

Annual Report



FY 2018

ASAGA from a saga because every guardianship has a story...Betty Stanley, one of the ASAGA founders

ALASKA STATE ASSOCIATION FOR GUARDIANSHIP & ADVOCACY

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The purpose of this association is to provide for the interaction of ideas, education and communication between groups and individuals interested in providing or furthering services to vulnerable individuals

A Message from the Board of Directors

Strategic Highlights

Since 1992, ASAGA has worked diligently to ensure that the State of Alaska has a strong adult guardianship system in place. In 2016, we changed the focus of ASAGA to provide Alaska a strong educational and support program to assist families and others navigate the adult guardianship system. Some states call this type of program a “guardianship assistance program.” From Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2018, we’ve seen a 139% growth in overall contacts with questions ranging from when and how to petition, duties and responsibilities of a guardian or conservator, annual reports or a number of items that affect guardianship such as benefit programs and resources. The growth is proof to us that a guardianship assistance program is needed in Alaska. We’ve been fortunate to receive two years of funding to test our theory that a program like this is necessary from the American Bar Endowment Opportunity Grant so we’re using this year to ensure the sustainability of ASAGA through other funding sources, fundraising and partnering with others to ensure a wide range of networking and informational sources are available.

This past year, we’ve expanded our services to include two new exciting programs; the Annual Report Reminder system to provide a 30 day and 7-day reminder via email when a report is due and the Jackson Stanley Conference Scholarship where Alaskan guardian will be chosen to attend the National Guardianship Association’s annual conference. The conference this year will be held in Palm Springs in October 2018 and the winner will be announced in July 2018. ASAGA is also pleased to be a part of the court-community partnership, WINGS, that looks at improving the guardianship system and ensuring less restrictive alternatives are available. By combining the WINGS travel budget and ASAGA’s, we were able to assist 13 communities with a public forum that sought to gather information on concerns and questions about adult guardianship for the stakeholder group to use in their discussions. ASAGA also provided four, full-day trainings on All the Basics of Adult Guardianship in Anchorage, Dillingham, Homer and Soldotna with more locations coming this fall. We’ve expanded our outreach in attending a variety of fairs, conferences and other organizational programs to expand our statewide reach.

In June 2018, ASAGA and the Alaska Court System finalized the new educational video that will be housed on the Alaska Court System website. Final technical touches are being administered and it will launch in July 2018. A huge thank you to the funders, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Mat-Su Health Foundation and AARP.



Financial Highlights

Our most exciting financial highlight is the second year of funding provided by the American Bar Endowment Opportunity Grant. ASAGA was selected for a second year of funding even though it is difficult to receive more than one year. This provides us with a strong foundation to continue our efforts in making ASAGA a sustainable entity. Through a silent auction and an October campaign for National Guardianship Month, we raised the money necessary for our conference scholarship.

Looking Ahead

FY2019 will be another exciting year for ASAGA as we work towards solid sustainability. It is our goal to be available to families, providers and the Alaska Court System. We hope that if a guardian or conservator is struggling with an aspect of their role, rather than change the appointment, ASAGA is a resource to help. We will continue our efforts to fill this gap statewide.

FY 2018 Board of Directors

Marieann Vassar – President

Sharon Wells – Vice President and Nominating Chair

Laura Volmert – Secretary and Education Chair

Sydney Eden – Treasurer

Patrice Icardi – Legislative Chair

Elizabeth Russo – Member at Large

Juan San Miguel – Member at Large

July 31, 2018



Financial Statements

Statement of Income & Expenses

Description	ASAGA	ABE	
Beginning bank balance July 1, 2018	\$7796.94	\$30,545.50	Carried from April 2017 award
Income FY 2018	\$16,808.03	\$35,000.00	April 2018 award
Expenses FY 2018	\$66,082.75	\$30,545.50	
Encumbered Funds	\$6,500.00	\$35,000.00	
Ending ASAGA Balance June 30, 2018	\$6522.00	\$35,000.00	FY19 award

Financial Summary

- \$74,500.00 of was spent on the ASAGA and Alaska Court System project “Becoming a Guardian” video which was funded by AARP, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and Mat-Su Health Foundation. This video was completed in June 2018. ASAGA has completed the distribution of video encumbered funds with the exception of \$6500 set aside from AARP to begin phase 2 of the project for translation into different languages.
- ASAGA would like to thank the generous funding opportunity from the American Bar Endowment Opportunity Grant. We were notified in February 2017 that our request for \$35, 000 was approved beginning in April 2017 and used through June of the 2018 fiscal year. This will provide funding for an administrative position, travel and translation services to support our goal of keeping family members involved in supporting the most vulnerable segment of our community. We are excited to announce that in March 2018 we learned that we would be funded for an additional year for FY2019.





