

AFN Constitution Adopted at Meeting

Last Sunday, the new president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Emil Notti of Anchorage, and his first vice president, Dan Wright, also of Anchorage, met with Fairbanks Native Association members and a few other people from other native organizations.

The main topic of discussion was the AFN constitution adopted at the organization's meeting held in Anchorage on April 7-8-9. The Tanana Chiefs also held a meeting on the same weekend.

The meeting brought out what seems to be the general feeling that the meeting at Anchorage was not fully representative of an organization of its magnitude because some of the key members did not attend. It also brought out the feeling that the slate of officers elected were "loaded" with Anchorage area representation.

Some points in the constitution adopted also were questioned. One such point was the section entitled, Basis of Representation, which said, "No proxy votes will be allowed."

Another was Article VIII entitled, Revenues, in which the Sunday meeting surmised that annual, individual membership dues of \$12 dollars per year, or one dollar per month were excessive.

In order that the native people of Alaska may scrutinize the Alaska Federation of Natives Constitution and By-Laws, it is herein printed in its entirety.

* * *

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES PREAMBLE

We, the Native people of Alaska, in order to secure to ourselves and our descendants the rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws of the United States, and the State of Alaska; to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Native People; to preserve the Native cultural values; to seek an equitable adjustment of Native claims; to seek, to secure, and to preserve our rights under existing laws of the United States; to promote the common

(Continued on Page 2)

AFN Constitution Printed for Scrutiny . .

(continued from page 1)

welfare of the Natives of Alaska to the flag of the United States and the State of Alaska, do establish this organization and adopt the following Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. This organization shall be known as Alaska Federation of Natives.

The principal and main office of the Federation shall be located at Anchorage, Alaska, or such place as is designated by the Board of Directors.

OBJECTS

Section 2. The objects of this organization are as follows:

1. To promote pride on the part of the Natives of Alaska heritage and traditions;
2. To preserve the customs, folklore and art of the Native races;
3. To promote the physical, economic and social well-being of the Natives of Alaska;
4. To discourage and overcome racial prejudice and the inequities which such prejudice creates;
5. To promote good government, by reminding those who govern and those are governed of their joint and mutual responsibilities.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership of the Alaska Federation of Natives shall consist of the following:

- a. All persons of one-quarter or more degree of Eskimo, Indian or Aleut blood, duly enrolled in the tribal rolls of any village of the State of Alaska, or until such tribal roll is established, shall be enrolled provisionally on the temporary tribal rolls of the village;
- b. All children of members on such tribal roll or provisional roll if such children be of one-quarter or more degree of Eskimo, Indian or Aleut blood.

ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE

Section 2. To be eligible for election to any office in the Alaska Federation of Natives, a member must be a minimum age of nineteen years, a member in good standing and must have been a legal resident in the State of Alaska for two (2) consecutive years.

ARTICLE III

ANNUAL MEETING AND REPRESENTATION ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1. The delegates present at the annual meeting shall be the supreme governing authority of the Federation and shall have the power to regulate and direct the policies, affairs and organization of the Federation.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

Section 2. Each Native organization and village in the State of Alaska, having fifty (50) members or less, shall be entitled to one (1) delegate to the annual meeting and one (1) delegate for each additional one hundred (100) members. Villages in the State of Alaska may combine into area-wide associations by filing an appropriate constitution with the Federation. If such an area-wide association is formed, then the delegates to the annual meeting may be determined on the basis of the membership in the area-wide association. No proxy votes will be allowed.

REQUISITES FOR REPRESENTATION

Section 3. No village and no area-wide association shall be entitled to representation at the annual meeting which, at the time of the annual meeting, is six months or more in arrears in monies due to the Federation.

EXPENSES OF DELEGATES

Section 4. Each village and area-wide association shall pay the expenses of its delegates to the annual meeting.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES

Section 5. Each village, or if it has joined an area-wide

association, then the area-wide association shall elect, in accordance with its own constitution and by-laws, the delegates to the annual meeting.

COMMITTEES

Section. The following standing committees of the Federation are hereby established:

- a. THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE shall prepare proposed amendments to the constitution of Alaska Federation of Natives.
- b. THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the education of the members and the dissemination of literature and beneficial information both to the members and to the public.
- c. THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE shall direct the work of securing new members and shall submit their names to the Board of Directors for vote as to their admission.
- d. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE shall have charge of the advertising and publicity for the Federation.
- e. THE LANDS COMMITTEE shall keep the membership of the Federation advised of the status of Native land claims, and other aboriginal rights of the membership.
- f. THE HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE shall establish and have charge of programs to promote the health and welfare of the membership.

The membership, at its annual meetings, is authorized to create such other committees from the membership as it may determine will facilitate the work of the Federation.

QUORUM

Section 7. A quorum shall consist of the delegates present and seated at any annual meeting.

DATE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Section 8. The annual meeting shall be held at _____ as may be designated by the membership, on the first Friday in the month of October in each year, beginning with the year 1967, at the hour of 10:00 A.M., for the purpose of electing officers and directors and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 9. The Board of Directors may provide for the issuance of certificates of membership evidencing membership in the Federation.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1(a). The officers of the Federation shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Sergeant at Arms, and nineteen (19) members of the Board of Directors. The Executive Staff, a President, a Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Sergeant at Arms, will be voting members of the Board of Directors.

