

SAM TALKS RESIGNS PRESIDENCY AS NA



Ahmaogak Now Heads ASNA; Hopson Takes Exec. Directorship

In a surprising development last Friday, Sam Taalak, president of the Arctic Slope Native Association, resigned as head of that organization.

"It is with sincere regret that the board of executives composed of the officers of the Arctic Slope Native Association announce the resignation of President Sam Taalak from the principal office of our tribal association," declared the officers

of ASNA.

Taalak's resignation necessitated changes in the lineup of the officers. First Vice President Walton Ahmaogak became the association's president while Hugh Nicholls was advanced from second vice presidency to first vice president.

Daniel Lisbourne of Point Hope stepped up to the post of second vice president,

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Taalak Resigns

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Rev. Samuel Simmonds from secretary to third vice president, and James Leavitt from sergeant at arms to secretary.

Hugh Nicholls who had been the organization's executive director from the start, relinquished that position when he was stepped up to first vice president.

The new president, Walton Ahmaogak, appointed former State Senator Eben Hopson to the post of first executive director while naming Herman Rexford of Kaktovik on Barter Island second executive director.

Jack Ahgook of Anaktuvuk Pass was named third executive director and Billy Patkutok was appointed sergeant at arms.

In his letter of resignation, Sam Taalak declared:

"Due to the extremely heavy work load I have assumed in managing the Barrow Utilities Corporation, and for other personal reasons, I find I cannot devote the time I feel should be given to the affairs of the Arctic Slope Native Association and to the works of such great importance which now confront our people;

"Therefore in the interest of the corporate tribe as a whole, I hereby tender my resignation as President of the organization."