

## FREELANCE RATES AND GUIDELINES – "AK"

APRN will pay station-based and independent reporters for produced, sound-rich features for use in *AK*. All stories must go through an edit process with APRN's managing editor Duncan Moon (or another APRN staffer as arranged when necessary.) *AK* staff will work closely with reporters to ensure the sound and final story are of the highest possible quality.

### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

Stories that have something to do with Alaska or Alaskans. Stories that get at "the ground level" as Duncan likes to say. Talking to the people who are affected by policies, economic changes, new government requirements, etc and not just the bureaucrats who create the new policies, etc. Stories that carry the listener to another place with the use of sound and strong writing. *AK* stories will be characterized not so much by the subject matter (arts and cultural stories, serious news stories, scientific inquiries, health issues, sports, local festivals, cute kid features, people, pet and place profiles are all possibilities) as the way they are told.

### TO PITCH A STORY:

Send us an e-mail. Please include:

The gist of the story, the main point you're trying to get across. An idea of the people you might interview, the sounds you might gather, the settings you'll use. The time-frame for the story: when could you get it done, when should it air to be most relevant, when will it be too old and moldy to run.

Send your pitch to [Jessica@aprn.org](mailto:Jessica@aprn.org) and [dmoon@aprn.org](mailto:dmoon@aprn.org). We will meet regularly to decide which stories to pursue, and get back to you.

Please always feel free to call Jessica at 907 263-7411 or Duncan at 907-263-7417 to talk over a story idea before, during, or after you have pitched it.

### WHAT WE PAY:

APRN will pay between \$25 and \$50 per produced minute for the final story length - depending on how much of the production work is done by our staff, and how much by the freelancer. On some occasions, as pre-arranged with the weekend producer or executive producer, we may be able to pay reasonable travel costs or other costs related to gathering the story. Higher per minute rates may be negotiated once a reporter has established a proven track record, and as funding allows.

APRN will pay a kill fee of \$25 for stories that are originally accepted/assigned, but are discontinued after the reporter has invested some effort. The kill fee will not apply for stories that are not up to standard. We will make every effort to avoid these situations, by assigning only what we plan to use and working closely with reporters to improve the quality of stories when necessary.

APRN will make every effort to pay for all stories within one month. Generally, payment will be initiated after a story has aired. However, in the event that an “evergreen” feature sits in our hands for a lengthy period of time without being used we will initiate payment at the one month mark.

#### WHAT WE WON'T PAY:

At this time, we will not be able to pay for commentaries, essays, poems etc submitted by station reporters, community members or anyone else – only for produced stories that go through our edit and meet our qualifications. We really want to hear commentaries, essays, poems, songs, radio theatre plays, etc – and will happily announce an author’s or artist’s latest publication or endeavor in lieu of payment. In the future we hope to be able to pay for this material, and will let you know when it becomes possible.

#### THE EDIT PROCESS:

AK edits will be NPR style...reporters will send their scripts for initial vetting, then will read the script and play the tape for the editor, who will run a stopwatch on the process. This may be done over a phone line. The piece should be within 30 seconds of the length assigned. The edit is a collaborative process – reporters bring a first-hand, detailed, in-depth understanding of what they’re reporting. The editor brings a fresh set of eyes and listens with the ears of – and advocates for – the listener. The result should be a better, sharper, cleaner, story that both can be proud of. Editorial discussions may be lively and cogent, but when a point of disagreement cannot be resolved, the editor will have the final say. If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail them to Jessica at [aprn.org](mailto:jessica@aprn.org).