

AFN board selects Kitka to be president

by **Alexandra J. McClanahan**
Tundra Times publisher

Julie Kitka was named president of the Alaska Federation of Natives by the AFN Board of Directors at their meeting in Anchorage Wednesday.

The decision by the board was made in executive session, and when Kitka returned to the meeting, members applauded and gave her a standing ovation.

"I'm very honored about your faith and trust," she said. "Thank you very much."

Kitka, 36, an Alutiiq who is originally from Cordova, replaces Janie Leask, who had been president of AFN since 1982. Leask is departing

Dec. 31 to work on the gubernatorial campaign of Democrat Tony Knowles, former Anchorage mayor. Kitka, who has been with the organization since 1981, most recently had served as executive vice president of AFN.

Kitka is a former member of Chugach Alaska Corp. board of directors and is a shareholder of the corporation. Her family is originally from Nuchek, near Cordova, on Hinchinbrook Island in Prince William Sound.

Kitka has one daughter, Sassa, 12.

The other three candidates considered for the position were Nettie Peratrovich, head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Nome; Mike Irwin, special assistant for rural affairs to Gov. Steve Cowper; and Gordon

Pullar, former president of the Kodiak Area Native Association.

The board vote on the position was not public, but AFN board members said the support for Kitka was very strong.

In other action at the meeting, the AFN board set the dates for the 1990 AFN Convention for Oct. 25-27 and decided that the convention will be held in Anchorage. The theme for the 1990 convention will be education.

The board also set the dates for the 1991 convention — Oct. 17-19 — and decided the theme in two years will be "The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act — 20 years later."

The vote on having the convention in Anchorage came after presentations

Subsistence

—Page Sixteen

by officials from Anchorage and Fairbanks. The only person voting against Anchorage was Morris Thompson, president of the Fairbanks-based Doyon Ltd.

The board also discussed a recent decision by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to begin a third round of interviews for the area director position for the BIA in Alaska. The position for the highest ranking BIA official in the

continued on page sixteen



Even the adults had a chance to get some of Santa's attention. Paris Muller, who was born in Ouzinkie, told him about her early Christmas memories.

• AFN protests BIA rule

continued from page three

state has not been filled permanently for about two years, since Jake Lestenkof left the post.

The AFN board decided on a 16-15 vote to decline participating in the new round and stand by its earlier decision to support John Hope of Juneau for the position.

AFN staff said Alaska Natives under consideration in this round besides Hope include Al Williams and Flore Lekanof of Anchorage, Niles Cesar of Juneau and Joseph Kahklen of Ketchikan.

The board also decided to protest a requirement by the BIA that the area director not be a member of a Native corporation board of directors.

In the last search, according to AFN staff, when the AFN board selected



Hope as the first choice and Emil Notti as the second choice, the BIA had selected Notti, but said he could not accept the position while serving on the boards for Doyon Ltd. and the National Bank of Alaska. Notti later withdrew his name from consideration.