

# March 28, 2020 E-Blast

## Pioneers of Alaska

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**Greetings Pioneers!**

**We have some cancelled events due to the Covid-19 Virus, we will keep you updated as things progress!**

[Cancelled Events](#) - **Status of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

[Website Announcement](#) - **Very Important, Please Read!**

[Grand Igloo Convention](#) - **September, 23-26, 2020 in Juneau**

[Sluice Box Newsletter](#)- **March 2020 Edition**

[Grand Igloo Pioneer Pathfinder](#)- **Grand Igloo's Newsletter**

**M4 Officer Position - Looking for a Secretary**

[W8 Sunshine Committee](#) - **Who to Notify For Sisters in Distress**

**W8 Roll Call Dinner - Important Notice About Ticket Refunds**

[Pioneer Museum](#) - **Spring Cleaning & Docents Needed (paid positions)**

[Spring Cleaning](#) Fundraiser- **Sunday, April 25th**

**M4 Roll Call Dinner - May 9th, 5:30 pm at Pikes in the Binkley Room**

[McCarthy Stampede](#)- **We are still on for June 20th-22nd!**

**Don't forget to check out our websites, that have a lot of further information:**

**Fairbanks Igloos Website:** <https://pioneersofalaskafairbanks.org>

Grand Igloo Website: [pioneersofalaska.org](http://pioneersofalaska.org)

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## **Covid Cancellations Notice**

**ALL events for March and April have been cancelled due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. We will reassess the May events in the next few weeks. You can always get up to the minute news from our website at**

[pioneersofalaskafairbanks.org](http://pioneersofalaskafairbanks.org).

### **Cancelled April Events are:**

**Billy Seward's Beans and Bingo Follies**

**April Business Meetings**

**April Mid-Month Potluck & Show**

**Women's Igloo No. 8 Roll Call Dinner**

**Pioneer Home Coffees, Bingo and Shopping**

We will let you know about the upcoming May meetings & events around the 3rd week of April.

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## **March 2020 Edition of the Sluice Box**

**Ready for your perusal!**

# The Sluice Box

March 2020 Fairbanks, Alaska



## Covid 19 Virus Hits Fairbanks

February 2020 - The Covid 19 Virus has some things we can do to help each other... Currently Fairbanks and North Fairbanks are working hard to help our members...

Dear Pioneer Sisters, It is nearly a month since I saw many of you and I miss you all... I am writing to let you know that Pioneer Brothers and Sisters are working hard to help our members...

Inside This Issue:
Section Page
The Best News - Covid 19 1
Editor's Note - Our Letterhead 2
2020 Committee Candidates 3
Pioneer Birth Schedule 3
Our Friends - Friends to the Point 3
Important Website News 4
Member News & Meeting Dates 5
Pioneer Schedule - Fair Region 6
Pioneer Schedule - Inland & Snow 7
Pioneer - Quarterly News & Calendar 8
Pioneer Igloo Activities - Fall Conference 11 & 12
Snowing Fun - 2020 Fall Schedule 11 & 12
Fairbanks Office Contacts 13
Fairbanks Calendar of Events 14

You can still be an active member by visiting us at: pioneersofalaskafairbanks.org

Click on the image to open the file.

# Important Website Notice: PLEASE READ!!!

Pioneer Brothers and Sisters ~ Our Fairbanks Pioneers will receive an email from "Pioneers of Alaska Fairbanks" that will say:

"One more step! Pioneers of Alaska Fairbanks has given you access to their private pages.

## Create a password.

Important: Anyone with this link can create a password for your account. With your password, anyone can sign in as you. Please keep your information private."

This is all you need to do to access your special part of the website. Click on "Create a password". You will be asked to establish a password that you will remember. It will need to be at least 8 characters long. You will need to type it in a second time. You will then be able to access that special area of our website that is just for our members. This can be found under the "Members" tab located in the top menu bar.

