



# Making THE Most

## 2023: A Year in Review



ALASKA FAMILY COUNCIL | ALASKA FAMILY ACTION | CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK

# WITH *Gratitude!*

Dear Friends:

In many ways, the work of Alaska Family Council in 2023 was defined by the book "Live Not by Lies: A Manual for Christian Dissidents" by Rod Dreher. In this fascinating and important read about the lessons of Soviet activist Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Dreher says...

*"Once you perceive how the system runs on lies, stand as firmly as you can on what you know to be true and real when confronted by those lies. Refuse to let the media and institutions propagandize your children. Teach them how to identify lies and to refuse them. Do your best not be party to the lie—not for the sake of professional advantage, personal status, or any other reason. Sometimes you will have to act openly to confront the lie directly. Other times you will fight it by remaining silent and withholding the approval authorities request. You might have to raise your voice to defend someone who is being slandered by propagandists."*

We each need to pray for wisdom and discernment to identify falsehoods and then for courage to act on our convictions with truth and grace.

As a valuable and necessary community asset, Alaska Family Council is uniquely positioned to serve in the public marketplace of ideas. In doing so, we fill a hole in the Alaskan political and cultural landscape where the light of Truth shines out of the darkness, the Gospel is proclaimed, God is glorified and culture is transformed for better human flourishing.

With the addition of two new staff members, Tim Barto as our Vice President of Operations and Cheston McCrea as Director of our long anticipated Church Ambassador Network, we expand our capacity to be biblically faithful, civically responsible and culturally impactful.

As you read through our 2023 Year in Review, you'll see how we are reaching outside of our election and lobbying efforts (still occurring through our Values Voter Guides and lobbying for pro family, biblically-aligned legislation in Juneau) to areas that are not dependent on who is in power. We know, that with God's guidance and through the faithful partners investing in our ministry, we can be an agent of real change.

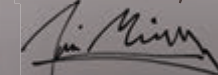
Of course, none of this is possible without the time, treasure and talent of Alaskans like you who share our passion to advance the Kingdom and lean into this ministry as partners.

Blessings on you and your family as we end 2023 strong and look to 2024 with great anticipation as to what the Lord has called us to do.

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Jim Minnery

In His Name,



President





## VALDEZ GATHERING

In May, AFC organized supporters to gather in Valdez to voice support for Saving Girls' Sports at a meeting of the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA). Jim attended in person and was joined by church pastors and other concerned citizens who shared our belief that it is unfair for biological boys to compete in girls' sports. ASAA declined to take action unless and until the State Board of Education provided them guidance; so, on to the State Board of Education we went.

## SOLDOTNA RALLY

A month after ASAA's decision, Jim and Tim traveled to Soldotna, where the State Board of Education was meeting to discuss and hear public testimony regarding a proposed resolution to allow only true females to participate in girls' sports in Alaska. Approximately three dozen supporters, including several teenage girl athletes and Senator Shelley Hughes, turned out to wave signs and testify. The testimonies were eight to one in our favor, and progress was made with the Board of Education.

## GETTING CLOSER

The State Board of Education brought us one step closer to a win for girls' sports and common sense when they passed a resolution in August to preserve girls' sports for true biological girls only. The vote was unanimous in our favor. When local TV stations wanted input from the faith community, they turned to AFC and interviewed Tim for the evening news. The issue would then be in the hands of the ASAA for their scheduled October meeting.

## VICTORY!

In October, ASAA followed the State Board of Education's lead and voted to limit participation in girls' sports to true biological girls. This was a major victory for AFC, common sense, and—most of all—female athletes.

# PROTECTING *Girls* SPORTS





# ENGAGING THE *Faith* COMMUNITY

## GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION

In February, we were honored to have Governor Dunleavy host a reception for Alaska Family Council at the Mansion in Juneau to announce his plans to establish a first of its kind executive level position to address the family and life in his administration.

The packed event had a strong gathering of allies including legislators, pregnancy care center workers, church leaders and community activists.

The reality that our first freedom, the right of the unborn to take their first breath, is under assault is not news. Nor is it unknown that the family is the original Department of Health and Social Services. We look forward to how our Governor is going to use this platform to advance what is good and right and true.





## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

On a crisp September evening, AFC was privileged to speak at the 40 Days for Life Kickoff Rally in front of Planned Parenthood in Anchorage. Led by Mary Kemper, the state leader of the effort, Greg Biegel of Holy Rosary Academy also spoke as the new leader of the Students of Life group. The evening sparked the beginning of a continual prayer vigil in front of the clinic where pro life supporters gather every day to pray for women seeking abortion as well as for Planned Parenthood staffers to have a change of heart. Hymns were sung and petitions lifted to our Creator who cherishes every one of His image bearers.

## ASD RALLY

In September, AFC was joined at an Anchorage School District meeting by approximately 50 other citizens who wanted to voice their concerns about ASD's policy that allows teachers and administrators to keep information about students from the students' parents. Jim and Tim testified, addressing the need for our public schools to respect the values of parents, especially when it comes to students who want to use an opposite sex name, identify by pronouns different from their biological sex, or dress in the clothes of another sex. Local television news covered the event and interviewed AFC in front of the building, surrounded by supporters.

