



# Senator Cathy Giessel District P

Representing South Anchorage, Eagle River Valley, South Fork, Indian, Bird, Girdwood, Portage,

## Legislative Update:

We need your email addresses. The newsletter will be coming out routinely through email. If you don't have email and would like to receive a hard copy please phone our office at **1-800-892-4843**. To sign up for my e-newsletter send your emails to: [Senator\\_Cathy\\_Giessel@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Cathy_Giessel@legis.state.ak.us)

Dear Neighbors,

My office staff (Sharon and Lindsay) and I have been working hard since arriving in Juneau on January 10th. We had an office to set up and then 3 days of orientation to complete during the first week. The session began January 18th and has been busy with committee meetings. I have been assigned to Senate State Affairs and to Labor & Commerce committees. Both committees have been hearing diverse bills. I also regularly attend the Finance, Resources, and Education committees. Attending these additional committee meetings helps me get up to speed on these important topics.

You can see what bills are assigned in each committee at:

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_br\\_in\\_com.asp?session=27](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_br_in_com.asp?session=27)

The Daily Calendar can be seen at:

<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/index.php>

Many constituents and interest groups have been visiting Juneau. School Districts have also made visits. District P includes Anchorage School District (Eagle River, Anchorage, and Girdwood). In addition, the school in Hope is part of the Kenai Peninsula School District; the school in Whittier is in the Chugach School district. I strongly support Career & Technical Education and would like to see this prioritized in budgeting.

It's been great meeting with constituents from all over District P, working in the areas of education, healthcare services, petroleum industry, fisheries, tourism and mining, to name just a few. We live in a great, and very diverse, part of Alaska. I know how privileged I am to serve you in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

## Upcoming Meetings

*Eagle River Town Home:* Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm @ Chugiak Senior Center

*Eagle River Town Home:* Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm @ Eagle River Town Center

*District P Town Meeting:* Saturday February 26<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm @ Rabbit Creek Community Church



Republican Caucus and Commissioner Butcher from the Department of Revenue

*You can find me on:*

*Facebook: Senator Cathy Giessel*

*Twitter: GiesselAKSenate*

## SESSION I, ISSUE I IN THIS ISSUE:

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## Contact Info:

*Alaska Capitol, Room 7  
Juneau, AK 99801*

*Toll Free: (800)892-4843*

*Fax: (907) 465-3871*

## Watch Online

*Live committee meetings can  
be viewed at:*

<http://alaskalegislature.tv>

*Watch live or archived  
media at:*

<http://gavelalaska.org/>



*Sharon Long & Lindsay Williams*  
**Sharon\_Long@legis.state.ak.ak.us**  
**Lindsay\_Williams@legis.state.ak.us**

**Don't Forget to File for the PFD:**

**2011 PFD Application Period ends 11:59 pm March 31<sup>st</sup>**

To file online go to: <http://www.pfd.state.ak.us/>

Paper Applications can be picked up at the following locations: Anchorage Dividend Information Office, Anchorage Legislative Information Office, Anchorage Senior Center, Loussac Library, Mabel T. Caverly Senior Center, Muldoon Branch Library, Red Apple Market, Mountain View Community Center and Meals on Wheels.

**Meet my Staff:**

Sharon Long (Chief of Staff) is from Anchorage. Sharon, with pre statehood family roots, comes to the staff with extensive legislative service in land and resource development issues along with small business private sector experience.

Lindsay Williams (Legislative Aid) is from Anchorage. This is her first legislative session and her first time in Juneau. She graduated from University of Alaska Anchorage and she and her husband, Michael, own a small business in downtown Anchorage.

**Girdwood 2020 recognized Kerry Dorias, MS, ANP with the 2011 Community Service Award at the January 22 Annual Meeting**

Kerry and her husband, Chuck, purchased the Girdwood clinic and relocated on Hightower Rd. in January 2000, less than one month before Stumpy's Storm closed the highway and isolated the town for 5 days. Kerry took a helicopter back to Girdwood to open the clinic during the storm.

In 2005, Kerry started the nonprofit Turnagain Arm Health Center. With the help of Senator Stevens and the Denali Commission, Turnagain Arm Health Center secured a grant to purchase the old post office. Kerry and Chuck remodeled the old post office into a larger clinic in March of 2006.

After 11 years as the sole practitioner in Girdwood, Kerry continues to enjoy her work treating ill and injured residents and visitors to the Girdwood and Turnagain Arm area. Besides ski injuries and infections, she has treated everything from reindeer attacks to Bot flies. She continues to actively pursue a nonprofit status for the Girdwood Clinic in order to continue her dream of sustainable Girdwood Clinic that will outlast her time here.

On the evening of this award, Kerry received a phone call from a parent with a sick child. Kerry kept the clinic open to care for the child, setting aside her own plans. This is typical of the tireless commitment and personal care Kerry has provided for the last 11 years at the Girdwood Clinic.

