

Copper River Native Association Conducts Meeting

The Copper River Native Association Board of Directors met on Oct. 11 in a quarterly meeting and discussed the full range of the corporation's programs.

Board members present were Herb Smelcer, president; Harding Ewan, vice-president; Harry Johns, Sr. of Copper Center; Fred John, Jr. of Mentasta; Chris Gene of Gakona; and Markle Ewan of Gulkana.

The president introduced guests, who included Kay Moor and Nick Landis from RurAL CAP and Chuck Orr from the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Wilbur Joe, who took over the position of executive director at the beginning of September, reported on CRNA's Johnson-O'Malley Bicultural Program, which is funded for \$125,000 this year, and the Day Care Center which is now in operation.

The day care facility was set up with a loan from Ahtna, Inc., and the staff is being funded by a combination of CRNA's-CETA funds and State Department of Labor money.

The Aging Program was recently reviewed by state officials and found to be operating smoothly, according to the executive director.

Bob Woodward, who recently joined the CRNA staff as health director, discussed his AFN-funded program which is initiating health planning for the region.

The first phase of the planning will involve development of a health policy statement for board approval, establishment of an advisory health council, and a health needs assessment.

At the same time, the Health Department will be attempting to find funding and staff for village health clinics in the region.

Thea Smelcer discussed the pipeline impact program which will end on Oct. 31, at which time a wrap-up report will be presented to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs and the board. The pipeline, Mrs. Smelcer said, has had a large, and not always good, impact on the region.

Harry Johns, Sr., who is CRNA's representative on the RurAL CAP Board, gave the highlights of RurAL CAP's Annual Board Meeting in Kotzebue in September. Mr. Johns noted that subsistence problems, such as the depletion of moose in the Ahtna region, were an area of concern at the Kotzebue meeting.

Mary Stachelrodt, RurAL CAP's energy director, informed the board of the status of the Winterization Program in the region. Each village has a carpenter, funded by CRNA's-CETA funds, who will be winterizing homes of low-income families using materials bought with the project's \$80,000. Some material had already arrived in Copper Center, where work has begun.

Herb Smelcer reported on recent hearings on decentralization of the SOS school system. Those present at the hearings were generally in agreement on which villages should be in the regional education area, although there were mixed views on the number of board members and sections.

On a related matter, CRNA is working on refunding for a high school counselor position which, it was felt, was effective in combating the region's dropout problem.

The meeting was adjourned, but not before the board set Saturday, Nov. 22, as the date for CRNA's annual meeting which is scheduled to be held in Copper Center.