“Petitioning is so intimidating and I didn’t want to do it but sitting down with you really helped.”
Consultation Participant

Services Provided July 2017 through June 2018

SUMMARY

- ✚ 858 individuals received 1052 units of service including I/R, consults and training. This is a 139% increase in units from FY17.
- ✚ ASAGA Board provided 48.2 in volunteer hours.
- ✚ ASAGA connected with individuals in 26 Alaskan communities and out of state families.
- ✚ We had 8396 site visits to our webpage which is a 244% increase from FY17 with the most visited page being Educational Resources.
- ✚ Out of the 488, 222 were family members, 3 self-advocates, 246 professionals and 17 unknowns.

Information & Referrals

ASAGA provided 261 units of information and/or referrals – up from 105 in FY17. Contacts ranged from how to begin petitioning, filling out reports, classes and benefit programs.

Consultations

ASAGA provided 150 consultations – up from 89 consultations in FY17. 14 of the consultations were triage where a guardianship professional assisted a family guardian.

Training

ASAGA holds a monthly class on how to be a guardian, various webinars and an annual conference. We also attend speaking engagements when invited. In FY 18, we provided 641 units of training and assisted with trainings in 15 different locations in Alaska

Outreach and Online

Through IContact, we had soft contact with upwards of 1138 individuals across the State in 24 different informational emails. Through Facebook, we reached over 8000 individuals with boosted posts about our programs and progress and to date, have 233 regular followers.



Special Projects

EDUCATIONAL VIDEO

ASAGA is proud to partner with the Alaska Court System, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Mat-Su Health Foundation and AARP on the new educational video that was finished in June 2018 and will launch in July 2018. This video contains segments on what to think of prior to petitioning, how to petition and how to be a competent guardian or conservator.

JACKSON STANLEY CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

At our conference in October 2017, ASAGA launched a new program to bring awareness and gratitude to the guardians and conservators who support individuals in Alaska. The Jackson Stanley Conference Scholarship which was named after two of the founders of ASAGA in 1992 – Dorcas Jackson and Betty Stanley – will send a guardian in Alaska to the National Guardianship Conference each year. We received five nominations/applications this year and the committee will finalize their choice in July 2018.

ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER PROGRAM

One of the most important pieces of being a guardian or conservator but one of the most difficult items is the annual report. ASAGA has launched a program to email a reminder along with the correct form 30 days ahead of the due date and another 7-day reminder. We have narrated power points on how to do the reports and can provide consultations as well. Since the launch, we have 29 guardians in 5 different locations who have signed up.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2017

ASAGA had a successful conference this year and we are thankful to those entities who supported our efforts this year including **Hope Community Resources, Stone Soup Group, Governor's Council on Special Education and Disabilities, Midnight Sun Home Care and Upper One Studios.** Without their efforts and of course the time and expertise of our speakers, the conference would not have been what it was – highly received and expanding our resources.

TRANSLATED DOCUMENTS

With the funding from the American Bar Endowment, ASAGA was able to offer interpreter services for those families who needed assistance understanding information in their own language but we were also able to translate the current guardianship responsibilities into three languages – Korean, Spanish and Tagalog. This information is uploaded onto our website.



Giving Thanks

The Alaska State Association for Guardianship and Advocacy is a non-profit organization and largely made up of volunteers donating their time to assist families and others navigate the guardianship system. We could not do this without the support of our Board of Directors that serve as our volunteers and our partners. ASAGA would like to thank our partners for their support and assistance this past year!

ASAGA would like to thank the following organizations:





Company Information

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