

2016 ANVCA Conference Report



Conference Overview

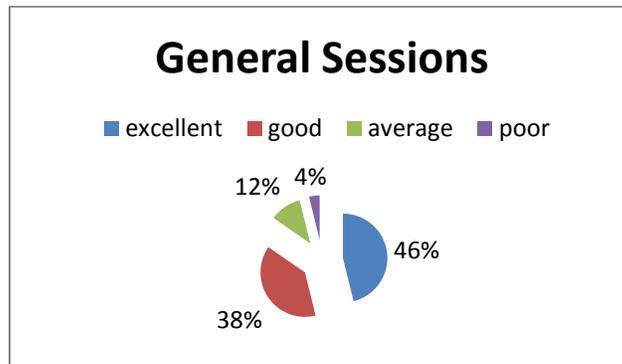
The 8th Annual Alaska Native Village Corporation Association Conference and Annual Meeting were held April 18-19 2016 at the “Changepoint” facility. A total of 184 (one hundred eighty four) participants convened throughout the two days of activities. Anecdotal and unsolicited comments on the conference were positive and then confirmed with the conference evaluation results. Ninety three percent (93%) of respondents rated the overall conference “good or excellent.” The remaining seven percent (7%) rated the experience as “okay.” Slightly less than twenty percent (20%) of attendees completed written evaluations.



General Sessions

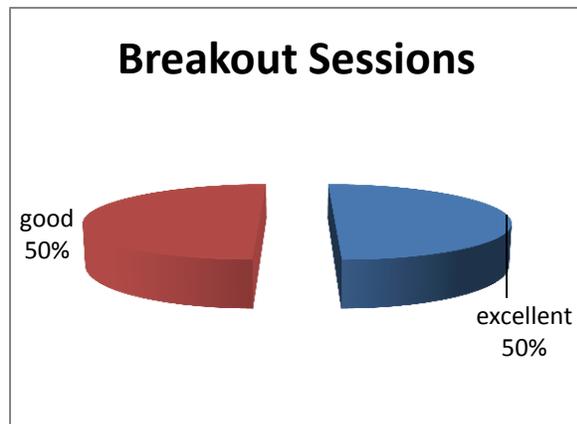
There were a total of four general sessions. The general sessions were well attended and had higher participation rates compared to the breakout sessions. The most anticipated general session speaker, Lt. Governor Mallott, was unable to participate and was replaced by a videotaped

message accompanied by the Senior Advisor to the Governor of Alaska - Rural Business/Intergovernmental Affairs, Gerad Godfrey.



Breakout Sessions

The conference included ten breakout sessions on a variety of topics. The participant numbers varied according to sessions. The evaluation results and attendee feedback was very positive;



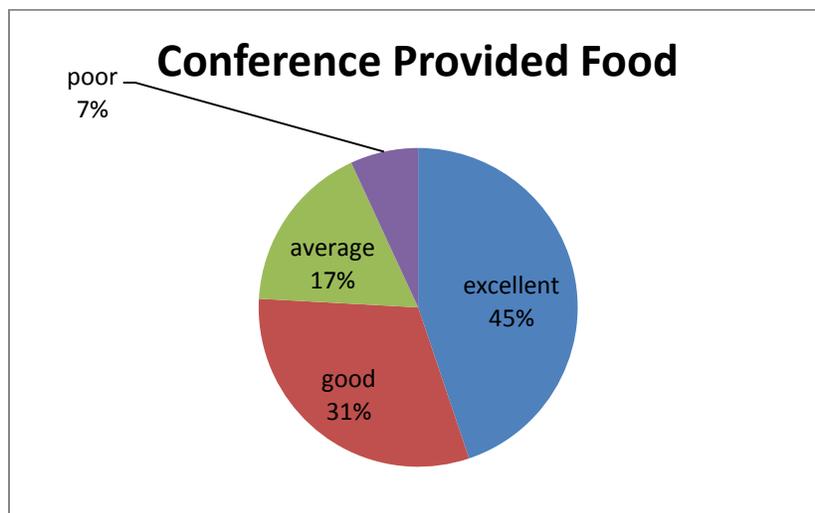
half reporting excellent sessions and half reporting good, totally one hundred percent (100%) “good or excellent.” One breakout sessions was canceled due to scheduling conflict.

