

**Alaska Legislature House and Senate Arctic Committees  
Hearing Following Alaska Summit on Arctic Shipping and Ports  
August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 PM – Anchorage LIO Auditorium**

**Speaker Biographies**



## **ÓLAFUR RAGNAR GRÍMSSON**

President, Iceland

Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson is the fifth president of the Republic of Iceland, currently serving his fifth term.

President Grímsson earned his Ph.D. in political science at the University of Manchester in England, and he became the first professor of political science at the University of Iceland. He took a seat in Althingi, Iceland's legislative assembly, in 1978 and served as the country's minister of finance from 1988 to 1991.

During his presidency, he has emphasized sustainable management of natural resources to control climate change, advocating the use of geothermal energy as a renewable, economically viable and reliable resource.

He has been a spokesman of increased, peaceful, international cooperation both in the Arctic and the Himalayas. President Grímsson, together with others, initiated the Arctic Circle, which held its annual assemblies in Iceland in 2013 and 2014 with over 1,500 participants from more than 40 countries each year.

President Grímsson has lectured at universities in many different countries, including Beijing University and Fudan University in China and Harvard, Columbia, Brown and Ohio State in the United States. Among many international awards he has received is the 2007 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding.



## MEAD TREADWELL

President, Pt Capital

Prior to joining Pt Capital, Mead Treadwell served as Alaska's lieutenant governor and was a candidate for the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Treadwell is recognized as one of the world's Arctic policy experts. He was appointed to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission by President George W. Bush and designated as chair under President Bush and President Barack Obama.

He served in the cabinet of Alaska Governor Wally Hickel and led Alaska's efforts to build circumpolar cooperation through the eight-nation Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. Mr. Treadwell has been actively involved in numerous organizations focused on Arctic policy, including the Institute of the North, the Aspen Institute, the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, the Arctic Circle and the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Arctic.

As an entrepreneur and investor, Mr. Treadwell has served in numerous board and executive leadership roles in Alaska resource development, telecommunications and information technology companies that created innovative programs like "Street View" for Google.

Mr. Treadwell is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Business School.



# **ALICE ROGOFF**

Publisher, Alaska Dispatch News

Alice Rogoff is publisher and owner of Alaska Dispatch. From 1985 to 1997, she was chief financial officer of U.S News & World Report. She served at the Washington Post Company as assistant to publisher Donald Graham, and she was the creator of the Post's National Weekly Edition.

Earlier in her career, she served in President Jimmy Carter's administration as special assistant to the director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Ms. Rogoff is also the founder of Arctic Imperative, a lecture series dedicated to raising awareness of circumpolar north issues. In addition, she is co-founder of a number of other organizations, including the Alaska Native Arts Foundation.

One of her duties as Dispatch's publisher is piloting her Cessna 206 in search of great stories and photos around Alaska.

# TARA MAC LEAN SWEENEY

Tara Sweeney is the Executive Vice President of External Affairs for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC), and is responsible for all facets of the company's government relations and communications.

ASRC is the largest locally-owned and operated business in Alaska, with revenues in excess of \$2.6 billion, with more than 12,000 shareholders and 10,000 employees worldwide.

Sweeney has been actively engaged as an advocate for self-determination for Alaska Natives and enjoys mentoring young Alaska Natives interested in becoming politically active. In 2003 she served as Special Assistant for Rural Affairs and Education in Governor Frank Murkowski's administration and most recently served as Co-Chair for Senator Dan Sullivan's (R-AK) successful 2014 Senate campaign.

Sweeney has served on numerous business and nonprofit boards at both the state and national level including the Alaska Federation of Natives; Coast Guard Foundation Board of Trustees; FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in a Digital Age; Analytical Services, Inc.; Arctic Slope World Services; Kohanic Broadcast Corporation, parent to the first Native American owned, publicly supported FM radio station, 90.3 FM KNBA; Cherokee Nation New Market Tax Credit Advisory Board; Breast Cancer Focus, Inc.; as a Trustee on the University of Alaska Foundation Board; and, Arctic Power.

Sweeney was honored in 2008 as a "Top 40 Under 40" business leader by the Alaska Journal of Commerce. She currently serves as a member of the Ted Stevens Foundation, and as the chair of the Arctic Economic Council.

