



Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

AFN, Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

Officers:

President — Roger Lang
Chairman of the Board — Jack Wick
Vice Chairman — Ted Angason
Secretary — Ralph A. Johnson
Treasurer — Herb Smelcer

Vol. 3, No. 16

Wednesday, November 6, 1974

Anchorage, Alaska

AFN MEET DISCUSSES ANNUAL CONVENTION

Passed at AFN, Inc. Convention—

Summary of Resolutions

A summary of the resolutions passed and considered at the recent Annual Convention of the AFN, Inc. are as follows:

Resolution 74-1 That: AFN, Inc. requests the Alaska State Legislature to appropriate funds for the accredited institutions of higher education (University of Alaska and branch colleges) in the amount, to offset reductions in Federal funds; in order that the Alaska Student Higher Education Services Project will remain at the same level of funding, as it has over the past four years. (Passed)

Resolution 74-2 Resolved by AFN, Inc. that secondary education programs on either a local or area basis be provided by the State of Alaska to those communities not now having these services for their high school-age students. (Passed)

Resolution 74-3 Resolved by AFN, Inc. that the Ninth Legislature of the State of Alaska authorize and appropriate adequate funds for a new and thorough study of school finances for both rural and urban schools throughout the State to insure that adequate financing plans

will be available, and that a concomitant provision be made for re-financing either a like study of or a thorough review of the foundation system at three-year intervals. (Passed)

Resolution 74-4 Resolved that the school district nearest to, adjacent to, or surrounding a military base be mandated to assume jurisdiction for the operation of the on-base school (except Adak) based on a State-school district contract negotiated by the State Department of Education. (Passed)

Resolution 74-5 That the AFN, Inc. endorses the transition of non-independent schools to independent status, that to this end the Alaska State-Operated School System be designated a transitional system, and that all Bureau of Indian Affairs schools and rural Alaska State-Operated Schools should become either independent school districts or part of independent school districts under municipal structure, contingent upon the availability of State revenues, and that the State Department of Education should accept and exert a leadership role for and during the transition. (Passed)

Resolution 74-5 (A) (This resolution was tabled for further study) Stresses that the State Dept. of Education continue its current efforts in the transition process of non-independent schools to independent status. After July 1, 1975 Dept. of Education should expand its activities by developing a formal transition plan which will be due to the State Legislature by June 30, 1976, with an interim report to the second session of the Ninth Legislature at its reconvening. The transition plan should build on both the transitional nature of the Alaska State-Operated School System and the current Presidential/Secretarial objective to provide BIA school communities with information about and assistance for local determination concerning the operation of that school, while Dept. of Education works with the BIA schools to insure compliance with State laws and with Dept. of Education regulations. The transition plan should include expansion of the Statewide educational support system (e.g. media services, bilingual education) and should become a part of the overall State educational plan. Provision should also be made in the transition plan that for any communities not ready to become completely independent at the end of a formally established transition period, Department of Education will be responsible for providing education for those communities with their concurrence (e.g. by contract with nearby school district or on contract with BIA, etc.)

Resolution 74-5 (B) Resolved that to facilitate and to manage the transition process either a new Division of School District Development be established or the mandate of the existing Division of Field Services be expanded to include the functions listed, and that the designated Division within the Department of Education be adequately funded and begin activities as of July 1, 1975. (Passed)

(Continued in two weeks)

AFN, Inc. Recognizes Problems—

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (PART TWO)

— Accepted the Bush Justice Monitoring Committee as a subcommittee of the Human Resources Committee. The Bush Justice Monitoring Committee was organized by resolution of the Second Bush Justice Conference held in Minto last June to secure the implementation of the many recommendations that resulted from the committee. The subcommittee has been meeting regularly and has secured an endorsement of a proposal to the Governor's Commission on the Administration of Justice funding the staff support and travel for the subcommittee and staff. The funds would come from the Law Enforcement Assistance Agency.

— Advocated that Satellite Communications be provided to all communities in Alaska. The committee believes the technology is there to provide the communities at a reasonable cost. The committee also felt the legislature should create a Public Communications Commission within the state. It would eliminate both the Office of Telecommunications and the Educational Broadcast Commission. The new commission would replace them and have regulatory authority and have the ability to analyze and develop a sound communications plan for use by the State of Alaska.

— Opposed the cutback of Public Law 874 funds for education in Alaska. The United States Department of Education recent-

ly announced the preferential rate for Alaska will no longer be in effect and will be cut back to 50% reimbursement during the next three years. Their reason for the cutback was because of the "improved economic conditions of Alaska." It was the committee's feeling that our economic condition will not improve until the latter part of this decade, when oil begins to flow, and a cutback today would hurt Alaska. Alaska had been reimbursed 100% since 1954 for students residing on Federal property and/or with a parent employed on Federal property. The committee is still waiting for word from the United States Department of Education of their decision.

