

Staff to study costs of Juneau convention

An invitation from the City of Juneau to hold the Alaska Federation of Natives 1983 convention in that Southeast City will be researched by AFN staff members.

The convention will be held on Oct. 21, 22, and 23 of 1983.

Juneau civic and business leaders want the lucrative AFN convention to become one of the first to be held in the new

Juneau convention center.

Letters supporting the convention in Juneau were received from Sealaska Chairman and President Byron Mallott and the Juneau City Mayor.

The convention has been held in Anchorage for most of the years following the formation of the AFN in 1966. For the past two years AFN sought proposals from all of the large cities in the state to

hold the convention but, according to AFN chairman Sam Kito "last year we got zilch except from Anchorage which said 'you can hold it here.'"

One of the strong points favoring Juneau was that area's opposition to the proposition ballot measure which would have repealed the state subsistence law. The Juneau area support was necessary for the

passage of the defeat of the proposition and Tlingit Haida Central Council president John Hope reminded the board of that.

John Shively, representing the NANA Regional Corp. in place of regular NANA board representative Willie Hensley told the board the additional costs of holding the convention in Juneau could keep away many convention goers from

Northwest and North Alaska such as the Kotzebue and Barrow area.

Hope pointed out that the flight from Juneau to Anchorage costs as much to Juneau residents.

The AFN staff will investigate the costs of a Juneau convention such as chartering airplanes and report back to the board at its next meeting.