



ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION

WINTER 2014

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A Word From the Executive Director

The holidays are over and I hope that everyone received what was on their wish list. I know I did when the Red Sox won the World Series in October. I also hope that APOC can deliver one of your wish list items in 2014.

One matter that we heard a good deal about in 2013 was the burden that people who were required to file multiple POFDs felt at filing time. As we looked into various alternatives it soon became apparent that it was indeed a burden, particularly if the same information was required on a separate report. For those filing electronically the question was one of logic and how to reduce the number of items a filer had to put into the system. Over the course of several months we were able to work with our programmer and come up with a viable solution that will make it easier for everyone who does need to file multiple reports.

Those filing as members of the judicial branch, the executive branch, and as members of boards and commissions all file under nearly identical rules. In most cases the need to file multiple reports are for people serving on multiple boards and commissions as well as executive branch filers serving on boards and commissions. When you file in 2014, at the end of your filing you will be asked if you have other POFDs to file. If you answer yes you will be taken to a page where your just submitted report will be copied and displayed to you and you will be asked to merely

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change the purpose of your filing and then certify the second report. It should take you an extra 30 seconds to accomplish.

Municipal filers who must also file as a member of a state board or commission will be best served filing as the board and commission member first. There are some subtle nuances in the rules between municipal filers and state filers. State filings require a bit more information in certain situations. In this instance, after filing as a board and commission member, the same process is followed as noted above, but after changing the purpose to creating a municipal officer filing the filer will be brought to the area where the difference between the rules exists to edit as the filer sees fit (some municipal filers do not need to report things that are required on a state filing) before certifying the report. This may take up to one or two minutes.

Legislative filers often sit on state boards or commissions and have a different set of rules to follow for filing an LFD from POFD filers. For legislative filers starting with either a POFD or an LFD is fine. When asked if an additional filing is required follow the procedure outlined above. The program will take you to the areas of difference so that the appropriate information can



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTINUED:

either be entered or edited as the case may be. Because of the statutory differences in requirements this may take three or four minutes.

Why must you review each filing rather than submitting all reports at once? Each report is a legal document, we want to ensure that you are able to review and ensure the accuracy of each submission before you certify it—is the report for the correct position, is the type of filing correct (annual, final, etc.), is the appropriate information on the form (neither under reporting or potentially over reporting) are all things that you should be very aware of before hitting the certify button. If you have questions about this please contact July Lam at july.lam@alaska.gov or 907-276-4176.

We hope this helps everyone complete the filings faster and with considerably less time burden.

Finally, APOC has a wish list for the upcoming year. We want fewer civil penalties and complaints. To that end we are conducting training activities to the best of our ability. The schedules for the various types of trainings are in this newsletter. We are also conducting more reviews and audits so that errors can be dealt with quickly. Don't be surprised if we call you regarding a report. The purpose of the call is to alert you to what we see and to enable you to make any amendments, if required, as soon as possible.

Let's all have a great 2014!

RECENT GROUP COMPLAINTS

13-07-CD Staff v. Sitka Republican Women

On November 26, 2013, the Commission approved a Consent Agreement entered into between Sitka Republican Women and APOC Staff. In the underlying Complaint, APOC Staff had alleged that Sitka Republican Women had violated Alaska election laws by receipt of funds in excess of contribution limits, receipt of corporate funds and failure to report certain contributions to candidates. In the Consent Agreement, Sitka Republican Women conceded the violations alleged and agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1,496.50 and to attend a group training session prior to the due date of its next report.

13-09-CD Arnold v. Fairbanks Motel Leasing

13-10-CD Arnold v. Stiver

In these two complaints it was alleged that Fairbanks Motel violated Alaska election laws by making unlawful contributions of labor and space for fundraising to Fairbanks Mayoral candidate, Vivian Stiver; and that Ms. Stiver violated the law by accepting and not reporting those contributions. The Commission agreed with the allegations and imposed a civil penalty of \$650 each against Fairbanks Motel and Ms. Stiver.



RECENT CANDIDATE COMPLAINTS AND ADVISORY OPINIONS

CANDIDATE COMPLAINTS

13-08 CD APOC Staff v. Alan Dick

The complaint was filed on September 18, 2013. Awaiting Commission action.

13-11 CD APOC Staff v. Rep. Chris Tuck

The complaint was filed on October 11, 2013. Awaiting Commission action.

