

TOWN MEETING ALASKA

INUK SHUK

A Silent Sentry
of the Past
A Portent
of the Future



Report

This booklet is a report on the 20 initial Town Meetings in Alaska. It is your invitation to participate in a great time of serious and creative planning and celebration in your community.

"The hunters and trappers shared the food and responsibilities; today it is vital that we pull together as we move into the future, and as the fish wheel turns with the currents of time." Nulato Town Meeting

Throughout the ages every culture has had a symbol of lasting hope for the community of man. Before the arrival of the white man, the Eskimos of Alaska and Canada had developed just such a timeless symbol which consisted of a stone figure. Used as a landmark, as a silent sentry to the restless herds of caribou or as a spiritual companion to the solitary wanderer of the Arctic, the INUKSHUK symbolized the strength and durability of man claiming the promise for all men for the future. INUKSHUK stands as a sentry to the future. His towering stone figure marks the courageous, concerned, caring communities from Nome to Whitehorse to Ketchikan. In league with local people, he shapes from the great Northland a sign that all is possible for the future of man.

WELCOME TO TOWN MEETING

Communities in Alaska have been experiencing, along with hundreds of other American communities, a recovery of the Town Meeting - Twentieth Century style. Since May, 1975, Town Meetings have been held in 20 Alaskan communities, ranging in size from Grayling, with a population of 183, to neighborhoods in metropolitan Anchorage. Attendance has ranged from 26 to over 625 participants.

In the Town Meeting, participants name challenges facing their local community and create ways that the community itself can meet those challenges.



Hard work involves everyone

Challenges

In the first workshop, citizens identify the basic challenges in their community's future. They begin by analyzing the economic, political, and cultural issues they face.

Proposals

In the second workshop, citizens put their creative powers together to develop practical plans to meet the challenges in their community.

Drama

In the third workshop, the group forms the community's past, present and future into a new story, song, community symbol and slogan.

The Town Meeting is celebrated in a reporting time when the results of the workshops are shared. Each person receives a printed booklet, containing the work of the Town Meeting, at the end of the reporting session.

Town Meeting

**"It's
a
start
to
working
together
as a
community
again."**

— Wilbert

Nicholas

Sr.

Grayling

"In our Town Meeting, we made an historic book--the first ever written and published in Tanana...by the people of Tanana. We have created history. Now let's go out and do it."

"With this Town Meeting, hopefully, we'll be able to grow in interest and community spirit and leave behind all our ill feelings and lack of community involvement. And with a start like this, don't be surprised when you see new industry--schools, shops, and restaurants, Clear AFB closing down and no one leaving. You'll see a thriving city in place of a small town growing and we'll still be making it better."

"Some of us came here to fight, and we ended up singing!"
Anderson

"We emerged with a list of practical, 'self-help' suggestions for improving our community"
North Pole

"I thoroughly enjoyed this Town Meeting. And we are going to do something with it!"
Delta Junction.

"I've never done anything like this before. I never thought it would be so much fun. What do we do next?"

