

Jimmie to head AVCP housing program

Alexie Jimmie of Ioksook Bay has been appointed director of the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) Housing Improvement Program. Jimmie will be charge of providing for the housing improvement needs of Native residents of 24 of the AVCP Region villages under provisions of a contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"We are very pleased with Mr. Jimmie's appointment," AVCP President Harold Napoleon said in making the announcement.

"Mr. Jimmie was selected following a month-long recruitment effort of AVCP. He was chosen when AVCP administration concurred with the recommendation of a selection committee, consisting of a panel of professional program managers, who reviewed a field of six well-qualified finalists," Napoleon said.

Jimmie, 37, was born at Umkumite and is a life-long resident of the Nelson Island area. He and his wife Aleta, a Sioux Indian who was raised in Michigan, have three young children. His mother, Stella Kailukaak, lives in Toksook Bay.

Experienced in a wide range of construction skills, Jimmie is a certified carpenter as well, having been certificated in this line of work after receiving instruction and technical training over a four-year period with the Alaska Carpentry School in Anchorage. He has since obtained five years experience in the trade, working in locations all over Alaska. In the Nelson Island area, Jimmie's village neighbors have respected and used his skills as an estimator for many types of construction work.

A veteran of six years of military service, Jimmie is a Yupik Native of the AVCP Region, as are each of the other five service program managers hired by AVCP to deliver service under provisions of the AVCP-BIA self-determination contract.

The AVCP housing improvement director is assigned the responsibility to respond to requests to upgrade the quality of non-standard family housing in the 24 villages currently served by AVCP. Funds for the program are limited, and housing improvement service is provided on a need basis. Sometimes, the AVCP Housing Improvement Program may be used to replace old housing with new construction in emer-

gency situations, such as in burn-outs.

Jimmie is currently receiving orientation to the AVCP-BIA contract programs in Bethel. Through a unique and unusual arrangement, Jimmie will receive further orientation and technical training in HIP Program Management with the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Housing Improvement Program in Fairbanks, during a special technical training project in February. Tanana Chiefs, like AVCP, is a Native tribal contractors with much experience in HIP management. AVCP made the decision to arrange training and technical orientation with TCC because the BIA Bethel Agency, where Jimmie would have normally received technical and pro-

fessional exposure to the HIP Program, is presently without the services of a full-time Housing Improvement Officer.

Residents interested in the services provided by the AVCP HIP Program, if they are located in any of the 24 villages receiving BIA services through AVCP, may request assistance by writing Mr. Jimmie at the AVCP Housing Improvement Program, P.O. Box 219, Bethel, Alaska 99559, or by telephoning Jimmie at 543-3521, extension 123 or 137.

Villages interested in receiving HIP services, or any of the other five program services provided under the AVCP-BIA Contract, are invited to contact AVCP at the above address to obtain information about how they may request to be

provided BIA services through the Association of Village Council Presidents.

The AVCP Village Services Division, as the AVCP-BIA Contract programs are called, expects to advertise for two additional positions to serve BIA-contracted villages in the near future.

According to President Napoleon. One position is for a Village Services Representative for Yukon area villages of the AVCP Region. The second position, that of the director of the Division of Village Services, will serve as the overall director of the AVCP-BIA contract, and is currently filled by an acting director.

"AVCP is moving to improve our ability to provide services to villages under our BIA contract," Napoleon said. "While our

contract programs are not currently affected by the recent Federal employment freeze, AVCP is respecting the intent of this new policy by looking for the most cost-effective management ideas to apply to our BIA contract. We are using the tools of the self-determination law to improve program services without any additional costs to the federal government," Napoleon added.

Other improvements are being developed in the AVCP-BIA Contract, and will be submitted for approval by the Village Council Presidents at the AVCP Convention at Mekoryuk in February, he added.

AVCP began its fourth year of BIA contract management October 1, with services being provided to 24 villages.