

# **Lestenkof receives AFN endorsement**

Jake Lestenkof, Executive Director of the Cook Inlet Native Association (CINA), received the unanimous endorsement of the board of directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives for the post of Bureau of Indian Affairs area director. The endorsement came during the AFN board meeting in Anchorage on Tuesday.

The position of BIA Area Director for Alaska is the top post for the Bureau in the state. John Hope, Area Tribal Operations Officer, has been acting in that capacity since the resignation of Clarence Antioquia in January. Antioquia resigned the position in order to accept the job of governmental relations director with the Sealaska Corporation. Recently, Antioquia was named President of the Sealaska Business Investment Corporation (SEABIC), a subsidiary created by the Sealaska board to invest corporation funds in shareholder business ventures.

Lestenkof, who is also a director on the board of the Cook Inlet Region, Inc. and secretary of the board of the Tundra Times, won the endorsement in competition with three other candidates for area director. Among other finalists are Fred Baker, director of programs for the Tanana Chiefs Conference; Fred Notti, a Calista Corporation board member; and Pete Three Stars, a BIA official who was formerly superintendent of the Bethel Agency.

The AFN recommendation has been forwarded to William Hallett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who had requested the organization to make its preference known.