This is just a beginning. Your private website, and the information that will be included, will continue to grow as time allows. So, please check back

often! We hope this information will be helpful to you. We KNOW you'll enjoy the upcoming News Nuggets! We appreciate suggestions on what else you'd like to have included.

**The first fun you'll have on the Member's site is answering our Trivia Contest. Starting Monday at noon, a trivia question will be posted every Monday from information that is on the website.**

**A drawing will be held the next Monday from those correct responses received during the week, and a new trivia question will be posted. Each weekly winner will receive a nice prize. Now, doesn't that sound like fun? Good luck!**

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## **2020 Grand Igloo Convention**

September 23-26, 2020 in Juneau, Alaska

Information and registration information is now available!



*Click on the image to download or open the file, which contains registration and other information.*

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## **Pioneer Pathfinder- Grand Igloo Newsletter**

Lots of good stuff in these!

GRAND PRESIDENT VIRGINIA  
CALLOWAY'S CONVENTION ADDRESS

As many of you know, the Pioneers of Alaska was founded in Nome in 1907. The Pioneers worked at 'gathering and preserving the relics and early history of Alaska' and improving the economic and social conditions for the early settlers who came to this remote, dangerous and unforgiving environment.

The original membership was limited to white males who entered Alaska before 1900. During WWII, many of the officer positions were filled by women because many of the men were at war.

Today, the Pioneers have about 4,000 members. Members now must be residents of Alaska for at least 20 years to be eligible to join. Women became eligible for all leadership positions in 2012. The Grand President and 1st Grand Vice President had never been held by a woman until just recently.

I am truly grateful and honored to be elected as your 2020 Grand President, our first female Grand President and our third succession Grand President. My father was the Grand President for 1998.

While I have been elected to this important leadership role in this organization, I know I cannot do it on my own. I will rely on Past Grand Presidents, other officers, Pioneer brothers and sisters, and family and friends for their support and guidance to continue to make the Pioneers of Alaska a viable and dynamic organization.

Our Past Grand Presidents have impressed upon us the importance of continuing to support our communities by pursuing historical projects, having social events, and community involvement. Past President

Fred encouraged us to have events and invite the community we live in. Past President Lee encouraged social events with the members. Past President Jim encouraged us to seek and complete projects of a historical nature in our communities. Other Past Presidents have focused on the need for continuing to grow our membership.

When talking with potential members, we need to communicate the ways in which we are a vibrant organization that not only cares about its members but also the communities we live in and serve.

In encouraging a friend to become a member, she asked her mother if she knew anything about the Pioneers of Alaska. She found out that her grandmother and great grandmother were members. Linda was able to get her relatives' applications. She was amazed at what she found out on their applications: the jobs they held, their hobbies, and where they lived.

I look out at all the people here, and the stories they have about Alaska. Their stories embody their love and passion for Alaska as well as the sense of humor often honed from the challenges of life here. Not only do your stories reflect making Alaska a better place for everyone to live, but so do your actions. You are the first to volunteer to make their communities better, others look to you for assistance, and you can be counted on to help with any Pioneer task.

Now, a little about my family and me.

Let me first introduce those of my family that were able to attend: my husband, Roger, my brother and his wife, Jill, and Michelle Morris, and my other brother and his close friend Devenick Martin and Luis Otero. And my friend Karen Sonnet Petersen who is like a sister to me, and her daughter Marie.

October 2019 - click on the image to view the file.

ST. MICHAEL BANNER  
RESTORATION COMPLETE

The restoration of the historic St. Michael Banner is now complete. This project was proposed and approved at the 102nd Convention in Seward in 2018 and completed under the auspices of The Grand Igloo Foundation.

