

# Kotzebue Ladies Form Volunteers to Aid Native Hospital

By WENDELL TIDWELL

KOTZEBUE—Patients at Kotzebue's Alaska Native Hospital will have a happier New Year thanks to a group of volunteer

workers who have formed the Public Health Service unit's first auxiliary.

In response to a request for help by the hospital administra-

tion and staff members, a group of 14 volunteers, all women, agreed to work without pay at the 40-bed hospital which serves 10,000 persons in an 80,000

square-mile area in the northwest section of the state.

During an enthusiastic first meeting of the group, the women voted officers, set up by-laws

for their organization and formed a work schedule for their first month of service.

The action was highly praised by Service Unit Director C.W. Brock. "There are thousands of duties volunteers can perform that help make the patient's plight easier and take some of the pressure off our 19-member nursing staff. We've had requests from all of our departments for volunteers, but we never expected a response like this."

"A stay in the hospital can be a very lonely ordeal, especially for the villagers," said hospital social worker Joe Ryan. "One of the main duties of the volunteers will be just 'visiting' with the patients."

Two members of the hospital nursing staff offered a list of duties the volunteers might carry out to aid the nurses, including distributing food trays, feeding toddlers and babies, carrying messages to different departments and answering the telephones.

The group elected the following officers: Evelyn Conwell, president; Sarah Harris, vice-president and Linda Joule, secretary-treasurer. Mag Gabriel and Mary Anderson were selected from the nursing staff to advise the auxiliary.

The group stopped a step short of calling itself a Ladies' Auxiliary. They plan to enlist male volunteers.