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# **Calista eyes reorganization**

**From Our Anchorage Bureau**

The Calista Corporation is keeping a close watch on the reorganization of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Martin Moore, newly-elected president of the Bethel-based regional corporation, said last week that Calista does not want to "jeopardize AFN at this time," but he added, "If the present system doesn't change, there is a probable cause for Calista to depart from AFN."

Calista introduced a resolution at the AFN Convention in October calling for a reorganization of the body, and threaten-

ing withdrawal from AFN if changes were not made. The resolution was ruled out of order because AFN's by-laws require that such changes be made by the Board of Directors. The AFN Board has since authorized a review of the present organization in conjunction with the Human Resources Committee and new President Byron Mallott.

Calista recognizes the need for a statewide Native voice, Moore said, but the corporation's board of directors is looking at "just what AFN has done for Calista with the money we

(Continued on Page 12)

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have supported them with."

Moore explained that Calista is unhappy with the present system of paying dues and the fact that delegates to the annual AFN Convention cannot vote on resolutions. Each region, represented by its profit-making corporation, has one vote on the convention floor. Calista is also critical of the method of selecting AFN's Board of Directors, who, along with the president, direct the organization between conventions.

Moore suggested that AFN should seek some way of paying its way that would take some of the financial burden off of the regional corporations. "Sooner or later, some of the regional corporations are not going to put any more money to support AFN, in my mind this is a fact," he said.

According to Moore, a regional corporation must pay a base fee of \$8,000 to join AFN, with an additional amount required based on the number of people in the region.

Moore admitted there might be chaos at AFN conventions if all delegates were allowed to vote on resolutions. But he suggested that in many cases, such as the vote on limited entry at the last convention, regional representation is not adequate. "Let them cast votes the way they see fit," Moore said.

Allowing delegates to vote might encourage more people to participate in conventions because they would feel that their vote was important. "When you become part of something, then it means something to you," Moore said.

Calista not only favors greater participation of individuals in convention business, but also in the selection of AFN's Board of Directors. The resolution introduced by Calista at October's convention reads in part:

"WHEREAS, it is the desire of Calista Corporation to see the Alaska Federation of Natives represent all of the Natives of the State of Alaska and not just the Alaska Native Regional Corporations,

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Calista Corporation recommends to the Alaska Federation of Natives that all nominations and elections of officers and directors for the Alaska Federation of Natives come from the body of

the convention and not from the Regional Corporations."

Besides changing the way in which the AFN Board is selected, Moore said he liked the idea of allowing villages and non-profit Native corporations to be represented on the board.

Moore said he expects to meet with AFN President Byron Mallott sometime after Christmas to discuss the reorganization. Moore, who is Calista's representative on the AFN Board, was not present at the last AFN Board meeting, at which reorganization was discussed, because the Calista board was in session.