



Alaska AFSCME Retiree Chapter 52 Quarterly Newsletter

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WAY OUT WOMEN FUNDRAISER

– Tony Lopez

Fourteen years ago, the Way-Out-Women (WOW) cancer run was borne from an idea hatched around a camp fire in the Caribou Hills of Kenai. Since then, over \$1,000,000 has been raised to directly benefit cancer patients on the Kenai Peninsula.

What was that idea? To gather women snow machine enthusiast in February of every year for a 50-mile ride through the Caribou Hills. Sounds easy, but try doing it in a costume. Yes, these women make and wear costumes over their snow machine suits. Past themes have been cartoon caricatures, Hawaii and patriotic to name a few. This year the theme was “Everything Goes” so the ladies were free to come up with their own ideas.

This is the 15th year that the Way-Out-Women of the Kenai Peninsula have come together to benefit cancer patients and to remember friends and family whom we have lost to this terrible disease. Eighty (80) women rode in this year’s event and in addition to making costumes, each rider solicited pledges and collected donations to support their team and the 3-day event. The WOW event takes place at Freddie’s Roadhouse, right at the doorstep to the Caribou Hills and is the start/finish line for the ride. Friday, February 22nd was the kickoff this year and everyone gathered for the silent auction, raffles, split the pot and chili feed. There was live music and a local radio station broadcasted from the event. Saturday started early with costume judging and pictures before the ladies rode out.



It was a bright beautiful day for a 50-mile ride. Before the start, all the machines and riders lined up on a grid which when seen from above depicted the ribbon of many colors, the symbol of cancer awareness. A drone video was created; go to the WOW Facebook page to check it out <https://www.facebook.com/WayOutWomen/>

Once back at Freddie’s the rest of the day was filled with silent auctions, a live auction of artwork, handcrafted items and donated gifts and services from businesses throughout the Peninsula.

We also played games for prizes and enjoyed the Way Out and Woolly Bra and Brief contest and auction. The creativity and effort that goes into decorating these auction items is phenomenal. During the festivities, we ask 10 volunteers to pick the top three bras/briefs and those get placed in the live auction. I have seen top bras go for as much as \$300. One of my favorites this year was a pillow made of silver fox fur. The event isn’t just for snow machine riders, many friends and family drive up to Freddie’s to participate in the games, drawings and festivities. The weather was sunny and warm and the turnout this year was impressive. It is a great way to honor and celebrate the loved ones we have lost and to help and encourage those who are fighting. The fund provides \$1,000 to anyone fighting this terrible disease with no strings attached. The best thing about this event is that all this is made to happen by people who volunteer their time and effort to this cause. Every dime raised goes directly to the fund, there are no administrative fees what so ever, it is all done out of LOVE.



I am an Alaska AFSCME Retiree Local 52 Chapter member and my wife, a WOW team member is also a retiree. We invite and encourage retirees in our area to join our team next year. Please come out, participate and enjoy the fun.

A heart felt thank you to Alaska AFSCME Retiree Local 52 Chapter for their support this year, you helped make it a success. See you in the hills!

“GEN SILENT” DOCUMENTARY

SAGE Alaska invites all to celebrate **Older American’s Month** with refreshments at 5:30 p.m. followed by a showing of Stu Maddox’s “Gen Silent” documentary on Tuesday, May 21st at the Anchorage Senior Center, 1300 E 19th Avenue. The film starts at 6:00 p.m. followed by a brief Q&A discussion on *Unique Challenges in Managing Long Term Care*. SAGE Alaska provides opportunities for older LGBT adults to identify and utilize trusted vendors and service providers, find support, friendship and encouragement when needed and learn about resources available to them on a local level. SAGE Alaska is an affiliate of SAGE USA, the largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older people.



Access the link below for more information about SAGE Alaska:

<https://identityalaska.org/sage-alaska/about-sage-alaska/>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

THE ALASKA VA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO HOST THE
2019 NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

ANCHORAGE—JUNE 5-10, 2019

One of the premiere senior adaptive rehabilitation programs in the U.S., the National Veterans Golden Age Games, is the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities.

Volunteers donating their time and talents are essential to the success of the National Veterans Golden Age Games. Several opportunities will be available to help with everything from sporting events to hospitality services. Events will take place at the Dena'ina and Egan Convention Center and surrounding community venues, to include the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport and downtown Anchorage hotels. Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian for the entire duration of the volunteer shift. Access <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=1437975583> to volunteer for the 2019 National Veterans Golden Age Games.

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

If you read the ADN online or in print, access <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2018/11/09/we-want-your-feedback/> to provide feedback on newspaper content, i.e., articles, Op-Eds and to make suggestions on how they can improve their services.



GET REIMBURSED FOR YOUR PET'S VET BILLS!

AARC52 Membership Benefit— Save 25% on veterinarian services. Members also receive special prices on insurance premiums and 10% on pet supplies.

Visit: <https://www.unionplus.org/benefits/insurance/pet-insurance?union=AFSCME>

ACCIDENT ONLY PLAN

Pets Best offers a budget friendly Accident Only plan at only \$6/month for cats and \$9/month for dogs. This plan covers virtually all accidental injuries, such as broken legs, snake bites, accidental swallowing and more. Accident Only plans do not cover medical issues such as illness or cancer, which are covered under our BestBenefit Accident and Illness plans.

ACCIDENT AND ILLNESS PLANS

The BestBenefit plan is the most popular and comprehensive, covering both accidents and illnesses. **Accident examples:** Broken bones, lacerations, getting bitten by another animal, and more. **Illness examples:** Cancer, ear infections, allergies, diabetes, and much more. The cost is based on the pet's age, breed and location. **Access link to get a cost quote:** <https://www.petsbest.com/enroll/step1?ci=UPPIPG>

ROUTINE WELLNESS PLANS

Wellness routine care coverage helps pay for your pet's regular and expected veterinary visits for items like shots and teeth cleaning. It's an excellent way to budget for your pet's expected medical expenses, and especially important if you have a new kitten or a new puppy. Wellness routine care plans can be added to either of the other two plans for an additional premium.

