

Moore and Kawagley seek Calista presidency

By NANCY HARVEY

Controversy over who will lead Calista Corp. continues as stockholders prepare for their annual meeting this weekend in Bethel.

Although removed from office by the board of directors at a November 13 meeting, former President Martin Moore contends it is still not clear whether he or Acting President Oscar Kawagley will emerge victorious when directors vote for corporate officers. A decision has not yet been reached on whether that vote will come on Dec. 9 or 12, before or after the stockholders' Dec. 10-11 meeting.

Both Kawagley and Moore are seeking the presidency of Ca-

lista, second largest Native regional corporation in terms of stockholders. Calista, 11 other regional corporations and 220 plus village corporations were authorized in 1971 to administer the terms, land and money of the settlement act.

Moore is already a member of the board of directors, but Kawagley is one of fifteen candidates vying for an at-large position currently held by Phillip Guy of Kwethluk. However, corporate by-laws state the president need not be a member of the board.

In addition to Guy, three other incumbents are up for reelection, including Vice President of Finance Fred Notti.

At their November meeting, Calista directors fired Vice President of Operations Ron Dagon, who was directly responsible for construction activities on the Calista/Sheraton Hotel.

Work on the \$34 million hotel was halted nearly six months ago when financing difficulties came to a head. Officials of the corporation estimate the work stoppage is costing Calista over \$1 million per month.

Kawagley and representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Economic Development Administration met last week with Crocker National Bank of San Francisco to "start off again."

According to Kawagley, the three funding sources have given Calista requests for additional information before determining future financing for the hotel. One of the requests includes a feasibility study on the marketability of the hotel.

Kawagley described the meetings as favorable but gave no indication when hotel construction would resume.

Although not on the agenda, another area expected to be addressed by stockholders this weekend is the issue of Calista's participation in the Alaska Federation of Natives. Financial differences and unhappiness with structural policy caused Calista to withdraw from AFN last April.

Before his removal, Moore indicated that if the AFN issue was not resolved during the convention, it would be taken to shareholders.

A number of resolutions relating directly to involvement in AFN were introduced by the Association of Village Council Presidents but solidly defeated on the convention floor. The resolutions included several dealing with voting procedures and election of AFN directors and officers, and one asking that by-laws be revised to allow Calista to rejoin AFN without paying

back membership dues.

As the by-laws read, if and when Calista rejoins AFN, they must pay membership dues from the time of their withdrawal, along with any unpaid previous balances.

Both Kawagley and Moore say they are in favor of Calista rejoining AFN.

However, Kawagley says before rejoining, there must be changes in the AFN by-laws concerning election of officers and convention voting. He went on to say Calista would be willing to participate in any reorganization committee activities of AFN.

Moore feels Calista needs to work with AFN on top issues and to have effective input at the Washington, D.C. level. Moore added he thinks shareholders are interested in seeing Calista rejoin AFN.

The Nov. 19 issue of Bethel's Tundra Drums elaborated on Calista's hotel difficulties:

"Despite the recent announcement of a \$3 million investment in a Seattle shopping center that would tend to indicate economic stability, liens have been filed against Calista Corporation by three companies involved in the con-

struction of the corporation's Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage. Local Calista board members seem unaware of the current financial situation.

"According to the latest edition of the Alaska Business Newsletter, Fenton Industries of Washington State has filed the largest of the liens. The firm says it is owned more than \$440,000 for an exterior window and wall system.

"Three other liens have been filed for labor and materials. Grabber Construction and Supply has filed two liens—one for about \$300,000 and another for more than \$15,000 and Northwest Associates has filed a lien for more than \$16,000.

"The \$30 million hotel project has been stalled since late summer as Calista seeks financing for the construction.

Calista board member Eddie Hoffman said Tuesday that he attended a board meeting on Sunday, but doesn't recall any discussions about liens against the company. Hoffman said he doesn't know anything about it.

"Nora Guinn, also a Calista board member, stated she did not attend the meeting and had no word from the corporation on this matter."