

Rural Affairs: End of the Year Report

Goals for 2008-2009

- **Cost of Living Differential**
- **Consistent Annual Training in Current Field**
- **Creating a Strong Rural Voice with UAF**
- **Special Topics Workshops for Staff**

Activities

- **Cost of Living Differential:** Most of the year was spent just monitoring cost of living with very little action. As the university budget was going through the legislature, the committee began talking more about the cost of living differential. The committee decided to write a letter to President Hamilton raising the issue of cost of living as well as alerting the Alaska State Employees Association, in hopes that maybe this topic can be taken up with the legislature next year.
- **Consistent Annual Training in Current Field:** Our committee received updates from Anne Sakumoto and Jennifer Youngberg on a monthly basis. Members from our committee began working with Anne to develop recommended Skillsoft training for job families.
- **Creating a Strong Rural Voice with UAF:** Our committee decided to write a letter to the new chancellor and departments within UAF urging them that all committees have some sort of rural representation
- **Special Topics Workshops for Staff:** The committee surveyed their rural staff with possible topics that employees would be interested in learning in. Identified several topics: UAF budget & the distribution of it, modes of distance delivery, planning for retirement, and health benefits. The committee was able to pair up with several other committees and put on a presentation from Pete Kelly on the university budget.

Taking over as the rural affairs chair after many years under Barb Oleson's leadership, took some time for me to get used to. I felt like the committee got off to a slow start as I learned how to become a leader and began to understand the role of staff council, rural affairs, and my responsibilities as the committee chair. Things really took off this spring as I became more comfortable in my leadership position and came to a better understanding of the purpose of the

rural affairs committee. I think that the momentum we have generated in these past couple of months will take us strongly into next year where we can continue to work on the above goals and identify other concerns.

Respectfully submitted by

Elizabeth Recchia

May 1, 2009