



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Palin Announces Board Appointments

January 7, 2009, Anchorage, Alaska – Governor Sarah Palin today announced her appointments to the Alaska Safety Advisory Council, Alaska Workers’ Compensation Board, and Alaska Retirement Management Board.

Alaska Safety Advisory Council

Governor Palin appointed Michael A. “Mickey” Hendrickson, Dawn M. Ring, Jimmie Rogers and Robert S. Peterson, and reappointed Griz Smith to the Alaska Safety Advisory Council.

The 14-member council seeks to reduce the risks of accidental death and injury in Alaska, working with private and public organizations to direct resources to improve safety. It makes recommendations to the governor and legislature on state safety policy, and plans the annual Governor’s Safety Conference held in March. Members represent industry, labor and federal, state, and local government.

Hendrickson, of Wasilla, is a safety and health program coordinator in the office of the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. He worked at the Anchorage International Airport as an operations specialist and safety/health officer from 2000-08, and worked in various safety management positions with the state and the Alaska Air National Guard from 1990-2000. Hendrickson served in the U.S. Air Force from 1975-98. He has also served on numerous state and local emergency planning committees. Hendrickson earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Wayland Baptist University in 1989, and a master’s degree in organizational management from California’s University of LaVerne in 1990. He was appointed to a seat representing state government.

Ring, of Wasilla, has been safety manager for TelAlaska since 2004, and worked in purchasing for the company from 1999-2004. She is an OSHA-certified safety/health specialist, is certified by the American Society of Safety Engineers in safety management, and is a member of the National Safety Council and the National Fire Protection Association. Ring attended Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado from 1979-1983. She was appointed to a seat representing industry.

Rogers, of Big Lake, is safety manager for ASRC Constructors in Anchorage. He had previously been director of safety and support services for Maniilaq Association’s health center in Kotzebue from 2001-07. Rogers has worked as a security supervisor on the trans-Alaska pipeline, and owned his own safety and security consulting business. An active member of the Lion’s Club, he been a local chapter president, Southcentral Southeast Alaska safety chairman, and state district administrator for the club. Rogers has been a member of numerous safety councils, including the National Fire Protection Association, American Society of Healthcare Risk Managers, and the Mat-Su and Northwest Arctic

Borough's Local Emergency Planning Committees. He was appointed to a seat representing industry.

Peterson, of Juneau, has been the Southeast Alaska representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 since 2006. He previously worked as a street maintenance supervisor for the City of Fairbanks from 2004-06, and as a journeyman heavy equipment mechanic operator in various locations around Alaska from 1984-2004. He is trained in hazardous materials management, crane operations and traffic control. Peterson graduated from a heavy equipment operator's apprenticeship program in Washington State in 1984. He was appointed to a seat representing organized labor.

Smith, of Big Lake, is a state licensed pyrotechnician who has owned a fireworks display company since 1989. He has previously owned a flooring company doing work in rural Alaska from 1975-89. Smith served as vice president of the Western States Pyrotechnics Association 1999-2005. An active member of the Lion's Clubs for 30 years, he was Alaska Lion of the Year in 1996, and spent two years as an international zone chairman. Smith has been an FAA-certified airframe and engine mechanic, and has more than 50 years experience as a private pilot. He was appointed to a public seat.

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board

Governor Palin appointed Daniel J. Rapasky and Kiana L. Peacock to the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board.

The board's 18 members are selected from four major areas of the state, with half of the members representing labor and half representing management. The board has nine three-member panels, which include one labor and one management member, plus an attorney hearing officer from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The panels meet to hear and resolve disputed workers' compensation claims cases in their regions. The full board also oversees the workers' compensation system and benefit providers.

Rapasky, of Anchorage, has been the business representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547 since 1991. He previously worked as business representative for the Alaska Public Employees Association from 1988-89, and as a journeyman wireman from 1977-91. Rapasky earned a bachelor's degree in labor studies from the National Labor College in 1984, and a master's degree in business administration from Alaska Pacific University in 1995. He was appointed as a labor representative to the board's Southcentral Alaska panel.

Peacock, of Anchorage, is a customer service agent for Alaska Airlines, and previously spent 13 years as customer service agent for Northwest Airlines. She serves as president of International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 601 in Anchorage, and is a shop steward for the union. Peacock graduated from Kotzebue High School in 1980, and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1994. She was appointed as a labor representative to the board's Southcentral Alaska panel.

Alaska Retirement Management Board

Governor Palin appointed Kristen Erchinger to the Alaska Retirement Management Board.

The nine-member board is comprised of the commissioners of the Departments of Revenue and Administration and seven trustees appointed by the governor who have professional credentials or recognized competence in investment management, finance, banking, economics, accounting, pension, administration or actuarial analysis.

Erchinger, of Seward, has been finance director for the city of Seward since 2000, and has worked for the city in finance positions since 1994, including a year serving simultaneously as finance director and acting city manager. She represents Seward in the Alaska Municipal League, and is president of the Alaska Government Finance Officers Association. Erchinger earned bachelor's degrees in international studies and Japanese language and literature, both from the University of Washington, and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage. She was appointed to a seat reserved for a finance officer of a political subdivision participating in the Public Employees or Teachers Retirement Systems.

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