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We proudly salute the efforts of the Resource Development Council

In the winter of 1975, a coincidence brought Anchorage businessman Bob Penney and broadcaster Robert Fleming together on an airport shuttle bus in San Francisco. An enthusiastic Penney was adamant in his convictions that a pipeline carrying North Slope gas to markets in the Lower 48 states should follow an all-Alaska route to tidewater near Valdez as opposed to proposals to build the line through Canada. Everyone on the bus soon knew how Penney felt, and he quickly raised Fleming’s interest to his own level.

That passionate conversation on the San Francisco bus was the seed that sprouted the Organization for the Management of Alaska’s Resources (OMAR), which later evolved into the Resource Development Council (RDC). 1995 marks the 20th Anniversary of RDC, an organization which began as a single-issue group, but grew into a multi-dimensional statewide organization known for its effectiveness and influence on a wide range of public policy and resource development issues.

Today RDC is the state’s largest non-profit pro-development organization with membership ranging from individuals to local communities, labor unions, native corporations, trade associations and companies of all sizes. RDC is known for its ability to bring together diverse interests within its ranks to influence decisions and policy.

Thank you National Bank of Alaska for sponsoring this special anniversary edition!
I am very proud to be at the helm of RDC's staff effort entering its 20th year. After starting as a volunteer in 1983, working up the ranks to Project Coordinator, then Deputy Director for two years, it was especially rewarding to be chosen to follow Paula Easley as Executive Director in 1987. It is also rewarding to have Paula now on RDC's board of directors, and I think she speaks well for the organization to engender such commitment. Most of RDC's Past Presidents are still active in the membership and many of the board members have been with RDC from the beginning and are still volunteering.

RDC has come of age

RDC has expanded its reach to involve young Alaskans in understanding and accepting resource development. Above, Congressman Don Young congratulates two students for first place entries in RDC's essay contest in 1994.

Working for a Board of Directors is quite a juggling act of diplomacy, coordination, communication and most of all, cooperation for the good of the organization. RDC's Executive Committee and board are shining examples of how seemingly disparate people and industries can come together to share their volunteer efforts on behalf of common and mutually-beneficial goals.

RDC's goal is to improve the quality of life for all Alaskans through sound resource development. Over the years, RDC has grown more effective in its outreach and public efforts to educate and advocate on resource issues. But the work is never done, because as Einstein pointed out, "as the circle of light increases, so does the circumference of darkness." For instance, more people have a better idea of what Alaskans do for fun than what we actually do for a living. RDC's work is increasingly a juggling act of diplomacy, coordination, communication and most of all, cooperation for the good of the organization. RDC's Executive Committee and board are shining examples of how seemingly disparate people and industries can come together to share their volunteer efforts on behalf of common and mutually-beneficial goals.

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Past Presidents of the Resource Development Council

1975-76
Robert W. Fleming and Robert C. Penney
The Founding Co-Presidents

1976-77
Robert C. Penney

1977-78
Robert W. Fleming

1978-79
Lee E. Fisher

1979-80
James D. "Bud" Dye

1980-81
Tom Fink

1981-82
Charles F. Herbert

1982-83
Mano Frey

1983-86
Charles R. Webber

1985-86
Boyd Brownfield

1986-87
Joseph R. Henri

1987-88
Charles R. Webber

1988-89
J. Shelby Stastny

1989-90
Bill Schneider

1990-91
John Rense

1991-92
Paul S. Glavovich

1992-93
James L. Cloud

1993-94
David J. Parish

1994-95
David J. Parish

RDC intern to President in 10 years

Even ten years ago, a salary of $100 a month wasn't very much. While the opportunity provided by RDC internship between my junior and senior years of college didn't pay well in the usual sense, the experience it provided is still paying big dividends.

It hardly seems ten years has past since RDC Projects Coordinator Mike Abbott (now serving as Government Affairs Specialist at Alyeska Pipeline Service Company) called to offer a summer internship with a statewide, non-profit pro-development organization working on behalf of Alaska's basic industries. While ten years have gone by, the basic goals and objectives of RDC haven't really changed. RDC is working harder than ever at all levels to influence decisions and policies affecting Alaska's future development to achieve a sound, diversified, private-sector economic base for Alaska.

