

# AFN President's Awards Recognize Native Contributions

Highlighting the end of the 22nd annual convention in Fairbanks was the presentation of seven AFN President's Awards, including one special award. The President's Awards were created three years ago to provide the Native community with an opportunity to formally recognize the many important contributions that have been made by our own people.

Receiving the first President's Award for Parents of the Year were Morgan and Cora Sakeagak of Barrow. Nominated by Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corp., they have combined traditional and western lifestyles to successfully raise four children. Morgan works for UIC Construction and is an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Cora is the comptroller for the North Slope Borough and serves on the board of education for both the North Slope Borough and the State of Alaska.

Rena Anawrok, a community health representative for the Southcentral Foundation, received the President's Award for Health. Nominated by Southcentral Foundation, Anawrok has been active in rural health affairs for many years. One of her major accomplishments has been to help change the Anchorage Municipal Code so that patients at Our Lady of Compassion Care Center can now be served traditional Native foods. She works full-time at the Center as an interpreter.

The owners of a general store in Galena, Max and Bev Huhndorf, received the President's Award for Small Business. In accepting the award, Max said their store has grown as people have requested their services. That is how their Galena business was originally started and, over the past 17 years, it

has continued to grow. The Huhndorfs, who recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, were nominated for the award by Don Peter and Georgianna Lincoln.

Two college students, Valerie Davidson, originally from Aniak, and Harry Baldwin of Kiana, received the Roger Lang Youth Leadership Award and \$500 scholarships. During 1987, Davidson served as Miss World Eskimo Indian Olympics and Miss National Congress of American Indians. She is currently attending the University of Alaska Southeast and works part-time for Senator John Binkley, who nominated her for the award.

Baldwin is a 1988 graduate of Kiana High School where he received numerous honors for his athletic, academic and citizenship performance, including a Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship. He is now a freshman student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Baldwin was nominated by NANA Regional Corp. and the Northwest Arctic School District.

Hazel and Tommy Snyder of Noorvik received the Della Keats "Healing Hands" Award. Nominated by Maniilaq Association and NANA Regional Corporation, both Sydners serve as tribal doctors in northwest Alaska. When needed, they travel extensively to perform their traditional healing skills of manipulation, massage and acupuncture.

Anchorage resident Luanne Pelagio, originally from Dillingham, received the President's Award for Education. Nominated by the Johnson O'Malley Program's Native Education Committee, she has been active for the past fourteen years as a parent, tutor, counselor, director and education committee

member. Pelagio is well-known for her advocacy on behalf of Native education and the Johnson O'Malley program.

The final President's Award was presented to H. Vernon Sloowko, Jr. and his crew members of Gambell: Michael Sloowko, Joseph Sloowko, Quinn Sloowko, Andy Haviland, Joe Sloowko,

Jr. and Howard Sloowko. These seven men were given special recognition for the heroism and leadership they displayed in surviving their 22 day ordeal at sea last June. Weaver Ivanoff of Kawerak accepted the award on their behalf.

