

Ivanoff and Fate Elected AFN Co-Chairmen



Henry Ivanoff of Unalakleet and Mary Jane Fate of Fairbanks were elected by delegates to the 22nd annual convention to serve as co-chairmen of AFN for 1988-89. Both have stated that fostering Alaska Native unity will be an important priority in the coming year.

Ivanoff is the president of Bering Straits Native Corp., a herring and salmon commercial fisherman and general manager of KNSA radio station of Unalakleet. He also serves as chairman of the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and is a member of the Community Enterprise Development Corp. Board of Directors. Ivanoff has served on the AFN Land Claims Board since 1984.

In discussing his next year as co-chairman, Ivanoff said that while Alaska Natives will always have differences, they should be taken care of in-house. "With unified efforts, our goals can be more easily achieved and we better the Native people of Alaska," said Ivanoff.

Mary Jane Fate is President and Executive Director of Baan O Yeel kon

Corporation of Rampart. She also serves on the boards of Alaska Airlines, Alaska Air Group, United Way of Tanana Valley and the Breast Cancer Detection Center of Alaska. Last year Fate served on the AFN Statewide Village Board as the alternate member from the Doyon/TCC region. Long active in Native affairs, she was a founding member and past president of the North American Indian Women's Association, Fairbanks Native Association and the Institute of Alaska Native Arts.

In the year ahead, Fate looks forward to working on the goals of "Shared Visions" which were adopted by delegates to the 1988 convention.

"When the profits, regional non-profits and villages participate in AFN, they come to an understanding," Fate said. "This is important, not only because we work together, but it means that Native people make policy rather than the courts."

"In this way, we can stay away from attorneys and consultants and even the smallest village can contribute."