



Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

AFN, Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

Officers:

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Chairman of the Board — Nels Anderson
Vice Chairman — Jack Wick
Secretary — Ralph A. Johnson
Treasurer — Herb Smelcer

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Wednesday, July 31, 1974

Anchorage, Alaska

AFN, INC. SETS ANNUAL MEET OCT. 24-26

Termed Very Good—

Washington Meeting

The main purpose of the recent trip to Washington, D.C. of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. was to testify before the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on the problem of the "late filers" of the enrollment of Alaska's Native people and the continuation of the discussion of the 2(c) study.

The AFN Board considered the testimonies before the Senate Interior Committee as most necessary at this time of the coming action and timing of the impeachment processes of the President of the United States.

The initial action of the group involved a meeting with the Alaska Task Force chaired by Royston Hughes during which lists previously worked upon in Anchorage, and expansion on some of the concessions that were made by the Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton on the late filers and 2(c) study.

The group learned in Washington that there is a drafting of a prototype of legislation for establishing escrow funds which will be delivered to the AFN Board prior to the final draft.

A report on the above was made at the Fairbanks meeting since it was contingent on receipt of the material that is still being worked on in the Interior Department.

Following the meeting with the Alaska Task Force, the group made courtesy calls on the Alaska congressional delegation and to set up appointments with considered essential for consultation during the trip.

On the following Tuesday, there was a discussion with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs Morris Thompson involving the

follow-up with the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the administration of Native allotments.

There was also a discussion on the enrollment problems of certification of unlisted villages; a new Indian housing concept being drafted by HUD; proposed enrollment legislation and the AFN concept of the need for the continuation of the 2(c) study.

Some of the members of the group attended a special meeting that was set up by Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska with the administrative staff of the Food Stamp Program, Department of Agriculture, to discuss with them their ruling of including the proceeds of the Act in determining whether "income" or "resources" for individual qualification of the use of food stamps.

On Wednesday morning the hearings heard Alaska Senators Stevens and Mike Gravel. Both were in favor of legislation under discussion which, if passed, would involve 30-60 day effectiveness following passage.

The group then testified on the proposed legislation favoring a nine-month period for enrollment and three additional months to complete the roll.

Effective questioning of the senatorial members of the Interior Committee followed by the group.

It was found that the committee was amenable to having enrollment opened for a year but with the benefits of the Act to be administered in a prospective manner.

In other words, the late filers, with everything considered, would be entitled for only those benefits which would accrue to them in the future.

If this concept is accepted,

there would be no back payments, no inclusion in the computation of lands for a village and they would only be included from here on in.

On Thursday, the AFN Board met with Congressman Don Young who arranged a ten-minute meeting with Congressman Jack Haley, chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs.

Chairman Haley assured the participants that he will cooperate with the group regarding legislation for the late filers or the continuation of the 2(c) study. This conference with Haley was evaluated as a "very good meeting."

Conclusion Of Growth Chart

The analysis and recommendations were printed in January, 1974 and presented to the Alaska Legislature and a wide distribution. The many excellent recommendations went nowhere.

The Human Resources Committee and CNER recognized this and decided to take the recommendations one step further — that is drafting strategy to implement those recommendations.

The strategy session will include participation of a wide distribution of people with the Alaska Native people making all decisions regarding pre-higher education strategy. We have scheduled this conference for mid-July 1974.

Following the session, the Human Resources Committee will adopt the strategy and will proceed to implement it.

We are extremely excited about this conference and are doing basically the same in health. We are no longer satisfied with merely plans. Our only satisfaction will come when these plans are implemented.

The AFN is extremely excited about the new restructure. We feel it will make the statewide organization more responsive to our many priorities throughout the state. We also feel that the development of our human resources is the prerequisite to the development of any other resource. It is the key to the success of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

It is our most valuable resource and we are convinced that local control of our many schools with the power to hire and fire; determine curriculum; and so on will do more to develop our human resources than any other activity we are presently involved in.

Meeting Site to Be Decided Next Meeting

FAIRBANKS — The Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives met here last week (July 25, 1974) and one of the motions passed by the group was a decision to hold the AFN, Inc. annual meeting on October 24 — 25 — 26, 1974.

The site of the convention was not decided but this is expected to be decided at the next board meeting scheduled to be held on August 22, 1974.

The Board adopted the agenda and this was followed by the AFN, Inc. administration reports delivered by the statewide organization President Roger Lang and the Executive Vice President John Shively.

Board reports and announcements were made and inter-regional exchange of ideas were discussed.

Unfinished business involved seating of the Board members,

AFN, Inc. work program, litigation on the AFN name and SEC waiver resolution.

The discussion of the new business involved the recent Washington, D. C. trip of the Board; AFN, Inc. convention date; townsites trustee matters and AFN, Inc. labor relations.

The Board meeting coincided with the three-day production of the annual Eskimo-Indian Olympics during which AFN President Roger Lang took part as a co-master of ceremonies along with Alfred Grant of Tanana.

AFN Announces Supreme Court Decisions

The Alaska Federation of Natives announces the following Supreme Court decision:

The government's policy of giving preference to Indians in hiring and promotion within the Bureau of Indian Affairs was upheld in a recent Supreme Court ruling.

In a unanimous opinion, the court said the preference "does not constitute racial discrimination."

"Rather it is all employment criterion reasonably designed to further the cause of Indian self-government and to make the BIA more responsive to the needs of its constituent groups." Justice Harry A. Blackmun wrote for the court.

The court reversed a ruling of a three-judge district court in New Mexico that the 1972 Equal Opportunity Act which bans consideration of race, religion, color, sex or national origin in hiring, must take precedence over earlier Indian preference laws.

The Supreme Court said Congress did not intend to repeal the Indian preference laws. The court said the 1972 Anti-discrimination Act was designed to deal with an entirely different problem. Applying it to the preference policy for Indians, the court said, would interfere with the historic special treatment given to Indians by the government.

The preference policy was challenged by a group of non-Indian employees of the bureau.

The number of Indians employed by the BIA grew from 34 per cent of its total personnel when the policy was enacted in 1934 to 57 per cent in 1972, government attorneys told the court.

Accounting Dept. Adds Personnel

The accounting department at AFN have added some new personnel to the staff.

They are Andrew Cunningham, who will be traveling field auditor; Dolores Rose, the accounts payable clerk and Susan Milhorne, our new full charge bookkeeper.

The office space has been expanded along with some new equipment.

Arthur Young & Co. is setting up the new accounting system. There will be a training program in Anchorage for our subcontractors during August.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

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INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: CLASS B-1 (NATIVES) IS CURRENTLY OPEN. PERSONS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC. MAY DO SO BY COMPLETING THE MEMBERSHIP FORM AND SENDING IT TO THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC. DUES ARE \$5 OR \$1 FOR THOSE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.

NAME: _____

REGION ENROLLED TO: _____

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PHONE NO.: _____