

Letters to the **EDITOR**

Rep. Nicholia introduces her staff

Dear Editor:

Greetings from Juneau and the Thirty-third Day of the Nineteenth Legislature. Less than 100 days to go!

I have some important news concerning how to contact my office. We have a

new toll free number (1-800-491-4527). So now you can call us on Legislative or district-related business without going through the operator for assistance with a collect call.

At this time I'd also like to introduce

• Rep. Nicholia introduces her staff

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my hard working and dedicated staff.

When you call the office the first voice you're likely to hear is Lisa McLaren's. Lisa is new with the office this year, but brings with her experience from many sessions

in prior years. Lisa is in charge of scheduling and keeping our paper flowing. Lisa has a background in health and social services issues, and I invite you to call on her with questions on these issues if I'm not available.

-Pat Jackson is still with us - over the years most of you have probably talked with Pat a time or two about any number of issues. During session Pat works on the bills scheduled in the Resources Committee and the state operating and capital budgets which we need to watch so carefully. Pat also follows education issues, especially education funding.

I'm very fortunate have a university intern this year, Mary Sattler from the Y-K Delta region. Mary is monitoring the bills scheduled in the Community and Regional Affairs Committee, the Fish and Game budget, and is also working on my personal legislation, including House Bill 167 related to Native language and culture and House Bill 253 which would ban sale of crafts on liquor premises. In this

first month she has developed good grasp of the events of this session and is a tremendous asset to our busy office.

From time to time I will be sending you notices concerning issues that are hot. As in prior years, I will be asking for your help in passing the word throughout the community. I greatly appreciate your help in this regard. It really does make a difference when folks from the district are able to add their perspective to the issues being discussed. We can't let the urban folks forget that rural Alaska is an important part of this state!

Best wishes, and I look forward to hearing from you as the session progresses.

*Sincerely,
Rep. Irene Nicholia*