

Moderates elect GOP vice chairs by 2-1

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Suzanne Miller may be seeking perpetual youth.

The 23-year-old Farmington Hills woman has started a second term as (third) youth vice chair of the Michigan Republican Party.

"I'm the only third vice-chair who has ever run twice," said Miller, who left a job to work on a master's in advertising at Michigan State University.

She ranked with state chair E. Spencer Abraham as among the few top officers to win re-election unanimously Saturday at the Republican State Convention in Grand Rapids. Billed as a love fest, the convention actually showed party regulars hold a 2-1 majority over Pat Robertson's conservatives.

"Maybe you heard a couple weeks ago our friends in the Democrat Party elected a new state chairman (Tom Lewand) who said a No. 1 issue on his platform was getting back the youth vote. Ladies and gentlemen, I wish him luck," Miller told the cheering audience.

"Last year over 68 percent of the youth vote (ages 18-20) went for the Bush-Quayle ticket. We spoke to over 125 high schools and reached over 15,000 students.

"In 1990 we did it even better," she vowed, and party leaders are certain she'll deliver.

"An inspiration," said Saul Anuzis, chair of the 3rd Congressional District, in nominating her. Anuzis recalled her organization of the "Scatterblitzers," a youth group that campaigned by car caravan on the way to the 1988 national convention in New Orleans, and the "Inaugural Expedition," a trip to George Bush's inaugural for budget-conscious young folks.

Miller said her reason for seeking an unprecedented second term was to develop the contacts she has made the last two years — particularly now that Democrat Lewand wants to challenge her team.



Suzanne Miller
youth vice chair

ago after serving as Fisher Body's public relations director and director of organizational training and development.

Politically, he had been fifth vice chair from 1984-86, a delegate to the 1984 and 1988 national conventions and the 11th Congressional District's presidential elector in '84.

ANDY ANUZIS, 28, of Redford Township, won back his old job of fourth (ethnic) vice chair, defeating Arnold Simkus of the 4th Congressional District, 1,024 to 489.

Anuzis was nominated by Sen. Dick Posthumus of Lovell, a Kemp backer who refused to jump ship last year; Simkus, by former Sen. Alan Croseye, a fundamentalist conservative.

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Senate signs

Anyone with an inclination to run for the U.S. Senate nomination next year got a chance to address the state convention.

"Who's going over well?"

Suzanne Miller was pronouncing a sticker for Bill Schuette (wearing a "shoot-ee"), a second-term congressman from Midland County.

Andy Anuzis was openly plunking

for Clark Durant, former chair of the U.S. Legal Services Corp. whose bow tie and suspenders have become a trademark for the Kemp conservatives.

Many other Republicans were sporting stickers for Dick DeVos, an Amway Corp. vice president.

Jack Louma, the former astronaut who was the 1984 nominee against Sen. Carl Levin, surprised many by making his own pitch near the tail end of the convention. Louma has settled in Ann Arbor and has a defense-related business.



E. Spencer Abraham
fourth term, unopposed



Andy Anuzis
ethnic vice chair

U.S. REP. Paul Henry of Grand Rapids said he had "encouraged DeVos," although Henry himself is a Senate possibility against two-term Democrat Carl Levin next year. "It's do-able. That's the reason so many are looking at it," Henry said.

In an interview, Henry predicted party people would coalesce around one candidate by this fall. "It would be disastrous if the party tries to handpick a candidate," he said.

Joe Knollenberg, new chair of the 18th District and a veteran Oakland County leader, summed it up: "It's wide open."

Licking wounds

Mike Legg, one of the "kamikaze Kemples" of 1988, was replaced as 2nd Congressional District chair, but he's still active and attended the convention.

"I'm just licking my wounds. I don't want to start a fight," said the Northville Township lawyer who

professor, to 58 for Donnelly.

"Two people I counted on weren't there," she said, adding, "I'll clean out my files and do something that's fun."

