

State of the Station 12/15/14

Here are some updates on what has happened since our last meeting.

**Financial Audit:**

Our financial Audit for FY13 is complete and it shows what was expected considering last years fines from the Workers Compensation Insurance lapse and all the work on our AM Tower due to the wire becoming loose on the skirt. This year's budget and the following years will reflect the stations efforts to compensate for the expenses in FY13, a very achievable goal.

**Underwriting/Raffle:**

I have a topic for discussion, which is an idea for an upcoming raffle I would like to hold. The raffle is based on a prize using some of our in-kind contributions from Pen Air and the Copper Whale. The idea is a weekend for two in Anchorage and will include 2 Pen Air tickets and 3 nights at the Copper Whale. The obvious pro of this is that no one has ever done a raffle like this before and would be fun to use around Fur Rondy, State Basketball tournament or even Valentines Day. My initial thought would be to sell tickets at \$50 a piece with 200 being sold max. This would bring in \$10,000 in revenue. I would like to offer this to both Sand Point and King Cove, and the prize package would be valued at around \$3,000 for Sand Point and even more for King Cove. I am hoping we can have a discussion regarding this to get the idea refined and ready to go early in the New Year.

In the world of Underwriting we have had some very exciting leads with Trident and GCI develop. We have finally made the right contacts with the people who can make the decisions, or get the information to those who can in each company. For Trident this is a job that has even predated me! I have submitted an offer to GCI that will give us \$2000 in cash and free cell phone service for spots on the radio. Trident right now is less developed, but finding the right person is huge. I have submitted a series of partnership opportunities with them that I am hoping will bring somewhere in the arena of \$5,000 in revenue. I will send out more updates on this as we get them, but both of these partnerships are huge!

**Engineering:**

We have finally completed our FY12 State Legislative Grant, which was re-written this past legislative cycle to include work on our AM tower. The work that

completed the grant included: spraying the tower in rust areas to convert it back to metal, painting the tower, replacing the skirt wires, changing the preforms on the guy wires, plumbing the tower and tightening the guy wires. The climbers also re-attached the guy wire that was detached during the roof repairing.

We also have ordered all the necessary tools to set up the new FM antenna in King Cove and install the microphone system in the City Chambers in Sand Point. These projects will be completed sometime this summer when we can bring a radio engineer out and the ferry is running.

### **Tower Climbing Class:**

Virgil and I completed a tower-climbing course in Anchorage from Learn to Return during October. The two-day class covered certifications for both tower climbing and rescue. The class was very well taught, and by people who were extensively knowledgeable. Virgil and I both walked away feeling very good about what we learned and cautiously ready to climb a tower when duty calls.

### **CoastAlaska:**

CoastAlaska continues to be a tremendous resource to our station. There is definitely a pretty large learning curve when it comes to a complete transition of payroll and finances from one system to another, but I believe fully that the station has become much more self aware and organized fiscally. With December coming to an end we are officially past the half way point into our first year and in our contract it is stipulated that both parties will re-examine the terms of our agreement. It was becoming clear to me that certain services such as 'grant reporting' and 'audit prep' were not beneficial in relation to their cost. I was able to negotiate with Coast to take away these services for a decreased cost of \$1200 a month in our contract fees, for a total savings of \$7200 for the rest of the year. If this is a contract that is sound for next year we can receive these same services, essentially bookkeeping, financial recordings and payroll for around \$21,000.

### **Basketball:**

Basketball season is right around the corner, in fact our first series of games will begin this Wednesday. We will again make a strong attempt to broadcast as many games as possible and have plans to go on the road with one set of the teams in February. We are still finalizing Underwriting credits for this year's season, but already we have done better than ever before! Make sure you tune in to the radio to hear the exciting broadcasts!