

MESSENGER

Fall 2019



INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

By Jens Laipenieks CEO/General Manager



The State's budget battles rage on and my Facebook feed is flooded with passionate pleas for support on a wide range of pressing financial emergencies including the deep cuts to the state K-12 education budget and the gloomy outlook for UAA's survival. These are serious issues, dealing out potentially serious consequences to the youth of this great State. Sadly, the timing of these cuts could not come at a worse time. According to Nation's Report

Card web site's 2017 statistics, only 28% of Alaska's 4th graders were reading at or above a "proficient" level, seven points below the national average and 4th from the bottom of all the states in the USA.

ASTAC is committed to the development and sustainability of the North Slope and I believe that begins with our youth. A few weeks ago, at our Utqiagvik annual meeting, we presented a check for \$15,000 to the NSBSD to fund the Battle of the Books program for the entire NSB school district. This is the 6th year in a row that ASTAC has supported the program. I would like to think that some of this year's graduating seniors nurtured a passion for reading as a result of our investments in the books they read years ago.

ASTAC also gives generously to support the FIRST Lego League, a hands-on STEM program that teaches kids problem solving, coding, engineering and teamwork. The program centers on a robotics competition, but with far greater potential, potential to teach them resilience, build their confidence, and to establish the foundations for a lifetime of innovation and possibility. We will continue to invest in this great program and are actively looking for other avenues to develop the entrepreneurial skills and growth opportunities for the youth of the North Slope.

As a father of two active teens who are preparing for the start of high school in a few short weeks, I am acutely aware of how important school funding is to the overall outcome to the future Alaska. I remain optimistic that the State will make the needed critical investments in our youth, and our collective future.

LIKE YOUR PHONE? —KEEP IT.—

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a black jacket with the ASTAC logo, is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with other people.

GET UP TO \$300*
WHEN YOU SWITCH
TO ASTAC AND BRING
YOUR OWN DEVICE



SWOOSH 10TH ANNIVERSARY

ASTAC's Swoosh contest will kick off this fall. For our 10th anniversary of the competition, ASTAC is turning up the heat with even bigger prizes! Stay tuned for 2019 dates & information.

ELECTION RESULTS

Annual meetings were held throughout the North Slope July 15-19. Board of Director elections were held in the communities of Atkasuk, Point Lay and Point Hope. Della Segevan of Atkasuk, John Long Jr. of Point Hope and Sophie Tracey of Point Hope were newly elected.

Members were able to vote online again this year through SmartHub, in addition to by mail and in-person.

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS NIXLE

The Department of Public Safety and the Alaska State Trooper officials are encouraging Alaskans statewide to sign up for the service Nixle to receive notices on public safety matters. To receive these important public safety messages, text your zip code to 888-777. For more information, visit: <http://www.nixle.com/>

WAINWRIGHT ART FESTIVAL

ASTAC participated in ASRC's 3rd annual Iñupiaq Arts Festival in Wainwright August 21-23, 2019. ASTAC taught artists how to use the Square Reader to help mobilize and grow their business. Additionally, we held a sales event at the Olgoonik Hotel & Restaurant.



100 MILES IN MAY



Twenty-five ASTAC employees and their families participated in the 100 Miles in May challenge and logged in over 2,904 miles! ASTAC team members reported staying active by biking the Coastal Trail, hiking with family, shoveling in Dillingham and more. ASTAC is dedicated to wellness and is looking forward to future challenges.

FIBER TO THE HOME – UTQIAĠVIK

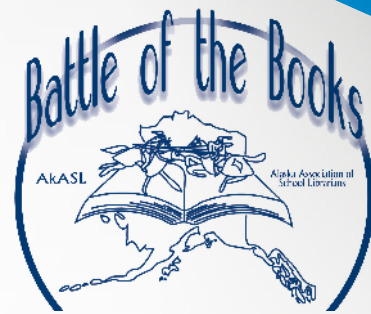
Since April, ASTAC technicians have been turning up Fiber to the Home (FTTH) in Utqiaġvik. This new equipment along with the fiber connection will allow ASTAC to deliver faster data speeds and Wi-Fi throughout your home or small business, at no additional cost. We also offer FTTH in Wainwright, Point Hope and Nuiqsut.



Current and new customers can sign up for an installation appointment by email (info@astac.net), phone (1-800-478-6409) or our web site.

What's different about Fiber to the Home?

- Technicians will change out your existing equipment with a free GigaCenter that includes a wireless router with built-in Wi-Fi.
- Performance is not limited by distance or interference and is not shared bandwidth like cable. Currently, the further away you are from our Central Office, the harder it is to provide a constant connection or speed; this fixes it!
- Capacity – What's capacity? Sometimes the pipe is clogged because it's not big enough for all the data – movies, photos, music, games – to flow through. Fiber increases the pipe, also known as the capacity of your Internet connection.
- There's less time buffering and more time video chatting, uploading family videos and playing your favorite online games. Just click and you're there!



ASTAC presented a \$15,000 check to the North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) for their Battle of the Books program during ASTAC's Annual Meeting in Utqiaġvik on July 18, 2019. ASTAC is pleased to partner with the NSBSD for a sixth year in a row on this student reading incentive program which promotes better academic success.

The donation will cover the cost of books and supplies for every school in the district.



SQUARE



ASTAC is now carrying the Square Reader to help your business. This handy tool allows you to accept credit card payments anywhere at any time right from your mobile device. Manage payments all through an easy-to-use app. Call 1-800-478-6409 to order yours today.



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LIFELINE

Lifeline Service: Provides an individual fixed/mobile broadband or voice service residential line, 911 service, access to operator services, long-distance access (unless toll blocking is requested), and access to directory assistance. Under this enhanced plan, eligible customers will receive basic local service for \$0 per month.

Link-Up Assistance: Offers up to \$100.00 discount on applicable, new, non-recurring service connection charges.

Eligibility Requirements: A customer must fill out the Lifeline service and/or Link-Up Assistance application and participate in a qualified program, including proof of program participation or income to confirm eligibility. Contact Customer Service for assistance with eligibility requirements.

HAPPY RETIREMENT, BOB MCKELLAR!



Deadhorse Exchange Manager Bob McKellar retired on June 5 after more than 23 years of committed service with ASTAC. Bob has been an integral part of ASTAC's Operations team as they have supported our networks, including Fiber to the Home, LTE, and 4G projects. He will be remembered for his outstanding contributions, hard work, and dedication as both a technician and an exchange manager. Bob will be spending his well-deserved retirement in Washington enjoying time with family and restoring old cars, in addition to traveling.

SMART HOME SHOWROOM

Stop by our Utqiagvik retail store to visit ASTAC's new Smart Home Showroom.

With our new line of Samsung SmartThings products you can setup alerts when unexpected motion is detected in your home, notify you when your laundry is done or set a timer to turn off your lights when you leave – all from an easy-to-use app. Come see it for yourself and ask one of our friendly Customer Experience Specialists any questions you may have! For more information on Smart Home products visit our website.



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Carla SimsKayotuk
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