North Pole

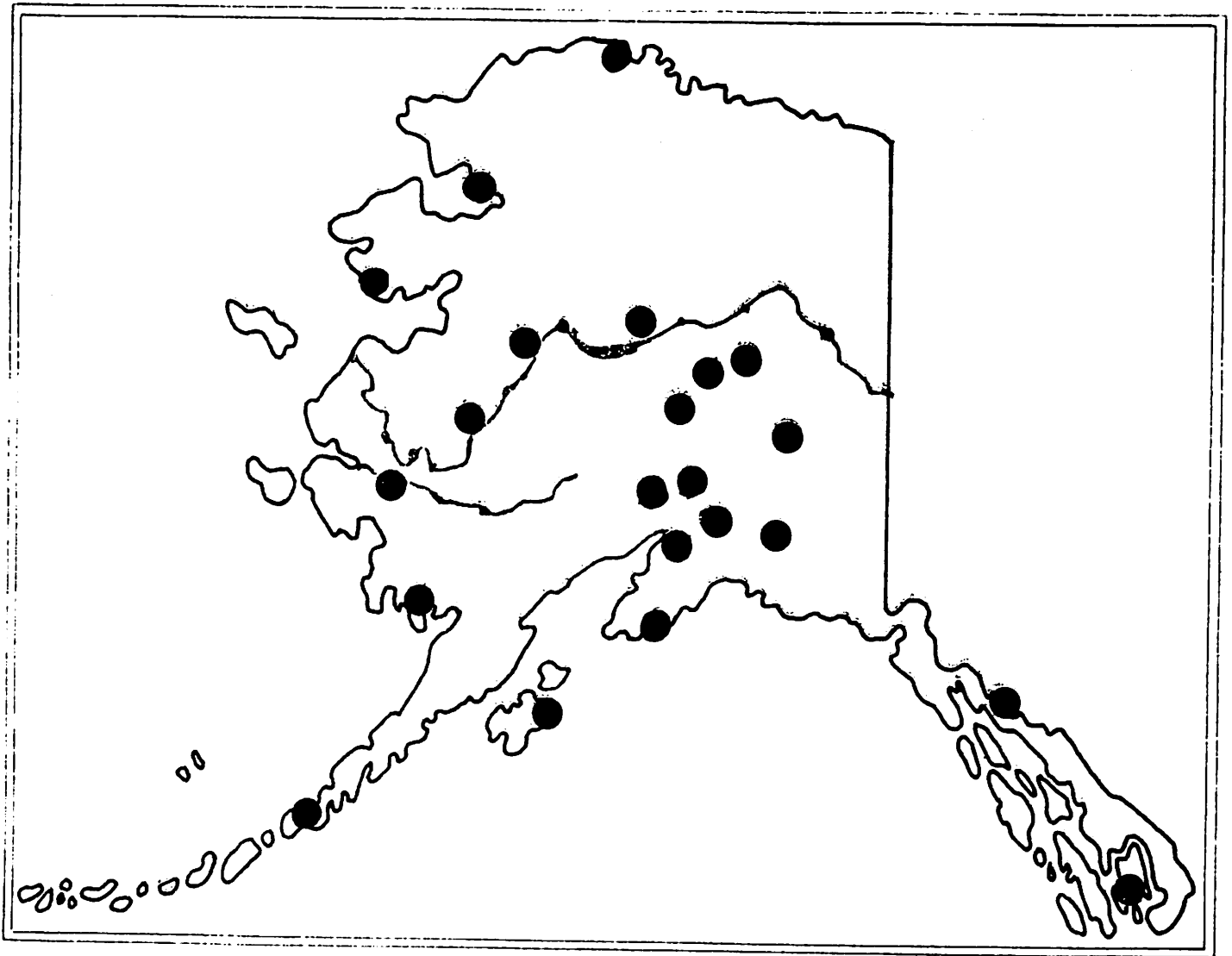
"We need to keep this alive. If we leave, we'll forget. We must form together into a council."
Metlakatla

"This meeting is exactly what our village has needed!"
Chief Ivan Sippary-Nulato

"The results of this meeting will not end here!"
-Metlakatla

"People worked together. There was cooperation and sharing. We all had a chance to speak."

ALASKA



VILLAGES, TOWNS and NEIGHBORHOODS

Bethel	May 10, 1975	Delta Junction	Oct. 23, 1977
Juneau	Oct. 25, 1975	Glennallen	Oct. 25, 1977
		Anderson	Oct. 25, 1977
Kodiak	Mar. 6, 1976	Tanana	Oct. 30, 1977
Dillingham	May 1, 1976		
Spenard	Oct. 23, 1976	Cold Bay	Jan. 9, 1978
		Seward	Jan. 19, 1978
Fairview, Anch.	Apr. 16, 1977	Kotzebue	Jan. 19, 1978
Nulato	Oct. 14, 1977	Barrow	Feb. 12, 1978
Grayling	Oct. 16, 1977	Nome	Feb. 17, 1978
Nenana	Oct. 20, 1977		
Metlakatla	Oct. 22, 1977	SPECIAL	
North Pole	Oct. 22, 1977	Taku Elem. Sch.	Mar. 25, 1976
		Spotlight '77 Anch.	Oct. 29, 1977

Communities Celebrate

The Way It Is

Tune: Nuchulawoya Song (Tanana Town Meeting)

Jaa'esi Hoa-de-dokhaden--Jaa'esi Hoa-de-dokhaden

Ooni Hoadedokhaden

See this place was cut out,

See this place was cut out.

