



NBA president, Richard Strutz

NBA will be doing a lot of listening when it comes to the banking needs of rural Alaska under the leadership of Richard Strutz, who has been named the new president of NBA.

"We feel we've done a good job, but we can do better," said Strutz. He explained that it's easy to sit in Anchorage and feel that needs are being met. The only way to find out, however, is to get in touch with the people at the grassroots level, he said.

Robert Gray, president of NBA since 1985, announced his resignation effective Dec. 31, according to Ed Rasmuson, chairman of the board of directors. Gray and his wife Jane plan to relocate to Sydney, Australia. Gray will teach in the master's program at the University of Sydney while taking post-graduate courses to enrich his own education.

Strutz, formerly executive vice president over the bank's lending functions, began his career with NBA as a teller in January 1970. In April 1972, he entered the Management Training program. He was assistant manager of the Petersburg Branch, branch manager at Sears Mall Branch, commercial lending manager and

NBA's new man at the helm

senior vice president before being named executive vice president over the bank's lending functions in December 1987.

Strutz said one of the key areas in which NBA can play a role in rural Alaska is adequate housing.

"We as a bank will work with federal and state agencies, trying to get the agencies together to accommodate community development," he said. "And we hope to be even more available to people than we have been in the past."

"... We will work towards understanding local community needs..."

Strutz said he will be relying heavily on NBA's three branch administrators whose areas include rural Alaska: Pete Crandall in Southeast, Jim Lund for the Northern Tier and Mike McCormack for other rural Alaska areas including South-central and Western Alaska. In addition, he said Janie Leask will gradually become more involved in rural areas. Leask is a former president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, and she recently was named community development officer for NBA.

"NBA will seek to gather as much information as possible about rural needs," Strutz said.

"We will work towards understanding local community needs and desires. The bank can then be a catalyst." ■