

ANC sets its goals

Dear Editor:

Anchorage Native Caucus is a private association of Alaska Natives and American Indians who live and work in the Anchorage area. Although most of our members have strong ties to other Alaska communities (to which many of us hope to return someday), we consider Anchorage our home and have a desire to make it a good place for Natives to live. For that reason, ANC was organized to address issues of social and political importance to Natives living in the Anchorage area. By cooperating with state and local officials and political leaders, and confronting them when and as often as necessary, we want to help effect the changes necessary to allow Natives to fully participate in what Alaska and Anchorage have to offer, yet retain our own cultural identity. I am not understating the task when I refer to it as a monumental.

Some areas of concern addressed by ANC in the past couple of years include discrimination in the criminal justice system, the failures of the Anchorage School System in educating Native children, the inadequate justice system response to increasing violence directed against Native women, and the ever present problem areas of employment and discrimination. These are all areas that are being addressed on the State level, but which we feel must be addressed locally as well.

ANC was also active in participating in the political process during the 1980 state elections through its Alaska Native Political Action Committee (ANPAC).

Alaska Natives have been effective in developing and protecting their rights on a national level. But when a good look is taken at what has been done on a local level, in the community

with the largest Native population in the state, we have to be concerned. We do not, as part of any systematic organized effort, participate in the activities of the school board, the municipal assembly, the administration, or on municipal boards and commissions. The same is true to a great extent in state government. The recent revelation about state employees who earn annual salaries of \$50,000 or more was noted for absence of Natives. Upper level administrative officers in the municipality of Anchorage similarly do not include Natives.

Through active participation in the Anchorage community, we would like to do our part to help change the system to include our participation and to respond to our needs. We want municipal officials to understand the cultural responses of Alaska Natives to urban problems and not discriminate because of them. We want municipal officials to understand and address our concerns, which range from our deep concern over increasing violence towards Native women or over matters of concern in our neighborhoods.

We invite all who share similar concerns to join us in our efforts. ANC meets the first Wednesday of every month. Task forces formed by ANC to address specific problems meet more frequently and can use active participants. ANC also sponsors a monthly luncheon meeting to which we invite a guest speaker to address a topic of importance to us. The meeting times and places of ANC's regular and luncheon meetings are announced in the Anchorage newspapers.

Patrick M. Anderson
ANC President - 1981

Post Script - Here is an opportunity to begin your participation. Recently, the University of Alaska prepared a report on Alaska Natives which indicated 34 percent in the Anchorage area are unemployed. This, plus many reports that systematic discrimination is practiced by many major employers in the

Anchorage area has prompted ANC to from an employment task force to look into this matter. Dan Perry, ANC Vice President, will coordinate a meeting at the Cook Inlet Native Association offices April 7, at 7:00 p.m. to identify areas of concern and plan a course of action. Present at this meeting will be representatives from the State Human Rights Commission, the Cook Inlet Native Association, the Municipal Equal Rights Commission, and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance. For more information, contact Dan Perry evenings at 333-5355.

Thanks for potlatch help

Dear Editor:

Fairbanks Native Association would like to thank the following people for their help on the 1981 FNA Annual Potlatch. Without their help and the public's support, it would not have been as successful as it was.

For donations, cooking and serving: Ruth Samuelson, William and Barbara Roberts Rick, Shirley and Cheryl Butler, Sister Alice, Adeline Woods, Frank Amouak, Poldine and Lucy Carlo, Sally Hudson, Mary Jane Fate, Parker and Ethel Nation, Dorothy Bergamaschi, Martha Hayward, Mary Romer, Effie Kokrine, Walter Lord, Charlene Allen, Irma Arrants, Ella Mauer, Olive Anderson, Pauline Buelna, Interior Trappers Association, Carol Elia, Gilbert Nicholi, Mary Jane Adams, Lenora Notti, Rodney Herbert, Daphne Gustafson, Susan Samuelson, Toni Movius, Clarence Smelcer, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Alexander, Ellen Frank, Neil and Geraldine Carlo, Ruth Cruikshank, Josephine Riley, Helen Simpkin, Clara Johnson, Pearl Chanar, Cecilia and James Johnson, Madrene Evans, Lillian Coleman, Eliza Jones, Sandy

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Cummings, Elizabeth Frantz, and Sandra Ollice.

For help with ticket sales: Norma Richards, Anita Henry, Carrie Culbreth, and Lois James; Master of Ceremonies Alfred Grant; Queen Judges and organizers Lillian Preston, Elsie Maillard, Sharon McConnell, Shirley Lee and Debby Fickus; baby and princess judges 1980-81 Miss World Eskimo Indian Olympics Yvonne Wright, Teresa Johnson and Helen Poo-gootooluk.

For help with clean-up: Andy Angaiak, David and Vernal Stone and family, for raffle ticket sales, Virginia Sweetsir, Marilyn Joseph, Ann Thompson and Anne Fisher; for selling \$926 in door tickets, Johnny David; Weir Negovanna, fiddling;

and Moses Samuelson and group for fiddling and guitar music.

Thanks also goes to the Youth Center for selling pop, the Fish and Game for calling us when there was a road kill, the public for donating food, and last but not least to the Festival of Native Arts and Jim Stevens, and the Kaltag, Barrow, Wainwright, Mountain Village and Minto dancers for their wonderful sharing of Native dances with us.

We'd also like to thank the many we have not listed here who are there when needed. Each year we take this opportunity to allow a chance for every one to get together and enjoy Native food, culture, heritage and good times.

Agnes Griffith
Community Relations Officer
Fairbanks Native Association