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AFN, Inc.

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Anchorage, Alaska 99503

NEWSLETTER

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AFN, Inc. Telecommunications Committee Meets

Meeting for JOM committee

Representatives from 11 of the 12 Alaska Native Regions recently attended the years first Johnson O'Malley Review Committee meeting. Much work had accumulated in the 6 months since their last session.

Primary topics discussed during the two day session included: prioritizing the uses of excess and/or supplemental funds; the future role of AFN in relation to the JOM program; the method of handling the FY'77 JOM program; and the definition of "tribe".

Overall few specific dollar amounts were obligated but a definite decision was made stipulating that no new programs would be funded for the remainder of FY'76.

As it was felt that AFN/JOM, as presently constituted, would eventually cease to exist, some other structure needed to be devised. In keeping with AFN's position promoting decentralization, it would be through the development of regional contracts.

However, considering that this is a new approach a few details remain to be worked out. It is understood that the Bureau is to

dispatch a letter of explanation to the regional non-profit associations explaining that the majority of the funds for FY'77 will be distributed on a per capita basis.

Additionally, it is assumed that each association is to provide the Bureau as accurate count of eligible students within their respective regions.

Each of these organizations will most likely receive the responsibility for reaching all eligible villages to determine the desirable means for administering their JOM projects.

Funds to alleviate any burdens encumbered by the

establishment of the new procedures are to be provided out of presently unobligated JOM funds.

Plans are being made for another meeting on March 24, 25, and 26 to develop specific plans for each region. It is expected that in addition to the JOM Committee, two representatives of each region will be present to determine the exact costs and procedures.

Due to the changeover the JOMRC will henceforth be known as the Johnson O'Malley Native Education Committee whose primary purpose will be to give advice to the Area Director on JOM related issues.

Committee meets-

The Bush Justice

The Bush Justice Implementation Committee met at Ft. Yukon and Anchorage January 10-13. Based on suggestions at a community meeting held for the Committee, Captain James D. Vaden, Commander "I" Detachment, Alaska State Troopers, Fairbanks volunteer to use his resources to assist the villages around Ft. Yukon in obtaining radio communications with Ft. Yukon.

Presently these villages (Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Beaver, Stevens Village, Venetie, Circle, Arctic Village etc.) have to rely on hand delivered notes to bush pilots to request a Trooper for their village.

After a report from the Bush Justice staff and based on his own investigation, Captain Vaden also ordered the Ft. Yukon Trooper to make regular and more frequent visits to those villages surrounding Ft. Yukon than in the past.

Because of numerous complaints about the Ft. Yukon Trooper's job performance brought out in the Bush Justice Committee's investigations, Captain Vaden also informed the public that thorough investigation would be conducted into that matter and the Bush Justice Committee staff informed of the results.

In other business, the Committee approved publication of the Bush Justice staff's Dillingham area report on justice. The report is written by Evan C. McKenzie, Field Representative for the Bush Justice Project and is based on an eight-day investigation of criminal justice problems in Dillingham, Manokotak, and Togiak made by Field Representatives Joseph Curran and Evan McKenzie.

The report includes specific recommendations for improvement of justice delivery in the Dillingham area and is especially critical of the

Dillingham Magistrate's job performance.

The field investigation revealed overwhelming criticism of the Magistrate and substantial allegations of denials of due process, racial bias, and handling of juvenile offenders, to mention a few.

The report requests that the Judicial Qualifications Commission investigate the allegations turned up against the Magistrate in Dillingham.

The report also recommends that a Fish and Game bilingual education program, similar to that set up in Bethel by the Department of Fish and Game biologists be established in Dillingham.

Because the Dillingham Fish and Wildlife Protection Officer admitted destroying a fisherman's net as "punishment" for a Fish and Wildlife violation, and because of other complaints that the Fish and Wildlife Officer cited people for mere technical violations of the law, the report also recommended that necessary disciplinary action be taken against the Dillingham Officer and that he be better advised in the performance of his duties.

The Bush Justice Project has recently received endorsement of their Law Writing and Justice Education Project for next year from the Governor's Commission on the Administration of Justice. The grant must still be approved by Federal authorities in Seattle under the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

If approved (and that appears likely) five villages will be selected for the pilot project. The project will use video tape and other oral methods to determine exactly what sort of justice education village people want.

