

Juneau, Alaska 99801

CONSTITUTION CHANGES UNITE AFN



SIGNS CONSTITUTION—Don Wright of Anchorage, first vice president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, is signing the amended federation constitution. Looking on, from left to right, are: AFN President Emil Notti, John Borbridge, Jr., and Sen. Ray Christiansen. Along with many others, these men took vital parts in amending the document which was finally passed unanimously on the conference floor. (Editor's Note: The editor of this newspaper took the photo with a new camera. Read about the fuzziness elsewhere on this page.

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AFN AMENDED CONSTITUTION

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
PREAMBLE

We, the Native People of Alaska, in order to secure to ourselves and our descendants the rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws of the United States, and the State of Alaska; to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Native People; to preserve the Native cultural values; to seek an equitable adjustment of Native affairs and Native claims; to seek, to secure, and to preserve our rights under existing laws of the United States; to promote the common welfare of the Natives of Alaska and to foster the continued loyalty and allegiance of the Natives of Alaska to the flag of the United States and the State of Alaska, do establish this organization and adopt the following Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I NAME, OFFICE, AND OBJECTS

NAME
Section 1. This organization shall be known as Alaska Federation of Natives.

OFFICE
Section 2. The principal and main office of the Federation shall be located at such place as is designated by the Board of Directors.

OBJECTS
Section 3. The objects of this organization are as follows:
A. To promote pride on the part of the Natives of Alaska in their heritage and traditions;
B. To preserve the customs, folklore and art of the Native races;
C. To promote the physical, economic and social well-being of the Natives of Alaska;
D. To discourage and overcome racial prejudice and the

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inequities which such prejudice creates;

- E. To promote good government, by reminding those who govern and those who are governed of their mutual responsibilities.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Active Membership of the Alaska Federation of Natives shall consist of the following: All persons of Eskimo, Indian or Aleut blood extraction, duly enrolled in the tribal rolls of any village or area-wide association of the State of Alaska, or until such tribal roll is established, enrolled provisionally on the temporary tribal rolls of the village or area-wide association. Standards for such temporary enrollment shall be determined by the village or area-wide association.

Section 2. The Board of Directors may provide for associate or honorary membership.

ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE

Section 3. To be eligible for election to any office in the Alaska Federation of Natives, a member must be a minimum age of 19 years, an active enrolled member in good standing and must have been a legal resident in the State of Alaska for two (2) consecutive years.

ARTICLE III ANNUAL MEETING AND REPRESENTATION ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1. The delegates present at the annual meeting shall be the supreme governing authority of the Federation and shall have the power to regulate and direct the policies, affairs and organization of the Federation.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

Section 2. Each Native organization and village not a member of an area wide association, in the State of Alaska shall be entitled to one (1) delegate to the annual meeting and one (1) delegate for each additional one hundred (100) enrolled active members beyond fifty (50). Proxy votes will be allowed. A delegate may give his proxy only to another member of the delegation of his area-wide association or village.

REQUISITES FOR REPRESENTATION

Section 3. No village and no area-wide association shall be entitled to representation at the annual meeting which, at the time of the annual meeting, is six months or more in arrears in monies due to the Federation.

EXPENSES OF DELEGATES

Section 4. Each village or area-wide association shall pay the expenses of its delegates to the annual meeting.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES

Section 5. Each village, or if it has joined an area-wide association, then the area-wide association, shall elect, in accordance with its own constitution and by-laws, the delegates to the annual meeting. Villages in the State of Alaska which have combined into area wide associations shall file their constitution with the Federation.

COMMITTEES

Section 6. The following standing committees of the Federation are hereby established:

- Committee on Committees shall consist of the Directors of the Federation in attendance at the annual meeting and shall appoint all standing committees subject to approval of the annual meeting.
- The Constitution Committee shall prepare proposed amendments to the constitution of the Alaska Federation of Natives.
- The Education Committee shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the education of the members and the dissemination of literature and beneficial information both to the members and to the public.
- The Lands Committee shall keep the membership of the Federation advised of the status of Native land claims, and other aboriginal rights of the membership.
- The Health and Welfare Committee shall establish and have charge of programs to promote the health and welfare of the Natives of Alaska.
- The Grievance Committee

The membership, at its annual meetings, or the President is authorized to create such other committees from the membership as it may determine will facilitate the work of the Federation.

QUORUM

Section 7. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates elected and present in person or by proxy at any annual meeting.

DATE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Section 8. The annual meeting shall be held at such place as may be designated by the Board of Directors, in the month of October, for the purpose of electing officers and directors and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1 (a). The officers of the Federation shall consist of a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Sergeant at Arms. The President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms, will be voting members of the Board of Directors.

