

Ahngasuk named UIC shareholder of the year

By Dale Stotts

This year brought a marked increase in shareholder interest and attendance during the Ukepeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC) annual shareholders' meeting. At the onset, nearly 100 adult shareholders were participating in discussions surrounding many topics of business, social, and political concern.

UIC President, Arnold Brower, Sr., opened the 10th annual meeting of its shareholders, remarking on the progress UIC has made, particularly in the last three years. Brower noted the diversification of profit ventures that the company has entered into that are to be credited for turning around UIC's financial condition.

Acknowledging that stressful situations have taken their toll in the Inupiat business environment, President Brower called on shareholders' participation in the company. In response to queries regarding UIC and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation relations, Arnold expressed the desire of UIC's Board of Directors and administration to bridge the gap and resolve conflicts between the two organizations.

Vice President George Ahmaogak, cited the numerous positive steps that have been made to strengthen inter-regional affairs, both economically and socially. Ahmaogak pointed out that negotiations had been renewed to settle litigated matters out of court and that both parties were moving positively. Old barriers have definitely been re-

moved, Ahmaogak said, and recent planning meetings have shaped potential joint ventures and employment of each other's services.

UIC shareholders that took the floor showed their knowledge in financial affairs. For the first time ever, UIC had issued consolidated financial statements, whereupon the demand for more thorough information mandated by shareholder motion that unconsolidated financial statements be presented.

The treasurer's report and interaction with shareholders lasted four hours. UIC Treasurer, Ronald H. Brower, presented one of the finest bilingual financial and audit reports I have ever heard. It is extremely difficult to interpret balance sheets and financial details so that the elder Inupiat can really understand.

Mr. Max Campbell, a partner in Laventhol and Horwath was on hand to present a certified audit for the years ending 30 June, 1981 and 1982.

After a glass of water following the treasurer's report, Ron Brower, who is also the Director of Lands Management for UIC, presented the third shareholder homesite subdivision for approval by the members. UIC is the largest contributor to local development in Barrow, making lease lands available for private, commercial and government use.

The UIC Realty department is the company's greatest income producer. Land and building assets are presently valued just under 10 million

dollars.

The second annual "Shareholder of the Year" award went to Ross Ahngasuk for outstanding contributions in community affairs, elders council, church affairs, and for excellence in advocacy of the Inupiaq culture and way of life.

Certificates of appreciation and a framed print of the UIC snowy owl logo were presented to all former UIC Board Directors in recognition of their contribution at this, our tenth year anniversary.

In order of highest votes received, earning them a seat as a UIC director were: George N. Ahmaogak, Arnold Brower, Jr., Ronald H. Brower, and new members Benjamin P. Nageak and Dorothy Edwardsen.

Following the election of the Board of Directors, a re-organizational meeting took place where the new directors were installed and officers of the company were named.

George Ahmaogak succeeded Arnold Brower, Sr., as President, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of UIC. Ahmaogak had been vice-president for the past two years, and manager of UIC's daily operations.

Arnold Brower, Sr., who has been an active director of UIC since its incorporation, elected to step down from the chairman and president's office. Arnold is busy within the North Slope and is president of Inupiat Community of the

Arctic Slope, a regional tribal organization. Mr. Brower was elected as the vice-president of UIC.

Ronald Brower will continue to be UIC Treasurer. This is his second year in that capacity.

Alice Solomon was named

as the Corporate Secretary, as relieving Ms. Frances Mongoyak, who remains a member of the Board.

Other members of the Board include Arnold Brower, Jr., Charles Dewitt Brower, Benjamin Nageak, and Dorothy Edwardsen.