

Convention for many is family affair

ATLANTA — There are no smoke-filled rooms because it's a family affair for many delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Barry Howard of West Bloomfield, Peggy Dickinson of Lathrup and Larry Delich of Birmingham are here with youngsters.

"We've been to the cyclorama; that's the battle of Atlanta," said Brian Howard, 12, a seventh grader at Orchard Lake Middle School.

"At the airport, we shook hands with Gephart. We saw Blanchard this morning."

"And Wonder Woman," added Chad Howard, 8, a third grader at Green Elementary.

"Yes, we saw (actress) Linda Carter at a reception for the delegates," said Brian.

The three Howard boys helped their attorney dad, a prominent Oakland Democratic fund-raiser, get elected a Dukakis delegate at the 18th Congressional Convention last May. He promised to take them to the convention. He kept his word, though one son is at summer camp this week.

The Terrace Garden Inn has a pool fountain and statue. Across Lenox Road is a mall with a Macy's and a load of ethnic food stands.

The mother, Ranny Howard, took the boys to the mall.

"I'M NOT A GROUPIE," said Peggy Dickinson, who is not a delegate. But she was a member of the credentials committee that settled

delegate seating disputes.

The mayor of Lathrup Village, she is the mother of Jennifer Dickinson, a University of Michigan economics graduate who landed a job last month with U.S. Rep. Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods.

"He's a great boss," said the younger Dickinson, who answers constituent mail from the 14th District and attends hearings for the congressman.

Hertel also is Michigan chairman of the Dukakis campaign, which places him among a handful of political stars in the 150-member delegation.

The Dickinsons got together when mom was in Washington for the credentials meeting and here in Atlanta.

"You can't underestimate the value of communications," said mayor Dickinson, who catches up on the pulse of outstate Michigan by talking to old friends from the western end.

"You catch up on issues there."

"He thought of it," said Sarah Delich, a 14-year-old Cranbrook-Kingswood student who made her dad take her to the convention.

Larry Delich of Birmingham is state party treasurer and at-large alternate to the Michigan delegation.

Wearing a Dukakis button herself, Sarah offered to pin one on Rick Weiner, state Democratic chairman.

"Oh no," said Weiner, who has had to labor mightily to keep peace in the Democratic family. Weiner wore no button.



Congressman Dennis Hertel (D-Harper Woods) is flanked by Lathrup Village Mayor Margaret Dickinson and her daughter Jennifer.

Thursday, July 21, 1988 O&E (T-RO-SKOR)

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