

ANICA Official Evaluates the Purpose of the Organization

Our purpose—What do we stand for and who are we?

Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Association, commonly known as ANICA, was formed for this purpose—"To produce, buy and sell native products; to buy and sell commodities to members and non-members; and engage in any activities related thereto, which will promote the social welfare of the natives in the economic field."

ANICA is owned by a group of 36 native village stores extending from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Aleutian Islands in far away southwest Alaska; and from St. Lawrence Island in the west, only a few short miles from Russian Siberia, to the Canadian border in Eastern Alaska. Each village has a Director who is elected for a three-year term. The terms expire in alternate years so there will always be experienced board members serving. The Directors are available to the village councils and Store Managers for any necessary and needed consultation.

All the 36 Directors elect a President from one of their group by popular majority vote to serve for a 3-year term. The 36 member stores are divided into five groups with approximately 7 stores and 7 Directors in each group. Each groups' Directors cast their ballots for the Director of their choice to represent them and to serve as their Vice-President for three years. The Director receiving the most votes from his group becomes the group's Vice-President, and a member of ANICA's Executive Committee. The Board is comprised of the President and five Vice-Presidents (one from each of the five groups). This Executive Board supports the program that appears to be to the best interests of the Association to pursue. These recommendations are carefully pursued by the Association's management to determine feasibility and to report back to the Executive Committee for further study so the committee may determine the course of action it deems advisable to the end the best interests of the Association may be served.

Starting back in 1947-48 with four stores to an impressive 36 in 1966, the program has been useful, served a very needed help to the villages in the Association, and to say the least, quite successful. As to be expected, there have been some criticisms from outside sources who actually have not the faintest idea of how the Association operates nor have they tried to learn. We have served a definite need in an endeavor to bolster the economy of the villages in our group, which no one can deny is imperative.

For these principles we have stood in the past—do now—and will continue to do so in the future.