



Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

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NEWSLETTER

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CANDIDATES TO SPEAK AT AFN CONVENTION

AFN, Inc. Recognizes Problems—

Human Resources Committee

In 1973, the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. recognized the importance of expanding efforts in health, education, social services, and other human resource problems.

For the past several years, the priority had been seeking a fair and just settlement of our Native Land Claims.

This was accomplished on December 18, 1971, and the priority turned to the implementation phase and the many, many problems that came with it. To become more responsive to the many other problems of Alaska Natives throughout the state, the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. created a Human Resources Committee.

The Human Resources Committee would be composed of a member from each of the non-profit regional corporations and would be charged with the responsibility of seeking solutions to statewide health, education, social services and other human resource problems.

The AFN, Inc. Board of Directors would then be responsive to the problems of the profit-making corporations and the many, many problems implementing the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

During the first few months of its existence, the Human Resources Committee carried out its charge. It was evident, however, that the committee needed its own staff and budget to follow-up completely on the policies of the committee.

The Human Resources Committee, recognizing this came to the 1973 Annual Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Convention armed with a resolution calling for the creation of a vice-president for Human Resources charged with all responsibilities of health, education, and social services in addition to other responsibilities that may be ordered from time to time by the AFN, Inc. Human Resources Committee, his or her direction-giving body.

The 1973 Convention unanimously passed the resolution in addition to giving the Human Resources Committee and newly-established vice-president for Human Resources a vote of confidence.

In March, 1974, the Human Resources Committee recommended Gordon Jackson to be hired as their new vice-president. Jackson had a considerable amount of experience in administration and organization, program development, traveled extensively throughout the state, and reputation of getting things done.

His job experience includes being a program development specialist for RurAl CAP; Executive director, Southeast Alaska Community Action Program; Deputy director, Division of Rural Development Assistance, Department of Community and

Regional Affairs; and, Director, AFN Johnson-O'Malley Program.

He was a 1970 graduate of the University of Alaska and belongs to many statewide boards and committees.

Jackson was hired in mid-March by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. as vice-president to provide staff support to the Human Resources Committee and head the new Human Resources Department of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Since the 1973 Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Convention, the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Human Resources Committee has been involved in or advocated a number of issues. Some of the major items include:

- Advocating the passage of United States Senate Bill 1017, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The intent of the bill and contracting procedures in Title I are progressive and would offer the promise of a new dimension in tribal self-government. Title II, however, was a controversial provision we were instrumental in seeking amendments to make it more responsive. United States Senate Bill 1017 has passed the United States Senate and the decision is now pending in the United States House of Representatives.

- Filed and supported an Amicus Brief, "friend of the court" in support of Molly Hootch Vs. the State-Operated Schools. This case is a civil action brought by certain Alaska Native school-age children to secure educational opportunity. Specifically, the case seeks to enforce their right to attend a public secondary school in their community of residence. We are expecting a decision soon on this important case.

- Supported and approved the affiliation of Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse with the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Human Resources Department. We are now joined in a concerted effort, attacking the problems of alcohol and drug abuse throughout the state.

- Advocated the United States Department of Labor use Alaska Native Enrollment figures in lieu of the 1970 Census for Allocation Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, Title II dollars in Alaska. The vast differences in figures would mean the loss of millions of manpower dollars for Alaska Native prime sponsors. The committee and staff also assisted in coordinating training and briefing sessions for the United States Department of Labor to assist Alaska Native prime sponsors.

- Supported the extension of the Office of Economic Opportunity Act for an additional three years and the Public Works and Economic Development.

- Held a Conference on Education in the Unorganized Bor-

ough. Purpose of the Conference was to draft strategy to seek change in the existing "tripartite" educational delivery system in the unorganized borough. The Human Resources and staff is now implementing the strategy that will, hopefully, result in one responsible and effective educational delivery system with eventual "local control."

- Advocated the establishment of a Human Resources Subcommittee on Fish and Wildlife. The Subcommittee of Human Resources would receive and comment on Fish and Wildlife regulations promulgated by the State and Federal governments, seek firsthand information regarding Fish and Wildlife activities and recommend appropriate statewide action to the Human Resources Committee, advocate for fisheries rehabilitation, continuing of subsistence hunting activity for Alaska Natives, and many other activity determined to be beneficial to Alaska Natives. The staff is presently seeking funds to organize this important subcommittee and provide staff support.

(To be continued in two weeks)

Second Phase— Health Conference

The Second Phase of the Rural Health Conference is scheduled to get under way in Anchorage on Oct. 28, 29 and 30, 1974. State Senator John Sackett is this year's chairman of the Statewide Conference and Dr. Edward Martin, Department of Health, Education and Welfare will be the keynote speaker.