I remember well the summer of 1985 -- a time when I learned a great deal from then-Deputy Director Becky Gay and Executive Director Paula Easley, Dave Marczotte, the other intern that summer, and I had the luxury of learning from two of Alaska's most effective and articulate advocates on natural resource issues. Valuable experience was also gained from working with two of RDC's issue divisions. The Lands Division, chaired by the late Richard Tindall, dealt with a number of complex land management issues -- many of which are still a topic of debate. The International Trade and Industrial Development Division, chaired by former board member Larry Dinneen, worked long and hard on bringing more international business opportunities to Alaska.

Some things haven't changed since 1985. Several of the issues that were subjects of debate back then are still pertinent today and will be in the future. Access to federal lands, ongoing issues with regard to establishment of reasonable state and federal regulatory standards and the need for serious planning for our state's long-term economic welfare will demand our continuing attention and concerted efforts. The contacts established while interning at RDC are still helpful, as well as the experience of learning how to effectively work problems.

While the past ten years have seen setbacks on some issues, on balance there have been many successes for RDC and our members to reflect upon. It is these successes that we will celebrate on the occasion of RDC's 20th Anniversary. Dave Parish is Senior Public Affairs Representative for Exxon. He was elected President of RDC in May 1994.

Message from the Executive Director

(Continued from page 2)

accomplishments when in many cases the organization has been working on the same issues for years. The gas line, ANWR, forestry and water issues jump to mind immediately. Realistically, it is RDC's long-term approach to development that is its strength, because getting something going in Alaska takes a long, long time. Patience and perseverance are as vital as moving on opportunity.

RDC's future as an organization looks bright. For all the work we do for our members, and conversely, because of all the great efforts our membership gives us, RDC is an invaluable ally in any battle it undertakes. Political, but non-partisan, RDC has come of age in the policy arenas. In basic education, RDC has broadened its reach statewide to involve young Alaskans in understanding, accepting and hopefully supporting development in this state. Most importantly, RDC brings integrity and balance to resource debates and battles. For many, that alone is worth its weight in gold.
cies that play a role in the development of a favorable business climate that will allow Alaska to tap its vast resource of treasures. Shortly after Penney and Fleming met in San Francisco, they began meeting on a regular basis in Anchorage. Soon to follow were Bob Hartig, Bud Dye, Paula Easley, Dick McMillian, Bev Isenson, Lee Fisher and others who banded together to fight for the all-Alaska gas pipeline route and the siting of a petrochemical plant that would diversify the economic base and create new jobs.

"We quickly adopted the OMAR breakfast meeting habitat and agreed on a name," Fleming recalls. Bev Isenson became the first executive director, a local bank donated office space and the hat was passed to get OMAR off the ground. Fleming and Penney were elected co-chairs and Elaine Atwood and Tom Fink soon joined the chorus to sing the all-Alaska pipeline song. "Most of us became participants in the 'speakers bureau' and we began regaling every Lions, Rotarian, Chamber of Commerce and anyone else who had program chairman could be invited to inaugurate," said Fleming. "In our first year as a bonafide, incorporated organization, we always wondered how we would meet expenses." While OMAR was promoting the all-Alaska line proposed by El Paso Natural Gas Company, two other companies were proposing routes from Prudhoe Bay through Canada. One company, Northwest Pipeline, wanted to take the pipe near Fairbanks and then into Canada, following the Alaska Highway. Fleming, however, expected OMAR would soon be disbanded and all its members would go home and watch the gas pipeline creep down the corridor to tidewater.

"We were dedicated, hard-working, single-minded, hard-headed and, at least, was very naive," Fleming reminisced. "I really believed that all we had to do was take our story to the right people, get the political community behind us and the game was won." It was not to be. It was the wrong time, wrong place. "It is my opinion that in the end the final decision of which line would get the presidential nod had nothing to do with national security, fiscal responsibility, environmental safety or the public interest," Fleming submitted. "And these were the criteria on which OMAR argued its case."

When President Carter axed the all-Alaska line proposal, it was not an upbeat time for OMAR. It was a time of decision -- to Senator Mike Gravel presents an OMAR "First Barrel of Oil" plaque to President Jimmy Carter. At left is Alaska labor official Guy Stringham and Heida Boucher.

(Continued from page 1)
RDC brings diverse interests together

(Continued from page 5)

to head the State's ANWR advocacy efforts for Gov. Hickel's administration. Deputy Director Debbie Reinwand took over the reins of RDC until Gay's return in 1992, and later was appointed executive director of Arctic Power, a new organization which RDC board members helped spearhead to work the ANWR issue.

More recently, Gay has broadened RDC's wings to include the Alaska Wetlands Coalition and oversight of the Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education Fund, a private sector partnership with the State to advance a resource education curriculum in public schools.