Ooni-Hoadedokhaden

Who ha he ha hey

Jaa'esi Nuchalawoya--Jaa'esi Nuchalawoya

Ooni Nuchalawoya

Come to our place of meeting,

Come to our place of meeting.

Ooni Nuchalawoya

Who ha he ha hey

Jaa'esi Dahotu'dazehn--Jaa'esi Dahotu'dazehn

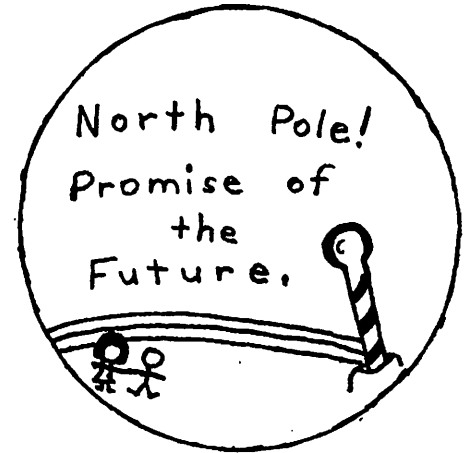
Ooni Dahotu'dazehn

To look forward to young people,

To look forward to young people.

Ooni Dahotu'dazehn

Who ha he ha hey



Delta Junction

Delta Junction began as a steamboat center at the junction of the Delta and Tanana Rivers. It was further developed by trappers, gold miners, and pioneers. Fort Greeley, during the war, was an air base for flights to Russia for lend-lease aircraft. A dairy industry existed, grew, then closed. Buffalo were imported from Montana on an experimental basis and thrived. The wilderness was tamed, but not broken.

Delta Junction lies in a valley with majestic peaks in the background. The pipeline has been and is a tremendous influence on the economy. There are agricultural experiments, with high winds being a major challenge. Fort Greeley is still the economic base. Five acre homesites are being opened to development. The appeal to many people here is the quiet, friendly, easy-going atmosphere.

The future holds great potential for growth in agricultural development as well as the possibility of a gas pipeline and a railroad being built. With wise management, using lessons learned from the past, a great life will still be found here.

with Songs, Stories and Symbols

Grayling

In 1962, Louis Deacon approached the council to move the village to a better situated place. In the spring of 1962, all the families packed up for the last time to move and live at Grayling. When the people got here, there were no roads, no school, no store, and no houses. Then they started cutting the logs, which was no easy chore. They surveyed the village with a compass and a long piece of rope. They worked many long hours, with limited tools. Everybody helped each other through.

In the fall of 1962, all the school children were sent to Wrangell Institute, because we didn't have a school. Most of the people didn't fish or go out on summer jobs. Instead, everyone stayed here and helped build the school. Then the people got together and helped build houses. For two years most of the people lived in tents and shacks. The in 1965, we had the dedication for the new BIA school.

Glennallen

Tune: Bicycle Built for Two

Glennallen, Glennallen
Give us your answer do
Land claims unsettled
Tell us what shall we do?
We came here to get away
But now we're here to stay
We now have oil
So let us toil
To make all our dreams come true.

Glennallen, Glennallen
Give us your answer do
What is your future
Holding in store for you?
We started out steady and slow
But now we're starting to grow
We don't know where
We'll go from here
But together our dreams will come true.



WORKSHOPS DECIDE ACTION

Native Village Lands

Glennallen

Executive authority image indicates the underlying issue of no local input in Native village land reconveyances. This is illustrated by the fact that Native village corporations have not solicited local input.

Loss of Native Traditions

Grayling

The fact that all of the people are not involved in the community indicates that the underlying problem is the loss of Native tradition of helping each other. This problem is illustrated by people looking out for themselves, no language, songs, or dances taught, little discipline and training of children.

Responsible Action

North Pole

The fact that initiative and personal responsibility for the city is lacking in most citizens, indicates that the underlying contradiction is undefined goals as a basis for decisions; and commitment is to people, not action. This contradiction is illustrated by lack of planning for business development, resulting in strip development.

