

# Dem Factions In Unity Slate

By TIM RICHARD

None of the five factions had more than about a quarter of the votes, so the 19th-Wayne Democrats elected a "unity slate" of officers representing everyone.

Bill J. Robbins, who only last fall came from relative obscurity to be elected Redford Township supervisor, was the compromise choice for chairman. The district covers Redford, Livonia and the City of Northville.

Robbins succeeds Mrs. Maxine Brodsky, who succeeded to the post after the controversial Ron Mardiros quit last spring to devote more of his energy to the Livonia administration of Mayor Edward McNamara.

Mrs. Brodsky, who had an important role in pulling together the factions, was elected to the special rank of first vice chairman. She is a Livonia housewife and a Mardiros ally.

KEY TO the compromise was the election of five vice chairmen, each representing a faction within the party:

• Ken Morris, a lawyer and Mardiros ally;  
• Cornelius DeStigter, a teacher and leader in the New Democratic Coalition, a few of whose members want to pull entirely out of the party and join Zoltan Fereny's Human Rights Party;  
• Nate Banks, representing Redford's labor group;  
• William Ford, representing Redford's regular Democrats;  
• James Gordon, of the Redford Boosters.

Elected to the Democratic State Central Committee, governing body of the party, were Mardiros, Livonia assessor and bail bondsman; Betty Deamud, wife of secretary of state branch manager Charles Deamud; and Mrs. Pat Whitton, of the Livonia labor group.

Persons filling other offices, the trustee posts, State Central alternates and executive board seats all reflected the party's five factions.

AFTER ROBBINS was elected chairman by roll call

(57 votes vs. one for another person and nine abstentions), State Rep. Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia) offered a single nomination of the "unity slate," and precinct delegates meeting Friday night in South Redford's Thurston High School elected them in one, unanimous voice vote.

Said Stempien, who has grown a beard since being re-elected to the Legislature in November:

"Those who have been around for a few years might raise an eyebrow at this slate. A great deal of hard work and a great deal of compromise were involved."

No group in Livonia had more than 26 of the 49 precinct delegate votes, and none in Redford had more than 22 of the 49 votes there, Stempien said.

"We tried to look at the kind of people elected precinct delegates last August and the group they would be aligned with," he explained.

IT WAS generally agreed that the unity slate avoided a free-for-all election in which

someone with a handful of votes could theoretically have been elected to the executive board.

The factions got together with about 20 persons present. As Mrs. Brodsky explained it, they selected a panel of 10-five from Livonia and five from Redford-to draw up the slate.

The five Livonians were Morris; Mrs. Brodsky; Jerry Raymond, a councilman and former party chairman; Paul Endicott, and Paul Kadish, last year's State Senate candidate.

Redfordites were Joseph Patchett, treasurer under both the old and new regimes; Gordon; Robert Rowland of the Boosters; Charles Deamud; and Angelo Bommarito.

LAST FRIDAY'S convention was a marked contrast to the changing of the guard two years ago, when Mardiros put together a coalition that shut out 45 per cent of the party from any offices. The 1969 upheaval resulted in a credentials fight at the state convention, a run to Circuit Court and months of negotiation before the Mardiros group agreed to expand the executive board.

Notable by their attendance were such NDC stalwarts as Ron Hecker, that group's 1969 candidate for the Democratic congressional nomination; DeStigter, current coalition chairman; and Rev. James Schaefer, Livonia clergyman.

Little discussion was given to the main business of the convention—electing delegates to the forthcoming state convention in Grand Rapids where a state chairman will be elected.

The 19th-Wayne adopted an "open" convention rule, whereby all state representatives, elected precinct delegates and persons who have paid party dues by Jan. 29 will be allowed to attend.

ONLY ONE part of a resolutions committee report ran into any trouble.

An otherwise vague and legalistic proposal, which concluded with a remark

about the "unfortunate circumstances in the trial of Angela Davis," was knocked to the table in an overwhelming vote.

Miss Davis, a former philosophy instructor who is also black and Communist, is on trial in California in a case where a federal judge, and three escaping prisoners were shot to death.

Majority opinion was that any resolution on the Davis trial would amount to a pre-judgment.

The Democrats also backed U. S. Rep. John Conyers of Detroit in his fight to have Mississippi congressmen kicked out of the Democratic caucus and given bottom committee positions.

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THERE'S UNITY in the 19th District-Wayne Democratic Party after last week's convention. From left, Mrs. Maxine Brodsky, first vice chairman; Bill J. Robbins, with the unity slate; and State Rep. Marvin Stempien, who offered the slate on the local convention floor. (Observer photo)

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Thousands of adults throughout southeastern Michigan will take part in spring term classes beginning Feb. 8 at the University Center for Adult Education.

Co-sponsored by Wayne State University and the University of Michigan, the Center offers university level, non-credit programs in Detroit, Dearborn, Grosse Pointe and Ann Arbor.

In-person registration may be made at the UCAE office, Room 111 of the Razem Educational Memorial Building, 60 Farnsworth, (west of Woodward) 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday or 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Call 577-4666 for complete information.

Registrations for courses offered in Dearborn and Ann Arbor will also be accepted at the following offices: Dearborn: 239 Classroom Bldg., U-M Campus, Dearborn (271-2300, ext. 271); Ann Arbor: U-M Extension Service offices, 412 Maynard St., Ann Arbor (764-3001).

OF PARTICULAR interest this spring are: Animals. In and Out of the Zoo and Birds of the World (two courses at the Zoo), Witchcraft, Art and Culture of the Orient, Edible Plants, The Art of Impersonation, Travel Photography.

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