

Kotzebue Forms Group to Deal With Problems

Kotzebue Eskimos have been in a process of forming an organization designed to deal with Native problems in the Kotzebue area.

A Board of Directors has already been created and the temporary chairman of it is Percy Ipalook. The seven board members are; Percy Ipalook, Dan Wright, Arthur Fields, John Smith, Rodney Lincoln, Kenneth Mills, and Howard Monroe.

The Board is expected to be the nucleus of a potential Brotherhood that might be formed in the future.

"We have many problems at and around Kotzebue and we would like to be heard as an organized group and have effective voice as a body," said chairman Ipalook.

Once formed, the organization will deal with local problems. It will work toward establishing better fishing enterprises involving salmon, sheefish, salmon trout, and herring, the latter being plentiful during fall.

During a meeting on March 3, the old Fishermen's Organization was dissolved and a new one formed and the Directors of this one included among others, John Curtis, Dick Curtis, Dan Wright, Fred Adams, and John Nelson.

The new officers agreed to carry forward the effort to form a new, practical working group.

Ipalook said that the new organization might be called Kotzebue Native Association but that it could be named something else.

"Flore Lekanof has been instrumental in creating interest in the proposed new organization having had experience in the formation of the Cook Inlet Native Association in Anchorage. He was the first president of that organization," Percy Ipalook said.