

NANA elders conference to be April 18-20 in Kotzebue

by Jennifer Gordon
Tundra Times reporter

“Elders and Youth — Helping One Another” is the theme for the first NANA Regional Elders Conference to be held April 18-20 at the Kotzebue National Guard Armory.

Willie Hensley, president of NANA Regional Corp., said he expects at least 10 elders from each of the 10 villages in the region and as many as 50 from Kotzebue.

Youth from the villages have been asked to join the elders in discussions

concerning modern problems. The elders will be asked to provide solutions and recommendations to these problems.

Robert Newlin, chairman of the board for NANA, said the conference will be similar to elders' councils that have been held in the past. He said that the conference may encourage more elders to attend the councils.

During the conference, elders will be able to share their language, history and stories of how ancestors survived, said Newlin.