Evening Reception

The evening reception was a new addition to the ANVCA Conference, resulting from suggestions of the Conference Committee. The reception was held Monday April 18th. There were twenty nine (29) total attendees at the offsite reception. The attendees reported appreciation and satisfaction with the event, yet disappointed by lack of attendance from other participants. Approximately thirty eight (38%) of the reception attendees completed the written evaluation. Only two of the respondents categorized the event as average, the remaining participants rated the reception as good or excellent.

Logistics & Food

Changepoint was a new venue for the ANVCA Conference. Despite some predictions that a facility away from downtown Anchorage might be problematic, eighty percent (80%) of the evaluators reported that the facility was “good or excellent”. Using Changepoint allowed for the selection of an independent caterer. The continental breakfast and lunch were provided through a catering contract. ANVCA provided an additional afternoon snack.



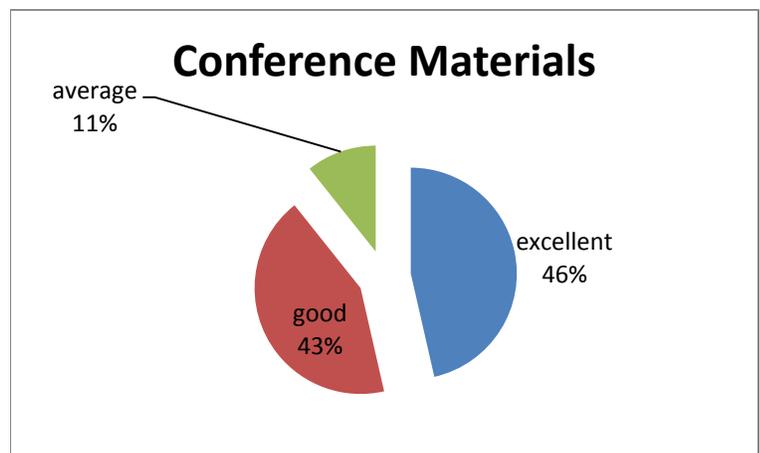
Registration Process

ANVCA used a different online vendor for conference registration. There was a push to encourage pre-registration. Of the total participants eighty seven (87%) were preregistered. The online system had virtually no resistance.



Conference Materials

ANVCA conference materials for 2016 were different in many aspects. Each registered participant received a conference bag, agenda, pen and promotional items.



Evaluation Comments

Below is a sampling of individual comments collected via evaluation forms:

It's a good idea to change the date of the conference so more people can attend this important meeting • More advertising for reception • Thank you for good conversations • Sound system not adequate, poor quality • I would love to see breakout sessions specific to different departments of ANCSA regional/Village Corporations. Also how to best inform Board members of current events to get them interested • I would like to see more culture practiced. They should always be allowed through the line first. • Copies of presentations • Morning intro was too long. Have diet coke. Call for agenda items. Awkward to talk about needing money • Better to have it at a hotel. • Great conference with lots of good material. Looking forward to next year • Excellent facilities. Have more handouts. • Need more information on descendants and tax credits • Job well done. Continue contaminated land issue • Great event! • Some stuff very interesting • Visuals should be toward the center. • Great information!! • Need better location, but good job • Excellent but need more water during breaks.



Future Events

Using the compiled evaluations and personal feedback from individual attendees and presenters, an additional list of suggestions for future events include:

Hold conference during a time that doesn't conflict with state legislative sessions or congressional sessions • need additional onsite volunteers or paid crew for technology • revamp the annual meeting and elections to encourage more participation • if using Changepoint as venue, bring in offsite technology • Strategize for increased attendance and increased evaluation completion

Summary

The 2016 ANVCA Conference was well attended, adequately advertised and resulted in a high percentage of overall satisfaction. ANVCA must use feedback and suggestions to encourage conference growth and even higher levels of attendee satisfaction. Planning for the 2017 event should begin with a call for conference committee members no later than September 2016.

