

Sealaska management prevails

By ROSS SOBOLEFF

The 5th annual meeting of Sealaska Corporation on November 11, 1978, in Juneau resulted in the re-election of five incumbents to the Board of Directors, and the defeat of an effort to reinstate John Borbridge, Jr., as the President of the state's largest regional corporation. The subsequent resignation of Borbridge at the close of the ten hour meeting was a surprise to many of the 800 shareholders in attendance.

Mr. Borbridge was dismissed by the Board of Directors on July 14, 1978, as a result of an internal investigation by the Board. The investigation probed events and authorities leading up to a 1.3 million dollar out-of-court settlement of a 27 million dollar lawsuit regarding the acquisition of Alaska General

Construction, Inc. of Anchorage. Though relieved of his position as President, Borbridge still had two years remaining in his present term as a member of the Board of Directors. Borbridge and the Sealaska management each campaigned long and hard toward a victory on Veterans' Day, 1978.

The meeting opened with remarks in Tlingit by elder Charlie Jim of Angoon. Sealaska Board member Clarence Jackson translated for Mr. Jim, who said, "At this meeting you will elect directors. Even if you cast your vote for someone other than those elected, I would direct you to take his hand in fellowship, so that respect can grow amongst our people." The elders, as always, were looking beyond the election, and

looking for ways to heal the rift caused by the heat of the election process.

A total of 15 nominations were made for the six available positions. On the management team were Larry Dalton, Richard Kito, Roger Lang, Judson Brown, Gilbert Gunderson, and Sam L. Demmert, all incumbents. Independent candidates included Ray Demmert, Ed Thomas, Juanita Corwin, Murlin G. "Mike" Everson, Frank O. Williams, Jr., William Banguis, Julius Douglas, Carl Nelson, and Walter A. Soboleff.

It was by design that John Schaeffer, President of NANA Regional Corporation was the featured speaker. NANA has a reputation of achieving a good
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(Continued from Page One) balance between profits and people concerns, and Schaefer was repaying a visit that the Sealaska Board made to the Kotzebue region to see just how the NANA annual meeting helped achieve this balance. Schaefer

presented a jade plaque from NANA's mountain of jade, a memento of the cooperative spirit demonstrated by Sealaska and NANA.

The meeting was drawn out by the cumbersome hand counting of ballots, but at 5:30 pm,

history was repeated. Once again management retained four seats and independents acquired two. Elected were incumbents Gunderson, Sam Demmert, Brown, and Lang, and independents Ray Demmert and Mike Everson. Everson, who was backed by Goldbelt, Inc., of Juneau represented the sole victory of the pro-Borbridge team.

After the election results, past president John Brobridge, Jr., gave an emotional farewell speech and resigned. He asked that a member from his group, Concerned Shareholders, be appointed to his spot. On the following day the Board selected Richard Kito to fill the slot; Kito had been dropped by the management slate when it became apparent that they did not have enough votes to re-elect all six incumbents.

The new Board of Directors held its first meeting the following day and reaffirmed Sam L. Demmert as the President, Byron I. Mallott as Chairman of the Board, and Richard Stitt as Executive Vice President. Chris E. McNeil, Jr., was chosen as Secretary.



SEALASKA SHAREHOLDERS discuss some of the activities during last week's annual meeting. Left to right, are Clarence Jackson, John Hope, Roger Lang, Sam Demmert, and Joe Kahklen.



INTERIM PRESIDENT — Former President of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Roger Lang, has assumed the interim presidency of the Alaska Native Foundation. Well known throughout Alaska, Lang has most recently been a Legislative Representative for AFN and Sealaska Corporation.

In the past he has served as Executive Vice President of the Alaska Native Foundation, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., and as Director of the State Division of Rural Development Assistance. He has also been a member of the Sealaska Board of Directors since 1972. Lang replaces former ANF Executive Director Robert Arnold, who was selected to lead the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska Native Land Claims office