## REPRESENTING ALASKA AT NATIONAL EVENTS

Because of our national partners providing sponsorships to cover expenses, AFC was fortunate to network at several exceptional Lower 48 conferences. Jim, Kim, and Tim attended the Social Conservative Conference (or SoConCon) in March in Charleston, SC. This first-ever national gathering of social conservatives was put on by the Family Policy Alliance, a national Faith-based, pro-family network to which AFC belongs. Guest speakers included U.S. Senator Tim Scott and former Education Secretary Betsy DeVoss, and it is where AFC met detransitioner Chloe Cole.

In July, Tim attended the annual Family Policy Alliance national conference in Florida, meeting with like-minded family policy organizations from across the country for networking and exchanging ideas and strategies.

Jim and Kim attended the State Policy Network's Annual Conference in Chicago in August to learn how social policies, including those addressing family and life, have a vital role alongside liberty-minded fiscal strategies.

Cheston and Jim traveled to Iowa in March to meet with colleagues within the Church Ambassador Network (CAN). Cheston returned there in July to again meet and strategize with fellow CAN leaders.







## SPECIAL GUESTS to *Alaska*

### **WILL WITT**

Will was our special guest at two dinner events in May; one in Fairbanks and the other in Anchorage. Will is famous for the man-on-the-street interviews he conducted while with Prager U, and he has great insight into the minds of American youth, especially the Gen Z and late millennial crowds. Attendees packed the two events and enthusiastically received Will's comments as he discussed the need for faith-based conservative movements to save our country from the unending onslaught against traditional American values. His speech provided an optimistic outlook for the future.



### **CHLOE COLE**

The courageous 20-year-old female who we met at SoCon Con in March, accepted our invitation to make a series of presentations to Alaskans detailing her incredible transition. Born female, Chloe felt pressured by social media and her medical providers to change her sex when she was only 13 years old. She began by taking drugs that inhibited the onset of female puberty and made her more masculine in voice and appearance, and underwent a full mastectomy at 15. By the time she was 16, Chloe realized she had made a huge mistake, so she began a "detransition" back to her true female self. Chloe spoke at two private events consisting of church leaders and ardent AFC supporters, and then two large public crowds—one in Wasilla and one in Anchorage. She proved to be a most popular guest.



### **RILEY GAINES**

Riley Gaines is an All-American athlete who tied transgender swimmer Will Thomas at the 2022 NCAA finals. The injustice of having to compete against—and change in the same locker room with—a fully-male athlete, and the manner in which she was treated during the awards ceremony, led Riley to take action. She became the first female college athlete to take a public stand and speak out against men competing as women. AFC brought Riley to Anchorage in November for two appearances, where she was greeted by enthusiastic and appreciative supporters.

Defenders  
of *Truth*

# The Team

Advocating for the rights impacting  
Faith, Family and Alaska's Future



**JIM MINNERY**  
President



**KIM MINNERY**  
Administrative Director



**TIM BARTO**  
Vice President of  
Operations



**CHESTON MCCREA**  
Director of Church  
Ambassador  
Network of Alaska



**KYLEAH MINDALA**  
Events Specialist &  
Bookkeeper



**JONATHAN QUICK**  
Social Media

## Our Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is made up of outstanding business leaders and people of faith.

Jake Libbey - Chair, Wasilla

Nancy Bienvenue - Fairbanks

John Fleming - Anchorage

Robert Flint - Anchorage

Tetyana Robbins - Anchorage

Clayton Trotter - Eagle River

Leslie Becker - Ketchikan

Chris Brown - Atlanta, GA

## Your Partnership *God's Glory!*

Alaska Family Council works to preserve the God-given rights of all Alaskans—protecting their personal liberty, parental authority, and religious freedom. We depend on those who share our passion to bolster traditional family values. Your partnership allows our voices to be heard as we join forces with faith leaders and social conservatives to take the fight to school boards and other governing bodies. We seek to communicate truth, influence public policy, promote active citizenship, equip grassroots leaders, and strengthen the body of believers. Accomplished by God's grace, our work allows us to be the image bearers that God intended.

### Consider...

- A year end gift
- Becoming a monthly donor
- Sponsoring guest speakers
- Providing scholarships for future events



[AKFAMILY.ORG/DONATE](https://AKFAMILY.ORG/DONATE)

Gifts to Alaska Family Council are tax-deductible. They enable AFC to equip Alaskans to defend common-sense family values, partner with churches and other like-minded groups to restore a healthy culture of marriage and family and develop young leaders to transform Alaska's future.

Gifts to Alaska Family Action, Inc., are NOT tax-deductible. Donations may be used for political purposes. Gifts are not designated for a particular purpose and will be used at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors for the mission and purposes of AFA.



# Our Mission

Since 2006, Alaska Family Council's mission has been to strategically advance biblical truth in the public arena for life, family, parental rights and religious freedom, through citizenship worthy of the gospel of Christ.

# Our Vision

The vision of Alaska Family Council is to see an Alaska where families thrive, religious freedom flourishes, life is cherished, and God is honored.



*CAN Conference with  
Iowa Governor*



*SoCon Conference*



*Picnic with  
AFC supporters*



*Chloe Cole meets area  
pastors*



alaska  
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 Alaska Family Action |  I'm Glad You Said That