

President: Alaskans on the Potomac—

Alaskans Elect Tom, Jr.

WASHINGTON—Alaskans on the Potomac, an organization recently formed by Alaska Natives living in the Washington area, is ready to offer supportive services to Alaska Native leaders during their lobbying efforts here.

The group, numbering about twenty-five members, met to elect officers last Thursday.

Thomas Richards, Jr., Washington correspondent for the Tundra Times and an Eskimo originally from Kotzebue, was elected as President of the organization.

A Tlingit from Juneau working in Washington as a computer specialist, Ray Paddock is Vice-President of the group.

Adeline Katagan, a Unalakleet Eskimo working in the office of Senator Stevens, is Secretary-Treasurer.

"Alaskans on the Potomac are ready to provide nearly any type of basic supportive services to Alaska Native leaders in an effort to enhance the effectiveness of their lobbying efforts here in Washington," Richards said.

"We stand ready to make office space, clerical assistance, transportation, and a variety of other services available to Native leaders," he added.

The organization intends to

meet this week with AFN President Don Wright and other Native delegates in Washington to determine their most pressing needs.

Funding for the operations of Alaskans on the Potomac will come mainly from support by its membership and others with interest in the objectives of the group.

Alaska Native organizations will be under no obligation to make payment on services received.

"Our most important goal is not one of making policy, and nor is it one of lobbying.

"Our most important goal is to meet the needs of Alaska Natives in their effort to influence congressional action for a fair and generous settlement of the Alaska Native land claims," Richards stated.

"It is the wish of Alaskans on the Potomac that our efforts be limited only by what is desired of us by the Alaska Native leadership," concluded Richards.