

Tour bureau nets \$40,000 reprieve

This time, Henry Host had the votes, and the Oakland County Tourist and Convention Bureau will get its \$20,000 semi-annual appropriation.

Reversing a decision of two weeks earlier, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on Dec. 2 gave 16-9 approval for the convention bureau money.

Host, 41, a board member of the tourist bureau, got the necessary majority when three Democrats from Pontiac and a Democrat from Berkley joined a solid block of 12 Republicans to pass the measure on second try.

Republicans Paul Kasper of Bloomfield Hills and John McDonald of Farmington Hills had voted against it Nov. 19 but supported it the second time around.

The convention bureau's \$19,000 annual budget depends on county government for \$40,000 a year.

Henry M. Host Jr., board chairman of the convention bureau, told commissioners that the bureau's organization was responsible for recruiting \$27 million in convention business to Oakland County.

The bureau produced sales tax revenue of \$2,000 for a \$40,000 county investment, he said.

The bureau's business generated no extra need for schools or many other governmental services, said Host, and it actually generated many jobs.

There are two kinds of jobs—domestic and foreign. As station attendants, we can receive unemployment with a low count in unemployment. The return is there.

And this is a big smokestack in dollars.

Host's supporter of Observer & Eccles Newspapers, pleaded for more time to develop convention business. "We can't continue without this kind of support," he said.

Besides the county's \$40,000 annual contribution, the convention bureau will get \$7,500 from Pontiac and \$15,000 from the state.

Salaries and payroll taxes account for \$6,000. The second biggest item is advertising and brochures—\$30,000.

When Republican commissioners said Southfield hotels and motels benefited from convention business, Commissioner Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield) replied, "Southfield says no."

Pernick said business would be helped more by more sanitation officials inspecting restaurants, more public health officials and more organized crime task force investigators.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE Daniel T. Murphy, who recommended the convention bureau contribution in his budget, said convention business generates more taxes, which makes it possible to do things with taxes.

Pernick has his own convention bureau. They make sure that what comes to Detroit stays with Detroit.

This county has no large city, so the county has to function like a city," by contributing to the convention bureau the way the City of Detroit contributes to its convention bureau.

BACKERS OF the Oakland convention bureau said there is some confusion over organizations in southeast Michigan. Besides the Oakland convention bureau, there are:

• The Southeast Michigan Tourist Association, one of four regional tourist groups in the state. Oakland County contributes \$7,500 to it. The tourism office is not seen as competitive with Oakland County.

• The Metropolitan Detroit Visitors and Convention Bureau, which concentrates on selling Cobo Hall and Detroit facilities. It gets \$25,000 from the City of Detroit, \$125,000 from the state, \$45,000 from Wayne County, but nothing from Oakland County. It is seen as competitive with Oakland County.

SUPPORTING the convention appropriation were:

• Host, Fred Houghton (R-Berkley), Kasper, McDonald, Lillian Moffitt (R-Bloomfield), Henry Murphy (R-Six), Patrick Novak (R-Farmington Hills), and Robert Page (R-Birmingham).

Opposed were Mary West Deaton (D-Birmingham), Pernick and Pernick.

The \$20,000 appropriation was for the first half of the convention bureau's fiscal year, which began last July 1.

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How to prevent snow blindness

One of the most serious threats to week-end vacationers is snow blindness, but it can be prevented, says the Michigan Optometric Association.

Although usually temporary, snow blindness can impair vision enough to cause accidents, particularly driving accidents. In some cases permanent eye damage can result.

But skiers can prevent it by wearing proper sunglasses or tinted goggles.

Snow blindness is the blinding out of the eye's retina to the point where the eye cannot adapt normally to under and night lighting levels, said Dr. Philip E. from the association's president.

He said it could be compared to the effect on the eyes of viewers wearing a flash bulb popping. With snow blindness, however, the exposed vision lasts longer because it takes much more time for the eye to recover from the bright glare.

There are different types of sunglasses. Skiers can choose to prevent snow blindness. They are available in ready-made sunglasses as well as in the special goggles available for skiers wearing prescription lenses.

THOSE WHO SPEND most of their time in the 35 per cent of the population will wear tinted impact resistant glass lenses which screens out both ultra-violet and infrared rays. Not all glass lenses do this, so it pays to ask before purchasing the lenses.

Most weekend or vacationing skiers, however, will be protected by quality plastic or glass tinted lenses that do not screen out infrared rays. Plastic lenses are lighter and more impact resistant than glass. A glass for skiers who have a tendency to fall on the slopes or to tangle with brush and trees. Most made-made ski goggles have plastic lenses.

The best color for tinted lenses is medium or dark grey. Dr. E. said because it does not interfere with color perception. Medium or dark shades of green are satisfactory, but they do distort color perception somewhat.

Dr. E. from caution skiers to be certain their sunglasses are dark enough to screen out about 75-90 per cent of available sunlight. Many expert skiers find it necessary to change density of color while skiing in order to combat changing light conditions. For this reason, professionals carry several pairs of goggles with different tints or goggles.

goggles with interchangeable filters to enable them to read the terrain accurately and to compensate for flat light conditions. For the latter, yellow tinted lenses may heighten contrast.

COATED SUNGLASSES which have a mirrored look are designed primarily for use under intense glare situations and are a good choice for skiers.

Another less effective against glare is the polarizing lens, although the tinting of the lens can reduce its effectiveness.

Some skiers may find the photochromic or sun-sensitive sunglasses which change density as they go from light to dark and back again—adequate on the slopes. These lenses screen out about 60 per cent of the light at maximum. However, Dr. E. from cautioned, low temperatures slow down the darkening process.

In addition, the lenses need a breaking in period and must be subjected to a number of light and dark cycles before maximum change can be achieved with relative ease.

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