

O&E staffer leads journalists' group

James Ritz, a design team leader for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, has been elected president of the Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for 1989-90. Other chapter officers are John Lindstrom, reporter for Crain's Detroit Business, first vice president; Steve Barnaby, Observer & Eccentric managing editor, second vice president; and University of Michigan publicist Janet Mondler, who will continue as chapter secretary. Ritz succeeds Canton resident William Semion, associate editor of Auto Club's Michigan Living Magazine, as president. Other members of the board include Susan Buck, an Observer & Eccentric writer, and Andrea Nodge, publicist for Madonna College in Livonia. Rounding out the board are public relations consultant Frank Butler, free lance writer Cindy Kyle, Nancy Cain of the Auto Club's public relations staff, Ned McGrath of WDIV-TV and Calvin Stovall, business editor, Detroit News.

Ritz had served as vice president and treasurer of the chapter, which has nearly 200 members and represents journalists in the Southeastern Michigan area. He is in his 12th year, as president. Other members of the board include Susan Buck, an Observer & Eccentric writer, and Andrea Nodge, publicist for Madonna College in Livonia. Rounding out the board are public relations consultant Frank Butler, free lance writer Cindy Kyle, Nancy Cain of the Auto Club's public relations staff, Ned McGrath of WDIV-TV and Calvin Stovall, business editor, Detroit News.

White Lake official disputes task force's advice

By Philip A. Sherman
staff writer

Oakland County Commissioner Anne Hobart, who represents Waterford and White Lake townships, wouldn't bet a task force recommendation to build a prison in White Lake will become a reality.

"You can be assured that as far as I'm concerned, we're not going to have a third prison out there," Hobart said. "I'm not happy to have somebody recommending a prison in my township."

A task force of county commissioners last week recommended White Lake as the site for a 600-bed medium security prison that will have a campus setting, according to Roy Rowold, commission chairman. Public Act 303 and 485, adopted by the Legislature in 1986, mandate construction of prisons throughout Michigan to house the growing num-

ber of inmates. Rowold said the task force proposal to the Department of Corrections would put that prison on a 60-acre site in northern White Lake township.

HOBART SAID Camp Gilman, a women's prison in the area, hasn't been a problem, but Camp Pontiac has.

"It's overcrowded. It was built for 87 and the last I heard, there were 100 inmates there with inadequate security staffing," she said. "That's been my problem. The state has not fulfilled their obligation to us," Hobart said.

Rowold declined to list other sites the task force considered for the prison. "We're not going to talk about the other ones that were considered," he said. "And it's premature to discuss why White Lake is the

best site for the prison."

While he did say he didn't want to negotiate in the media, Rowold added the task force was "looking for a spot where it (the prison) can be somewhat concealed by the lay of the land."

Commissioner Lawrence Pernick, of Southfield, a task force member, agreed with Rowold on one point. "It doesn't pay to mention alternatives, because there are no alternatives," Pernick said.

"I THINK we wanted to find a site that had minimum public accessibility," Pernick said. He also said the task force didn't want to diminish the tax roles.

The proposal now "goes to negotiation with the county and state and township to strike the best deal for the people in that area," Pernick

said. He and Hobart said no date has been set for that negotiating session. "If we (county residents) are going to take on our share of undesirable institutions, then we want to make it as easy as possible" for the people in White Lake, Pernick said.

A written statement from the board says Rowold will help White Lake in its negotiations with the state and that a prison in the township will not reduce the tax base. "Today, the state is looking for large sections of land and is willing to put in sewer and water systems," Rowold said in the statement.

Other task force members are commissioners Larry Crake, Waterford; Nancy McConnell, Bloomfield Hills; Ruth Johnson, northern Oakland County; and Rowold, who represents Orion and Oakland townships.

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