

Precinct delegates prepare for primary

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According to Freedom Council local field representative, Patricia Droll of West Bloomfield Township, her group has candidates in four of Farmington's six precincts and in 22 of the Hills 27 precincts. She calls the numbers "conservative," as they do not count the candidates, but the precincts; some precincts have more than one Freedom Council candidate.

"Very few have ever run before," she said. "We are political novices, but we learn quickly."

NONE of the three mentioned as presidential candidates — Bush, Robertson or Kemp — have officially declared their candidacies.

"If you look at pure numbers, he (Robertson) certainly has a lot," said Alfred Diebel, three-term president of the Farmington Area Republican Club and a Bush supporter.

Diebel and other Republican leaders see Robertson supporters using a "scattergun approach" as many can-

didates run against each other in local delegate races.

The Freedom Council calls on fundamentalist Christians to get involved in the political system. The non-profit, tax exempt, Virginia-based organization reportedly spent \$350,000 in Michigan to recruit 4,500 of the record 10,110 candidates who filed this year, according to news reports.

BECAUSE OF federal campaign spending laws, the Council cannot be affiliated or support any one political candidate. According to reports, Robertson has removed himself from Council affiliations — although the beliefs of members seem to parallel Robertson's, and many voice support for him.

Some local Republicans — several running for delegate posts — believe the delegate race and Robertson's publicity will improve the Republican Party image and help the voting electorate understand the delegate system.

Robertson's recent publicity will

"make people stand up and look and listen," Diebel said. "Does this make the Republican Party more conservative?"

"I don't think so. The mainstream issues are pretty well being addressed — the economy, a rebuilding of defenses — everyone's fairly satisfied."

"There remain moral issues to the agenda," he added. "There is a group that will pick up the mantle and carry the flag."

DIEBEL FACES two challengers in the delegate race in the Farmington Hills 19th precinct.

Running for her third term as precinct delegate, unopposed in the Hills' 14th precinct, is resident Margaret Elwell, Michigan coordinator for the Freedom Council. After working as field director for the reelection of President Ronald Reagan in 1984, "I was left with a feeling there was something missing," she said.

Elwell decided the element of "Christian moral ethics" was missing, and was determined to bring

that voting sector into the political process.

Freedom Council organizers approached her in January 1985, and she joined the Council the following May. She supports Robertson, but contends the Freedom Council recruited only uncommitted delegate candidates.

"This is a government of the people," she added. "My whole goal is to try to say to the community: this is for all of us — it's not elitist."

HILLS BUSINESSMAN and 1982 Republican gubernatorial candidate, Richard Headlee, believes the Robertson movement is "very good for the Republican Party. It brings a lot of grass-roots people out — we'll make a lot of friends."

"I call them 'delegates for decency'."

Headlee personally supports Robertson. "Even though I believe in a strong separation of church and state — I think the individual

should have a deep dedication to God. I'm just delighted they've chosen the Republican Party as a vehicle."

"It will put some spine in some Republican candidates."

Hills businessman John Anhalt, owner of the Boisford Inn, calls the new-found publicity "constructive."

"Maybe people will find out what it's all about," he said regarding the delegate race. "It's throwing a lot of light on this race and what this (the delegate system) means."

The appearance of Robertson and the so-called moral issues being discussed by the Republican Party "seems to have just appeared, but probably has been a strong voice of opinion for a long time," Diebel added.

He cited cycles in public opinion as part of the reason for the strong support to the "evangelical" overtones in Robertson's statements.

THE MAIN issue to Elwell is "to

see if the people who filed follow through" with their campaigns. She prefers that people concentrate on the upcoming August primary and November election instead of looking to the 1988 presidential race.

"They (delegates) can change their minds," she said. "People come and go and there's going to be a lot of changes."

"Be informed and pay attention," she advised. "I'll be in Farmington Hills council members Don Wolf, Janette Dolan and Terry Sever are each running for all delegate seats in their respective districts. Wolf was a major organizer for delegate candidates for Kemp according to local Republican leaders."

Those elected Aug. 5 will attend county conventions, the starting point for selecting Michigan delegates to the Republican National Convention. The conventions will appoint people to those precincts where no candidates filed.

Ankele appointed to key post

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der of special education for Livonia schools — the only other applicant for the job, he said.

Ankele was also acting director of special services several years ago, when Lewis replaced now-retired Superintendent of Schools Lewis Schulman who was on a medical leave.

ANKELE WAS offered a two-year contract at the entry level salary for assistant superintendent, who are paid \$56,876 to \$84,428 a year. Her appointment was part of a reorganizational effort in the district that began with Lewis' appointment and the recent promotion of Michael Flanagan to deputy superintendent, all effective July 1.

Also approved Tuesday was the renewal of contracts for one year for Assistant Superintendents for Instruction Lynn Nutter and Lawrence Freedman. Trustee Helen Ditzhazy questioned the extension of their contracts for only one year, while extending Ankele a two-year agreement. She called it "very unusual to extend current employees a lesser contract."

THE TWO current administrators

were told of their one-year extensions some time ago, before the selection of Lewis as superintendent, according to Board President Susan Rennels. Ditzhazy, an assistant superintendent for Jackson Public Schools, cast the only dissenting vote on the motion. Trustee R. Jack Inch was absent for the vote.

Ankele will oversee all special education, gifted, early education and alternative education programs in the district, some of which are federally-funded, manage staff, programs and budgets.

The new assistant superintendent holds a master's degree in reading from Oakland University and was certified through Wayne State University in special education and school administration in 1977. She began her educational career by obtaining her elementary education certificate and a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1971.

Before beginning her career with Farmington Public Schools, Ankele was a preschool teacher at the Sarah Fisher Home for Children. She was hired in 1972 as a reading specialist for Farmington schools, where she developed and assessed remedial and enrichment programs.

IN 1973, as a teaching consultant,

she established a mainstreamed educational program for emotionally impaired and learning disabled students.

From 1977 to 1985, she served as supervisor of special education under the direct supervision of Lewis. In this position, Ankele supervised all special education programs, managed federal projects and helped in establishing districtwide procedures for the division.

Professionally, Ankele has served as president and secretary of the Special Education Supervisors of Michigan, chaired the Summer Institute for the Special Education Administrator's Conference, and supervised secondary English curriculum and a math workshop for Oakland Intermediate Schools.

She also was involved with a state task force for the Committee to Establish Directors Competencies and another task force that established guidelines for identification of learning disabilities.

Those working in special and alternative education programs in the district praised Ankele's skills and said she takes an interest in each program. "We just couldn't have enhanced our program — it wouldn't have grown without her," one administrator said.

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