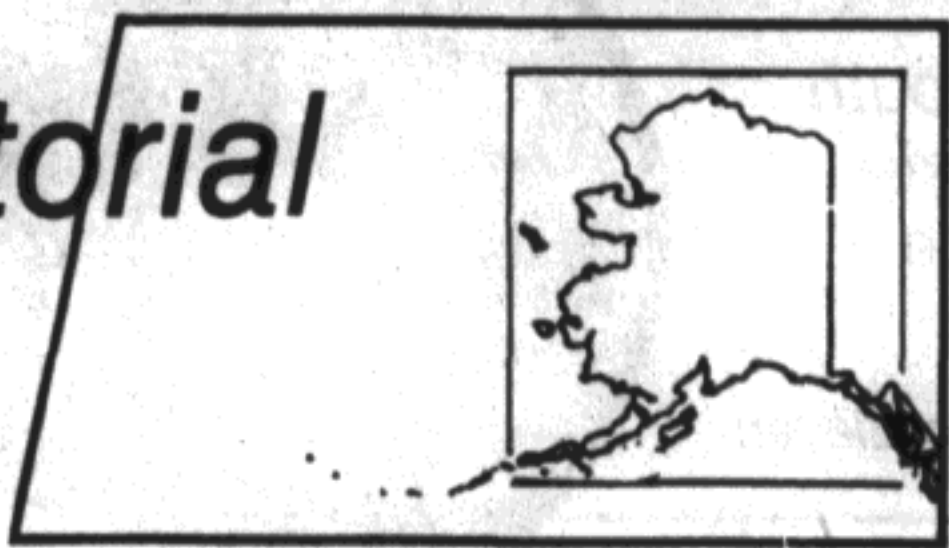


Editorial



Our Spirit: Strong-Sober

The Alaska Federation of Natives deserves a lot of credit for chartering the Alaska Native Blue Ribbon Commission, which will spearhead a sobriety campaign in Alaska Native communities.

The commission will support and encourage the growing sobriety and drug-free movements among Alaska Natives. The commission's theme — **Our Spirit: Strong-Sober** — tells it all.

Doing something about alcohol problems in rural Alaska in a *positive* manner is what this theme stresses.

The chairperson is Ethel Lund of the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corp. in Juneau.

Other members include: Maj. Gen. John Schaeffer, adjutant general for Alaska; Sen. John Binkley, R-Bethel; Dennis DeGross, executive director of the Alaska Native Health Board; Doug Modig, alcohol program co-director at the Rural Alaska Community Action Program; Anna Frank of the Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks; Roy Ewan, president of Ahtna, Inc., of Glennallen; Dr. Jim Berner of the Alaska Native Medical Center; Nina Olsen of the Kodiak Area Native Association; Janie Leask, AFN president; Esther Combs, executive director of the Cook Inlet Tribal Council; and Gregory Nothstine of the World Eskimo Indian Olympics.

Also to be named to the commission is a representative of Alaska Native youth.

According to AFN, one of the key goals of the campaign will be to promote sobriety among Alaska's Native leaders. The most recent AFN newsletter states, "By encouraging the more prominent members of the Native community to practice sobriety, the entire community is given a positive role model to follow."

AFN is performing a vital service by creating this commission, and we put the full support of the *Tundra Times* behind this effort.

Alcohol-free banquet

We are pleased to announce the *Tundra Times* banquet this year will be alcohol-free for the first time ever. The newspaper's Board of Directors met recently and decided that having no alcohol at the banquet is in keeping with the *Tundra Times* continued focus on the issue of alcohol abuse.

This decision is just one more step we will be taking to promote sobriety. For the second year now, we accept no advertisements for alcoholic products, and we continue to run advertisements promoting sobriety.