Federal Funding Cut Off

Nulato

The fact that there is no industry; and there are no federal projects for new housing, water/sewage, and telephones indicates that the underlying contradiction is lack of funding for flood plains projects. This contradiction is illustrated by few jobs, no new old-age housing being built, no water/sewage facilities, nor telephones in existing Nulato.

Lack of Economic Growth

Nenana

Problems such as government intervention into small businesses, land locked up by outside and future seekers, unemployment among the young, inside lack of adequate facilities, have resulted in economic stagnation in Nenana. A liaison between city government, business and citizens of the community is needed. This would result in more efficient city management and business growth.

Cozi Tozi Salon

We, the citizens of Tanana, in order to train and employ local people, propose to start a beauty shop, through procuring funds from the local corporation, the SBA, contacting our local beautician, and funding a building to rent.

Farmers Market

We, the citizens of Delta Junction, in order to help unite our community, propose to help the Farmers CO-OP in developing a Farmers Market, through approaching the CO-OP Board, then the community on the developing of the market, then determining a location and recruiting to grow and sell the product through word of mouth and newspaper ads.

Economic Development

We, the citizens of Anderson, in order to encourage and promote new business and jobs, propose to promote industry or business that is practical for the local area which will provide year-round employment, through an economic base, and through a survey of the interior to determine the needs that are not presently provided or can be provided more economically within the local area.

Public Relations for Community

We, the citizens of Anchorage, in order to improve the image of community education and inform the general public of the community schools' philosophy, needs and activities, propose the hiring of an area-wide public-relations staff member to utilize the mass media and aide a community school public relations staff to publish and distribute newsletters to districts and immediate outside areas, through utilization of public service spots available through mass media, local TV and radio talk shows and presentations at PTA and community meetings.

Equalize Wages

We, the citizens of Metlakatla, in order to equalize wages, propose to have individual skills be known and applicants rated in their skills, establish fair wage practice in relation to the economy of Metlakatla, through establishing a Labor Council, establishing a Fair Labor Board, Human Rights Commission or Employment Agency.

Partial List of Contributors

ABC Bakery
A T Publishing
Alaska Commercial Co., Tanana
Alaska Grocery Shippers
Alaska Mutual Savings Bank
AMOCO Production Co.
Atlantic Richfield Co.
Alaskan Motor Enterprises
Auto Parts Service
Arrow Lumber Co., Inc.
Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
Alaska Sausage Co., Inc.
Armstrong Air Services
Alaska Litho
Bethel Drilling Co.
Brown Jug Famous Liquor Stores
Burger King
Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
Checker Cab
China Inn
Carrs Quality Centers
Coghill General Store
The Coffee Man
Dimond Center Bakery
Donut Tree
Eero Volkswagen
EXXON U S A
First National Bank of Anchorage
First Office Interiors, Ketchikan
Fedalaska Credit Union
Firestone Stores
Fluor Corporation
Glennallen Businessmen
Golden Temple
Kay Guthrie & Associates
Grayling BIA School
Harding Enterprises
Hertz Rent-A-Car
Kodiak Western Airlines
The Knott Company
Major Liquors
McDonald's-Fairbanks
Mr. Prime Beef
Marston Real Estate
Nulato High School
Nenana Lions Club
Nicholas Trading Co.
Nenana City School
Produce Wholesale Co.
Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.
PHS Alaska Native Hospital, Tanana
Redi-Kwik Printing Inc.
RCA Alaska Communications Inc.
Sea Foods by Craig
Spenard Builders Supply Co.
Sunrise Bakery
Sheffield Hotels
Standard Oil Co. of California
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Tanana Lions Club
Tanana Shool
Tongass Trading Co., Ketchikan
The Trading Post, North Pole
Totem Realty
Western Airlines
Wien Air Alaska
Xerox Corporation
Yukon Office Supply

Anchorage Region

Town Meeting follow up trek
(Metro Circuit Formation)

Three months following the series of Town Meetings we selected three communities: one rural-white, one suburban-white and one rural-native. Phone calls were made to one or two key people in each of the communities who were involved in the Town Meeting. We requested that they get 2 or 3 other people together so that we could visit with them. We suggested that an informal atmosphere would be good. We also requested that they make overnight accommodations for us.

