

# Goals needed

The Alaska Native Women's Statewide Organization, known as ANWSO, held its annual meeting last weekend in Anchorage and the attendance was extremely poor.

If poor attendance at a statewide annual meeting is an indication of waning vitality, then ANWSO may be facing its demise, even before its potential has been realized.

When ANWSO came into being a mere five years ago, there were many who questioned the need for another statewide Alaska Native organization, especially one focusing primarily on women's issues.

There were as many others who recognized the potential for such an entity, who spent countless hours and much energy helping to give life to ANWSO. Many of those who were active on either side of the matter five years ago have since turned to other endeavors but ANWSO continues — sort of.

There were only 63 people registered at this year's event, which two years ago attracted several hundred participants from all over the state.

Some of the conferees blamed the lack of interest and attendance on communication problems while others pointed to faults in ANWSO's leadership. The rest simply ignored the matter.

Every group in the state must contend with communication and leadership problems because those are facts of life in our imperfect world.

Those types of problems could never be the bane of an organization if the group's purpose is well-defined and continues to be relevant and the structure basically sound.

What is the purpose of ANWSO?

Is it still relevant? Can it function as well as it should under the present structure?

Hopefully, ANWSO's new officers will ask these questions as they go about trying to correct the problems that prevented this year's get-together from being as successful as it could have been.

ANWSO has the potential for generating discussion on such important topics as 1991, and the reinforcement of Alaska Native values two aspects of this year's program.

It would be a waste of that if that potential were to remain unfulfilled.