

GOP 'Big 3' has suburban cast

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By Tim Richard
staff writer

Michigan Republicans looked to the suburbs — Brighton, Grosse Ile, East Lansing and Birmingham — for candidates in putting together their 1984 ticket for the Big Three university boards.

The going got so crowded that two big names in GOP politics — John Aze and David K. Eastlick Jr. — found themselves left out when the convention made its choices Sept. 7.

Sounding the campaign theme, University of Michigan Regent Deane Baker of Ann Arbor warned that Democrats were "polluting" the universities' atmosphere by heeding labor's cry to dump an incumbent U-M regent and forcing the constitutionally separate universities to freeze tuition.

NEAL NIELSEN, a Brighton attorney, and Veronica Latta Smith, a Grosse Ile teacher who sent six children to the U-M, were nominated for the U-M Board of Regents in two of the most spirited contests.

"This fine university is suffering troubled times," said Nielsen, who did his undergraduate work there and is a life member of the Alumni Association. He won a U-M nomination after two ballots.

Smith, a former insurance agency manager and current substitute teacher, has served six years on the board of governors of the Martha Cook Residence — ironically, as an appointee of the Democratic-dominated Board of Regents.

"I have good rapport with students," said Smith, who is active in alumni and Soroptimist affairs.

THE NIELSEN-SMITH nominations were something of an upset because Bloomfield-area candidates ordinarily do well seeking state GOP nominations.

Aze, a Grosse Pointe resident who practices law in Bloomfield Hills, had mounted a strong campaign with endorsements from many Oakland and western Wayne legislators. He was nominated for the U-M board in 1978.

Eastlick, a Bloomfield Hills attorney who is part of a West Bloomfield investment firm, had been endorsed by 21 legislators. Raised in Birmingham, the Grosse Pointe Park resident is the son of the chairman of Michigan Bell.

The Nielsen-Smith ticket will face incumbent U-M Regent Robert Norderlander, a Birmingham attorney, and Marjorie Lansing, an Eastern Michigan University political science professor.

The Democratic convention Aug. 26 dumped 16-year Regent Gerald Dunn when the United Auto Workers union objected to his stands on legislative bills as a lobbyist for suburban school districts. Republicans promise to make UAW influence a major university board issue.

KATHY WILBUR, a former Birmingham resident and now of East Lansing, was an easy first-ballot winner over two other candidates for the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.

But the thrill was jarrred this week when Peter B. Fletcher, a retiring MSU trustee and former Republican national committeeman, charged in a letter to daily newspapers that the convention "blunders" when nominating Wilbur because she works for state Sen. William Soderburg. Fletcher charged "appearance" of a conflict of interest, conceding the state attorney general ruled there was no conflict.

Wilbur earned her bachelor's degree in journalism at MSU. Raised in Detroit, she served on the Oakland County Republican Executive Committee after her parents moved to Birmingham.

Her husband, Tom, is a special assistant to the mayor of Lansing and an Ingham County commissioner.

Her running mate for the MSU board will be Dean Pridgeon, a Montgomery farmer who was deposed in 1983 as director of the state Department of Agriculture by Gov. James J. Blanchard.

The Wilbur-Pridgeon ticket will face Dr. Charles Vincent of Detroit and June Kretschmer of Bay Port. Incumbent MSU trustee Blanche Martin, a one-time football star, dropped out after labor withdrew its support at the Democratic convention.

UNANIMOUSLY nominated for the Wayne State University board were Dr. Gary Artinian, a Birmingham heart specialist, and George Bashara, former Court of Appeals judge from Detroit.

"I'm a graduate of WSU and a product of the inner city," said Artinian. "I want to pay back Wayne State, which I felt was great to me. I maintain contacts in the Polish, black and Chaldean communities."

"WSU's tuition is the fourth highest (among public universities) in the U.S. Those young people are paying \$2,011 for one year."

Artinian's platform: support of President David Adamany ("excellent") holding the line on tuition (again, high marks for Adamany's effort) and "continuing Wayne's tradition of excellence."

Artinian is a part-time clinical assistant professor of medicine. He will resign from the faculty if elected in order to avoid a conflict of interest.

BASHARA, TOO, is an Adamany booster. "I believe he'll need people to support him," said Bashara, who also wants to hold the line on tuition.

A partner in the firm of Dykema, Gossett, Spencer, Goodnow & Trigg, he has been chairman of the Michigan Employment Security Commission and a probate judge before being appointed by Gov. William G. Milliken to the Court of Appeals in 1973. Bashara retired from the court in 1982 but confessed he missed the activity of politics.

Artinian and Bashara will oppose Democratic nominees Denise Lewis of Detroit and Winifred Fraser of Northville. The two incumbents — Democrat George Edwards III of Detroit and Republican George W. Romney of Bloomfield Hills — did not seek re-election.



Kathy Wilbur
MSU grad running



Veronica Latta Smith
U-M hopeful

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Dr. Gary Artinian, heart specialist from Birmingham, seeks the votes of Hillsdale County delegates Mr. and Mrs. Ken Carter at the Republican state convention in Cobo Hall.

Fall color close to home

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is offering group bus tours of the colorful Oakland County countryside from Oct. 1-31.

Two 44-passenger buses and one 34-passenger bus with a handicap lift are available. Cost is \$110 the group for an eight-hour trip. Additional fuel expense after the first tank is the group's responsibility.

Reservations must be made in advance, in writing. Groups must also provide their own tour director to coordinate stops. For reservations and more information, call Dan Stencil at 858-0916.