This banner was the original St. Michael Banner, Igloo 3, from 1967 making it 113 years old. When the St. Michael Igloo 3 closed, sometime after 1931, Dr. William Chase, Grand Historian of the Pioneers of Alaska until his passing in 1964, took possession of it. At that period of time the Grand Historian was the sole keeper of all Pioneer possessions. As he was from Cordova the banner went to him sometime in 1936 and was stored in his office and in the Igloo 19 basement. At some point in time Igloo 19 hung the banner on the wall of Igloo 19 and was displayed there until 1975.

This year Igloo 19 did a big cleaning project and some things were given to the local historical museum including the banner. At the museum it was placed in storage and remained there for over 43 years until Joan Skilled requested to search for it in the archives. It was located after an extensive search and was unrolled. Needless to say, it was not in really good shape. An effort was then started to try to save the banner and pictures were sent to the Alaska State Museum curator. She determined it could be saved and recommended a conservator in New York with whom the Museum trained their personnel. This lady turned out to be the same person who conserved the Fairbanks Igloo #4 Banner at one time.

The banner is made of silk which is one of the reasons why it deteriorated. The dyes they used at that period of time just

destroyed the silk. Another reason was the banner was hand painted and the acids in the paint contributed to the deterioration of the banner. It could not be restored to its original glory but they were able to conserve it and the banner is being returned to Alaska to become a part of the Pioneers of Alaska history.

EARLY PIONEERS OF ALASKA  
INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHMENT OF  
PIONEER HOMES

The Pioneers of Alaska were a driving force behind the creation of the first Alaska Pioneer Home, which over time has become the Pioneer Home system we have today.

The need for a care facility for aging Alaskan men was first discussed in the early Alaska Territorial Conventions that were held in Seattle, Washington. In those days, Alaska was run by the Federal government and in the care of the military rule. Until we became an official territory and could establish a territorial government, there would be no way to provide any type of care or assistance to the elderly.

Those early conventions held in Seattle had an agenda to form an Alaskan Territorial Government. These conventions proved successful and the first Alaska Territorial Legislature was formed and convened at Juneau in 1913. At that time many of the members of the first Territorial Legislature were also Pioneer members. Among their first items of business was to establish a home for aged Pioneers at Siks in the old vacated Army barracks located there.

Newspapers published stories about the Pioneers expressing the need for a home and garnered public support. The Pioneers also submitted official resolutions showing their support.

January 2020 - click on the image to view the file.

This great little newsletter is put out quarterly by the Grand Igloo. You can access lots more of them by clicking on the link below:

[Pioneer Pathfinder Newsletter Link](#)

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## **Women's Igloo No. 8 Roll Call Dinner**

**We are very sorry to say that this event has been cancelled.**

*Those who purchased tickets can get a full refund, or if you are the generous type, you could consider donating the money back to the Women's Igloo.*

Contact Libby Dalton-Slane at 907-888-9360 and let her know what you would like to do.

*Thank you for your kind support and understanding.*

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## **Men's Igloo #4 Roll Call Dinner**

**Saturday, May 9, 2020 in the Binkley Room at Pike's Hotel**

No host bar opens at 5:30 pm, dinner will be at 6:30 pm

Menu will be prime rib with side dishes.

Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased at Igloo Events

*For more information contact Nick Nugent at 388-7976*

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## **Men's Igloo No. 4**

### **Secretary Position Open**

We are still looking for a secretary for our Igloo. For more information, please contact Jim Deininger at 907-388-2557 or [jdeining86@gmail.com](mailto:jdeining86@gmail.com)

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## Women's Igloo Sunshine Committee

If you know of a sister who is experiencing sickness, or distress please let Libby or Annie know so they can send a card from our Igloo to brighten the day of our sister.

Libby Dalton-Slane - 907-888-9360 or [libby.dalton458@gmail.com](mailto:libby.dalton458@gmail.com)

Annie Colp - 907-456-5863 or [avcolp@yahoo.com](mailto:avcolp@yahoo.com)

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## Pioneer Museum

### Help Wanted!

We are also interviewing for summer workers, so if you know anyone who is interested in history and likes to talk about our fair city, this might be a great summer job. It is part-time, docents and stampede show workers are needed. They work 5 or 6 hours a day and get paid by the hour.