Sweeney grew up in rural Alaska. While her family roots are in the Arctic Slope Region, she also lived in Noorvik, Unalakleet and Bethel. She graduated from Barrow High School in 1991 before leaving Alaska to attend Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Sweeney graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial and Labor Relations.

Sweeney is the daughter of Dr. Bryan Mac Lean and the late Representative Eileen Panigeo Mac Lean. She lives in Anchorage with her husband and two children.



# SHIRLEY MARQUARDT

Mayor, Unalaska, Alaska

Shirley Marquardt has been mayor of Unalaska, Alaska, since 2004. She served as a member of the city council from 1994 until her election as mayor.

Mayor Marquardt has lived in Unalaska since 1980 and has worked in the fishing, logistics and transportation industries.

She serves at the governor's pleasure on the Marine Transportation Advisory Board, representing southwest Alaska, and was appointed to the Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment Advisory Panel after the grounding of the Selendang Ayu.

Mayor Marquardt is past president of the Alaska Municipal League as well as the Alaska Conference of Mayors, and she is a past president and current board member of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference.



# DENISE L. MICHELS

Mayor, Nome, Alaska

Denise L. Michels was elected mayor of Nome, Alaska, in October 2003. Born and raised in Nome, she is the first Alaskan Native and the first woman to serve in this capacity.

As mayor, she works closely with an appointed city manager, the Nome City Council and other elected and appointed boards and commissions. She is the chief spokesperson for the city, advocating community legislative priorities to the Alaska Legislature and Alaska's U.S. Congressional delegation.

She continues to focus on Arctic issues, public safety and community, economic and infrastructure development, and she promotes bringing diverse groups and residents together.

Mayor Michels also serves as director of transportation of Kawerak, a native not-for-profit service organization. In this position, she oversees the development and implementation of strategies for transportation, infrastructure and Arctic policy. She represents Kawerak on the Inuit Circumpolar Council for Alaska.

She is an active participant in regional and statewide planning activities. She is a member of the Alaska Airlines Northwest community advisory board, the Alaska Municipal League board of directors and the Resource Development Council.

Mayor Michels is a shareholder of the Bering Straits Native Corporation and the Sitnasuak Native Corporation and is a Nome Eskimo tribal member. She strongly believes in giving back to her community and has served on numerous boards and ad hoc committees.

# Reggie Joule

Mayor, Northwest Arctic Borough

Reggie Joule was born in Nome in 1952, and was adopted by his grandparents Tony and May Joule. His father was an Inupiaq teacher from the village of Point Hope and his mother was a nurse as well as a cook for the school. Since 1959 Kotzebue has been his home. He graduated from Cooper Valley High School (a Catholic boarding school) near Glennallen, AK and briefly attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

Reggie has been involved in a variety of public service organizations over the years. He and his wife Linda have 5 children and 7 grandchildren.

Reggie served as a state representative in the Alaska State Legislature from 1996 until October 2012, representing much of the Alaskan Arctic. As a state representative, he served as the Bush Caucus chairman and a member of the House Finance Committee. He also served as chair of the Alaska Northern Waters Task Force which examined the changing Arctic. He also served as a Commissioner on the Arctic Policy Commission for the State of Alaska and as a tribal representative on President Obama's Task Force on Climate Change Preparedness and Resiliency. Most recently he has been appointed to serve on the Governance Coordinating Committee for the National Oceans Council.

In October of 2012, Reggie was elected to the office of Mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough. As the Mayor, one of his key initiatives is to build the Borough's science and research capacity.



# Charlotte Eraq Brower

Mayor, North Slope Borough

Charlotte Brower has served as the Mayor of the North Slope Borough since November 2011. Prior to her election, she was the Director of Human Resources for the North Slope Borough. Her career in public service has also included election to the North Slope Borough Assembly, the North Slope Borough School District Board of Education, and appointments to the Ilisagvik College Board of Trustees and the Alaska Rural Law Enforcement & Justice Commission. She has also served as the Barrow Magistrate for the Alaska Court System.

Mayor Brower is a graduate of Chemawa High School and she received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration & Management from Alaska Pacific University. She is currently pursuing a Master's of Business Administration degree.

She has been married to her husband Eugene, President of the Barrow Whaling Captains Association, for the last 40 years. They have six children and 26 grandchildren.