

New leader of NEA has ties to area

The new president of the nation's largest teacher's union can boast strong ties to suburban Detroit schools.

Keith B. Geiger, 47, was elected president of the 1.9 million-member National Education Association during balloting Monday at the organization's national convention in Washington, D.C.

A former Livonia resident, Geiger taught high school mathematics and science in the Livonia Public Schools during the 1960s and early 1970s.

"I always valued my teaching experience there," Geiger said. "The schools in Michigan in general, and Livonia in particular, are good schools because people in Michigan value education."

Though he won't directly deal with Michigan's controversy over per-student spending differences among rich and poor districts, Geiger said long-term NEA policy might help.

"Our priority is to return funding for federal education programs to pre-Reagan era levels," he said. "While that only affects special programs, it should still help."

Promoting collective bargaining among teachers in right-to-work states and continuing the NEA's "learning laboratory" program — in which one school district in each state could be given free rein to develop innovative educational programs — are among the organization's other goals.

While in Livonia, Geiger served as president of the district teacher's union, the Livonia Education Association,



Keith Geiger

teacher whose friendship with Geiger began in 1984.

Geiger was a member of the NEA's 1976 Presidential Screening and Endorsement Committee and has been a delegate to two Democratic National Conventions.

In addition to his union duties, Geiger is an executive committee member of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, a labor committee member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission and a director of KIDNET, a computerized clearinghouse for children's television and radio.

In 1988, he served as a judge for the USA Today's All-Academic Team, as well as the National League of Cities Innovations Awards Competition.

Born in Pigeon, in Michigan's thumb area, Geiger attended high school there and earned a bachelor's from Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky., and a master's from Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn. He has extended his post-graduate studies at the University of Michigan.

Geiger, wife Janet, and two sons live in Fairfax, Va., a Washington, D.C. suburb.

Abortion rights rulings vary

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• 1977 — *Beal v. Doe, Maher v. Roe and Poelker v. Doe*, all 8-3, upheld the right of states to refuse to spend public money for abortions that are of an elective or non-therapeutic nature.

• 1978 — *Colautti v. Franklin*, 6-3, struck down a Pennsylvania requirement that a physician try to save the life of a fetus whenever the doctor had reason to believe that the fetus might be able to survive outside the mother's body.

Bellotti v. Baird, 8-1, held that requiring parental consent burdened an individual's right to an abortion. The court found the Massachusetts law unconstitutional and ruled that, without prior parental consultation, a minor must have access to a confidential proceeding before a judge to argue that an abortion is in her best interests.

• 1980 — *Harris v. McRae*, 5-4, held that it is constitutional for the federal government to permit Medicaid funding only for abortions necessary to save the woman's life. Since 1977, Congress has denied federal Medicaid funding for abortions under the Hyde amendment, named for original sponsor Rep. Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill.

• 1983 — *City of Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*, 6-3, struck down a city ordinance requiring that all abortions after the first trimester be performed in full service hospitals and an "informed consent" provision requiring the physician to tell patients that the fetus is a human being from the moment of conception, to describe the fetus' physical development and to list all possible physical and emo-

tional consequences of the abortion. The court also ruled unconstitutional a city ordinance requiring a woman to wait 24 hours between consenting to and receiving an abortion.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas City, Mo. v. Ashcroft, 6-3, struck down a requirement that all abortions after the first trimester be performed in a hospital. The court also upheld, 3-4, provisions of a Missouri law requiring "unemancipated" minors to obtain parental or judicial consent for an abortion. This requirement was permissible while a similar one in the Akron ordinance was not, because Missouri's requirement spelled out a judicial-consent alternative for a minor who could not or would not obtain parental consent.

Simopoulos v. Virginia, 8-1, upheld a state law requiring that second-trimester abortions be performed in a hospital, the court distinguished this hospitalization requirement from those struck down in the Akron and Kansas City cases because the Virginia law defined licensed outpatient surgical clinics as hospitals.

• 1986 — *Thornburgh v. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*, 5-4, struck down a state requirement that the doctor use the same degree of care in aborting a fetus as he would if delivering it and that he use the abortion method providing the best opportunity for the fetus to be born alive. The court ruled Pennsylvania's informed-consent requirement unconstitutional, saying it was an attempt to dissuade women from an abortion, and struck down a reporting requirement on the ground that it would violate confidentiality of medical records.

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