2015 Sanctioned Charity Events

Last updated 07/01/15

Senator Gary Stevens, Legislative Council Chair, has sanctioned the following charity events:

- Girl Scouts of Alaska Annual Auction Fundraiser – January 31
- 15th Annual Thanksgiving in March - March 10
- 26th Annual Fahrenkamp-Kelly Classic Charity Putting Tournament - March 12-14
- 30th Annual Sham Jam - March 14
- A Spring Fling - March 20
- Legislative Skits - March 28
- Juneau Arts and Humanities Council Wine Tasting - April 1
- 10th Annual Kenai Peninsula Fair Celebrity Waiter Event - April 24
- Juneau Friends of the NRA Spring Fundraising Banquet - April 25
- 23rd Annual Coal Classic Golf Tournament - June 10
- Kenai River Jr. Classic - August 11
- Kenai River Classic - August 19, 20, & 21
- Kenai River Women's Classic - September 10, 11, & 12
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Kenai Peninsula Annual Auction Gala - November 15

PURPOSE OF SANCTIONING A CHARITY EVENT

To accept a "gift of a ticket" to a charity event from:

- A registered lobbyist (includes an immediate family member of a lobbyist, or person acting on behalf of a lobbyist).

- Someone other than a registered lobbyist.

PROCEDURE - TO REQUEST EVENT BE SANCTIONED

Charity events sponsored by a registered 501(c)(3) organization must be preapproved by the Alaska Legislative Council prior to the event. Organizations should submit to the chair of the Legislative Council the following information:

1. Copy of the organization's 501(c)(3) status.
2. Letter asking the Legislative Council to approve the charity event.
3. Description of event, the date and time of the event and costs associated with the event.
4. Copy of a brochure or website posting if available.

THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN UNDERSTANDING THIS WAIVER AS WELL AS THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING GIFTS.

TICKET - Definition

A "ticket" to a charity event could include: An admission ticket, a tournament fee or some other type of entrance fee. Waiver of a "ticket" to attend a charity event is considered a "gift" under the Legislative Ethics Act.

The value of a gift of a ticket is determined by the fair market value of the ticket. [AS 24.60.080(j)] Example: Tickets to a charity event were sold only as five-person tickets, purchasers paid between $1,500 and $10,000 for a single five-person ticket, and the gifts, meals, beverages, and other things of value at the event that tickets entitled participants to were the same for each ticket sold. Because paying over the minimum does not result in the opportunity to receive greater value, it is reasonable to determine that $300, or one-fifth of a minimum-priced ticket, is the fair market value of each of the entry fees.

The ticket may entitle the legislator or legislative employee to admission to the event, entertainment, food or beverage, or other gifts or services in connection with the charity event.

TICKET - QUALIFICATIONS

1. **Receipt from Registered Lobbyist:** A legislator or legislative employee may solicit, accept or receive a **ticket** to the charity event as long as the calendar year value of the ticket(s) from the same lobbyist does not exceed $250.

   Example: *A legislator accepts an admission ticket to a charity event from a lobbyist that has a value of $40. The same legislator accepts two more tickets from the same lobbyist to different charity events that each has a value of $100. The total value of the three tickets does not exceed $250.*

   The legislator is prohibited from receiving another ticket for a charity event from the same lobbyist.

2. **Receipt from someone other than a Registered Lobbyist**: A legislator or legislative employee may solicit, accept or receive a **ticket** to a charity event of any value. If the ticket is $250 or more in value, disclosure is required within 60 days. Under AS 24.60.080(i), a legislator or legislative employee must disclose if an immediate family member also received a ticket to a sanctioned charity event in excess of $250.

   Gift Related to Sanctioned Charity Event
   Gift Related to Sanctioned Charity Event – Family Member

GIFTS RECEIVED AT THE CHARITY EVENT

Gifts received at the event are calculated separately from the value of the gift to attend the event.

These types of gifts could be categorized as items not included with admission to the event.

1. **When the ticket is received from a lobbyist**: Gifts received at the charity event cannot exceed $250 in value in a calendar year.

2. **When the ticket is received from someone other than a lobbyist, an immediate family member of a lobbyist, or a person acting on behalf of a lobbyist:** Gifts received at the charity event must be disclosed within 60 days if the aggregate value is over $250.

Notes:
Receipt of a prize from a raffle or drawing at the event is exempt from disclosure. [Advisory Opinion 93-03]

Legislators and legislative employees may not accept a gift of an auction item that was either purchased or won by a lobbyist at a sanctioned charity event.

CHARITY EVENT WITH EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

When a charity fundraising event also contains an educational component for the attendees, the receipt of a ticket may be categorized as a Gift of Travel and/or Hospitality for a Matter of Legislative Concern under AS 24.60.080(c)(4).

Example: Although an educational presentation at a charity event may be a matter of legislative concern, this exception does not necessarily apply to hospitality or travel related to the charity event if the presentation is merely incidental to the charity event, even if the subject matter presented is of critical importance. In determining whether an educational presentation is incidental, significant weight would be given as to whether or not the presentation was the primary focus of the charity event.

Please contact the Ethics Office for further information and clarification. Costs associated with attending an educational event require disclosure if $250 or more.

Gift of Travel and/or Hospitality
Gift of Travel and/or Hospitality-Family Member

Sanctioning of Charity Event
AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(B)

GIFTS - AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(B) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a legislator or legislative employee ***may not solicit, accept, or receive a gift with any monetary value from a lobbyist, an immediate family member of a lobbyist, or a person acting on behalf of a lobbyist, except*** *a contribution to a charity event,* ***tickets to a charity event, and gifts to which the tickets may entitle the bearer; however****, under this subparagraph a legislator or legislative employee* ***may not solicit, accept, or receive from the same*** *lobbyist, an immediate family member of the lobbyist, or a person acting on behalf of the lobbyist,* ***tickets to a charity event, gifts to which the tickets may entitle the bearer, or both****, that* ***in a calendar year aggregate to $250 or more in value;*** *in this subparagraph, "charity event" means an event the proceeds of which go to a* ***charitable organization*** *with* ***tax-free status under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) and*** *that the* ***Alaska Legislative Council has approved in advance;*** *the* ***tickets may entitle the bearer*** *to* ***admission*** *to the event, to* ***entertainment****, to* ***food or beverages****, or to* ***other gifts or services*** *in connection with the charity event;*

GIFTS - AS 24.60.080(d) A legislator or legislative employee who accepts a gift under (c)(4) of this section that has a value of $250 or more or a ticket to a charity event or gift in connection with a charity event under (c)(10) of this section that has a value of $250 or more shall disclose to the committee, within 60 days after receipt of the gift, the name and occupation of the donor and the approximate value of the gift.

GIFTS - AS 24.60.080(i) A legislator or legislative employee who knows or reasonably should know that an immediate family member has received a gift because of the family member's connection with the legislator or legislative employee shall disclose for publication under (d) of this section the receipt of the gift by the family member to the committee if the gift would have to be disclosed under this section if it had been received by the legislator or legislative employee. If receipt of the gift by a person who is a legislator or legislative employee would be prohibited under this section, a member of the person's immediate family may not receive the gift.

Advisory Opinion 11-04, issued by the Ethics Committee on February 23, 2012, addresses charity events and tickets. Click "HERE" to review the opinion.