**Choose Respect Walk March 31<sup>st</sup>**

Alaska currently has one of the highest rates of sexual assault and domestic violence in the nation. Governor Parnell aims at raising awareness and ending this epidemic with the Choose Respect initiative. Domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse are everybody's business. We need to come together as a community to take action and stop the silence. I encourage you to participate along with individuals from all over our state in the Choose Respect Walk. To learn more about the Choose Respect initiative go to: <http://chooserespect.alaska.gov>



*Kerry Dorias, MS, ANP receives 2011 Community Service Award from Girdwood 2020 board member, Jeff Demain, MD.*



*Senate Minority: Senator Huggins, Senator Giessel, Senator Coghill and Senator Dyson*

### **Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc. Tour**

Caroline Higgins, Project & Integrated Logistics Manager gave me a guided tour of Totem Ocean Trailer Express, TOTE, shipping yard and vessel. TOTE has been serving Alaskans since 1975. TOTE's fleet differs from other container-ships in that they are roll-on/roll-off instead of crane loaded. Cargo is quickly driven onto the vessels via "hustlers" which push/pull the trailers on board, stow them and then lock them into place using a patented Roloc Box. The speed and special design of their vessels along with their loading system allow for expedited delivery of cargo, saving both time and money. Transit time from the Port of Tacoma, Washington to the Port of Anchorage, Alaska is between 66-72 hours.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the George Lowrey, Alaska Director. He explained some of the challenges TOTE has faced during to the port expansion. The delays in construction due to rising costs, environmental concerns and construction malfunction have compounded these challenges. It is through this port that much of our state receives its consumer goods and thus is an important issue not just to Anchorage, but all Alaskans.



*Caroline Higgins of Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc.*

### **Student Spotlight**

#### **Parents and Students**

Get help taming the homework monsters! Live Homework help from certified teachers available at: [sled.alaska.edu/homework.html](http://sled.alaska.edu/homework.html)  
Provided by the Alaska State Library

#### **Senate Intern Program**

Senator Murkowski is now accepting applications for the 2011 High School Summer Internship Program. Alaskan students who will graduate from high school this spring are eligible to apply. This is a great opportunity to learn about the United States Senate and gain professional work experience. For questions contact Rochelle Hanscom, the Senator's Intern Coordinator, at 202-224-6665. More information and the link to the online application are available at:

<http://murkowski.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Internships>

#### **South Athletics**

Congratulations to our South Anchorage High School Athletic teams for their outstanding achievements!

Gymnastics Team-Region IV Championships, 6<sup>th</sup> Championship since South opened  
Swimming & Diving Team- 2<sup>nd</sup> at State Tournament, setting 7 school records

Katie Cartee- Diver of the Year

Girl's Volleyball Team- 2<sup>nd</sup> at State Tournament, with a 19/1 season overall

#### **Volunteers in the Community**

David Witt and Abigail Clark of South Anchorage High School were named Volunteers of the Year at the Prudent Spirit of Community Awards Program. Certificates of achievement were also received by Jarett Tucker and Kianna Wika.

#### **Congratulations Musicians**

These South High Students were selected to participate in the All-Northwest Orchestra and Choir in Bellevue, Washington.

Sarah Hennessy, violin

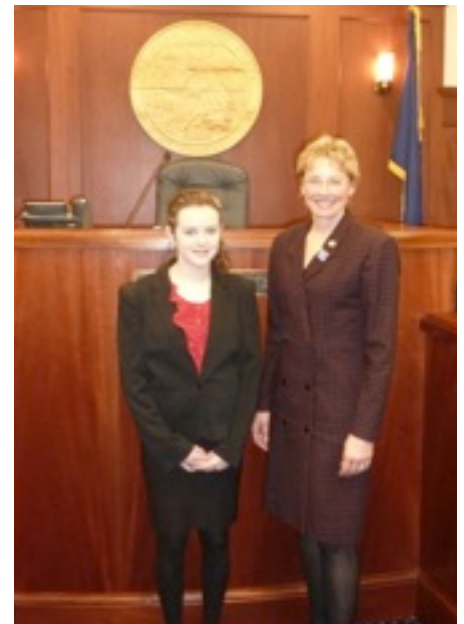
Eunice Kang, violin

Katie Balcao, viola

Brooklyn Alvarado, voice

#### **Corps' Second Annual Home Drill Competition**

Out of 10 schools and 59 drill teams, Eagle River High School Cadets shone brightly. They placed 1st in Color Guard (Regulation and First-year), 2nd in Regulation Unarmed and 3rd in First-year Regulation Drill.



*Guest Page Natalie Chennault of Anchorage.*



*Johann Sells, Bird Creek, Participated in the Alaska Close Up Government Internship Program. He was in Juneau for a week, attending classes & legislative meetings, learning how government works.*



**Senator Cathy Giessel**  
 Alaska State Capitol, Rm 7  
 Juneau, AK 99801

**27TH LEGISLATURE**  
**JANUARY 18TH-**  
**APRIL 17TH**

*Constituents from ConocoPhillips: Daniel Baker, Barbara Fullmer, Verneese Maney, Robert Morse, Frank Snyder and Jolette Waterfield-Franger*



*Constituent Brian Richardson, Chief Executive Officer of Immediate Care*



**Alaska Capitol, Room 7**  
**Juneau, AK 99801**  
**Toll Free:(800)892-4843**  
**Fax: (907) 465-3871**

**I look forward to keeping you informed on legislation and were I stand on important issues. Don't forget to sign up for my e-newsletter at:**

**[Senator\\_Cathy\\_Giessel@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Cathy_Giessel@legis.state.ak.us)**



**Alaska Aerospace Corporation**

The Alaska Aerospace Corporation, AAC, was established by the state in 1992. AAC owns and operates the Kodiak Launch Complex, KLC. This complex is state-of-the-industry spaceport that provide access for both commercial and government interests to space. KLC was the nation's first commercial spaceport located on private land/state and is the only high latitude full service spaceport in the nation. The Corporation's main focus is space launch, but they also participate in other aerospace fields and have contracts with the US Missile Defense Agency and the US Air Force.

*Constituent Dale Nash, CEO, of Alaska Aerospace and Craig Campbell, President*