Of major significance at this year's Health Conference will be the introduction of the Statewide Health Care Policy Statement, a document outlining the justification, need and procedure for Alaskan Natives to control their own health destiny in pursuit of self-determination.

The policy statement was a combined effort of the Health Affairs Division and the Association of Regional Health Directors.

Carl Jack, director, states that with the possibility of minor revisions, he hopes the Health Care Policy Statement will be ratified at the conference as the acceptable policy of all the Native Regions.

In other health activities, Don Bantz, director of the Health Careers Development Program, has announced the award of a \$15,600 contract to the Kodiak Island Area Health Authority for the purpose of assisting Natives interested in advanced health careers.

Gov. Egan, Hammond, Gravel, Lewis, Young, Hensley to Speak

At the recent AFN, Inc. Board of Directors meeting, the following topics were suggested as items which we would like addressed by statewide candidates William A. Egan and Jay Hammond: 1) Easements, 2) Transportation, 3) Communication, 4) Education, 5) Health, 6) Taxation, 7) Fish and Game and 8) Land and Resources.

Our theme for the convention is centered around land, and other candidates for this year's election; Senator Gravel, Senator Lewis, Congressman Young and Senator Hensley, were asked to express their views on this subject.

We feel that both the time of the candidates, and that of the delegates of the convention would be enhanced if the matters discussed were related to the problems that we envision.

There will be a question and answer period following each speaker, giving the delegation a

chance to ask candidates their views on specific issues.

On another front, the office at AFN, Inc. has been buzzing with activity. With the convention nearing there is a lot of last minute preparation.

Guests are coming from as far away as Hawaii and British Columbia for this exciting annual event.

Tundra Times Banquet tickets are available at the AFN offices in Anchorage until convention time. Thereafter, they will be sold at the Captain Cook throughout the convention.

Picking Up—

AFN JOM Activities

Activities in AFN, Inc./JOM are picking up. The office now has its full staff of 10 people. The staff roster is:

Ralph Eluska, Director
Woody Morrison, Deputy Director
Bertha Lowe, Education Specialist
Carl Greenwald, Evaluator
Addie Brooks, Evaluator
Darlene Stewart, Evaluator
Fred Wemark, Contract Compliance Officer
Beatrice Welsh, Executive Secretary
Jorene Reimer, Receptionist-Technical Assistant
Judy Hutar, Technical Assistant

During the past two weeks many of the AFN, Inc./JOM staff have been involved in an implementation evaluation. The purpose of the I.E. is to insure

There are, he states, eight or 10 other similar contracts being negotiated with regional health authorities.

Joe Notaro, program analyst of the Health Affairs Program, has been promoted to assistant director. He replaced Trefon Angason who has returned to Dillingham.

Notaro, who came to Alaska after several years with the Denver Indian Center has been instrumental in regenerating interest in Rural-Satellite Communications; developing an emergency Medical Services Program package and more recently, investigating complaints of deplorable water and sewer sanitation conditions in the Kotzebue and Bethel areas, and identifying ways to correct those serious problems.

that the programs are under way and, if a contractor is experiencing any difficulty, to render technical assistance.

Our staff traveled to the following sites: Ralph Eluska — Bethel and St. Mary's; Fred Wemark — Fairbanks and Ft. Yukon; Addie Brooks — Fairbanks, Tanana, Circle City, Ft. Yukon; Darlene Stewart — Dillingham, Levelock, Egegik, Port Heiden, Pilot Point and South Naknek. Karl Greenwald — Hoonah, Angoon, Kake, Ketchikan, Craig and Juneau.

Travel has been suspended until after the AFN, Inc./Convention (Oct. 24, 25 & 26). The I.E. trips will commence during the end of October and early November.

A second phase of the evaluation process, Progress Evaluation (P.E.) will commence in January 1975.

The tentative time-line for submission of proposals for FY-76 is as follows:

Nov. 1, 1974 — Mail out applications.

Jan. 15, 1975 — Deadline for receipt of application by AFN, Inc./JOM.

Feb. 1975 — Begin negotiations with BIA.

March 1975 — Complete negotiations with BIA.

Feb. 1975 — Mail out rough drafts of subcontracts to prospective subcontractors.

April 1975 — Subcontractors notified of award (effective June 1).

May 1, 1975 — Subcontractors apply for advance payments.

June 1, 1975 — Advance payments awarded.

This is tentative and more information will be released by Nov. 1, 1974.