

AFN convention plan

This year the AFN Annual Convention will be held November 1-3 at the Anchorage Westward-Hilton, with "ACTION TODAY FOR OUR CHILDREN TOMORROW," as this year's convention theme. This theme complements 1979, the International Year of the Child, as declared by the United Nations.

The AFN Board's Convention Committee came up with two new ideas this year which will enhance the convention. An Arts & Crafts Room will be set aside at the hotel for Native art co-ops, as well as for individuals wishing to display and sell their art during the three-day convention. The committee and AFN staff will be contacting various co-ops and corporations for a listing of those wishing to participate in this event.

Also to be featured at this year's convention will be a baby sitting service for convention participants. The details for this are currently being worked out between AFN and Cook Inlet Native Association's youth organization.

Registration for this year's convention will be handled differently because the Board voted to implement a new system of registration and payment for the convention, based on the number of delegates allocated to the member profit and non-profit corporations. Under this system, only delegates representing the member corporations will be required to register and pay a registration fee. All other registration for general convention participation has been eliminated.

Under the new system, general convention participants may purchase an AFN Convention Annual which will include AFN program reports, the president's report, by-laws of the corporation, 1978 Convention resolutions and follow-up to that

year's convention, a brief history of AFN and how conventions came into being, major conferences and workshops sponsored by AFN, and reports from the Alaska Native Foundation and Rural Alaska Community Action Program on the past year's activities.

The Convention Annuals and a ribbon or button indicating the purchaser is a convention participant (versus a convention delegate) will be sold in the lobby during the three-day convention.

"Special interest" groups wishing to meet during the convention are encouraged to contact AFN staff well ahead of time as bookings for the one meeting room AFN has set aside for these groups will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. This will be the only room officially set aside for meetings during the convention and groups not making arrangements with the AFN staff will be left to make their own arrangements for a meeting space.

The Trade Fair, which was held the past two conventions, is scheduled again this year but the booths will be service oriented rather than commercially oriented. Judy Meidinger, a member of the Convention Committee, will be coordinating this aspect of the convention with various service agencies in the state such as the U.S. Department of Interior, Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Native Non-profit Associations, the Alaska Native Foundation, Rural Alaska Community Action Program, and other local, state, and federal offices who deal directly or indirectly with rural Alaska.

If you have specific questions concerning this year's AFN ANNUAL CONVENTION please contact Janie Leask, Caren Lebar, or Linda McLaughlin at AFN - phone 274-3611.