

Surprises mark regional Native corporation meetings over weekend

Edwardsen upsets Upicksoun, Wassman wins BSNC seat ...

From Tundra Times Bureau Reports

There has been a dramatic change of the guard at Barrow.

Meeting Sunday night, shareholders of the Arctic Slope Regional Corp., removed Joe Upicksoun from his seat on the board of directors. Upicksoun, who has run the corporation for its first five years, was replaced by Charles Edwardsen, Jr., the Inupiat political activist who has helped organize Native people all over the country.

Upicksoun's job as corporation president went to Edward Hopson, Sr.

By a near unanimous vote of the new board, which reorganized itself after the shareholders cast their ballots, Upicksoun was retained in a "sabbatical — advisory position for the coming year" according to a press release from the corporation's Anchorage office.

It is not yet clear what prompted the abrupt in Arctic Slope leadership. Although the corporation lost about 2 million dollars last year, the annual report does not seem to reveal serious management or investment problems.

Although Upicksoun was removed, the remainder of the ASRC management team remained virtually intact after the meeting.

According to the press release,

"A strong campaign by Charles Edwardsen Jr., and a well-knit group of supporters generated a sufficient number of proxy votes to successfully challenge and win the one "at-large" seat of this years contest."

Other new board members are Martha Aiken and Lloyd Ahvakana both of Barrow. Members reelected are Herman Rexford, Kaktovik; Eddie Bodfish. Wainwright; and David Brower, Sr., Nuiqsut.