Through the Alaska Wetlands Coalition, key congressional aides have been brought to Alaska on six different occasions to see first hand the unique circumstances facing Alaska communities and businesses in respect to federal wetland regulations. The Alaska community meetings are paying off as Congress is now debating legislation which provides Alaska special consideration in a national "no net loss" wetlands policy.

In her advocacy role at RDC, Gay has sounded the alarm that America is evolving into a nation of consumers without producers. "Our policy-makers and children are losing touch with the fact that everything we consume comes from natural resources produced by someone, somewhere," said Gay. "Through its advocacy, education and networking efforts, RDC aims to reverse the trend toward locking out American producers from the resource base and re-introduce true multiple use management of our public lands.

Gay noted the effectiveness of RDC is directly related to its ability to bring together diverse interests to advocate on behalf of each other.

RDC has a proven track record of bringing together every resource sector to work for a common cause, to fight each other's battles against unreasonable policies and regulations," Gay said. "Within our organization there are times when we call on fishermen, schoolteachers, labor people, and foresters to testify at public hearings to advocate development in industries other than their own. That makes a difference in the decision-making process."

RDC is governed by a 78-member statewide board of directors, which has its broad expertise, is the backbone of the organization. The board meets annually in Anchorage each spring to establish the organization's policy and determine direction for the next year. The Board also meets in Juneau during the legislative session and schedules community outreach meetings across the state from time to time.

"We had to look each other in the face and admit the bark game was over," said Fleming. "I will always remember the faces. I even remember Chuck Herbert sitting at the table to my left and that it was he who sounded the call to arms. He said he believed we had a good organization and that with the strong leadership groups proliferating the state, he felt strongly that OMA should re-group and continue."

Three years after its formation, the organization changed its name to the Resource Development Council for Alaska, but retained the expertise organized under OMA.

Paula Easley, who was in her second year of service as Executive Director when the transition occurred, immediately set out to expand RDC's base, broaden its horizons and strengthen its support. Under Easley's leadership, advocacy roles were expanded to include a broader range of critical issues facing Alaska.

"Our main goal was to expand the organization so we could tackle more of the issues across and helping each other to influence state and federal policy," Easley said.

"RDC does not exclude wilderness, parks, recreation opportunities, or fish and wildlife from the list of conservation resources," Easley said. "We do, however, feel that these resources, like minerals, timber, commercial fisheries and petroleum must generally be managed in multiple use systems if they are truly to be beneficial to society."

During her 12-year tenure as Executive Director, Easley based RDC's position on the belief that public decision making should reflect a proper balance between environmental and economic concerns, recognizing that protection of natural resources can be achieved simultaneously with protection and enhancement of the OMAR tent or expand its wings.

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Becoming the ANWR, Gay has now been with RDC 11 years, starting as a volunteer.

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Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.
20th Anniversary Celebration
Friday, March 3, 1995
Howard Rock Ballroom    Sheraton Anchorage Hotel
6:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour    7:30 Gourmet Dinner

THE PROGRAM:
Governor Tony Knowles
Keynote Presentation

A Toast to Past Presidents
Special Recognition

"RDC: The First 20 Years"
Premiere Showing

Live Music and Dancing

Black tie or Alaska formal
RDC Members:  $40 single; $75 couple
Non-members:  $50 single; $90 couple

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MARCH 1995

Reservations are required for each meeting. Please call 276-0700 by noon Wednesday.
Doors open at 7 a.m., presentations begin at 7:30 a.m.

- Members: Breakfast: $10.50, Coffee & Pastry: $5.50
- Non-Members: Breakfast: $12.00, Coffee & Pastry: $6.00

March 2: Oil and Minerals Outlook for Alaska
Cynthia Quarterman, Acting Director, U.S. Minerals Management Service
Washington, D.C.

March 9: The Markair Proposal: Should It Move Forward?
Neil Bergt, Chairman, Markair
Orin Seybert, President, Peninsula Airways, Inc.

March 16: Decline of Marine Mammals in the North Pacific: What It Means to Alaska’s Fishing Industry
Dr. Andrew Trites, Research Coordinator for North Pacific Universities Marine Mammal Research Consortium, Marine Mammal Research Unit, Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia

March 23: Status Report on Alaska District Projects & Issues
Col. Peter Topp, Commander, Alaska District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

March 30: Environmental Education: Science or Political Indoctrination?
Steve Jackstadt, Professor of Economics, Director of Center for Economics Education, University of Alaska Anchorage