

What others say...

Education panel to be restructured

To the editor:

The Alaska Native Education Association is a statewide organization comprised of Native and non-Native people who are interested in improving the educational system within the state of Alaska. An informed public is the most effective advocate for quality education.

Historically, the policies which dictate the educational process have been made by people unfamiliar with the needs and desires of the local community. Native education is still one of the least understood and most challenging issues in the state. Cultural differences can be integrated into the educational system, thus creating a more relevant education for Native young people.

With respect to identifying the problems, we, as educators, know that the dropout rate for Natives is generally higher and the achievement rate lower for Native students compared to the general non-Native population.

We also know, and research data supports the contention, that Native

students are as capable as non-Native students; we also know from our experience that motivation to achieve is high among many of the Native students.

Members of SNEA have developed position papers and position statements on a variety of educational issues, served on other boards and committees, testified before the State Board of Education and the University Board of Regents, lobbied the state Legislature and supported the appointment of Native educators to key positions.

The board of directors of ANEA is considering a possible restructuring of the organization which, if adopted, will necessitate a change in ANEA's bylaws. Currently the nine-member board is elected at-large at an annual meeting typically held in Anchorage. Presently, the board is reviewing restructuring options.

Sincerely,
Reva Wulf
President

Retirement ceremony planned

To the editor:

We are pleased to advise you of a retirement ceremony for one of our most prominent Alaska Native Medical Center physicians, Dr. Robert Fortune.

The Retirement Potluck & Ceremony is scheduled for July 30 at 11:30am-1:30pm in the ANMC Solarium.

Dr. Fortune entered the Commissioned Corps in August 1961. He worked for the Indian Health Service as service unit director at Belcourt, N.D.; Kanakanak and Bethel; and Ft. Defiance, Ariz. before serving at ANMC from August 1971 until August 1977.

After three years in Switzerland, he returned to ANMC in July 1980 as a family physician. Since 1984, he has served as deputy chief of the Family Medical Service.

In addition to his outstanding IHS career, he became the international health attache at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, serving as liaison officer between the U.S. government and the

World Health Organization.

As a commissioned officer he worked briefly as medical director of the Haitian Relocation Camp in Miami in 1981. In 1975 he was also detailed as a consultant to India.

After many many years of dedicated service to the Indian Health Service, especially the Alaska Native People, Dr. Fortune plans to retire and continue his interest in writing and publishing in the area of Alaskan medical history.

He still plans to provide medical care to ANMC patients on a volunteer basis.

Many of his former colleagues (local and in the Lower 48), IHS Headquarters, Alaska PHS Hospitals, the Native corporations and the local news media have also been invited to attend the "social event of the month" at ANMC. It will be a tremendous opportunity for friends to meet and renew acquaintances and promises to be something you won't want to miss. See you here!

Audrey Armstrong
Public Relations, ANMC