Section 1 (b). The members of the Board of Directors shall as nearly as practicable, be uniformly chosen on the basis that each geographical area shall have representation of the Board of Directors.

Section 1 (c). The Directors shall hold office for a term of two (2) years and shall be so elected that the terms of a bare majority, if there be an odd number of Directors, or one-half if there be an even number of Directors, will expire in the odd years and the remainder in the even years. The Directors shall hold office until their successors have been elected and have assumed office.

Section 1(d). Any office, because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Board of Directors until the next annual meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2. All nominations for officers of the Federation shall be made at the annual meeting and election shall be by secret ballot vote. Candidates must accept the nominations in person or in writing after the first annual meeting. All officers shall be immediately installed and assume their duties.

ARTICLE V

SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF OFFICERS

Section 1(a). The salary of the President shall be \$18,000.00 per year. The salaries of the Vice-President, the Second Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be \$1.00 per year.

Section 1(b). The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms and members of the Board of Directors will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred.

ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1(a). The President shall preside at all meetings of the Federation; shall be ex-officio member of all committees; shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall perform all such duties as are incidental to the office of President and are properly required of him.

(b). The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, exercise all of the functions of the President and shall be vested with all of his powers.

(c). The Second Vice-President shall, in the

(continued on Page 4)

AFN Constitution for Scrutiny ..

(Continued from Page 2)

absence of the President and Vice-President, exercise all of the functions of the President and shall be vested with all of their powers.

(d). The Secretary shall have charge of all papers, keep such records, make such reports and perform such duties as are incidental to that office, and properly required of him by the organization.

(e). The Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds of the Federation, shall conduct its banking business and audit all accounts. Checks drawn shall be signed by either the President or the Treasurer and shall be countersigned by an additional officer. The Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of his duties in such sum as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - DUTIES AND POWERS GENERAL

Section 1. Such powers, duties and authority as are not otherwise delegated to the President and Secretary of the Federation shall be exercised, acted upon, and determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to interpret and apply the Constitution and By-Laws of the Federation and to decide all questions of law thereunder subject to appeal to the next annual meeting.

The Board of Directors shall have governing authority over the Federation and its subordinate bodies to the end of upholding the laws and policies of the Federation as expressed in this Constitution.

MEETINGS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2. The Board of Directors may hold quarterly meetings at such specific time and place as shall be determined by the President. At the discretion of the President a quarterly meeting may be held within one (1) month after the end of the quarter. Upon the written request of a majority of the Board of Directors to the President, it shall be the duty of the President to call a meeting of the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of its business.

ARTICLE VIII

REVENUES

Section 1. The membership dues of the federation shall be derived as follows:

a. Charter fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per organization entitled to a delegate.

b. Annual, individual membership dues in the amount of \$12.00. Any area-wide association or any village may retain 35% of all dues collected for its own purposes, if members are represented by organizations or delegates.

Section 2. Each village or area-wide association shall pay to the Federation 65% of all Federation dues collected from each of the members. Dues are hereby established at the rate of \$1.00 per month. The dues provided herein shall be reviewed at the next annual meeting.

ACTION WHEN NOT IN FORMAL SESSION

Section 3. In all matters required action by the Board of Directors, and when the Board of Directors is not in formal session, the Board of Directors may act by telegram, letter or long distance telephone. When the President requires action by the Board of Directors, he may obtain the same by telegraphing, writing or telephoning to the members of the Board of Directors, and such members may take action on the matter brought to their attention in the same manner; provided, however, that whenever action is sought by any of the foregoing methods, all members of the Board of Directors shall be polled. Such action so taken by the majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute action of the Board of Directors as though the Board of Directors were in formal session; provided however, that any such action shall be confirmed at the next formal session of the Board of Directors.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 4. Special membership meetings may be called only when two-thirds (2/3) of all of the members of the Board of Directors deem it necessary. The Board of Directors shall establish the rules and procedures for the calling and holding of special membership meetings, anything to the contrary in this Constitution notwithstanding, excepting only as to the qualifications of delegates.

EMPLOYMENT OF CLERICAL, TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE

Section 5. The President shall have the power to employ or retain such clerical, technical and professional assistance as he may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE IX

AREA-WIDE ASSOCIATIONS

FORMATION OF AREA-WIDE ASSOCIATION

Section 1 (a). Whenever three or more villages are located in an identifiable geographic area, they may form an area-wide association.

(b). If a conflict arises concerning the boundaries of two area-wide associations, then the Board of Directors shall have the jurisdiction to resolve the dispute.

ARTICLE X

This Constitution and By-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the members of the Federation, or at any special meeting of the same called for that purpose, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present or represented at the meeting. No amendment of the Constitution and By-Laws shall be made at any regular meeting or special

meeting unless a notice is mailed to each member at his last address of record at least thirty (30) days prior to such regular meeting or special meeting, stating that it is proposed that the Articles be amended at such regular or special meeting.