

ALASBO Past President, Dave Jones, died unexpectedly January 1, 2023. He was way too young to leave us - he had so much yet to give! And after a year and a half spending time with family and unwinding from the last few stressful years before he retired, Dave was ready to pick up where he left off advocating for public education funding. Dave signed a Memorandum of Agreement December 16, 2022, to serve ALASBO as its Legislative Liaison during the 2023 legislative session.

Family

Anyone who knew Dave, knows that his children and grandchildren were the loves of his life. Dave was a fabulous father and grandfather! What a blessing he was able to see them all the last few weeks of December.

Dave was always sharing pictures of his children and grandchildren. He was proud of his children in all their accomplishments.

Community

He was instrumental in creating the Kodiak Football League which led to Kodiak's first ever football program in which Dave coached for many years. That effort on Dave's part resulted in him being awarded ASBO International's Eagle award in 2007 which is ASBO's highest member recognition program. He was also instrumental in getting a replacement pool built.

Legislature

Dave coordinated the first ALASBO legislative fly-in in 2000, when the top priority to be shared with legislators was for the legislature and State of Alaska to adopt a sound fiscal plan. Unfortunately, this priority remains at the top of the Alaska Council of School Administrators Joint Position Statements we now use in advocating for public education. Many have seen Dave wave the newspaper article from 2000 over the years, noting that priority and stating how long we have advocated for a sound fiscal plan to try to shame the legislature into action.

Dave and others were instrumental behind the scenes in procuring an unprecedented 3-year forward funding of public education for FY 09, 10, and 11 – the likes of which unfortunately have not been seen since.

Another significant effort related to the Alaska retirement systems which were \$9 billion underfunded. A significant statewide effort in 2006 was made to change the retirement systems from a defined benefit system to a defined contribution system. Dave was significantly involved in that legislative effort. While not a perfect solution because it only addressed the income side of the retirement systems challenges, it did turn the tide toward mitigating the significant deficit. Probably one of the few unsettled things that Dave focused on throughout his tenure in Alaska was to address the provider cost side of the healthcare systems affecting public employers and the retirement systems.

Dave advocated for all public employers including, the state, cities, boroughs, and school districts to become involved in a consortium through which negotiations could occur with health care providers to drive costs down. An example of why such a consortium is needed is the situation whereby the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District's healthcare consultant recommended those needing heart surgeries travel to Seattle or other places Outside to get their procedures performed because the cost on average was four times higher in Alaska at that time. What Alaska healthcare providers are generally charging is a financial runaway train.

Dave's Professional Activities

Dave was ALASBO's first Chair of the Legislative Committee from 2000-2021

Dave served as President of ALASBO in 2002. During his tenure as president, ALASBO created and adopted a Policy Manual and implemented formal financial statements.

He served as Chair of the Legal Aspects Committee with ASBO International from 2007-2009.

Dave served on the Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association Board for 13 years, of which he served as chair for 11 years. While serving as President, Dave made sure everyone had a chance to speak on any given issue even if he had to call on them directly to ensure they had the opportunity to speak.

Dave was a leader among leaders.

Recognitions

In 2003, Dave received the ASBO International Eagle Award for Service to Community, ASBO's highest member recognition program.

Dave received ALASBO's highest member recognition as the ALASBO School Business Official of the Year in 2012.

Under Dave's leadership, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District received the rigorous Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Meritorious Budget Award from ASBO International for each year he was with the district.

Dave, along with Tammy White and others, led a campaign effort to elect an ALASBO member to the ASBO International Board of Directors. That effort was so successful, that Melody Douglas eventually served as President.

Dave was always available to any colleague or district that called needing help and he always said yes, every time ALASBO asked him for help. Dave could sort through an issue and get to the crux of it quickly. K-12 education is fortunate that Dave left the legal profession behind to devote his career to children.

The ALASBO Board of Directors approved an annual student scholarship in Dave's name at the January 2023 board meeting.