

SEMCOG taps Korzon as chair

With 130 member governments, it's rare for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) to pick two chairs from one town.

But it happened last week when SEMCOG's Executive Committee tapped Bloomfield Township Supervisor Fred Korzon for its top elected position.

"I consider it a distinct honor. I've been an advocate of regionalism," said Korzon, 64, who has served on virtually all the seven-county agency's major committees.

Korzon succeeds Nancy L. Davis,

who was defeated Nov. 8 for reelection as Ann Arbor Township supervisor. A Democrat, Davis lost out in a local rebellion against development and the projects of pizza king Thomas Monaghan.

THE 17TH Bloomfield supervisor to chair SEMCOG was Homer Case, Korzon's predecessor.

Case inherited the SEMCOG post in 1974 when Fraser Mayor James Grauman didn't seek reelection, according to executive director John Amberger.

Under SEMCOG rules, the

chairperson must be an elected official. Davis was the first woman to chair SEMCOG and the only one to lose an elected post during her SEMCOG term.

Wayne County is the only other unit which has produced two SEMCOG chairmen: Robert Fitzpatrick and Conrad Mallett, in the early and middle 1970s.

KORZON, PICKED without opposition by the executive committee, will hold the SEMCOG chair until March of 1989, when the general assembly fills the post for the remainder of the term — expiring in June of '89.

Korzon probably will be unable to succeed himself in June. He said SEMCOG is considering changing from two-year to one-year terms for chairman so that the post can be rotated between the counties, cities, townships and education bloc.

"I've been a SEMCOG delegate longer than I've been supervisor," said Korzon, who was township treasurer before succeeding Case as supervisor in 1981.

Korzon has chaired SEMCOG's Council on Regional Development (CORD) and Regional Clearinghouse Review Committee (RCR), the latter reviewing all federal grants coming

to southeastern Michigan local governments. He also is a member of the Area-wide Water Quality Board.

"SEMCOG is important group because it brings together seven counties," he said.

IN ANOTHER election development affecting SEMCOG, Janis Bobrin, manager of the water quality work, was elected Washtenaw County drain commissioner.

Bobrin was the only Democrat to win countywide office in 1988.

Amberger said Bobrin's water quality work will be taken over by Patrick Brunett of SEMCOG's environmental staff.



Fred Korzon regionalist

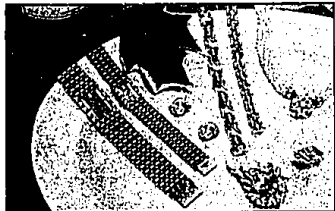
New mile of I-696 open at Royal Oak

Another mile of eastbound I-696 freeway in the Royal Oak area was opened to motorists Wednesday.

The ramp immediately east of Woodward was opened after 9:30 a.m. ceremonies.

The Michigan Department of Transportation said it had made special contract steps to open the ramp and a mile stretch of freeway a full year ahead of schedule. I-696 is currently open eastward from the Campbell Road ramp through the I-75 interchange. The new ramp access will add an additional mile to the west.

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