



Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

AFN, Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

Officers:

President — Roger Lang
Chairman of the Board — Jack Wick
Vice Chairman — Ted Angason
Secretary — Ralph A. Johnson
Treasurer — Herb Smelcer

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Wednesday, October 9, 1974

Anchorage, Alaska

AFN, INC. PICKS OCT. CONVENTION THEME

In PL 874 Funds—

HRC Opposes Cutback

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Human Resources Committee in a regular meeting on October 1, 1974 opposed the reduction of Public Law 874 funds in the State of Alaska by the U. S. Office of Education.

The Office of Education gave notice to the State in early July that Alaska will no longer be given the preferential treatment because of the "improved economic position of Alaska in relation to that of other States".

Since 1954 the federal government reimbursed the State 100 per cent of PL 874 if the students parents lived on federal property or public domain lands. In the next three years the Office of Education will reduce the reimbursement amount until the reimbursement drops to 50 per cent.

"The reduction comes at a very inopportune time," stated Gordon Jackson, Vice-President for Human Resources. "Several rural municipalities have been considering local control of schools. However, with a cutback in the PL 874 funds, this even affects them."

"The cutback also will affect the State Operated School System which is financed 75 per cent by PL 874. Although we have been advocating a phase-out of this system, that's not the way to do it."

"The Office of Education just doesn't realize that our financial condition won't improve until oil starts flowing towards the end of this decade," Jackson added, "Provisions of PL 874 provide for a hearing with the U. S. Commissioner of Education prior to any final determination of a change in the rate system."

"Commissioner Lind has been advocating for such a hearing. We're supporting him and plan to be there if such a hearing is held."

Other actions taken during the meeting included:

Directing the Vice-President to seek more information on the 500 units of housing recently announced by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Housing Bill recently signed by President Ford.

Heard an explanation of RCA Alaska comprehensive communications plan. Reaction to the plan was mixed.

Directing the staff to seek more information on the \$40 million rural school construction bond issue and what the State is doing to explain the issue publicly. The Committee advocated its passage and suggested that such a bond issue would cost several times more if delayed.

Heard a report from Roger Lang, President, Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. regarding the Annual Convention and plans to include the Human Resource Committee.

Accepted the Bush Justice Law Enforcement Assistance ap-

plication recently passed by the Governor's Commission on Administration of Justice.

Directed the staff to do something about native language announcements in flights to Alaska Native towns.

Wien and Alaska fly daily to places like Barrow, Nome, and Bethel, which are predominantly Eskimo towns and in most of these flights, there are many Eskimos whose first language is Eskimo and many of whom understand the language much better than English.

Information announcements for the safety and convenience of passengers are made only in English.

Disbursements—

AFN, Inc. Board Meets Sept. 26

The regular AFN, Inc. Board Meeting was held on September 26 in Anchorage. Discussions were held on problems with disbursements the regional corporations have inter and intra regionally concerning transfers, ineligible and other problems.

It was also recommended that the concept of SB 349 concerning land to be conveyed to State in trust for future cities under the ANCSA be reinstituted. The Board will meet Wednesday, October 23rd prior to the Convention.

Progress on the Convention is coming along fine. We are encouraging each region to submit their delegate forms, reservation requests to Donna Christie, Convention Coordinator.

The Board has established a Citizen of the Year Award Committee: Andy Johnson, Chairman and members Ted Angason, Tom Drake and Herb Smelcer.

If you have nominations please send them to us. The Board agreed that the Credentials and Resolutions Committees be formed at the Convention.

Names of nominees for Chairman and for committee members recommended be sent to the Board. Mr. Jack Bookey, Regional Director of the Securities and Exchange Commission has been extended an invitation to speak at the Convention.

Richard Truedell of the American Indian Lawyer Training

Jackson stated, "The action regarding the Native announcements is exciting. We have two major airlines in Alaska. One boasts 'nobody knows Alaska like Alaska knows Alaska' and the other boasts 'Alaska's first airline.' It's time they realize that there's a significant native speaking population in Alaska and a significant number travelling in Mexico, Northwest Orient while travelling abroad, and others. Why not Alaska and Wien?"

