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Twenty-Five Cents

Kiwanis: no to female members

By Susan Steinmueller
staff writer

Kiwanis International will continue to be all male, but opposition among its ranks to allowing women members has decreased since last year.

On June 24, 53 percent of the delegates voting at the group's international convention in Houston turned down a proposal to allow women members; the same issue at last

year's convention was opposed by a 3-1 measure. A two-thirds majority is required for approval.

Despite the voting trends, local Kiwanians do not feel it necessarily shows that women will eventually be voted into the service organization, which is composed of professionals and businessmen.

"There was a lot of dissension, and still is, really," said Lloyd Smith, governor of the Michigan District of Kiwanis International and member

of the Kiwanis Club of Farmington. "Who knows what will happen next year. It's a big mystery."

Smith, who attended the convention, said he felt the larger number of Kiwanians who voted for women members at the 1986 convention reflects, in part, that for the first time this year, Kiwanis International leaders took an official stand supporting women membership. "That carried a lot of weight," he said.

SOME MEMBERS, however, felt the board was "knuckling under the pressure of lawsuits" rather than really being in favor of women members, Smith said. A legal battle on the issue is being taken to the U.S. Supreme Court.

About 300 Michigan delegates voted by secret ballot in Houston after a floor discussion limited to 45 minutes.

"I don't know how they voted," Smith said. "We didn't ask them. It

was kind of a quiet issue in our caucus."

Smith said that as governor he preferred not to reveal his own opinion on the issue.

He had predicted a "hot floor fight," but, he said, "It wasn't as bad as I thought. I thought they would get really mad, but they didn't."

He noted there were women picking the convention — women in fact.

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Jennifer — 'very special'

Family, friends and co-workers remember Jennifer Christine McEwen as a young woman of soft-spoken determination, dedication and sensitivity — qualities that in their eyes made her a "very, very special person."

The North Farmington High School graduate, who celebrated her 23rd birthday on June 23, died unexpectedly July 14 at her West Bloomfield Township home. Results of an autopsy by the Oakland County Medical Examiner will not be known for 4-6 weeks, pending toxicology results.

At the time of her death, she was involved in arrangements for her Sept. 30 marriage to Lee LaFleur of Farmington Hills.

Services for Miss McEwen were held Thursday morning at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home (Richardson-Bird Chapel), Walled Lake.

An April graduate of Oakland University, Miss McEwen was a writer and reporter for the media relations group of Henry Ford Hospital's public relations department. She also served as chief writer for "Health Talks," a television program produced by Henry Ford Hospital and WDIV-TV.

MISS McEwen quickly established herself as a valued member of the hospital's public relations staff. "She was a joy to work with," said Karen Kaser, media relations manager. "She showed exceptional ability and promise."



Jennifer McEwen

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Dr. John Richardson examines a Persian cat in the operating room of his Farmington veterinary hospital.

Reflecting on 25 years as a vet in town

By Susan Steinmueller
staff writer

Many pets in the Farmington area know Dr. John Richardson — to say nothing of their grateful owners.

Richardson, 53, has dedicated himself to the care and healing of pets for 25 years, and in so doing, has become the area's longest serving veterinarian.

"We have been successful," he acknowledges. "I've been here longer than any other vet in Farmington now."

During the years, he also has been active in community and civic affairs. He was elected in 1969 and 1973 to four-year terms on the Farmington City Council, and served as mayor pro tem in 1973 and mayor in 1975.

"It's been a great life, and a super place to raise my family," said Richardson, who is originally from Kansas City, Mo.

"Farmington has been good to me, and I like to think that I've been good to Farmington."

HIS CHILDHOOD home was Garden City, Kan. At the conclusion of World War II, his family moved to East Lansing, where he completed his education.

Richardson's father was on the faculty of Michigan State University. Deciding that he would like to follow in his father's footsteps, Richardson received a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from MSU in 1957 with the intention of becoming a college professor.

people

It was the same year he married his wife, Shirley, whom he met while holding a summer job at a veterinarian's office in Holland while he was a student at MSU.

After graduating, he served in the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps for two years, which included practical work with animals.

After returning to East Lansing, things looked different.

"I decided I didn't like academia," he said.

DECIDING TO practice veterinary medicine, he received a master's degree in surgery and medicine from MSU in 1960. He then worked for a Detroit veterinary hospital for a year.

In 1961, he established the Plaza Veterinary Hospital, 22820 Mooney in Farmington, where he has practiced since.

Richardson said that he and his wife decided to move to the Farmington area after attending a service at a local church, and being impressed with the friendliness of the people.

WHEN HE opened the hospital, Richardson said he operated a little differently than he does now.

"When I first started, I was hungry. I would do anything," he said. So, he scheduled "one or two hair-

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Muslim leader stops by Hills

By Casey Hans
staff writer

World religious leader Dr. Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin visited Farmington Hills last week to see religious followers and bless the ground for a new mosque in the Hills.

Heading the Dawoodi Bohra Muslim community, the 74-year-old is a self-proclaimed "ambassador of peace." The sect is based in Bombay, India.

He claims a following of more than two million at 450 religious centers worldwide and about 150 in the Farmington Hills area.

The group's local mosque will be built on Orchard Lake Road between Eight and Nine Mile roads.

"HE IS gifted with patriotism and a progressive and realistic outlook," according to information from the Muslim University Gazette. Dr. Syedna received an honorary doctorate in theology from the Allgarh Muslim University in India and a doctorate in Islamic sciences from the Al-Azhar University.

His photo and story have appeared in newspapers around the world where he has met with heads of state and crowds of thousands.

"Our people, they are very happy and well-settled in the United States," said Syedna, called His Holiness by followers, through an interpreter.

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Dr. Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (center), who heads the Muslim sect of the Dawoodi Bohra community based in Bombay,

flanked by an interpreter (left) and Farmington Hills Mayor Joe Alkateeb.

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