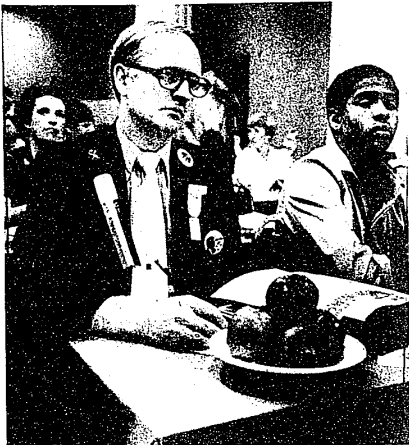


Keier: Convention volunteers get no free ride



Richard Keier listens seriously during a Michigan delegation caucus. (Staff photo)

By JACKIE KLEIN

Richard Keier, Southfield Regional Chairman for the Republican National Convention, is one busy but cool GOP VIP.

Keier, 40, an alternate delegate from the 17th District and a strong George Bush supporter, has been on a hectic schedule since March. That's when he started appointing chairmen from a list of 200 volunteers for information booths at five delegate hotels in Southfield and one in Farmington. But he remains unfrustrated.

"So far, there's only been one hitch," Keier said. "The ceilings in Southfield's Holiday Inn are low. A booth was delivered to the motel last Friday, and we discovered it didn't fit in the lobby because the metal posts were too tall.

"When the first volunteer shift arrived 8 a.m. Saturday, the women found the booth in the humid, indoor pool area. We couldn't raise the ceiling in the lobby, so the manager got two

workmen to cut the posts and we moved the booth to the lobby where it's a lot cooler."

But the real work started months ago, Keier said. He attended training sessions for hotel chairmen conducted by the Republican Civic Host Committee. Then came the job of dividing dozens of willing, enthusiastic volunteers among six hotels.

THE VOLUNTEERS man the booths from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily in three, four-hour shifts. Some ardent GOP workers come every day, Keier said. Volunteers each get a badge and a "thank you," he said, but they wouldn't miss the action for the world.

Hotel personnel and local restaurateurs and retailers are doing their share to give conventioners the red carpet treatment, Keier said.

Jacques, a Bingham Farms gourmet eating spot, sent pastries to the Illinois and Minnesota delegations at the Southfield Sheraton Hotel. Keier's wife,

who handles an information booth at the hotel, said the Sheraton chef brought pastries for the volunteers but the guests ate them while they were waiting for information.

"Each hotel is trying to do a nice job," Keier said. "The restaurant staff at the Sheraton even reserves drinks for delegates. Staff members know people from Illinois like brandy, and vodka is a favorite drink of visitors from Minnesota.

"Stuffer's Northland Inn is flying Wyoming, Kansas and Montana flags to honor delegates staying there. A florist is making corsages for volunteers in the Kamada Inn.

In the middle of all hoopla, people are offering \$25 for gold GOP badges and others are sporting emblems saying "Milliken Would Make a Wonderful VP," Keier said.

BESIDES KEEPING tabs on six hotels, Keier said he and his wife are on a merry-go-round of convention-related

activities. Keier's parents came from Ohio to watch the couple's 8- and 10-year-old children during the busy week.

Last Friday, the Keiers went along on a tour of convention facilities in the Joe Louis Arena. Later, the couple joined a throng of 15,000 for the "Detroit Loves a Good Party" gala in the Renaissance Ballroom of the Detroit Plaza Hotel.

Along with other Michigan delegates last Sunday, the couple took a Bob Lo cruise — an Oakland County fundraiser — which circled Belle Isle and anchored in the bay so cruises could watch fireworks on the Detroit River.

Keier and his wife attended a Governor's Reception at the Detroit Institute of Arts where they met Tennessee Senator Howard Baker, Bush, Betty Ford, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and other notables.

(Continued on Page 15C)

Burdzinski tries to serve community

By SHIRLEE IDEM

If you've heard a rumor that delegates to political conventions are paid with bribes of wine, women and song, don't believe it.

Joseph Burdzinski, a 17th district delegate to the 1980 Republican National Convention, says it isn't so.

"No one's offered me anything but hard work," Burdzinski says. Working hard for the political party of his choice is nothing new for 26-year-old Burdzinski, who cut his teeth on politics.

"I can remember watching the 1950 conventions on television and getting really interested," he says.

Since he was 6, he studied the political activism into its mental file for a few years. Then after his family moved into Southfield, something happened that caught Burdzinski's imagination and hooked him onto politics for good. "That put me overboard," he recalls, "was meeting Mayor James Clarkson. My dad introduced me to him and I was very impressed."

This impetus turned Burdzinski into a grassroots political volunteer who soon determined that his future lay in allegiance with the Republican Party.

"I JOINED the party and became



JOSEPH BURDZINSKI

very involved locally," he says. "The Southfield Republican Club elected me as vice president for one year and two years ago as president."

Today, Burdzinski is also a member of the Republican State Central Committee.

A 1976 graduate of Southfield-Lathrup High School, he attends classes at Oakland Community College and plans to attend Walsh Institute or

Wayne State University for business courses.

In 1976, Burdzinski was an alternate and went to Kansas City pledged to Ronald Reagan.

"I'm pledged to Reagan now and it's great," he says. "He worked so long and hard and now it looks as though it will all come true."

In February when the primary season began, Burdzinski was chairman of a Reagan motorcade and worked with the Secret Service and the national media.

"It was very interesting and I learned a lot, but it was also terrifically hectic," he says. "I knew the route of the motorcade and the volunteers kept asking me about it, but I couldn't tell anyone for security reasons."

BURDZINSKI said he has met Gov. Reagan four or five times and is immensely impressed with him.

During the convention he has organized transportation for many of the delegates, particularly senators and congressmen to get them into Southfield for their state caucuses.

Fourteen states are headquartered in the city and two vice presidential potentials are members of those delegations. His plans call for staying at home

during the convention and commuting to Michigan and convention headquarters each day.

On Tuesday morning after the first evening session, Burdzinski, who got home after 2 a.m., slept late.

"Last night's session was great because of the show and some of the speeches," he said.

"Senator Lugar was the keynote in our first session and he was good. He's a potential running mate."

Burdzinski, who considers himself conservative with a few moderate leanings on social issues, leans toward Congressman Jack Kemp of New York for vice president. "And I see some momentum there," he says.

Southfield's young delegate sees the convention as a great success so far. "I've talked to a number of delegates and they are all remarking on what a super job Detroit is doing. People can't believe how well planned it all is."

His post-convention role is still unknown, but Burdzinski said he prefers to work his home state.

As for the future, there might be even a larger place for politics than in the past. "Politics makes me feel as though I'm doing something for the community."

"Could be some day I'll run for office," he says.

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