

Editorial



You must register by Oct. 6

by the Alaska Federation of Natives
for the Tundra Times

On behalf of the AFN Board of Directors and staff, Julie Kitka, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, expresses thanks to the nearly 1,300 Alaskan Native people who participated in a rally co-hosted by AFN and the regions on Aug. 25.

"AFN and the regions sponsored the picnic for several reasons — to provide Alaska Native families an opportunity to gather with friends and relatives who live in the Anchorage area, to give people an opportunity to discuss political issues of concern — such as subsistence and to encourage Alaska Natives to register to vote in the upcoming General Election," Kitka said.

Perry Eaton of Kodiak acted as master of ceremonies for the afternoon of food and entertainment. Those attending the rally also got the rare chance to enjoy traditional Siberian dances performed by a group from the Soviet Union who extended their stay in Anchorage to perform at the picnic. Entertainment also was provided by the Tlingit and Haida Dancers of Anchorage.

One of the key purposes of the gathering was to encourage Alaska Natives to register to vote. Volunteer registrars were on hand, and nearly 200 new voters were registered to vote in the General Election Nov. 6. Registrars also distributed more than 500 information packets containing a summary of action on subsistence in the recent special and regular sessions of the Alaska state Legislature, as well as information on voting in state of Alaska elections.

"We were delighted at the number of people who not only attended the picnic, but also volunteered their time and help to set up for the picnic and clean up afterward and the many people who shared traditional Native foods. It was such a positive experience," Kitka said. "We hope to make it an annual event."

The effort to encourage Alaska Native involvement in the Nov. 6 General Election will continue. Each Alaskan community has a voter registrar. Find out who the voter registrar is in your community and be sure to register to vote before the Oct. 6 deadline to be eligible to vote in the Nov. 6 General Election.

"Our elected officials have an obligation to act in our best interests," Kitka said. "However, this can only happen if we make our voice heard at the polls during elections by exercising our right to vote. Remember — your vote counts!"

Native Votes Count

Be Sure to Register

