

Youth Conference.

Attending the meeting were: Mary Jane Brower, President, Arctic Slope Region; Doris Buck, Acting Secretary, AHTNA; Sandra Tungwenuk, Treasurer, Bering Straits; Steve Johnson, member, Sealaska; Evelyn Pangeo, alternate, Arctic Slope; Mark John, member, Calista; Art Heckman, alternate, Calista; John Campbell, member, Chugach; Dood Lincoln, member, NANA; Larry Chichenoff, alternate, Koniag; and Janie Popp, member, Doyon.

The board went over by-laws that had been compiled at their first meeting and orientation on June 10 and 11. Revisions were made and the by-laws were approved and passed. Getting used to following strict parliamentary procedure was also on the agenda and the meeting was carried out "by the book" under the guidance of President Mary Jane Brower, 25, who has held office since April of this year.

Carl Jack, director of Health Affairs for AFN, spoke on setting up a budget, and writing objectives, and activities. Mary Jane said his discussion was especially helpful in the area of management concepts since he emphasized ways to get everyone involved and to break down management hierarchies.

A detailed explanation of the intricacies of PL 63-638, the Indian Education and Self-determination Act, was presented by John Wabaunsee, an attorney with the Native American Rights Fund in Colorado.

Stating that the act created a negotiation process, a way for native groups to set the terms of delivery of their social services, he told the council that the most important aspect of the act is the control it gives to native people.

But along with control comes responsibility, and right now, Wabaunsee feels there are three things working against native control: lack of money, lack of trained local people, and the conflicts of intertribal contracts which require approval of

all concerned. "You all know the politics of a small community," he told the group. "It can be rough and contracting can sometimes make this worse."

Emphasizing the positive aspects of the act, he said it could also bring community solidarity and create jobs while drawing people back to their communities to work. In essence he said, "It breaks down the federal bureaucracy. You can deal with bureaucracy in your community."

The council passed its first resolution, No. 73-AMS, in favor of passage of an amendment to the State Constitution which would permit the State of Alaska to issue tuition grants to students wishing to attend a private college or university in the state.

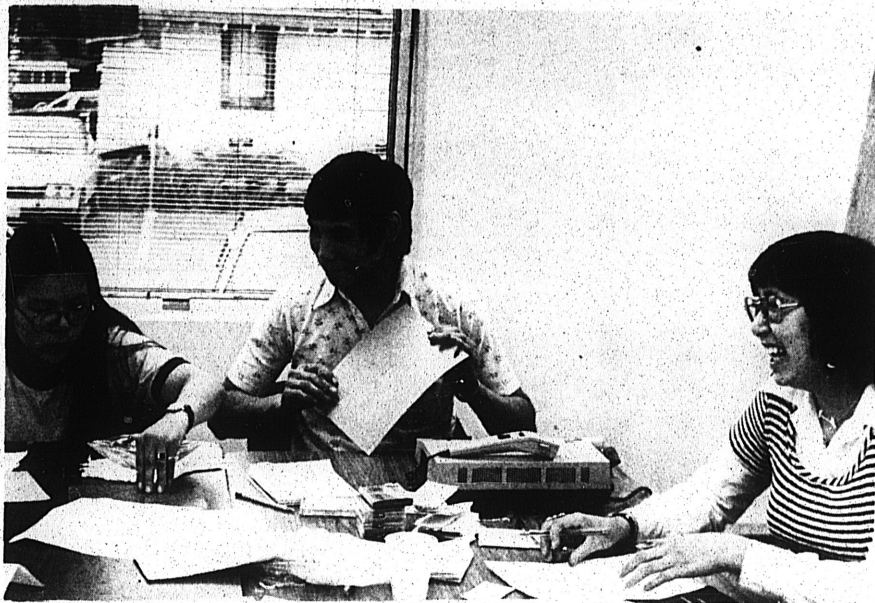
Eric Ekvall, director of the newly formed Friends of Higher Education, asked for time on the agenda and presented the situation. He is seeking money and support to assure passage of the amendment on the Nov. 2 ballot.

One of the major concerns of the Youth Council currently is its drive for formal recognition for each of the regional corporations. A letter was composed and is being sent to each region by the group and by the individual representative, explaining the council's belief that strong support should come first from its own corporations.

Representatives at the meeting, all of them between 16 and 25 years of age, said they felt it was crucial for youth to get involved in regional matters to aid in "self-unity" and to assure their inclusion in matters of education, health care and alcohol and drug abuse.

They all agreed they were excited about the possibilities for the council and that they are just now becoming aware of the impact and influence they can have on a long-range basis. Mary Jane Brower says, "We're learning, and it's slowly spreading." They also thank

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LAUGHTER BRIGHTENS long hours of the AFN Youth Council meeting for, left to right, Doris Buck (AHTNA) from Glennallen, Steve Elehsansky (Chugach) from Cordova, and President Mary Jane Brower (Arctic Slope) from Barrow.

—photo by BETSY BRENNEMAN

those who have supported them so far.

In other business, the council elected Mark John as representative and Sandy Tungwenuk, alternate, RurAL CAP Board meetings, and Mary Jane asked for input and suggestions for when she attends the next Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Task Force meeting.

Members discussed procedures for soliciting representatives from the Aleut and Cook Inlet corporations and ways to raise funds for the council within each region.

A search for funds for the next AFN Youth Council meeting is also being conducted by the council's full-time coordinator, Lynda Hadley who

works within the Health Affairs Department of AFN. According to the by-laws the meeting is to be held within 48 hours of the opening the AFN Convention on Oct. 21.

At that meeting, major agenda items will be the group's newspaper, "AL-ESK-IND" which is short of funds, and details and planning for the annual AFN Youth Convention, held every year in April.

The AFN Youth Council will be represented at the RurAL CAP Board meeting Sept. 20-21 and the Third Bush Justice Conference on Oct. 7-9. Minutes and information on the council can be obtained from Lynda

Hadley, 550 West 8th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501, phone 274-3611, ext. 36.

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