The AFN Human Resources Committee will meet again prior to the Annual Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage.

Program visited with President Roger Lang and discussed the program and possibilities of placing Alaska Native law students as summer interns in Alaska.

Contracts— Study Course

During the week of September 9-13, a 40-hour intensive study course entitled "Fundamentals of Government Contracting," was held at Alaska Methodist University, Anchorage, Alaska, and was sponsored by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., Health Affairs Division, of which Carl Jack is Director.

Chosen to instruct the course were Jacob B. Pompan and Arthur V. Doble, both Outside consultants who are noted experts in the field of government contracting. Two credits were offered by AMU to those persons who completed the course.

There were approximately 58 participants who successfully completed the course and who were representatives of the Regional Native Associations and Health Corporations.

AFN, Inc., considered the course a great success and hopes to make it an annual event.

Theme Originates From Famed Warrior Wise Tushunka Witka

Picked for the theme of the annual convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. is the quotation "One does not sell the earth upon which the people live."

The quote is from a famous Indian who was named Tushunka Witka, which translated into English as "Crazy Horse". Beyond the obvious wisdom of the quote, there are several inferences and new interpretations which make the theme timely.

In this day of development, it is possible to sell the land by completely destroying the resources that the land provides.

In this day of ecological concern, it is possible to pollute the land to a state in which it cannot provide the resources on which Natives depend.

In this day of a new approach to solving Indian, Aleut and Eskimo social inequities, it is possible to simply sell the land which is needed to the various corporate entities.

In this day in which Alaska Natives are assuming a posture of influence, both in the finan-

cial and political world of Alaska, it is possible to sell the land through delinquent taxes.

In this day of attempting to meet very immediate and short term goals, it is possible to sell the land without beginning to meet the hopes and aspirations of the very young and the very old.

Hopefully the wisdom of the elders and the ambition of the young can be melded into a viable and working plan for lands which fits Native needs, promotes the Native with pride into a search of his traditional land use, and finally which fits both short and long term goals of the stockholders of each of the many Native corporations.

Lack of Interest—

JOM Review Comm. Meet Dismal Failure

The Johnson-O'Malley Review Committee Meeting, on September 24, 25, 26, turned out to be a dismal failure.

Many of the members demonstrated their lack of interest by not showing up for the meetings. JOMRC consists of 12 members, one from each of the twelve Native regions, and is the policy board for a \$5.1 million contract between the BIA and AFN, Inc.

AFN, Inc. in turn sub contracts out to school districts, Native Associations and others for the delivery of supplemental education services to Native kids (K-12).

The meeting was to begin at 9:30 a.m. September 24 with Mr. Clay Antioquia, Juneau Area Director, BIA scheduled for a presentation on the new JOM regulations.

Mr. Antioquia, along with two of his staff, and five of the 12 JOMRC representatives waited from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. for a quorum to be estab-

lished.

On September 25th the meetings were scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and Mr. Clay Antioquia — his staff, AFN, Inc. President Roger Lang and AFN, Inc. Vice President Gordon Jackson had to wait until 10:10 a.m. for a quorum to be established.

The meetings on September 24th and 25th were designed to provide the committee members with information on the new JOM regulations, the BIA manual for implementing the new regulations and the existing relationships between AFN, Inc. — BIA — JOM. Then the policy decisions were to be made on September 26.

There were no decisions made because the Chairman, Robert Clark, Dillingham was unable to establish a quorum. He, along with four other members waited until 2:00 p.m. then, unable to adjourn, they left the meeting room in disgust.

During the three day period, only three members, Robert Clark — Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation; Ester Combs — Cook Inlet Native Association; and Mary Jane Fate — Tanana Chiefs Conference, were present and on time for every session.

Of the ones absent only one, Marlene Johnson — Sealaska Corporation, was excused, the rest attended infrequently or just didn't show up.

**AFN, INC. ANNUAL CONVENTION
OCT. 24-25-26**

At Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage

AFN, INC. - TT BANQUET - OCT. 26