

# OU president 'will be missed'

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Earlier this year Joseph E. Champagne had received a "glowing" appraisal of the job he was doing as president of Oakland University, according to one of the OU trustees involved in the evaluation.

"His resignation was totally unexpected and he'll be deeply missed," Trustee James A. Sharp said Friday, shortly after Champagne's resignation was announced in a one-page statement.

"President Champagne may be available for comment next week," said James D. Llewellyn, OU news director. "But there will be no additional information immediately."

The OU statement listed no reason for Champagne's resignation, saying only that it is effective later this summer.

The statement also said, "The announcement came following his election to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of Crittenton Corporation, also of Rochester."

"Crittenton Corp., formed in 1982, is the parent company that owns a number of health care operations in northern Oakland County

including Crittenton Hospital." The statement quotes Champagne saying, "I am very proud to have been associated with Oakland University and its outstanding faculty and staff. But 10 years is long enough for a chief executive and it's time for me to move on."

"The opportunity that Crittenton Corporation provides allows me to remain here (in the area) and to continue to work in the field of human services."

The statement said Champagne's proudest achievement at OU came from the 10-year reaccreditation report of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in 1989.

In the report, OU was cited as poised to be the model university of the 21st century, combining excellent teaching, scholarly research and public service.

Champagne, 53, has been OU president since 1981. He was vice president for Academic Affairs at the University of Houston system.

Sharp said he and other trustees gave a highly laudatory evaluation of Champagne in their appraisal.

"He was one of the longest-serving university presidents in the state," said Sharp.

# Jewish vets to get at least \$1,000

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

The Jewish War Veterans — as well as other county-based veterans organizations — will qualify for up to \$1,000 each to host a state convention in Oakland, according to a policy introduced by the board of commissioners Thursday.

The policy was referred to committee and will likely be reviewed by the full board next month.

"We want to say 'thanks' to veterans organizations," explained commissioner John G. Pappageorge, R-Troy. "But we want to have an orderly method of distributing the money."

The need for a uniform policy arose earlier this year when the Jewish War Veterans requested \$5,000 to defray expenses of their state convention to be held in Southfield next month.

The Jewish veterans were asking for the same amount given to the Military Order of the Purple Heart last year when the group held its state convention in Novi.

State law permits governmental agencies — like Oakland County — to give up to \$5,000 to veterans organizations for hosting state conventions.

Concern over the request from the Jewish veterans arose, however, when commissioners learned that

other veterans groups in Oakland were hosting conventions and thus might be expected to ask for money.

Commissioners appreciate the efforts of the veterans organizations, explained Pappageorge, a graduate of West Point. But they decided to formulate a policy, even though none existed when the Jewish veterans made their proposal.

Under the proposed policy, the county will set aside a maximum of \$5,000 to be given to all veterans groups, said Pappageorge. Each individual organization can receive up to \$1,000 each.

"IF SIX GROUPS apply, the \$5,000 will be divided six ways," he said.

The new policy leaves commissioners with a basic question, Pappageorge admitted. How much should Oakland County provide to the Jewish War Veterans?

"They will get a minimum of \$1,000," Pappageorge said. But since they applied before the policy was enacted, they could get more.

"We have to work it out in committee," he said.

Commissioner Lawrence R. Pernick, D-Southfield, said he is gener-

ally satisfied with the new policy. "We want to treat everyone equal," he said. "And we don't want commissioners in a position of having to judge which veterans group is more deserving."

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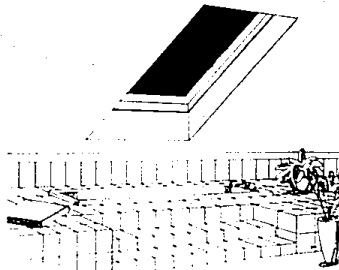
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