

Alaska Historical Commission Members

Lt. Governor Kevin Meyer

Lt.Governor@alaska.gov

The Lt. Governor is chair of the Alaska Historical Commission. Lt. Governor Meyer has a long career in public service. He has been elected to the Anchorage Assembly, State House of Representatives, and the Alaska State Senate, serving as Senate President in 2015-16. Lt. Governor Meyer received his undergraduate degree at the University of Nebraska and graduate degree at the University of New Mexico. He moved to Anchorage in 1983 with ARCO. In addition to his professional work and public service, Lt. Governor Meyer has served on the board of directors for the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, the Anchorage Economic Development Council, Habitat for Humanity, Standing Together Against Rape, and the Boys and Girls Club of Alaska.

Judith E. Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer

judy.bittner@alaska.gov

State Historic Preservation Officer and chief of the Office of History and Archaeology since 1983, Judy serves by statute on the commission. Judy was raised in Anchorage and left for college. She has a graduate degree in cultural anthropology from the University of Wisconsin and conducted research in the Bethel area in the 1970s. She has worked since 1983 to preserve and protect historic and archaeological properties, as well as promote the research and writing about Alaska's past. Judy has been active with numerous national, state and local organizations over the years, and is currently active with the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, Inc. and the Cook Inlet Historical Society.

TERMS EXPIRE 7/1/2020:

Talis J. Colberg (Public Member and Vice-chair)

tjcolberg@alaska.edu

Talis is director the Matanuska-Susitna College, University of Alaska Anchorage, and has taught history there since 1992. He received his Ph.D. in Northern Political History and Culture from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He has been Alaska's Attorney General, and he served on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough assembly and as mayor. He has been active with the Alaska State Fair Board and Palmer Rotary Club and served on the Alaska Humanities Forum and Alaska SeaLife Center board of directors. In 2015 he received the Alaska Governor's Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities. Talis is a third generation Alaskan. He is currently the elected vice-chair of the commission.

Michael Hawfield (Alaska Historical Society)

mchawfield@alaska.edu

Mike is a retired professor of history and political science at the Kachemak Bay campus of Kenai Peninsula College, University of Alaska Anchorage, but continues to teach there. He has lived in Homer since 1997. He is the former executive director of Museums Alaska and of the Pratt Museum in Homer, and for ten years was the administrator of the Arts Acquisition Program for the Rasmuson Foundation and Museums Alaska. He is the author of several books, articles, and radio/television programs on local history, including “Not Yet! Alaska Voices Opposed to Statehood” a radio program that was a 50th anniversary of Alaska statehood project. Mike served many years on the Board of Directors of the Alaska Historical Society and was treasurer and awards chair for the organization.

Wayne Jensen (Architect)

wayne@jensenlorbawall.om

Wayne is the senior partner of Jensen Yorba Wall, Inc., the oldest continuing architectural firm in Alaska having been founded in 1935. He has lived in Juneau since the 1970s. He has been president of the Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors. With his interest in historic buildings, he has worked on several rehabilitation projects including the Alaska Governor’s House, State Capitol, Thomas Stewart and Terry Miller legislative office buildings, the Pack Train Inn and the Treadwell Mine Pump House. Wayne is a member of the American Institute of Architects, past president and member of the Juneau Rotary Club, and active with the Treadwell Preservation and Restoration Society.

TERMS EXPIRE 7/1/2021

Alisha Drabek (Historian)

alisha@afognak.com

Alisha is the Senior Vice President for Community and Government Affairs, Afognak Native Corporation in Kodiak. She has been instrumental in programs that are reviving the Alutiiq language. Alisha earned her Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Before moving to her current position, Alisha was the director of the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository in Kodiak.

Rebecca Poulson (Alaska Historical Society)

rebecca_poulson@hotmail.com

Rebecca is an artist in Sitka who publishes *The Outer Coast* calendar of art and poetry yearly and teaches art to young people. She also is involved in historic preservation. She has been working to restore the

World War II Japonski Island boathouse with the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society and has managed rehabilitation projects of several buildings on the Sheldon Jackson School National Historic Landmark for the Sitka Fine Arts Camp. Rebecca is researching and writing about Sheldon Jackson School and College. Rebecca is a member of the board of directors of the Alaska Historical Society and served as its president for two years.

TERMS EXPIRE 2022

Mark W. Rollins (archaeologist)

mark.rollins@alaska.gov

Mark is an archaeologist with the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Department of Natural Resources. He is the liaison between the office and the Federal Highway Administration and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for project review and compliance with state and federal historic preservation laws. Mark received his Master of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of New Hampshire. He worked as an archaeologist in Alaska for the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service prior to starting to work for the State of Alaska in 2011.

Jonathon Ross (Alaska Native representative)

enushen@yahoo.com

Jon is the president and principal consultant for Tsiltan Management Group. He was the director of the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage for eight years. Now living in Chugiak and Kasilof, Jonathon grew up in Kenai, Kodiak, and British Columbia. He has an MBA from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Jon is a Dena'ina Athabascan, member of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and former elected council member and speaks the Dena'ina language. He served as vice-chair of the Alaska Historical Commission for five years.