If you would like a fun summer job, please contact Brenda Wilbur at the Pioneer Museum Office at 456-8579 or [Office@FairbanksPioneerMuseum.com](mailto:Office@FairbanksPioneerMuseum.com)

Thank you Michelle Wood! She donated a very nice docent's desk for our Pioneer Museum. We would also like to give a big thank you to those who have volunteered and have had a blast in the museum with us doing our spring cleaning and annual maintenance of displays. We could not do it without all of you!

Brenda & Nola

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## **The Spring Cleaning Fundraiser has been postponed until further notice.**

We will let everyone know when the coast is clear, so we can proceed with this very important fundraiser for our Igloo. We know that many of you are spending your social distancing time doing important spring cleaning. We ask that you please consider hanging onto those bagged soft goods until we can get this event rescheduled.

Chairwoman Wynola Possenti, recommends that you "just stack them up and admire the project, knowing we're all benefiting from it" We can look at the pile and know we were productive so we could contribute during the crisis!

**HANG IN THERE!**



**Mark your calendars and clean out your drawers!**

**Back by popular demand!**

**The Pioneers are hosting our 2nd Spring Cleaning Fundraiser on**

**Postponed, Please hang on to your items until we can get a new date set!**

Just gather up your unwanted soft good items and pack them in 13-gallon white trash bags. Then drop them off at the U-Haul truck that will be parked in front of the Lavelle Young Wheelhouse across from Pioneer Hall.



Like last year, you'll be able to drive into the Park and drop-off your bags. Fellow Pioneers will be there to help you offload your bags into the U-Haul.

If you'd like to help with the event by helping to load the truck, provide a few sandwiches and/or beverages, or clean-up the kitchen at 2 pm, please contact Wynola Possenti at [wpossenti@juno.com](mailto:wpossenti@juno.com). Otherwise, check to see what you can get rid of and bring it in on **the rescheduled date to be announced**.

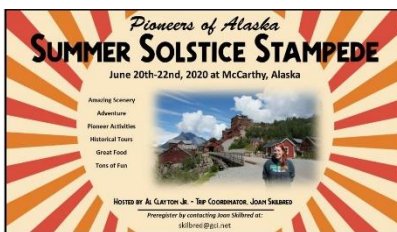
Please bring soft goods (clothing, linens, hats, gloves, shoes, bedding, pillows) only. Pack shoes separately from other items. If you **really** need to get rid of small household items, pack them in small cardboard boxes. We'd rather have soft goods because that's our real moneymaker. **We get 2 cents per pound for the small household hard goods but the soft goods bring in 25 cents per pound.** Furniture, safety or sporting equipment and large items will not be accepted.

Last year, we earned about \$800 which was used to renew our website. This year, we hope to raise even more than that and the proceeds will go towards stipends to send delegates to the 2020 Pioneer Convention in Juneau.

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## McCarthy Solstice Stampede

**It's Still On!**



*Click on the image to open it*

Mark you calendars and plan on attending the McCarthy Solstice Stampede June 20th to the 22nd! We are thinking positive and hope to be seeing all of you in beautiful McCarthy Alaska for three days and two nights of pioneer fun under the midnight sun!

There are several folks who have been working on getting all in readiness and we are proceeding with our plans. There will be a lot of interesting things to do while there, and by then we will all be grateful to get together once again.

This event is hosted by Al Clayton and Joanie Skilbred. If you would like to get on the email list to attend, send us an email at [skilbred@gci.net](mailto:skilbred@gci.net) and ask to be added to the McCarthy list. As we get closer to the event time, you will receive more information regarding what we will be doing there, what to bring, logistics information, etc...

***See you in sunny McCarthy!***

Joan Skilbred - Trip Coordinator

907-488-4447

[skilbred@gci.net](mailto:skilbred@gci.net)