



Senator Cathy Giessel

District N

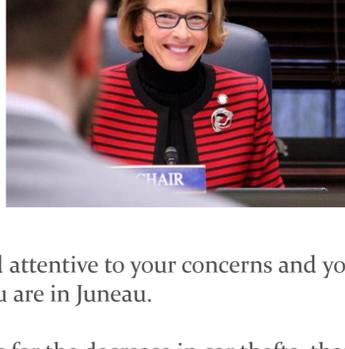
Northeast Anchorage, Anchorage Hillside, Indian, Bird, Girdwood and Portage

January 14, 2019

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

My staff and I got here to Juneau last week. Our shipments arrived and the office has been again set up. We are ready to do business.

I am honored to serve as the Senate President for the 31st Legislature. It will be, and already has been, a lot of additional work. But it will not prevent me from being available and attentive to your concerns and your requests for personal visits when you are in Juneau.



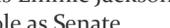
I'm grateful to our public safety folks for the decrease in car thefts, thanks to their escalated enforcement and the changes made to SB 91. But there are still more gaps in our laws for the prosecution and sentencing of sexual assault crimes and other crimes. This is the #1 item to accomplish for the Senate Majority. But as a life-long Alaskan and nurse practitioner, I am extremely concerned that we not forget rural Alaska communities as well. We need to improve the law enforcement presence in rural Alaska.

This newsletter is sent every week. I attempt to let you know what's going on in Juneau in an objective way. I've appreciated all the positive feedback you've offered regarding the usefulness of the information.

As always, if you don't wish to continue to receive it, there is an unsubscribe link at the bottom of every newsletter.

Cathy

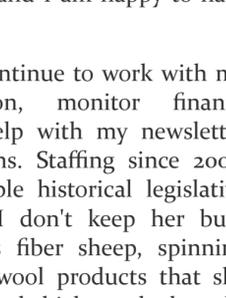
[Click here to email me.](#)



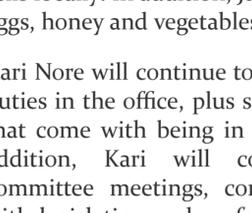
Team Giessel 2019!

I am happy to introduce you to my competent team of staff who assist me daily in my efforts here in Juneau. Returning are Akis Gialopsos, Jane Conway, Kari Nore and returning after a 3-year absence is Emmie Jackson who was my intern in 2016. Due to my new leadership role as Senate President there have been some changes in the office structure.

Akis Gialopsos will be handling the Senate Majority caucus responsibilities and the multitude of duties that entails. He is a lifelong Alaskan, born and raised in Anchorage, attending Gladys Wood Elementary and Dimond High before moving to Greece and receiving his diploma. Akis studied at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, where he participated in the UAA Speech and Debate Program. This is his seventh session in Juneau and I am happy to have Akis on board.



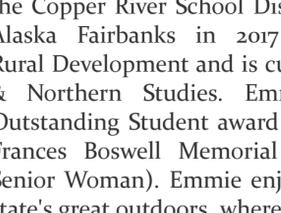
Jane Conway will continue to work with me on my legislation, monitor finance committees, and help with my newsletter and office operations. Staffing since 2002, Jane offers a valuable historical legislative perspective. As if I don't keep her busy enough, Jane raises fiber sheep, spinning wool and creating wool products that she sells locally. In addition, Jane raises meat sheep and chickens, ducks, sells eggs, honey and vegetables, supporting the Alaska Grown mission.



Kari Nore will continue to handle administrative duties in the office, plus some of the new duties that come with being in a leadership office. In addition, Kari will continue to monitor committee meetings, conduct research, assist with legislation and perform many other duties as assigned! She is a born and raised Alaskan hailing from North Pole, Alaska. She graduated from Gonzaga University with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, with minors in French and Psychology. She loves yoga and is an avid crafter, seamstress and knitter. This is Kari's fifth session in Juneau.

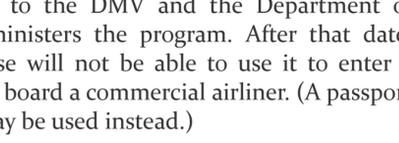


Emelia (Emmie) Van Wyhe-Jackson served as an intern in my office in 2016 and has returned this session to work again with our team. When you phone or visit my office in Juneau, hers will be the lovely voice and face that greets you. Emmie was raised on a farm in southcentral Alaska and attended Kenny Lake School in the Copper River School District. She graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2017 with a B.A. in Political Science and Rural Development and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Arctic & Northern Studies. Emmie received UAF's Rural Development Outstanding Student award in 2017, and was recognized as the Marion Frances Boswell Memorial Award winner (Outstanding Graduating Senior Woman). Emmie enjoys photography and spending time in our state's great outdoors, where she and her husband Joe can often be found fly-fishing, trapping, camping, and cross country skiing.



