

## PRESS RELEASE

The Alaskan Independence Party [AIP] will hold its statewide convention on **Saturday, October 17 from 9:00 – 5:00 pm at the Mat-Su Resort in Wasilla**. It will be mask-optional.

Now with nearly 18,000 members, Acting AIP Chairman Bob Bird of Nikiski is hoping to revitalize the party founded by Joe Vogler, viewed by many as a martyred folk hero.

Long-time activist and AIP Chairman Lynette Clarke died at her home in Fox in May and the leadership of the party passed to Bird, a U.S. Senate candidate in 1990 and 2008.

In the 1990 campaign, Bird took 34,000 votes against Ted Stevens in the Republican primary. He was a delegate to the 1996 Republican and 2000 Reform Party national conventions, both times in support of Pat Buchanan. After joining the AIP, he attended the 2004 Constitution Party national convention, which gave courtesy representation to the AIP.

In 2008 Bird's 14,000 votes was the vital element to Stevens' defeat. He is past-president of Alaska Right to Life and may be further vetted on Wikipedia.

The AIP may chart a new direction in some issues, emphasizing states' rights, strict construction of the federal constitution, a new state constitutional convention, natural law and a strong family.

The AIP will always adhere to the founding principle that the condition of Alaska's statehood placed it on unequal terms with her sister states and needs to be remedied in many ways.

Primarily, the AIP believes that the 1945 U.N. Charter and Treaty ought to have compelled the federal government to offer Alaska the same options as other former colonies, identified as "Non-Self-Governing Territories": continued territorial status, statehood, commonwealth or independence. The list included Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Guam, Dutch East Indies, French West Africa, British Guyana and many more.

The AIP has been growing in recent months and is the third largest political party in the state, holding a membership that is fully 25% the size of the Alaskan Democratic Party.

Addressing the convention will be 2-time U.S. Senate candidate Joe Miller, Dr. Nick Begich, current AIP U.S. Senate candidate John Wayne Howe, AIP State Senate candidate Greg Madden, and 2012 ARP Chairman Elect & 2014 Republican Primary Gubernatorial Candidate Russ Millette. The Constitution Party's presidential candidate Don Blankenship of West Virginia may also visit Alaska and put the convention on his list of stops.

For further inquiries and interviews, call 907-398-9373. The AIP website, which is in need of updating, has some new messages posted and is found at [www.akip.org](http://www.akip.org).