— Co-sponsored conference on the Energy Crisis in rural Alaska and Alcoholism. Purpose of the Energy Commission was to determine rural Alaska's position on Energy before the Federal Energy Administration held hearings in Alaska. The purpose of the Conference on Alcoholism was to insure coordination and cooperation while attacking the disease of alcoholism and drug abuse, particularly along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The committee was a strong voice advocating the conference not to forget the existing problems of alcoholism in rural Alaska at the expense of a new problem area along the Pipeline corridor.

(To be continued in two weeks)

Confab Summarizes Agenda, Reunites Aleut Corporation

The AFN, Inc. Board met for a special meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 1974 at 7:00 P.M. at the AFN Conference Room in Anchorage prior to the three day annual meeting.

The main topic of the meeting was to finalize the agenda and the activities of the Convention. During the course of the evening the Aleut Corporation was officially reunited with Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. after being separated for about a year.

Joy was expressed by President Roger Lang and the AFN, Inc. Board members at their rejoining the statewide organization. There are now eleven member regional corporations in the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc.

Visitors from the Aloha Association, Kekoa Kaapu and Charles Maxwell, who are pursuing their land claims activity in Hawaii paid the Board members a brief and colorful visit and presented them with pineapples from the land that they hope may someday be theirs.

The board recessed their meeting until Sunday following the Annual Convention and determined that the next Board meetings will be scheduled for December 3, 1974 at Copper Center. This meeting will combine the November/December meetings.

AFN, Inc. Board appointments were made by the member regional corporations are as follows:

AHTNA, Inc. — Herb Smelcer
ALEUT CORP. — Carl Moses;
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORP. — Tom Drake;
BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORP. — Ted Angason;
CALISTA CORP. — Martin Moore;
CHUGACH NATIVES, INC. — Jim LaBelle;
COOK INLET REGION Inc. — Ralph A. Johnson;
DOYON, LIMITED — John Sackett;
KONIAG, Inc. — Jack Wick
NANA REGIONAL CORP. — Robert Newlin; and
SEALASKA — John Borbridge,

Jr. The Convention hosted over 300 delegates from the village and regional corporations and several hundred guests and visitors from interested agencies.

Highlights of the Convention were presentations by the gubernatorial candidates; Governor William A. Egan, Jay Hammond and the candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, Don Young and Willie Hensley and the U.S. Senate candidates, C. R. Lewis and Mike Gravel.

Candidates were asked to specifically address the convention with issues ranging from health and education to communications and transportation.

The Human Resources Panel was moderated by Robert Clark of Bristol Bay and the Land Panel was moderated by AFN, Inc. President, Roger Lang. Both panels had the expertise of village, regional and related agency people participating.

Morris Thompson, Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs was a welcomed speaker at the Convention who spoke on the Status of Native Lands. Lloyd Meeds, U.S. House of Representatives from the State of Washington briefly addressed the delegates and later spoke to the Tundra Times Banquet.

"Citizen of the Year" was named at the close of the Convention on Saturday. The Citizen of the Year Committee met and recommended four names of some twenty nominees to the delegates and member regional corporations voted for one. Frank Degnan from Unalakleet was selected as the first recipient of this award. He was also honored at the Tundra Times Banquet with a beautiful award. We congratulate Mr. Degnan.

AFN/JOM Dir.

Ralph Eluska Resigns Post

Ralph Eluska, Director, tendered his resignation effective October 31, 1974. Also, Judy Hutar, Technical Assistant, resigned effective October 30, 1974. Activity in the JOM office slowed during the AFN Convention but has picked up again. Bertha Lowe, Education Specialist, is traveling to Point Barrow, Nome, Kotzebue, and Fairbanks. Addi Brooks, Evaluator, is traveling to McGrath, Anvik, Galena,

Tanana, Nenana, and Nulato. Darlene Stewart, Evaluator, is in Bethel and will travel to St. Marys. The trips are a part of the planned implementation evaluation.

The number one priority of the AFN/JOM office is the completion of the FY'76 application materials. They will be ready for mail-out on Monday, November 4th. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to:

1. Small Native Villages (300 or less population)
2. Large Native Villages (300 or more population)
3. Native Organizations or Native Corporations
4. Independent School Dis-

tricts

5. Borough School Districts
6. State Operated Schools
7. State Department of Education

8. State Agencies and/or Departments other than elementary and secondary school agencies.

Who may not apply?

1. BIA schools
2. Individual persons applying on their own behalf for support.

to request an application for JOM programs, write:
Director, AFN, Inc./JOM
1675 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
PHONE: (907) 274-3611