

## **Alaska Public Media Welcomes Four New Members to Board of Directors**

New Members Include Liz MacDonell, Rosalia Patton, Ayyu Qassataq and Deborah Smith

**ANCHORAGE, AK – July 28, 2023** – Alaska Public Media (AKPM) is pleased to welcome four new members to their board of directors: Liz MacDonell, Rosalia Patton, Ayyu Qassataq and Deborah Smith. The new members come from a range of professional backgrounds, and each has committed to serve for three years. Board terms for the new directors began July 1.

"This year we added four new board members. As we do each year, we seek to diversify our board by recruiting community leaders who bring a breadth of professional, strategic, and community experience to AKPM. This board class, along with current members, will help strengthen AKPM's capacity and reach, while also helping us ensure that more Alaskans benefit from the public media mission." said Ed Ulman, President and CEO at Alaska Public Media.

### **Liz MacDonell**

Liz MacDonell is the owner of MacDonell Consulting where she mentors nonprofit leaders in major gifts/campaigns and board/governance, and advises individuals and families in their philanthropic journeys. She is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP) and member of the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She is looking forward to using her experience as a volunteer and nonprofit senior leader to further AKPM's role in public discourse.

"My father served on the board of our local public broadcasting affiliate in Ohio for many years, and I know he would be proud to see that legacy continue in my service to AKPM," said MacDonell. "I look forward to offering up my knowledge and skills as needed."

### **Rosalia (Lia) Patton**

Lia Patton is a licensed Certified Public Accountant and a partner at Swalling & Associates, P.C. She currently serves on the boards for Victims for Justice and Anchorage Youth Soccer Club, and previously served as a Trustee on the Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington Board of Trustees. A long-time fan of public television and radio, she recognizes the importance of AKPM's mission, and hopes to provide a strong perspective in fulfilling that mission.

"As a viewing and listening member of public media, I recognize the importance of AKPM's mission. Public radio and television opened my eyes to the world beyond what I knew as I was growing up. For our family, it was a medium to educate, inspire, entertain us while exposing us to a diversity of perspectives," Patton said.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Ayyu Qassataq**

Ayyu Qassataq is Vice President for First Alaskans Institute where she has also held roles as Indigenous Operations Director and Policy and Research Coordinator. She is a passionate advocate with experience engaging community in meaningful dialogues that build shared responsibility and alignment toward equity, strategic power-building and self-determined community-based solutions. Other current board responsibilities include: Philanthropy Northwest, UAF Chancellor Board of Advisors, UAA School of Education Advisory Council, Municipality of Anchorage Equity Committee and the Caleb Pungowiyi Scholars Program with Kawerak.

“As we live through this extraordinary time of twisted and buried truths, the role of public media in our communities and nation has never been more vital.” Qassataq said. “Through board service with Alaska Public Media, my commitment will always be to ensure the unique needs of Alaskans and our Native communities - and the contexts that have shaped our challenges - are considered in our service to community.”

**Deborah Smith**

Deborah Smith is a U.S. Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, District of Alaska with a long law career in Alaska, Washington, D.C. and Boston, Massachusetts and list of notable litigation. Her experience also includes Judicial Training abroad, Adjunct Professor at the University of Alaska, writing, speaking and mentoring. Her previous board roles include President and Board Member, Federal Magistrate Judges Association; past Chair and Board Member, Alaska World Affairs Council; and Chair and Board Member, Ninth Circuit Court Magistrate Judges Executive Board. She values AKPM’s work to keep Alaska’s rural areas connected which is critical to reducing isolation and providing important information.

“I think in this era of disinformation and misinformation, nonprofit journalism is more important than ever,” Smith said. “I am one of KSKA’s and KAKM’s thousands of daily consumers dependent upon AKPM for insightful and balanced reporting. AKPM has been vital to the development of Alaska over the past 48 years.”

Alaska Public Media is excited to welcome the talents and diverse professional backgrounds of each of our new board members, to join forces with our existing board to continue to help lead our organization.

[Full list of our Board of Directors](#)

[Images of new Board Members for media use](#)

Credit: Alaska Public Media

**About Alaska Public Media**

[Alaska Public Media](#) (AKPM) is a shared Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR) member and a 501(c)(3) organization. Committed to meeting the needs of our



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community and state, AKPM produces and presents news and content that provides lifelong learning opportunities in public affairs, health and leisure, science and nature, economic and social development, civic engagement, and world events. The company is located in Southcentral Alaska and is comprised of KSKA radio, KAKM-TV, Create TV, PBS KIDS, PBS KIDS 24/7, and [alaskapublic.org](http://alaskapublic.org). Alaska Public Media also operates the Statewide News network and a shared television service with KTOO in Juneau and KYUK in Bethel.

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