



Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

AFN, Inc.

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Preside it — Sen. Willie Hensley  
Chairman of the Board — Sen. John Sackett

## NEWSLETTER

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Anchorage, Alaska

## PROCLAMATION

## Alaska Native Peoples Week

The week of December 14, 1973, marks an important milestone in Alaska's history and progress through events focusing attention on the progress and achievements of Alaska Native Peoples.

Beginning the week, the Alaska Federation of Natives is holding its annual convention in Anchorage, during which ceremonies are scheduled certifying Alaska Native enrollment under provisions of the Claims Settlement Act of 1971 and transferring the first major funding under the Act to Native Regional Corporations.

Monies and lands under the Settlement Act, administered through the Regional Corporations, will enable Alaska Natives to live fuller and more rewarding lives individually and, together, to be a strong and vital force in Alaska's over-all economic and social progress to the lasting benefit of all Alaskans.

The strides forward in Alaska's progress as signified by the historic events of the week of December 16 are the result of long years of effort by Natives and other Alaskans which finally culminated in the passage by Congress of the Settlement Act in December, 1971. As such, they are the source of pride and satisfaction for Alaskans as they work together to move their great state ahead as a strong and progressive partner in the American Union.

Also during the week, as a highlight of the Alaska Federation of Natives convention, the annual Tundra Times banquet is being held in honor and formal recognition of that world-known Alaska Native newspaper and its able and esteemed editor, Howard Rock. Alaskans from all walks of life throughout our state will join in this tribute.

In Alaska the homelands of Native people of Eskimo, Aleut and Indian heritage are located throughout the state from Ketchikan to Point Barrow and from Fort Yukon to the tip of the Aleutian Islands. The progress being made by these first citizens of Alaska—through development of good leadership, through education, participation in government, and the combating of rural health and poverty problems—is a credit to this great state.

It is the desire of this Administration to encourage and assist a continuation of such efforts for a meaningful State Government based on self-determination for all.

Now, therefore, in recognition of the contributions and achievements of the Native peoples of Alaska, I, William A. Egan, as Governor, do hereby proclaim the week of December 16 through December 22, 1973, as

## ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLES WEEK

and urge all Alaskans to join me in recognition of the historic events of the week and in a reaffirmation of working all together in a true spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood as we continue building our great state.

Dated this 11th day of December, 1973.

William A. Egan

Governor

ATTEST: H.A. Boucher

Lieutenant Governor

## Hensley's Presidency

ANCHORAGE—State Sen. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, Sunday outlined the problems and progress of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. in 1973 and predicted a bright future for the statewide organization.

The Eskimo legislator, who resigned as president of AFN several weeks ago, told the annual convention of the AFN that "I see an extremely bright future for AFN. By working together through AFN, we, as Native people, can 'put our minds together and make great lids for our children.'"

Hensley warned, however, that the organization still faced several major problems.

"We still have approximately \$100,000 of indebtedness which has been incurred by AFN since the settlement," Hensley said. "We are negotiating with the regional corporations to pay this off."

Hensley also cited non-participation of the Aleut Corporation and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation in AFN as a major problem. "I firmly believe all regions must work together if the land claims settlement is to succeed," he said. "I know that all the regions are not going to agree on all issues. However, we

must find the issues our common interests on behalf of all the Alaska Natives," he said.

Hensley also outlined major areas addressed by AFN since reorganization in the late fall of 1972, including negotiation of a major change in the number of jobs Natives will receive during construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline.

"We are now guaranteed 1,000 jobs the first year and at least 3,500 jobs during the three-year construction period," he noted. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company had proposed 400 jobs the first year and 2,200 total jobs.

AFN is also working on behalf of the regional corporations to secure exemptions from Security Exchange Commission regulations adopted as a result of federal laws passed in 1933, 1934 and 1940. "If we secure these exemptions, the regional corporations will be saved thousands of dollars which would have been spent on unnecessary reporting requirements," Hensley said.

AFN is also working with the state of Alaska to protect Native subsistence rights; to persuade the state to withdraw its protests on the eligibility of cer-

## AFN HEALTH SEMINAR



MODERATORS' MEETING—Moderators of the workshops during the Seminar on Rural Health were, from left to right, Carl Jack, Clifford Black, George Erwin, and John Shively.



HEALTH CHIEF MEETS NEW PRESIDENT—Carl Jack, administrator of the Health Affairs Program, met with newly-elected AFN president Roger Lang to discuss health problems during the seminar.



DISCUSSING THE SEMINAR—Roger Lang, AFN President, Caleb Pungowiyi, center, executive director of the Norton Sound Health Corporation, and John Shively, AFN executive vice-president discuss meetings last week.

tain Native villages, determine the state's responsibilities as the custodian of some Natives under 18 years of age, and to determine a reasonable method by which the state will administer trust funds it will receive for its communities who have no municipal government.

The statewide body also counts several other major political accomplishments over the past year, including:

— successful negotiation for an amendment on the Interior appropriations bill to allow the regions to pay off the loans to the Tyonek Indians, National Bank of Alaska and the Yakima Tribe.

— the effort to secure decent rules and regulations from the Interior Department on land selections.

Representatives from Alaska's rural areas got together for the first time on a statewide basis to discuss health issues. The seminar met with all delegates present Wednesday morning and then divided into five workshops to discuss and identify health problems from a villager's perspective and to establish priorities for improvement of health delivery systems.

AFN Health Affairs Director Carl Jack welcomed the participants with an explanation of why elderly villagers were encouraged to join the seminar. "They are here to give us guidance in trying to solve our health problems," he said. "The time is now to address health problems," Jack added.

Newly-elected AFN president Roger Lang addressed participants, stating that because of the claims act and the determination of Natives to tackle social problems, there are now "unlimited opportunities to achieve social planning to meet the real needs of our people."

He predicted that health delivery planning has the potential to develop into a major industry in rural areas. "There is no privately owned industry to overcome to bring about social change."

Other addresses were given by Tanana Chief's Conference Traditional Chief Andrew Isaac. Chief Isaac told the participants of the change of life styles of Natives and encouraged the seminar to strive for social betterment for Natives.

Seminar Chairman Dave Hutchinson, Region Ten Program Director, introduced the seminar and explained assignments and tasks of workshops.

Village input was solicited throughout the seminar. Guest speaker during the group's luncheon on the first day was Della Keats of Kotzebue, who discussed Inupiat Eskimo medicine.

Keynote speaker former Senator Ernest Gruening addressed the group on Thursday. Gruening, a graduate of Harvard Medical School, has been a long advocate of improved health care and spoke with authority on the subject. He noted historic achievements in rural Alaska health care, at the same time citing areas drastically in need of attention.

The seminar concluded Friday after a panel on the ability of Alaska health organizations to make concerted efforts in improving health delivery systems and after AFN's health staff discussed organization for health planning. Frank Degnan, followed by Carl Jack, delivered closing remarks.

Participants rated the seminar as beneficial, both in establishing the roles of newly-organized health corporations as well as providing some direction for future comprehensive planning for designing Alaska health systems.