

# Group seeks weatherization funds

Funds to weatherize every home in rural Alaska over the next four years have been set as the number one goal of the Alaska Regional Energy Association. The plan also includes full funding for energy planners working for regional nonprofit corporations.

AREA identified the Village Energy Reconnaissance and Conservation Program including full funding of the regional energy planners, as its number one legislative priority.

At its recent meeting held

during the Citizens' Participation Conference, March 16 - 19, 1981 in Juneau, the organizations also outlined other interests.

The cost of energy in rural Alaska is escalating at an exorbitant rate. Costs of up to \$3 a gallon for fuel delivered in many villages are forcing rural Alaskans to commit an increasingly larger proportion of their income to energy and transportation. This problem causes the most serious threat ever to the continued existence of remote communities.

Bob Brean, AREA chairman representing Upper Tanana De-  
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# ● Weatherization

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development corp. said "Unfortunately, state and federal agencies have been very narrow

in their response to this crisis. They have responded simply by expanding their welfare system. AREA is intent upon finding

regional short, mid and long term solutions that will lead to increased self sufficiency."

AREA was formed in 1979 to serve as a clearing house for the exchange of energy information affecting rural Alaska, and to express the views of the 14 member regional nonprofit associations on energy-related issues.

AREA's number one legislative priority, the Village Energy Reconnaissance and Conservation Program, part of SSHB 9, will provide funds to weatherize every home in rural Alaska within the next four years.

In other action, AREA passed a motion endorsing HB 289 - An act relating to the establishment of Regional Energy Authorities. AREA passed a motion to support CSSB 174 An Act which would make a supplemental appropriation to the Alaska Power Authority for the Power Production Cost Assistance Program and supported ex-

pansion of it to include commercial facilities. Another motion passed that the 40 cents/kwh be regionalized according to the cost of living in a specific area.

Finally, AREA passed motions to support SB 25 and SB 26. AREA supports the Power Production Development Fund (SB 25) and the appropriation for fund (SB 26) with an amendment to make the factors used to determine economic feasibility of a project set out in Section 5 more realistic for rural Alaska.

Newly elected AREA officers and delegates are: Bob Brean, chairman, Upper Tanana Development Corp., Tok; Will Theuer, vice chairman, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks; Clyde Stoltzfus, secretary,

Copper Center; John Quirk, Koyukon Development Corp., Galena; Mark Siegars, Bristol Bay Native Asso., Dillingham; Tom Peterson, Kodiak Area Native Asso., Kodiak; Pele Ezi, Cook Inlet Native Asso., Anchorage; Kent Grinnage, North Slope Borough, Barrow; Sharon Zandman-Zeman, North Pacific Rim, Anchorage; Phil Kaluza, Kawerak, Nome; Pat Petrivelli, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Asso., Anchorage; Bob Martin, Tlingit-Haida Regional Electrical Authority, Juneau; Larry Jones, Mauneluk Asso., Kotzebue, and David Cartier, Nunam Kitlutsisti, Pilot Station.

Further information on AREA may be obtained from the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Energy Department, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.