



PO Box 21748

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www.alaskafolkfest.org

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June 2020 Newsletter 46th Annual

Alaska Folk Festival

April 5-11, 2021

46th AFF Postponed to 2021 Due to COVID-19

Hello Alaska Folk Festival Members and Friends,

Thank you all so much for the kind words of support following the heartbreaking cancellation of the 2020 Festival. The decision was very difficult to make but we have no doubt it is was the right one. Your thoughtful messages meant a lot to us as we navigated these uncharted waters.

While it is impossible to know now what the status of public gatherings will be in April of 2021, one thing is certain—The 46th Alaska Folk Festival will take place in April of 2021. What remains to be seen is whether it will look like our familiar beloved setting, with Centennial Hall full of smiling faces watching friends, family, and our amazing guest artists perform on the big stage, or whether it will need to happen in another format.

In normal years, the all-volunteer AFF board of directors takes a much-needed hiatus from May-September. This year we have committed to continue with monthly meetings throughout the year to develop and plan an alternative to our normal festival format should we need to go that route this Spring. We are looking at how other festivals are navigating a transition to alternative formats and will be working with our normal sound and tech partners to develop a plan for an alternative festival scenario.

One of my favorite AFF traditions is to go to Centennial Hall on Monday night. Being the first of seven festival days, many of our out-of-town friends haven't arrived yet. There are far more empty seats in the hall than later in the week, but there is such

sweetness in seeing the performers take the stage and get the Festival started. It signifies the beginning of another wonderful and amazing AFF week.

Additionally, I always pay a visit to our volunteers at the merchandise and membership table to get my t-shirt and renew my annual membership. With the 2020 festival cancelled, we are realizing that many of you also have a tradition of renewing your annual membership in-person at the festival. With the cancellation this year, we have seen a very dramatic decline in membership renewals.

We are all saddened by the cancellation this year. We have no doubt that AFF will continue for many years to come. We are looking ahead to AFF 50 (and even AFF 100!) Right now, we need support from our members. **If you normally renew at the festival, or you would like to increase your level of support with a donation, please use the enclosed Membership Form to renew through the mail, or visit us at www.akfolkfest.org and click on the "Membership" button.** Your support through the years has made this the amazing event that it is. In these difficult times, we need your support more than ever.

Wishing you all health and happiness,

Andrew Heist
President

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State: _____

Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Visa/ MasterCard ONLY

Exp. Date _____ 3 Digit Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

I'd like to receive e-newsletters instead of paper

Email: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

___ Benefactor (\$500 and Above)

___ Patron (\$150—\$499)

___ Friend (\$50—\$149)

___ Member (\$25- \$49)

___ Pay As You Can Any Amount

Please do not list my name in the program

All members receive AFF newsletters and are invited to the AFF Annual Meeting in April. Benefactors, Patrons and Friends will be listed in the festival program (deadline March 15). Please mail form to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, AK 99802.

Donations are tax deductible according to law. (EIN: #92-0098258).

Advice for Uncertain Times: Bring the Banjo!

Once upon a time, Ernest Shackleton recruited expedition members with an ad that said, "Men Wanted for Hazardous Journey....constant danger, safe return doubtful". They sailed south until the ship was caught in the ice pack of Antarctica. And then the ship was crushed. When abandoning the slowly sinking Endurance in October 1915, they were only keeping two pounds of personal effects to be carried. The photographer destroyed hundreds of glass plates (photographs he had made) but an exception was made for Dr. Hussey's banjo. Shackleton said, "We must have that banjo. It's vital mental medicine." So there was a banjo along on the trek and during the wait on Elephant Island which stretched out until the end of August 1916, every Saturday Hussey played a concert. Dr. Hussey survived the adventure and so did his banjo. During lectures later, he told about playing to a flock of penguins. Today, as we face uncertainty, let's remember to bring the instruments along.



Alaska Folk Festival

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<http://www.akfolkfest.org/>

www.facebook.com/AkFolkFest

General Email: info@alaskafolkfestival.org

Membership: membership@akfolkfest.org

Promotions: promotions@akfolkfest.org

Board of Directors

President: Andrew Heist (exp 2021)

Vice President: Miguel Rohrbacher (exp 2023)

Treasurer: Ian Putnam (exp 2022)

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