

Native women meet

All Alaskans should carefully observe the actions and events taking place within the next three days in Fairbanks.

The Alaska Native Women's Statewide Organization will be meeting. Their concerns are parallel and identical to the concerns of Native men and non-Natives. The women represent a cross section of Native life: housewives, students, young and old. Executive, lawyers, clerical workers, laborers and the unemployed.

Hybrid views of personal life will also be offered: Single, divorced parenthood, Native and 'mixed' marriages, and other familiar relationships will also be topics of discussion. The value of culture, the continuation of traditional mores and customs integrated into the progressive lifestyles of Native women is a primary immediate concern.

Women who have distinguished themselves professionally will be featured and will be examples to delegates and others that women are capable of that and much more. But the very essence that they have met separately again, displays the need there is so much more to be done to give the Native women more representation and opportunities, especially employment opportunities.

The Native regions, corporations and non-profit organizations have not given women enough recognition, employment, advantages or used their resources, talent and knowledge. There has been not enough effort in recruitment, encouragement or support of Native women. The Native women, meeting in Fairbanks, display the ability, aggressiveness and energy to help to strengthen the Native position economically and socially which will be needed to survive in the future. Given a chance in decision and policy making, given cooperation and attention to their goals, we all will survive.