Section 1 (b). The Board of Directors shall consist of a member elected by each area wide association and three (3) at large members elected by delegates from villages not included in area wide associations at the regular annual meeting.

Section 1 (c). The Directors shall hold office for a term of two (2) years. Half of the Directors shall be elected annually. The Directors shall hold office until their successors have been elected and have assumed office, official notification to

the Alaska Federation of Natives by mail or telegram will constitute assumption of office of the Director.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 2. All nominations and elections for officers of the Federation shall be made at the annual meeting; election shall be by secret ballot vote. Candidates must accept the nominations in person or in writing. All officers shall be immediately installed and assume their duties.

Section 3. Officers shall hold office for a term of two years.

ARTICLE V

SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 (a). The salary of the President shall be established by the Board of Directors provided that it shall be not less than \$12,000.00 per year.

Section 1 (b). The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms and members of the Board of Directors will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred.

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 (a). The President shall preside at all meetings of the Federation, shall be ex-officio member of all committees, shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall perform all such duties as are incidental to the office of President and are properly required of him.

Section 1 (b). The First Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, exercise all of the functions of the President and shall be vested with all his powers.

Section 1 (c). The Second Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President and First Vice-President, exercise all of the functions of the President and shall be vested with all of their powers.

Section 1 (d). The Secretary shall have charge of all papers, keep such records, make such reports and perform such duties as are incidental to that office, and properly required of him by the organization.

Section 1 (e). The Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds of the Federation, shall conduct its banking business and audit all accounts. Checks drawn shall be signed by either the President or the Treasurer and shall be countersigned by an additional officer. The Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of his duties in such sum as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall make a written annual financial report, to be presented on the first day of the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - DUTIES AND POWERS GENERAL

Section 1. Such powers, duties and authority as are not otherwise delegated to the President and Secretary of the Federation shall be exercised, acted upon, and determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to interpret and apply the Constitution and By-Laws of the Federation and to decide all questions of law thereunder subject to appeal to the next annual meeting. The Board of Directors shall have governing authority over the Federation between annual meetings.

MEETINGS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2. The Board of Directors may hold quarterly meetings at such specific time and place as shall be determined by the President. At the discretion of the President a quarterly meeting may be held within one (1) month after the end of the quarter. Upon the written request of a majority of the Board of Directors to the President. It shall be the duty of the President to call a meeting of the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of its business.

ARTICLE VIII REVENUES

Section 1. The revenues of the Federation shall be derived as follows:

- Charter fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per organization entitled to delegates.
- Each area wide association and village not included in area wide association; shall pledge financial support, according to their ability to pay.
- The Federation may raise revenues from other sources.

ACTION WHEN NOT IN FORMAL SESSION

Section 2. In all matters requiring action by the Board of Directors, and when the Board of Directors is not in formal session, the Board of Directors may act by telegram, letter or long distance telephone confirmed in writing. When the President requires action by the Board of Directors, he may obtain the same by telegraphing, writing or telephoning to the members of the Board of Directors, and such members may take action on the matter brought to their attention in the same manner; provided, however, that whenever action is sought by any of the foregoing methods, all members of the Board of Directors shall be polled. Such action so taken by the majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute action of the Board of Directors as though the Board of Directors were in formal session; provided however, that any such action shall be confirmed at the next formal session of the Board of Directors.

EMPLOYMENT OF CLERICAL, TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE

Section 3. The President shall have the power to employ or retain such clerical, technical and professional assistance as he may from time to time require. Subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX

AREA-WIDE ASSOCIATIONS FORMATION OF AREA-WIDE ASSOCIATION

Section 1 (a). Whenever three or more villages or native

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communities are located in an identifiable geographic area, they may form an area-wide association.

Section 1 (b). If a conflict arises between area-wide associations the Board of Directors may be requested to act as arbitrator to resolve the dispute.

ARTICLE X

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular annual meeting of the members of the Federation, or at any special meeting of the same called for that purpose, by a vote of two-thirds ($2/3$) of the members present or represented by proxy at the meeting. No amendment of the Constitution and By-Laws shall be made at any regular meeting or special meeting unless a notice is mailed to each association and village not included in an area wide association at least thirty (30) days prior to such regular meeting or special meeting, stating that it is proposed that the articles be amended at such regular or special meeting. Or such amendment may be adopted by the majority vote of the annual meeting without previous notice to the associations, if two-thirds ($2/3$) of the associations shall thereafter ratify such action.