

AFN urges participation by village corporations

The Alaska Federation of Natives is urging village participants in the AFN 20th Annual Convention to complete their registration by sending a list of delegates from their community and their registration fee to AFN.

Registration costs \$7 for each delegate vote, the same fee as delegates from the regions pay.

AFN has written to both village corporations and tribal councils in all of the 242 rural villages in Alaska. Executive Vice President George Irvin stressed that delegate selection is up to the individuals in the villages.

"It is the community itself that is being asked to participate," said Irvin, "not the corporation or tribe."

About a third of the delegates to last year's convention represented villages, according to Irvin. Village delegates last year accounted for 2,466 votes. The number of delegates is determined by Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act enrollments.

Lists of delegates and registration fees have begun to trickle in already, and the AFN staff hopes that all villages will be registered by the deadline — 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 16. No delegates will be registered after the deadline.

Villages also are urged to send a full complement of delegates. That does not mean, however, that a village with 12 votes must send 12 delegates. Any number of delegates up to and including the 12 votes could comprise the delegation, so long as they paid the \$7 fee for each vote.

For example, one delegate could vote all 12 votes for his or her village, assuming he or she sent the \$84 registration fee to cover the 12 votes.

Inquiries regarding registration procedures should be directed to Irvin, 274-3611.