Alaska Real ID Program Begins

The Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles has begun issuing licenses that follow federal guidelines approved by Congress under the Real ID Act of 2005. Alaskans will have until Oct. 1, 2020, to obtain a new driver's license, according to the DMV and the Department of Homeland Security, which administers the program. After that date, anyone with a traditional license will not be able to use it to enter a federal building, military base or board a commercial airliner. (A passport or global entry card, however, may be used instead.)



To get one of the new licenses, you'll need to visit a DMV office. A Real ID costs twice as much as a traditional driver's license - \$40 instead of \$20 - and you'll have to bring some extra documentation. According to the DMV's checklist, a passport, naturalization certificate or birth certificate is needed to confirm your identity. You'll also need to bring a Social Security card (or another document that has your Social Security number on it, such as a pay stub) and two non-handwritten documents that list your primary address, such as a rental agreement, a mortgage bill, a bank statement, utility bill or other document approved by the DMV.

Traditional driver's licenses are still available from DMV offices for Alaskans who don't need to board a commercial airliner or enter a federal facility, or are willing to use a passport instead. All commercial driver's licenses will be compliant with Real ID, and the cost of a new commercial ID will rise from \$100 to \$120. The changes are due to the federal government's push to increase the security of driver's licenses and other forms of ID.

[Click here for the complete article about Real ID implementation.](#)

Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) Public Member Vacancy

The Alaska Public Offices Commission is the state regulatory agency that administers laws requiring disclosure of the financial activities of lobbyists, public officials, and candidates and groups who participate in state and local elections. The Commission is selecting a person to serve as its public member for a 5-year term beginning in March 2019. The person selected will be subject to appointment by the governor and confirmation by the legislature.

Members are expected to attend 1 or 2-day meetings in Anchorage at least three times a year and may be expected to attend additional teleconference meetings during times of peak activity. Members receive a \$50 honorarium for each meeting day and are entitled to travel expenses and per diem. Members may not participate in any political activity while serving on the commission and must file a public official financial disclosure statement required for state commissions. See AS 15.13.020 and AS 39.50.200(a)(9)(E).

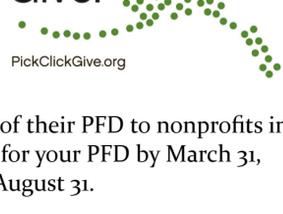
The period for this recruitment has been extended and **applications will now be accepted through Wednesday, January 16, 2019.** Questions about the process or the commission may be directed to Heather Hebdon, Executive Director (Heather.Hebdon@alaska.gov).

To apply, send a resume and a letter of interest to:

Anne Helzer, Chair
Alaska Public Offices Commission
2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Rm. 128
Anchorage, AK 99508-4149
apoc@alaska.gov

Pick.Click.Give.

Pick.Click.Give. is a nonprofit entity run by The Alaska Community Foundation. It was founded in partnership with The Rasmuson Foundation, The Foraker Group, United Way of Anchorage, and the State of Alaska PFD Division.



Alaskans can choose to give all, or a portion of their PFD to nonprofits in \$25 increments. As long as you have applied for your PFD by March 31, you may add or adjust your pledge through August 31.

All donations through Pick.Click.Give. are tax deductible. The Pick.Click.Give. Program strengthens Alaska and Alaskans through the work of hundreds of nonprofit entities.

Northeast Community Council Facebook Group

The Northeast Community Council has created a new Facebook Group to connect with residents in its council area. They previously had a Facebook Page and are asking folks to migrate to the new Official Northeast Community Council Facebook Group.

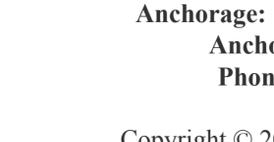
[Click here for the link to the new NECC Facebook Group.](#) (You need to be logged into Facebook to view the group)

Alaska State Legislature Website

Stay up to date on what is happening in Juneau, by checking the status of a bill, schedule for committee hearings or watching committee meetings [via the Alaska State Legislature Website.](#)

[Click here to view the Alaska State Legislature Website.](#)

It's a pleasure to serve and represent the wonderful people of district N!



I look forward to hearing your ideas, suggestions and comments.



[To email me, click here.](#)



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Kari Nore	State of Alaska	Congressman Don Young	Anchorage Office 907.271.5978
Emmie Jackson			