

## Mayor's Report – July 18, 2017

Since our last Council meeting on July 5-

- June and the first half of July have been busy, but exciting and very enjoyable. After the trip to South Louisiana to visit Edison Chouest and their ship yards, we had 16 members of our family come to Valdez for a reunion. They went on tours, fished, kayaked, hiked, saw McCarthy/Kennicott, enjoyed the 4<sup>th</sup>, canoe jousted, laughed, visited and ate a lot. The last of our visitors left on July 11<sup>th</sup>, so now it is back to reality and work.
- On Monday, July 10, I attended two very excellent events, the USCG Change of Command and Dave Dengel's Retirement Party. I truly hate to see both Commander Lally and Mr. Dengel leave their posts, but it is a solace to know the Lally family will be staying with us in Valdez (hopefully Joe will return soon), Commander Franklin will be taking command with his family soundly rooted in Valdez, and Dave and Leila Dengel plan on staying here too. I send my best wishes for their futures.
- Merrick Pierce is now the longest tenured AGPA member, since Mr. Dengel resigned his seat. Merrick was in town from Fairbanks and was able to meet with the Valdez AGPA members and several council members. The meeting I was able to attend on the 12<sup>th</sup> was very informative. We still await FERC information on our Alaska gas line possibilities.
- On Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>, I attended both of the Future of Ferry Service meetings. Southeast Conferences' working group is doing an excellent job to make better ferry service a reality in the near future.
- I wish Lisa VonBargen well on her City Manager job in my old home of Wrangell, Alaska. I am sure she will be an excellent leader for that wonderful community. I also wish Todd Wegner the best as he returns to help us teach the students at VHS. We are looking forward to him rejoining the team.
- I hope everyone is having a good summer. It is a relief to know the pinks are here in much greater numbers than last year, so get out and cast a line.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez