

# An exciting fall is upon us

Dear Sisters:

Exciting times are with us. Election years come and go while we become complacent about the hard-won right of grandparents — **THE RIGHT TO VOTE**. As usual our vote is critical to the support of our causes:

- 1) Electing the person who best represents our interests. November 2, 1982 issue stands;
- 2) Vote against the capital move
- 3) Vote against Ballot Measure No.7

These are positions taken by the delegates at Grand Camp Convention 1981 and Grand Camp Executive Committee Members. We voted to support the effort to keep the capital in Juneau. We also have taken the stand to support the State Subsistence Law.

I would like to share these reflections of our Grand Secretary, Carol McQueen.

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In the past two months, July and August, I have been to Anchorage twice. While there I could not help but note the new construction going on, and the move to push for the capital from Juneau to Willow.

It really made me wake up and realize that we are in our own little world down here as far as believing that all people will be as sensible as we in realizing what a costly and foolish issue this is, and that everyone will vote it down.

Let me emphasize the fact that it made me better see how we could very easily be defeated if we take this attitude and not work to get all our eligible voters out to the polls.

Our history since 1912 has been to cause action — to win, — we can win by exercising

our right to vote. We fought long and hard for that privilege and now it is important that we exercise our constitutional rights.

Land developers and new people pouring into Anchorage on a daily basis are working very hard to get people to vote for a capital move, and believe me, the people are listening because the promise of a job and a better chance to communicate with government is being promised to them.

Anchorage has a population alone that could win the capital move. I talked to many people there who are not only for the capital move but are enthusiastic about it and are busy turning that enthusiasm into an epidemic of pro capital movers.

The ramification as I see it is this, if we lose, billions of dollars that could and should be used for the true Alaskans and the betterment of all Alaska will be pumped into a new capital city. It has been stated that it will cost every man, woman and child in this state \$6,000 to move the capital.

Not only that but the long-term ramifications are, we will end up paying for that foolishness well beyond our lives and probably our children's lives.

It is not fair nor right that land developers and new Alaskans get rich off this and reap the benefits while our people continue to struggle.

Please, go to the polls in numbers and vote against the capital move so that we can once and for all end such a damaging issue, and get on with living and dealing with the important and critical issues we face in our future decades and 21st century.

Not only that, when we vote we are acting on what is meaningful and important to us; we are giving ourselves the right to have a say in specific issues

that directly affect our lives.

We are investigating, and voting our conscience, and not allowing someone else to speak for us. We are saying we have studied the facts and issues, such as the candidate that we feel best represents our point of view and supports our rights, and we maintain strongly and collectively subsistence is our way of life!

We oppose anything that affects our right to exist as we have for the past thousands of years. In other words, by voting we are strongly asserting our rights and when we do that, *We will be heard*. But first, we must go to the polls and vote.

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In closing I would like to suggest each local camp put forth a concerted effort to make sure every eligible voter in your community is registered to vote for the general election. Educate everyone to our stands on these critical issues.

1. Voter registration — October 3, 1982 is the last day to register for the general election. General election is on November 2, 1982.

Vote absentee if you will be away from home on election day.

2. Vote against moving the capital. Keep the capital in Juneau.
3. Vote against Ballot Measure No.7. Support State Subsistence Law.

The challenge is ours, let us fight a good fight.

Yours in sisterhood,

Emma Widmark,  
Grand President  
ANS  
Carol McQueen,  
Grand Secretary  
ANB