

RurAlCAP addresses social issues

Subsistence advocacy, health, education and social services, and rural energy issues were reaffirmed as priorities of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors held last month in Ketchikan.

Commenting on the directions of the statewide community action agency, President Gordon Jackson stated, "RurAl CAP will continue its involvement with the legislative process, as one of the most effective and immediate means of al-

leviating some of the causes and conditions of poverty in Alaska."

The RurAl CAP Board responded to the recently adopted Republican Party Platform by resolution, terming the planks calling for an end to financing for construction of rural highschools and for unrestricted access to the North Slope Haul Road damaging and "calously indifferent" to rural interests.

Other significant issues addressed during the three-day meeting resulted in resolutions calling on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to address itself to the potential negative impacts of natural gas pipeline construction on subsistence activity, and urging the ADF&G to seek a legislative ap-

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● RurAlCAP tackles subsistence advocacy issues

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propriation to restore full funding to staff the Section of Subsistence Hunting and Fishing in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Reporting on regional concerns to the RurAl CAP Board, the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association stated that volun-

teer dentists from California are currently prevented from providing much-needed dental services on the Aleutian Chain due to regulations of the Alaska State Licensing Board. A resolution was passed calling on the Licensing Board and/or the State Department of Health and

Social Services to investigate and resolve the problem.

The Board also called on the Legislature and the State Administration to consider establishing a flat kilowatt hour rate for all electrical consumers in Alaska, in order to equalize the inordinate burden borne by rural resi-

dents and, responding to a request from the Upper Tanana Development Corporation, the Directors urged the Division of Community and Rural Development Assistance Program.

Guest speakers at the meeting included Jim Edenso, Bottomfish Coordinator for the Governor's Office, and C. Dean Morgan, recently appointed Regional Director of the Commu-

nity Services Administration, Region X in Seattle. Mr. Morgan praised the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, calling it "one of the most effective and solid organizations in the region, if not the country."

Gordon Jackson of Anchorage was re-elected for a fifth term as President of the statewide Board of Directors. Myrna Torgramson of Wrangell was re-elected Vice-President, and Leo Moses of Chevak was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the non-profit corporation.

Final dates have not been set for the RurAl CAP Board's December meeting in Anchorage.