

L. Monaghan Calls for Updating ANICA Bylaws

Leonard Monaghan, former store advisor for the Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Asso-

ciation in Alaska, has called all Indian Reorganization Act village councils to review the current bylaws of the ANICA with the thought of revising and modernizing them.

After working for four months as a store advisor, Monaghan was fired around June last year by the then general manager of ANICA, Winfield Ervin, Jr., for attempting to raise the wages of ANICA village store managers claiming they were paid below the Alaska minimum wage of \$2.10 per hour.

Winfield Ervin was removed from his office early this year in January at the board of directors

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Updating ANICA Bylaws...

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meeting at Nome.

After writing some interpretations of the ANICA current bylaws for more clarity, Monaghan sent a cover letter to the IRA village councils.

"... The bylaws of ANICA are very old fashioned and reflect a need for revision and modernizing," explains Leonard Monaghan. "The bylaws, as they presently stand, render you almost helpless to the will of the central organization—the ANICA Seattle Office."

"While it is true," he continued, "that you probably do need the Bureau of Indian Affairs on a limited basis, you do not have to sit by and let an old, outdated constitution throttle your influence and participation."

"Have you wondered just what say you have in operating ANICA? Have you wondered just what your legal rights were? Who really control your business? Indians? Eskimos? Who is the power behind the throne?"

Monaghan asked the villagers

to read through the bylaws and to notice the "big power" of the BIA Area Director, the Secretary of the Interior and the ANICA secretary-treasurer in Seattle.

"What voice do you have in policy making decisions?" asked Monaghan, "Probably none, unless you are one of the lucky three who attend the annual ANICA meetings."

"Perhaps some business decisions could be made by the three executive board members—but, when policy is involved, all members should be present to express their views and to learn. Policy should be to upgrade the present bylaws for your greater participation in running the central organization."

Monaghan said that on Page 8 of the bylaws, Section 2, under the subhead of letter (i), that that section of the bylaws should be changed to allow all members to attend the annual meetings.

"It has been four years since all ANICA members have met. At the last meeting in Nome, two Eskimos and one Indian represented all 33 members!" stated Monaghan.

"It was interesting to note," he continued, "that three government officials and two ANICA

officials attended this eight-man meeting—all totalled five officials were present while only three Indian, Eskimo members were there."

Monaghan said that the three-member quorum of the executive committee was the bare minimum the bylaws allow to represent the ANICA board of directors.

"Why should you allow a small executive committee to represent all of you at the annual meeting? Why should the meetings be held behind closed doors when ANICA is a public corporation?"

"You as ANICA directors have a right," Monaghan continued, "you have an obligation to represent your village store. ANICA has enough money (your money) in Seattle banks to pay for one trip a year to attend an annual meeting of all ANICA directors."

"Any money you spend to attend the annual meeting is well spent. Your education should be the prime and first objective to improving your business practice as store manager."

"You must take it upon yourselves to study the control organization of ANICA, to question, to wonder why the bylaws are written as they are. Do you want the central organization to keep the control of your store and money? Or do you want to start thinking for yourselves."

"If so, contact your native associations and chase this idea a while."

Leonard Monaghan's clarification of some of the bylaws is printed elsewhere in today's issue of the Tundra Times.