Arriving in the community we visited briefly with the contact person. We were initially interested in getting a feel of the communities response to the Town Meeting. Were people generally positive? What excited them? Who was offended? Have people talked about it? We then proceeded to the visit with the small group. One of these meetings was in a home, one in a cafe and the other in a bar. Casual conversation was our opener leading into questions about what is going on in your community. We made sure that this conversation included events and activities not related to the Town Meeting as well as obvious results of the Town Meeting.

With this swirl of events and activities in mind we then reviewed their proposals from the Town Meeting. They began to respond immediately with the events related to the implementation of each proposal. In each community it was discovered that 1/2 to 3/4 of the proposals were implemented or some activity was currently going on towards its implementation. This came as a surprise to all of us in that no meetings had been held to plan the implementation. What was happening was a result of individuals and groups picking up on the momentum from the Town Meeting. In most cases they were not self consciously doing a proposal, they were doing what they saw needed to be done as part of their care for their community. Conversation then turned to those proposals not being implemented and how implementation could happen.

We feel the significant of this session was that they had a new story to tell about what happened to their community following a Town Meeting. We then took this story and visited with other key people in the community sharing with them the excitement of their fellow citizens.

Our next step was to target one or two potential guardians and relate to them more of the ICA story and the demand for concerned people across the globe. HDP consultant role and Town Meeting leadership roles were the primary concrete engagement activities used. The immediate results of this was an offer to assist in the set up and orchestration of Town Meetings from one person and an interest in Youth Forum and HDP possibilities.

ALASKA

This happened following our Town Meeting:

Anderson- Parks and Recreation coordinator hired and is busy creating programs. One of these is the development of cross-country ski trails. The youth are being involved through the interest of a school teacher who has just begun classes for skiers.

A new home for the fire truck is nearing completion making it possible to have fire protection equipment available within the community for the first time.

Nenana- An elders center and club have been begun and already a noticeable effect has been made on the elders participation in the village.

North Pole- The Chamber of Commerce has decided to put out newsletters to promote community communications. Youth are being involved in the writing and producing.

AREA EDMONTON
ANCHORAGE HOUSE

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTORS

QUARTER II
1977-1978

October 13	Irvin O. Gilbreath, Box 131, Kodiak, Alaska	\$24.00 for TM Set-up
October 18	Charles Benson, Jr., 5630 Radcliffe, Anchorage	\$50.00: Travel to JWM
August 15	Flour Corporation, 3333 Michelson, Irvine, Ca.	\$100.00: TM October
September 7	Atlantic Richfield, P.O. Box 360, Anchorage, Ak.	\$300.00: TM October
October 1	Marsha Buck, 936 W. 20th, Anchorage, Alaska	\$120.00: TM Alaska
September 22	Grant Breiner, 510 Leona Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich.	\$50.00: Roberts Travel
October 6	Marjorie Wooster, 7342 Madelynne Dr., Anchorage	\$24.00: TM October
October 7	Chevron USA, Box 1580, Anchorage, Alaska 99510	\$150.00: TM October
October 12	Keystone Services Inc., Box 4-2310, Anchorage	\$100.00: TM October
October 7	Richard K. Hamje, 909 Chugach Way Sp.74, Anch.	\$26.00: JWM Travel
October 25	Ruth Taylor, Box 49, Glennallen, Alaska 99588	\$1.00: TM Glennallen
October 7	Carol Neeley, Box 165, Glennallen, Alaska 99588	\$32.00: TM Set-up
October 24	Tongass Trading Co., 201 Dock Street, Ketchikan	\$25.00: TM Metlakatla
October 20	Bob Johnson, Holmes Johnson Clinic, Box 1727, Kod.	\$24.00: TM Set-up
November 1	Barbara Garrison, 3205 Iowa Street, Anchorage	\$24.00: TM October
November 2	Mildred Walatka, 2528 Capt. Cook Dr., Anchorage	\$24.00: TM October
November 18	Community Schools: Anchorage, Ann Flavin	\$400.00: Cmty. Schs. Forum
November 5	Esther Jones, Lore Road, Anchorage, Alaska	\$3.50: TM Alaska

