

Deer announces tribal regulations at AFN meet

Kookesh new AFN co-chair

by *Tundra Times* staff

It happened so fast there was hardly time to digest it. With Cook Inlet Tribal Council's Esther Combs at the podium, the Alaska Federation of Natives elected a new co-chair at its annual convention last week. Albert Kookesh of Angoon, a Sealaska Corp. director, was picked with only a couple of dissenting votes to replace Willie Kasayulie of Akiachak.

Kasayulie, who also chairs the Alaska-Inter-Tribal Council, declined nomination to serve another term at AFN's helm. He said he wanted to devote more time to advocating tribal sovereignty and felt he could do so more effectively through AITC. (see related editorial, page 2).

Another important convention decision was to pass a resolution calling for a Native political summit to reach consensus on strategy to address a number of issues. According to the resolution, the summit will "ensure participation of all sectors of the Native community and to encourage frank and open discussion." The summit, which will be held in Anchorage on December 7, is charged with identifying the most pressing Native needs to be raised during the 1994 elections, political races to be targeted for Native impact and the best political strategies for advancing the interests of Native people in the political process.

At least two political candidates circulated during the convention shaking hands, getting acquainted and orga-

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Angela Huntington of Galena smiled proudly after her husband, Sidney (sitting behind her) received one of three AFN Citizen of the Year awards. Behind him is daughter Alma Gillete of Anchorage.

Photo by Jeff Richardson



Rosita Worl delivers keynote address.



Left: Howard Luke of Fairbanks accepts a door prize at a reception hosted by the Alaska Native Leadership Project.

Below: Clarence Irrigoo addresses Elders & Youth Conference.



Young Tlingit dancer performs for the Alaska Native Education Council luncheon.



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Convention summary . . .

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nizing. Jim Sykes said he will run for governor as a Green Party candidate. He circulated a party position paper on subsistence. In addition, state Rep. Fran Ulmer (D-Juneau), who has declared her candidacy for lieutenant governor, listened attentively to the lengthy subsistence session held before the convention and circulated her flyer on rural issues.

There were a number of other highlights during a week of meetings, seminars, workshops and festivities.

Even before the convention formally kicked off, the Rural Alaska Village Economies and Needs Commission met for many hours, taking testimony about what caused this year's chum salmon crash and possible remedies. Also, for the first time ever, Native youth and elders held their annual gatherings jointly, forwarding a thick package of resolutions to the AFN convention for consideration.

One of the most emotional moments of the week came when Sidney Huntington of Galena was given an award as AFN Citizen of the Year. With his family looking on, Hun-

tington tearfully stated his philosophy that behind every man is a good woman and introduced his wife of 50 years, Angela, herself overcome by the emotions of the moment. Tanana Chiefs Conference president Will Mayo escorted her to the stage to join her husband. Asked a few moments later to make a comment, she stepped to the microphone and brought the house down when she said: "To get along with a smart man, when their voice get high, don't answer."

Honored posthumously along with Huntington were Matthew Iya of Nome and David "Mo" Olson of Nome for outstanding contributions to their people.

Editor's Note: Due to the great number of activities that occurred during "AFN week" we will continue our coverage of developments arising from the convention over the next several issues and throughout the ensuing months. Please feel free to write or call *Tundra Times* if there are specific issues or activities from the convention that you would like to see covered in greater detail.



AFN President Julie Kitka delivers her report to the convention.