Donnelly still was chair of the outgoing issues committee and introduced questions to the convention. Her summary of GOP philosophy: "Democrats say compassion is more social services. Compassion means creating 18 million new jobs for unemployed Americans. The best thing (Democratic Gov.) Jim Blanchard has done is grab hold of the Reagan recovery and hold on for all it's worth."

Low-key battles

The state convention was a love fest compared to the bitter division of a year ago, when the Kemp-Robertson conservative coalition walked out on the Bush moderates.

But there were still some battles, low-key in comparison, which showed the moderates, joined by the former Jack Kemp supporters, hold a 2-1 advantage among party regulars.

A test case, as Miller saw it, was the contest for fifth (senior citizens) vice chair.

C.W. (Mac) McClellan, a Harbor Springs resident who spent 20 years in Bloomfield Township, defeated the 14th Congressional District's "favorite grandmother," Mary Lowe of Troy. The roll call was 1,007 for McClellan to 517 for Lowe, who was backed by last year's Robertson forces.

"We're supposed to bring back the retirees in Michigan's north country," said McClellan, who admitted many UAW retirees around Atlanta are keeping their union-Democratic affiliations. But he added GM retirees have their own club in "the Harbor."

McClellan retired 12 years ago

"My job will be building bridges with the heritage groups*— Polish, Lithuanian, Irish," said Anuzis, whose roots are Lithuanian.

"We spoke to the Ukrainian high school in Hamtramck, and they organized a teenage Republican club.

Anuzis was 17th District chair last year and one of the Kemp supporters who last year stayed in the fold with Posthumus. A one-time legislative aide, Anuzis now is working on an master of business administration degree at the University of Michigan-Deerborn.

The two roll calls were stopped when the 2-1 moderate trend was apparent. But they showed the loyalists of TV evangelist Pat Robertson are still in control in the 6th (Eastland, Lansing), 7th (Flint), 14th (northwest suburbs) and 15th (west central Wayne suburbs) congressional districts.

But Paul Weiday, a Kemp chieftain last year, said the GOP is better off after the infusion of conservative new blood. "The Robertson people built a fire under them (mainstream veterans), opened up their eyes," Weiday said.

One clear peace signal: Abraham's nominating speeches were made by national committeewoman Ronna Romney of Bloomfield Hills, a Bush backer; and Lori Packer, of Southfield, a Robertson backer. Packer praised Abraham for "bringing people together."



GOP caucuses elect officers

Here are results of area congressional district caucuses from last weekend's Republican State Convention in Grand Rapids. (RSC stands for Republican State Committee, governing body of the party between conventions.)

17TH DISTRICT — Chair, Dennis Fiesland, Huntington Woods. Vice chair, Jon Reilly, Redford Township. Secretary, Marie Reese, Detroit. Treasurer, Patrick Peeney, Royal Oak.

RSC: James Stewart of Huntington Woods, Susan Licata Haroutunian of Detroit, Connie Richards of

Royal Oak, Richard Dunsmore of Redford Township.

18TH DISTRICT — Chair, Joseph Knollenberg, Bloomfield Township. Vice chair, Judy Riedinger, Bloomfield Township. Secretary, Julie Fugini, Farmington Hills. Treasurer, Mike Bouchard, Beverly Hills.

RSC: Larry Dickerson of Farmington Hills, Bob Tera of Birmingham, Yvonne Sirother of Rochester Hills, Kay Schmid of Novi.

In the only major contest, Schmid won over Jean Fox of Farmington Hills. Fox was one of the "kamikaze Kemples" who conducted a conservative coalition convention in 1986.

Roman life subject of program at OCC

Norma Goldman, professor of classics at Wayne State University, will speak on "Daily Life in Ancient Rome" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at Smith Theater on the Orchard Ridge campus, Oakland Community College.

The program, part of a series sponsored by the OCC Music and Fine Arts Department, is open to the public free of charge.

Goldman, recipient of several National Endowment for the Arts grants, is currently writing a book on Roman lamps. She also speaks and writes on the Roman Colosseum and Roman fashions. These topics will be included in her presentation Tuesday. The campus is at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills.



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