The Bush Justice staff will then develop educational materials to meet the expressed needs of the village people. The

Opts recommendations For construction of 37-site earth stations

The recently formed Telecommunications Committee of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. held its second meeting in Anchorage January 15 & 16. Members of this advisory committee to the Governor's Office of Telecommunications represent all the non-profit regional corporations. Their selection was coordinated by the AFN.

At the January meeting, Matt Jaimin of the Kodiak Area Native Association was elected Chairman, with Verl Purbaugh of the Aleut League elected Vice-Chairman.

The committee made final site recommendations for construction of 37 earth stations during 1976, from sites proposed by the State and RCA Alascom. Five sites were also selected for probable construction, with three additional sites to have VHF land links with nearby earth stations.

Twenty earth stations will be completed by March of this year. The construction of the approved 42 earth stations next summer, with the three VHF links, will provide a total of 65 Alaskan communities with earth station long-distance telephone and emergency medical service by late 1976. All 65 have no existing communications.

The committee also established preliminary criteria for selecting the remaining sites for earth stations to be constructed in 1977.

Suggested criteria calls for site selection based on community population, adequacy of existing telephone service, accessibility, and whether or not the community has a health aide and primary or secondary schools that could benefit from earth station service.

A resolution passed by the committee calls for the State to fund more than the now planned 100 earth stations to be installed throughout the State. The committee also resolved that RCA Alascom should not be granted the 35% interim rate increase it is requesting of the Alaska Public Utilities Commission.

In future meetings, the committee will finalize recommendations for 1977 earth station site selection, plan for upgrading existing

project will also assist these five villages in writing village laws that are based on Native culture and values.

Joe Curran and Evan McKenzie, Bush Justice Field Workers, are now in the village of Manokotak, near Dillingham, for about teays to begin the first phase of this project and to wind up the final phase of this year's project.

communications in communities not affected by the earth station program, and study the long-term role of satellite communication for rural television and other data transmission.

Lino Barril, Office of Telecommunications community liaison manager, observes that the committee is serious about their work.

"There are a lot of knowledgeable and dedicated people on the committee," he says, "who won't be rubber stamps. Their recommendations are in keeping with the goals and policies of the regions, and that's what we need."

The Office of Telecommunication's Deputy Director George Shaginaw adds, "Our Office has been encouraging the regional corporations to independently establish a planning committee. At its annual convention in October the AFN passed a resolution calling for such a committee, and took the initiative to get it organized."

"The AFN Telecommunications committee is a strong and independent group," Shaginaw adds, "and we are looking to them for advice and recommendations that will help us plan the best communications system to meet everyone's needs. Our Office doesn't want to make communications decisions for anyone; we need advice from rural and regional people."

The committee will meet monthly during the legislative session, then bi-monthly. Funding for the first meeting in December was provided by RurALCAP; the Office of Telecommunications funded the January meeting. Legislation is soon to be introduced to independently fund the Telecommunications Committee during 1976.

Committee members, appointed by their own regional associations, are: Chairman Matt Jamin, Kodiak Area Natives; Vice-Chairman Verl Purbaugh, Aleut League; Sam Fortier, Bristol Bay Natives; Jake Miller, AHTNA; Frank Smith, Cook Inlet Natives; Lynn Chambers, Kaverak; Stan Jones, Mauneluk; Paul Sherry, Tanana Chiefs; Steve Boyett, Yupiklak Bista. The Tlingit-Haida Central Council, Arctic Slope Natives and North Pacific Rim Natives have not yet appointed their representatives.

New talent search coordinator

Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc./Alaska Student Higher Education Services Central Office is very happy to announce the appointment of Steve Crosby to the position of Talent Search Coordinator.

Steve's experience includes the co-organization of the 1st Youth Employment for Summer Program (Y.E.S.) for the State of Alaska, and subsequently serving as both Head Counselor and Advisor for the program.

He also has served as Student Personnel Director, Student/Graduate Placement Director and Facilities Coordinator at Alaska Methodist University.

Anchorage Community Organizations, he has organized include the Anchorage Community Theater Guild and the Treasures of Sight & Sound (TOSS) Children's Theater/Theater School for Children.

Steve recently returned to Alaska after obtaining his MFA degree in Directing at Florida State University. Since leaving Alaska 2 1/2 years ago, he has worked as an actor and director in summer stock and regional theaters, most notably the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, Minn., and has performed both on PBS National Educational Television and in film.

The Talent Search project is

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