newest generations into glorious leadership.

The local Camps sit on the forefront of the of rising issues and battles. Without the local camps the Grand Camp would be meaningless.

Local Camp members observe and experience the problems with living in the 'civilized' world and all that it entails. When an issue arises the camp can begin taking what action it can to resolve the problem(s). If the problem is too complex to be addressed at their level, then a resolution will be brought forward to try and resolve with the entities just beyond their levels of influence.

To be a camp of the ANB or ANS you must have 7 people to form the camp and request a charter from the grand camp. You must have at least 5 people to have a quorum to conduct business, elect officer and collect dues. You MUST pay a division of dues, which is \$6 of \$12 collected from members annually covering October 1 thru September 30. This division of dues is sent to the Grand Treasurer of ANB on or before the Sept 30 deadline or at attendance at the Grand Camp Convention. Submitting the division of dues keeps a camp in good standing.

Camp members paying their dues should assure that the division of dues has or will occur in a timely manner. This keeps a member as an individual in good standing. If you are not in good standing in a camp that is in good standing you may not run as a delegate, officer or be seated at convention.

Local Camps have regular members as well as Life Members who have served the local camps with at least 25 years of service and attained the age of 65. The Camp will review members for such people and may vote to make the person a life member and will be responsible for paying the life members division of dues for them.

Also existing are the Junior members who are not full members under the age of 16, paying only \$2 a year in dues, with \$1 being the camps division of dues. These Junior members are camp members but cannot vote, hold office, or make motions, but may participate in discussions on various subjects

The Camp Resolutions created are submitted annual to the Grand Camp at convention. Once turned over to the Grand Camp Secretary the resolutions become the property of the Grand Camp and may undergo alteration at Convention so that the resolutions read properly.

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Each camp may have their own constitution and bylaws if they do not conflict with the Grand Camp Constitution and Bylaws. Local Camps must submit theirs to Grand Camp for consideration.

Local camps do a lot of their own fund raising to support their activities. They may also make donations to Grand Camp for 1) Scholarships that Grand Camp may do 2) Assessments or donations to support the activities that the Grand Camp does for the local camps.

The Grand Camp is not authorized to do more than approve a camp's charter, pull a charter, get division of dues, and implement the will of the delegates at convention. Beyond this local camps have freedom to run their camp as they see fit, if as they do not conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws. It may from time to time give advice, but pretty much local camp business are issues that the local camps must resolve internally.

In 2016 the new Constitution had been adjusted and adopted changes. It is important that the Local Camps read the constitution and bylaws so that they know their responsibility under the organization. If there are questions needing to be answered regarding the Constitution and bylaws they need to ask the Grand Camp officers so they can expect the answers in a timely manner.

Camp members are expected to work together for the good of the organization. Civility and respect for one another is important to working relationships. If members have a dispute, then they need to work it out between the disputed sides and move on to camp business. If members are still in dispute it does not go to Grand Camp, but worked out within the Camp at the local level. No person is right or wrong and when the camp breaks members should remain courteous and leave personalities at the door.

The Grand Camp and local camp meetings are all run using Roberts Rules of Order. All members of all levels should read and work to understand Roberts Rules of order.

**Steps to setting up your ANB or ANS Camp with the State Commerce and Federal IRS**

So, what other actions does it take to create a local camp, either joint or separate ANB and ANS?

You can set up a camp following the constitution. It takes 7 members to request from Grand Camp a charter so that your members can be part of the main Organization. You petition Grand Camp and request to be assigned a camp number. You need at least the 5 members for quorums to do business. You are up and running now, once you get your charter. The harder part is keeping it going.

Now, if you seek donations from people and businesses you need to go a step further. You need a treasurer and an account to keep the funds in.

1. Get an EIN # to be able to set up an account to hold your organizations funds  
You can go online in Alaska or anywhere to get a number that identifies you. You will need this at the bank.

<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>

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2. File with the State of Alaska to get a non-profit State number. Requires initial filing and biennial reporting  
This requires you have a set of Articles of incorporation. You probably can use the Grand Camp Constitution but for the State you can use something much smaller. You will also need people who will be listed as officers and directors to report back initially and then every 2 years in a biennial report.

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/Corporations.aspx>

3. File with the US Government to get a 501c(5), 501c(10), or 501c(3)  
This step is if you wish to become fully legitimate and a non-profit that can enjoy tax free filing if you make less than \$50,000 a year and file every year.

501c(3) – Non-profit Charitable Organization such as churches, religious and private foundations. Some ANB or ANS are filed that way that over 50% of budget is dedicated to scholarships and donating to other 501c(3) entities

501c(5) – Labor and agricultural organizations (This is what ANB Grand Camp is)

501c(10) – Fraternal Organizations (This is what Camp 14 is as a chapter of ANB Grand Camp)

Start here for Federal information

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations>

You will need, perhaps, 3 years of accounting records that will be reviewed by the IRS as well as a constitution and bylaws. Depending on which you are filing for you might need a listing of up to 25 members or more. You will need proof of where your net earnings are going towards, and declare you will not be politically connected as an organization.