

Cherokee chief to deliver AFN keynote

Chief Wilma Mankiller of the Cherokee Nation will deliver the keynote address at the 1990 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, according to Julie Kitka, AFN president.

This year's convention theme is "Celebrating Alaska Native Cultures & Lifestyles." It will be held at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage, Oct. 25-27.

"We are delighted to have Chief Mankiller as keynote speaker this year," Kitka said. "The Cherokee Nation has been in the forefront of efforts throughout Native American groups to become more self-sufficient, independent communities.

"Their work toward developing all aspects of tribal life — political, social, spiritual and physical — has gained the attention of Native organizations and individuals throughout the United States."

Kitka said this year's theme was chosen to reflect the diversity and uniqueness of Alaska Native peoples and cultures.

"While much discussion will, out of necessity, be focused on subsistence and the prospect of an extended period of dual management of fish and wildlife in the state, we also plan to look at the continued social, health and economic issues before us," she said.

Chief Mankiller was elected the first

female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation in July 1987. Prior to that office, she also served as the first female deputy principal chief from 1983 to 1985. She holds a bachelor of science degree in social work, as well as many honorary degrees and awards, including an honorary doctorate of public service from Rhode Island College, the 1989 Indian Health Service Award, and a doctorate of humane letters from the University of New England.

The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is a jurisdictional service area and a federally recognized Indian tribal government. Many of its 105,000 members live in the 7,000-square-mile area of northeastern Oklahoma.



Chief Wilma Mankiller