



Greetings, AABBA colleagues-

Will this newsletter, we have completed a **year of publication**. My hope is that it helped to keep us connected even when we do not have the opportunity to meet in person! What a year - tumultuous, shall we say? Any review of the News of 2016 is a reminder of economics, politics, losses, and victories. For Alaska tourism, the year was strong, although B&Bs had some months that were slow. And the **forecast for 2017** is that tourism continues to expand. The cruise ships alone brought 1 million visitors and many of the lines predict growth from 3% - 15% *and* a longer season.

AirBnb was big news this last year - some of our members advertise with them but remain committed to the 'Inspected & approved' kind of service. Watch for more news this coming year" **AirBnb has 300+ places** in Anchorage and 122 ranking as "Super Host" sites. They offer 'extraordinary service' such as responding to inquiries quickly 90% of the time or better. AirBnb gives Super Host listings a badge to make them stand out.

AABBA promotes extraordinary service, too. The criteria of the Inspected & Approved status affirms this. As of the end of the year, **we have developed a badge to identify BnBs** when they complete the peer review. Why? Because it says something about quality to CUSTOMERS. Did you vote for your [selection of the badge](#) artwork? We will use it with the newly redesigned website!

And the **redesign process** is moving steadily forward. Conversations with Acorn, the web developers, will shortly yield a link for you to see the template. If you want to get ahead, look at your page on the AABBA site and update its content. Login at the [Member Info](#) page if you want to refresh prices or other descriptive material. Thinking about your new photo images? You will have the chance to breath new life into your marketing by updating these!

In closing the year, I hope you will join me in thanking each member who has served us all as board members and officers. Without a team effort, no organization can exist. **When everyone carries part of the load, wow! It is truly rewarding.**

Thank you, Joyce, Annie, Laura, Terri, Krista & Zack, Cliff & Sheila, Caroline, & Heather!!!

---Mary M Rydesky



AABBA Board Retreat

February 4, 2016

Camai B&B

10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

- all members welcome -

please RSVP via Survey Monkey

WHAT WILL 2017 BRING?

The ADN recently featured an article on 2017 projections for tourism. Did you read it? [Click here](#) to see it now. It provides good news!



AABBA 2017

Monthly Evening Meetings

Friday, January 20th -

Orso's

Monday, February 13th

Monday, March 13th

Monday, April 10th

Monday, May 8th

Monday, August 14th

Monday, September 11th

Monday, October 9th

Monday, November 13th

BP Energy Center is located at

900 E Benson Blvd

behind the BP office building



AABBA links

wants to know if we care about the transparency of airfares - in other words, should some fares be hidden, or should they be available on sites such as TripAdvisor? Consider the value to travelers of being able to shop all fares - and if you are in favor, visit the petition for [Air Travel Fairness](#).

AABBA Facebook

AABBA Blog



Winter Wreaths

1 cup butter, softened

1/2 cup sugar

1 egg

1 tsp. vanilla

2 1/2 cups sifted flour

1 1/3 cups walnuts, finely chopped

1/4 cup maple syrup

Red & green candied cherries, slivered

- Beat butter or margarine with sugar until light & fluffy in a large bowl. Beat in egg & vanilla.
- Stir in flour, 1/3 at a time, blending well to make soft



AABBA as Dinner Guests

On January 20th, Orso invites us to sample their dishes - this prepares us to refer visitors and to describe the delicious options. Management kindly covers the cost of food; beverages are out-of-pocket for each attendee.

Have you thought about the wait staff? They count on generous tips that evening. Please carry sufficient cash for beverages and gratuity (in prior years, we have suggested carrying \$25 per person, as we do not know an accurate figure until the evening of the event.)

Please RSVP via Survey Monkey it will be sent as a link in an email to you on 12/26/16.



Mail received for all members:
Season's Greetings from us, and a wish for a happy healthy and prosperous new year!
[Sonnet Calhoun](#), MOA Lead Land

mix with walnuts & maple syrup in small bowl; reserve for cookie centers.

- Fit pastry bag with a small star tip; fill bag with remaining dough. Press out, forming 1 1/2 inch rings onto ungreased large cookie sheets. Fill centers of each cookie with about 1 teaspoon of nut mixture. Decorate with slivers of candied cherries.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes, or until lightly golden at edges. Remove carefully from cookie sheet to wire racks; cool completely. Display as a centerpiece!

Courtesy [AIHP December Newsletter](#).



What topics would you like to hear about this year? The Program Chair, Joyce Hughes, is asking for your input. [Send suggestions](#) directly to her. AABBA is acting on members' requests to return to same-night-of-the-month meetings and now we need to know how to use the time to everyone's benefit - please advise.

Winter Season Availability

Are you taking guests from January to April?

Hotline needs to know that your online calendar is updated for volunteers as well as shoppers to consult. While sending a spreadsheet copy is welcome, the online version is wonderful as AABBA and your potential guests can both access it!

Did You Know?

- Board Members & Officers will be **inducted at the General Meeting** to be held at Orso's in January. Congratulate all who are willing to keep the organization moving forward, and thank those who have completed their tours of duty.
- Which **committees** will you serve on, providing ideas and power to accomplish goals in 2017?

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*Judy's Touch or Class Planet Anchorage Reflection Lake Sand Lake Studio
Susitna Sunsets Alaska European Turnagain View*

- Be certain to request your **"Inspected & Approved" certificate** for display in your B&B.
- **Decals for all** members are available and will be distributed at the January meeting.
- Interesting article in The New York Times 12/4/16 by David Segal is worth the read - are you a FlipKey property? Part AirBnb and part VRBO, it is another source of accommodations to watch.

[Feedback Button](#) -

Thoughts on this Newsletter?

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