Partial List of Local Sponsors

Alfred Grant
PHS
Tanana

Tom Mogg
City Council
Tanana

Bill Hand
Lions Club
Anderson

Don Bee
City Administrator
Anderson

Russell Hayward
Metlakatla

Florene Booth
Metlakatla

Charles Klunder
Lions Club
Metlakatla

Richard Carpenter
Pastor
Delta Junction

Judy Carpenter
Delta Junction

Evan Sipary
Nulato Village Council

Chris Anderson
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Fairbanks

Elizabeth Simpson
Nulato High School

Sheldon Sprecker
Glennallen

Max Francher
Glennallen

Kyle Holladay
Community Schools
North Pole

Dan'l Mussati
Jaycees
North Pole

Marsha Buck
Anchorage

H. A. "Red" Boucher
Anchorage

Evan Hall
Lions District 49-A

Richard Anderson
Barrow School District

Frank Roth
Sheldon Jackson College

Carol Duncan
Juneau Arts Council

Carl Pohjola
Community Education

William Trudeau
Pastor
Anchorage

Patrick Spartz
Anchorage

Hattie Harris
HUD

Frank Peterson
Kodiak Area Native Assn.

Cary Vlahovich
Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.

Larry Powell
Mayor
Yakutat

Esther Combs
Cook Inlet Native Assn.

David Walsh
Assemblyman
Anchorage

Ann Flavin
Anch. Community Schools

Vivian March
Haines Community Education

P. G. Hupperton, Jr.
Lions District 49-A

Joe Koyama
Transportation Mgr.
Japan Airlines

Herb Watson
Dillingham Lions Club

Harry Stotts
Director of Public Works
North Slope Borough

Jo Ann Firm
Turnagain Community School
Board of Directors

Elsie Wilson
Grayling City Council

Byron Mallot
AK Federation of Natives

Eleanor Woodin
Turnagain Community Council

Wilbert Nicholas
IRA
Grayling

Joe Williams
Nenana

Rob Chambers
Nenana

COMMITTEE FOR TOWN MEETING : ALASKA

Evan Hall
Governor
Lions-District 49-A

Patrick Spartz, Sociology Dept.
Anchorage Community College
Kodiak Town Meeting, Workshop Leader

Arthur W. Day
AREA Inc., Realtors
Spenard Town Meeting, Coordinator

David Walsh
Assemblyman
Municipality of Anchorage

Dr. George Brenneman
Bethel Public Health Service Hospital
Bethel Town Meeting, Coordinator

H. A. "Red" Boucher
Consultant
Fairview Town Meeting, M.C.

Hattie E. Harris, Vice President
Fairview Community Council (Anchorage)
Housing and Urban Development
Fairview Town Meeting, Coordinator

Carol Duncan, President
Juneau Arts Council
Juneau Town Meeting, Coordinator

Joe H. Koyama
Transportation Manager
Japan Airlines

Larry E. Powell
Mayor
City of Yakutat

Herb Z. Watson
P.H.S. Kakanak Service Unit
Dillingham Town Meeting, Coordinator

Richard D. Anderson
Administrator
Barrow School District

Lt. Col. HUGH L. COX, III

William Trudeau
Pastor
Turnagain United Methodist Church

Eleanor O. Woodin, President
Turnagain Community Council
Spenard Town Meeting, Coordinator

Frank Roth Jr.
History Department
Sheldon Jackson College

Cary C. Vlahovich
Community Relations
Aleyska Pipeline Service Co.

Frank R. Peterson
Executive Director
Kodiak Area Native Association

Ann Flavin
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Spenard Town Meeting, Workshop Leader

Jo Ann Firm
Turnagain Community Schools Association
Board of Directors
Spenard Town Meeting, Workshop Leader

Vivian March
Coordinator
Community Education, Haines

Esther M. Combs, Project Director
Native Assistance Center
Cook Inlet Native Association

Harry Stotts
Director of Public Works
North Slope Borough

P. G. Hupperton Jr.
Past District Governor
Lions-District 49-A

Carl Pohjola
Coordinator
Community Education: State of Alaska

Byron I. Mallot
President
Alaska Federation of Natives

in cooperation with



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