

Letters

Alcoholism Funds Cut

KOTZEBUE AREA HEALTH
CORPORATION
P.O. Box 256
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
Phone (907) 442-3164
June 3, 1974

The Hon. William A. Egan
Governor, State of Alaska
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Egan:

I write this letter over a matter of great concern to me and to the services that are to be greatly hindered if what is in essence a fact.

According to the preliminary report of the Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism, the Alcoholism Program proposal for Kotzebue has been granted an operating budget of \$29,700.

Our original request was for \$85,270 from the state, and we supplied an in-kind amount of \$43,840, for a total operating budget of \$129,110.

My concern is that the state's contribution is far from being satisfactory to initiate an adequate or successful program.

I have several questions that relate to the funding level:

1. What was the justification of funding the level at \$29,700?

2. Is it true that \$278,000 is impounded and not being used for the present grant applications? If so, why not?

3. Were all grant proposals funded at below 50% the requested amount? If not, why was Kotzebue's program so low?

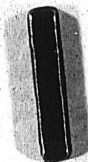
I ask these questions because I want to hear justifiable answers to my queries, and at present I feel that this area's proposal was discriminated against. During the last fiscal year (1974), the Alcoholism Program was funded at approximately \$30,000 which included an \$8,000 supplemental from the State of Alaska.

For the new fiscal year (1975) we had hoped to operate a program at double the capacity with two (2) separate programs — a drop-in center, and a rehabilitation center to house ten (10) people. I ponder at how we are expected to do this with \$29,700.

I feel the State of Alaska needs to recognize that social problems are in existence, and that alcohol is a large contributing factor. Why then does it ignore alcoholism through such meager funding levels? I direct this piece of correspondence to you because you are the state's

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How to spot a Perisoreus Canadensis on the wing.



Or maybe a *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* or *Podiceps grisegena*. They're all there—winging across Alaskan skies, nesting in grassy marshes, foraging for food in our suburbs.

Alaska is blessed with mighty mountains, awesome rivers, and silent sparkling glaciers. All massive, beautiful, and different.

But the dimensions of beauty can be small. Like our native birds—the Arctic Tern, Redpoll, and Ptarmigan. Most of us who share this Great Land can identify these bright splashes of color with the flick of an eye—at a hundred yards. Those who come north to briefly share our brilliant summers, however, sometimes seem to miss much of Alaska. Driving our highways,

they're overwhelmed by size; they often overlook the small up close things.

Because we feel more people should get to know our state better, even the small things that are important to us, Exxon USA has produced a new booklet, "Beauty on the Wing." It features color photographs and descriptions of over a dozen of our most common birds. We thought visitors would like to have it; it's free.

P.S. We've set aside a few copies for Alaskans, too. If you would like a copy—perhaps for a friend—drop us a note at P.O. Box 440, Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

EXXON COMPANY, U.S.A.

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leader, and since I am a resident, I deserve your consideration and an explanation. I would also welcome other sources to contact for financial aid.

Respectfully,

Dennis J. Tiepelman

Executive Director

Kotzebue Area Health Corp.

cc: Frederick P. McGinnis,

Commissioner, Department
of Health & Social Services

Senator Willie Hensley

Senator Terry Miller

Representative Tom Fink

Representative Frank Ferguson

Carl Jack, AFN, Inc. Health
Affairs

Dr. John F. Lee, Area Director,
PHS Indian Health Service

Howard Rock, Tundra Times
Editor

George Barril, Executive Director,
ANCADA