

Yeager resigns GOP post — blames politicking

By Teri Banas
staff writer

An internal dispute over the upcoming state Republican gubernatorial primary left one casualty in the Oakland County GOP this week.

Oakland GOP finance chairman Weldon O. Yeager resigned, protesting county chairman Joe Knollenberg's public backing of candidate Daniel Murphy, the Oakland County executive. Yeager supports William Lucas, the Wayne County executive.

The resignation came after Knollenberg mailed copies of a letter dated Feb. 12 that urged members to support Murphy.

"It gives the implication that the party has endorsed Murphy," said Yeager this week. "I have no problem that he's working for Dan Murphy, but when he puts something out on the or-

Yeager contends that Knollenberg's personal views should have been kept off party stationery.

ganization's printed stationery. I do have a problem."

YEAGER CONTENDS that Knollenberg's personal views should have been kept off party stationery, and that the chairman's action flies in the face of GOP leadership's hopes to minimize division among the candidates' supporters.

"It's very divisive. So, why should I contribute money to defeat my own candidate?" said Yeager. Before he was made the county party's finance chairman a year ago,

Yeager of Birmingham served as state GOP secretary for 12 years. He also has served as a Constitutional Convention delegate, state representative and West Bloomfield Township trustee.

Knollenberg, however, said yesterday that Yeager's complaint was unfounded. "The letter bears my signature, but it lists no endorsement by the committee."

Knollenberg did write: "As Michigan's first county executive (Murphy), there is no one more qualified to assume the reins of state government, and his successful record as a Republican vote-getter makes him our most

electable candidate."

KNOLLENBERG SAID he sent about 300 copies to a "select mailing" of 82 county chairmen and chairwomen, GOP state legislators and members of the Republican State Committee, but planned to reimburse the party for its stationery and postage costs. He said that was known "up front."

Besides listing his personal favorite candidate, which he said was no secret to at least half the recipients, Knollenberg said he had broader intentions in

the letter.

The points included: stressing that the party's focus should be on the 1986 state election, not the 1988 presidential election; stressing continued attacks on Gov. James Blanchard; and noting that whoever wins the party's nomination in August, he will support that candidate.

Knollenberg said the finance position

has already been filled — by Tom Schellenberg, also of Birmingham. Schellenberg has worked as a recruiter to the Republican Leadership Committee.

Yeager, meanwhile, said he planned to attend the executive committee's meeting in Pontiac Wednesday (last night), but as "a spectator."

GOP leader May to bid for high court

By Teri Banas
staff writer

Attorney Alan A. May of Bloomfield Hills plans to enter the race for the state Supreme Court.

The Oakland County Republican is expected to announce his candidacy in the next few weeks.

Attending last weekend's Republican convention-rally in Kalamazoo, May said he has to complete business plans before committing to a political race.

May, 43, is the party chairman in the state's 18th Congressional District, which includes Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Rochester, parts of Troy and West Bloomfield Township. He also served as Michigan co-chairman of the National Coalition for Reagan.

HE OPERATES the Southfield law firm of May & May, which was founded by his father, who died in 1979. The firm also has a Detroit office.

May said he would run for the state post if the merger he is planning with another firm goes through.

May serves on the state Civil Service Commission and on a 24-member Federal Judicial Evaluation Committee. He is a trustee with the National Conference of Christians and Jews-De-



Attorney Alan May plans run for high court

troit and served as chairman of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

VOTERS WILL elect two Supreme Court Justices to eight-year terms in the state election in November.

Chief Justice G. Mennen Williams can not run again because of his age. Recently appointed Supreme Court Justice Dennis Archer will stand for election. Archer, a Democrat, was named by Gov. Blanchard to fill the vacancy created by the elevation of James Ryan to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

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