13-12 CD Lee DeSpain v. John Eberhart

The complaint was filed on October 21, 2013. Awaiting Commission action.

CANDIDATE AOS

13-06 CD - requested on behalf of the Tim Steele for Assembly Campaign

Mr. Steele asked if his 2014 campaign was able to solicit and accept contributions during calendar year 2013 from contributors who already contributed their annual limit to his 2013 campaign. The Commission held that an individual or group that had already contributed their annual limit to his 2013 campaign could not contribute to his 2014 campaign until January 1, 2014.

13-07 CD - requested on behalf of the Walker Fleener 2014 Campaigns

Ms. Hobson asked if the Bill Walker and Craig Fleener campaigns, as nominating petition candidates for governor and Lt. governor, were able to form a joined campaign as allowed under 2 AAC 50.368, prior to the 2014 primary election. The Commission held that should each candidate gather sufficient signatures to be placed on the general election ballot, then the campaigns would be permitted to join campaigns, but only after the 2014 primary election.



UPCOMING TRAININGS

(All in the Anchorage APOC conference room unless otherwise noted—call 276-4176 to sign up.)

POFD TRAINING SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 2nd	9 AM
Wednesday, January 8th	2 PM
Monday, January 13th	11 AM
<small>(This will be specifically for clerks and will be a Go-To-Meeting only.)</small>	
Tuesday, January 14th	9:30 AM
Friday, January 24th	12 PM
Monday, January 27th	5:30 PM
Thursday, February 6th	12 PM
Tuesday, February 11th	3 PM
Wednesday, February 26th	1 PM
Monday, March 3rd	5:30 PM
Tuesday, March 11th	10 AM

GENERAL GROUP TRAINING

Friday, January 3rd	12PM
Friday, January 31st	12PM
Friday, February 14th	12PM
Friday, February 28th	12PM
Friday, March 14th	12PM
Friday, March 28th	12PM

CANDIDATE TRAINING

Friday, January 17	12PM
Friday, January 24	12PM
Friday, February 7	12PM
Thursday, February 27	12PM

LOBBYING ETHICS TRAINING

JANUARY

7th	9 - 11:30AM Beginner (Anchorage)
7th	1:30 - 4PM Combined (Anchorage)
8th	9 - 11:30AM Advanced (Anchorage)
8th	1:30 - 4PM Beginner (Anchorage)
14th	9 - 11:30AM Beginner (Juneau)
14th	1:30 - 4PM Advanced (Juneau)
15th	9 - 11:30AM Advanced (Juneau)
15th	1:30 - 4PM Beginner (Juneau)

APOC TRIVIA QUESTION:

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF AFFIRMATIVE VOTES REQUIRED FOR THE COMMISSION TO ACCEPT AN ADVISORY OPINION?

.....ANSWER AT BOTTOM OF LAST PAGE



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January

Wednesday, January 1: New Year, State Holiday

Friday, January 10: Initiative and ballot proposition group and entity 4th quarter reports are due

Monday, January 13: POFD/LFD deadline for members of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

Tuesday, January 14: 2012 Statewide Municipal 105-Day Reports

Monday, January 20: State Holiday, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

Friday, January 31: Lobbyist and Employer of Lobbyist 4th Quarter 2013 Reports Due

February

Saturday, February 15: Candidate Year Start Reports Due (considered timely if filed next business day)

Saturday, February 15: Group Year-End Reports Due (considered timely if filed next business day)

Monday, February 17: State Holiday, President's Day

Thursday, February 20-21: APOC Commission meeting in Juneau

Friday, February 28: Lobbyist January Report Due

Friday, February 28: Last day an Anchorage Municipal candidate can give or loan campaign >\$5,000

March

Monday, March 3: Anchorage Municipal Election Candidates/Groups 30-Day Reports

Saturday, March 15: Annual POFD/LFD filing deadline

Sunday, March 23: Anchorage Municipal Election 24-Hour Report Period Begins (ends March 31)

Monday, March 31: State Holiday, Seward's Day

Tuesday, March 25: Anchorage Municipal Election Candidates/Groups 7-Day Reports

Sunday, March 31: Lobbyist February Report Due (No civil penalty will be assessed if the report is received by 4/1/13)

APOC TRIVIA ANSWER: NO LESS THAN FOUR COMMISSION VOTES ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PASSAGE OF AN ADVISORY OPINION.