

Editorial



Kitka named president of AFN

We congratulate Julie Kitka, who last week was named the new president of the Alaska Federation of Natives. The AFN board selected from a strong slate of candidates, and the fact that Kitka was chosen with widespread support says a lot for her potential leadership abilities.

AFN — and the entire Alaska Native community — face many threats as we enter the new decade of the 1990s, but we're confident Kitka will prove herself to be an able leader.

Social issues — responding to AFN's stark report on the status of Alaska Natives, *A Call to Action* — will no doubt require more and more of the AFN staff's time. Kitka will have to focus much of her energy on dealing with the problems related to alcohol and drug abuse, as in AFN's creation of a statewide panel to focus attention on these issues, as well as education, housing and subsistence, to name a few.

Outgoing President Janie Leask, who departs at the end of this month, accomplished much in her seven years' time at the helm.

Kitka, who has been at AFN since 1981, has shown herself to be a strong team player in the past, and she has undertaken greater and greater responsibility for AFN's lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C., in recent years.

We believe all of these things will serve her well in her new post. We wish her well.

CIRI remembers the homeless

Cook Inlet Region Inc. deserves a lot of credit for the corporation's support to Bean's Cafe in Anchorage, which provides meals to the homeless.

CIRI recently donated \$2,500 toward the bean soup supper fundraiser, the Bean-a-fit, which will take place next year in February. CIRI has been the provider of "seed money" to kick off each Bean-a-fit since it was started in 1987.

The Bean-a-fit is actually a series of events, sponsored by churches, companies and individuals who host soup suppers. The meal at the fund-raisers features bean soup, and packages of the bean mix are sold for \$3. Decorated mugs are \$6.

We'll be providing more details of the 1990 events in future issues of the paper.

