

Convention honors Elders, dry villages

Special recognition and tribute will be paid to Alaska Native Elders at this year's annual Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held Oct. 20, 21, and 22 at the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel.

The convention will pay tribute to Native Elders during the three days of the conference and also will feature a panel addressing the role of and importance of the family, language, subsistence and sharing in Native cultures.

The second part of the tribute is to highlight what activities and programs are under way to ensure that Native cultures are retained for coming generations.

This year's theme is "People of the Land" and was chosen to recognize Native elders because the Elders have always been true people of the land.

The convention also will

recognize the villages in Alaska which have banned the sale and use of alcohol by exercising the local option law to outlaw alcohol in their villages.

The AFN Board of Directors this summer unanimously passed a motion calling for all events and activities directly sponsored by AFN this year to refrain from serving alcohol to recognize the efforts of those 46 villages which have voted to ban alcohol.

Gov. Jay Hammond, Anchorage Mayor Tony Knowles, and the congressional delegation have confirmed as guest speakers during the convention. The keynote speaker is expected to be confirmed by the first part of October.

Two panels — addressing the issues of stock alienation in 1991, and the Alaska Native You will appear during the

three days in addition to four workshops on education, health/alcohol, human resources, and land/resource development. The results from the workshops will be reported to the delegates during scheduled presentations.

Highlighting the social activities will be a special performance by the Tukak' Teatret from Greenland. Tukak' Teatret was founded in Greenland in 1975 by a Norwegian actor and is the first professional Greenlandic theatre and the first and only Inuit theatre in the world. The performance is scheduled the opening day of convention.

The delegates will once again see dances performed by various Alaska Native dance groups including the Wainwright and Barrow dancers. The King Island Dancers, and groups from around the state

are in the process of raising funds to attend.

The AFN will sponsor a cultural exchange evening on Thursday, Oct. 21 — to share Native cultures with the residents of Anchorage.

This evening will feature many dance groups, an exhibition of Alaska Native Youth Olympics, and the Alaska Native Dress Review.

Admission for this evening is \$10 and proceeds will go to help offset traveling expenses for out-of-town dance groups. Tickets will be available at the convention.

Arts and crafts sales will once again be held during the convention in the Kuskokwim Room. Booths for this event have already sold out at what has become a popular part of the convention.

AFN in conjunction with the Alaska Native Arts Cooperative (ANAC) will be holding an exhibit in the Yukon Room of various Native art from around the state, in addi-

tion to those entries in the AFN poster contest. The contest which is open to all Alaska Native artists offers a prize of \$500 to the winning entrant.

All posters should depict the convention theme — "People of the Land." Chuna MacIntyre, a well-known Alaska Native artist has accepted AFN's invitation to be the contest juror.

The winning poster will become the official 1982 AFN convention poster which will be reproduced and distributed at the convention.

The convention will be capped off by the Traditional Tundra Times banquet scheduled for Friday, Oct. 22. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the paper and includes a special tribute to its founder, Howard Rock. Tickets for this evening are available through the Tundra Times office.