

M.E.N. Inc. seeks to stop abuse of women

Somewhere in the country every 18 seconds some woman will be abused by a person she loves.

Violence will occur at least once in 50 percent of the couples in the United States. It happens everywhere — in rural areas and in cities; to your next door neighbor and to someone you know.

Protections of the victims of domestic violence is the first priority of intervention programs in Alaska. But in Juneau, community members have gone a step further and have founded Men Emerging Now (M.E.N., Inc.) to intervene at the cause of the

violence; the abuser.

Violence is a learned behavior. Seventy percent of men who abuse their partners have witnessed or experienced violence in their childhood homes.

Today, by the time children reach the age of 18, they will see between 15,000 and 18,000 violent deaths portrayed on television.

M.E.N., Inc. offers support for men to unlearn violent responses to stressful situations in their lives. We are also available for counseling in crisis situations of any kind.

Our funding currently does not permit staff to make frequent visits to rural areas but

we are accessible by phone and encourage men to take advantage of this service.

M.E.N., Inc. is conducting a membership drive. Support is needed for expanding the program, particularly in the areas of community education and rural outreach.

If you have any questions about our program or domestic violence issues in general, please call at 586-3585 or write to M.E.N., Inc., 211 4th Street, No.304, Juneau, Alaska 99801.

The Juneau Indian Education Corporation (JIEC), contracting body for Juneau's Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program, held their first meeting of the 1982-83 school year on Oct. 20.

Of special interest at the meeting was the election of officers. The new Chairperson for the fiscal year 1983 is Peggy Akas Hondolero. Peggy has served on the Board for one year and until recently has worked at the BIA. She is now an accountant for the Sealaska Corporation.

Voted in as vice-chairperson was Carmela Florendo Topacio. Carmela is a lifetime resident of Juneau, has also served on the Board for one year and works for the State.

With unanimous approval (the only objection coming from the candidate herself which the Board would not

acknowledge), Donelle Elisoff was voted in as the Board's new Secretary. Donelle is a long-time resident of Juneau, works for the BIA and has served on the Board "forever" according to her, but in actuality, this is her third year.

New and "renewed" members elected in September are Pauline Paddock, Carolyn Martin and Andrea Laiti. Other standing members are Betty Marvin (past Chairperson), Harold Johns and Sandra Arca.

All members welcome any ideas and suggestions you may have regarding the JOM program. Meetings are also open to the public.