

# ASEA In Action



## Cook Inlet Chapter Sponsored Riders In This Year's W.O.W Ride

By: Tony Lopez

This year the Cook Inlet Chapter proudly sponsored three riders in the **W.O.W** ride. Those of you who are not snowmobile enthusiast and don't live on the Kenai Peninsula may not be familiar with that acronym. The **Way Out Women** ride is a yearly event that benefits the Central Peninsula Health Foundations Cancer Fund. The Fund benefits cancer patients throughout the Kenai Peninsula, and every dollar that is raised goes directly into the Fund, there are no administrative fees. Our Chapter donated \$300 to the cause by paying the sponsoring fee for each rider. Each rider in turn went out and gathered pledges/donations for their ride. This year, the ride took place February 22nd in the Caribou Hills, a popular recreation area that spans the mountains from Kenai/Soldotna to Homer. The event attracted riders and non-riders from throughout the Peninsula to Rocky's Lodge, the starting point and activity central, which is accessible by road. We sponsored three women riders who volunteered to collect pledged donations for the cause and ride in teams on a prescribed course through the hills.

There was a checkpoint on the other side at Caribou Lake Lodge, which was the turn around point, and then the return ride to Rocky's. The ride is 50 miles, and oh yea, they do this in costumes of many sorts. Of the three women that were sponsored by our chapter, two are Cook Inlet Chapter members and one is a retired union member and wife of a current ASEA chapter member. These three women alone raised \$900.00 for the cause. Their team name was Denali and their costume theme was, "Wild Hares". Denali, a female black lab and their namesake, was there too. The event began on Friday night at Rocky's with a chili feed and was a chance for everyone to meet and greet the teams. There was a continental breakfast on Sunday and the riders took off at 10 am. This year there was not enough snow to ride the course, but that didn't stop these hardy riders from raising money and having

a good time. An alternate course was plotted and those who were dedicated to riding did. Denali rode with her "Mom" on the short course too! **Our chapter should be proud to know that together we were responsible for raising over \$1,200 that will go directly to people affected by cancer in our community.**



With the help of volunteers from non-profit organizations and businesses throughout the Peninsula, this event has taken place every year for the past ten years. Last year the **W.O.W** raised \$73,000.00 with every dollar going directly to cancer patients. But there is more to our effort than the ride. Peninsula businesses and artists donated items for both a silent and live auction and every year the riders and friends decorate bras for the auction. The depth of artistic expression revealed in the bra auction is incredible and the guys get to pick the top three which are auctioned off during the live auction. Together, this year, the event raised over \$80,000 to date and by the time you read this article, the total is projected to be closer to \$85,000. Congratulations to all the people involved and to our riders, Cook Inlet Chapter women are the best. **You go girls!**



Spring

## Sitka GGU Chapter President Becomes 2014 Big Sister Of The Year

Big Brothers Big Sisters announced Alaska's 2014 Big Sister of the Year.

The Winner is Sitka GGU Chapter President Kelly Ferguson.

As the press release states, "Inspired by the teachings of Nelson Mandela in her native South Africa, Kelly decided that becoming a Big Sister was a great way to make the world a better place and to make a difference in a child's life."

Kelly was matched with Little Sister Darian, then just six years old. Ten years later the great friendship has gotten stronger. Kelly has taken Darian fishing, volunteering at the local animal farm and sanctuary, beachcombing, picnicking, and together they have sent donations to needy children around the world. Kelly and Darian are planning a trip together when Darian graduates from high school.

Community Director, Barb Morse, in her nomination of Kelly for this honor, stated that "Kelly is a wonderful listener and communicator and is truly one of the most important consistent adults in her little's life."



As the Alaska Big Sister of the Year for 2014, Kelly is among 30 exceptional Big Sisters from across the country who will be considered for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America's National Big Sister of the Year, which will be announced in late May.

***Congratulations!***

## Important Dates

**May 13-14 - State Executive Board Meeting in Kenai**



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