

Eleven candidates file for 3 OCC board seats

By Wayne Peal
staff writer

With 11 candidates vying for three seats, the June 8 Oakland Community College election boasts one of the most crowded fields in college history.

Incumbents Judith Wiser and Sam Yono have filed for new six-year seats. Fellow incumbent Margaret MacTavish isn't running, assuring the college of at least one new trustee.

Wiser, first elected in 1986, seeks a second six-year term. Yono, appointed to the board last fall, seeks his first full term.

Wiser, 48, of West Bloomfield, recently graduated from the OCC paraprofessional program. She also holds a bachelor's in education from Wayne State University and has taught at OCC.

"It's important we keep college affordable and, when the economy gets better, do more for the arts," she said.

Yono, 41, of Novi, operates a Detroit-based food business and is chairman of the Chaldean Federation, Southfield.

"I believe I can help the community meet its diverse cultural needs," he said.

MACTAVISH is leaving the board after 12 years due to increased "personal and work demands." The Rochester Hills resident is director of human resource management at Macomb Community College.

Wiser and Yono face nine challengers, including seven newcomers.

The three highest vote-getters will receive six-year seats. Balloting will be conducted alongside local school elections. Candidates have until 4 p.m. Thursday to withdraw.

Challengers include:

- Karen Apolloni, 35, of Farmington Hills: Apolloni is a medical technologist and lab supervisor at Madison Community Hospital, Madison Heights.

She holds a bachelor's in medical technology from Wayne State University and is completing a master's in administration from Central Michigan University.

"I'm interested in continuing education for adults and especially interested in OCC health care programs," Apolloni said.

Paul Bailey, 40, of Oakland Township: Bailey is an attorney with

an office in Lake Orion. He received his law degree from Detroit College of Law and holds a bachelor's in business administration from Central Michigan University.

A member of the Lake Orion Schools Foundation, Bailey is running "because of my interest in education."

Jean Benzing, 53, of Independence Township: Benzing is a human service professional. She holds an associate's degree in landscape technology from OCC, as well as a bachelor's in urban studies from the University of Michigan-Flint and a bachelor's in business administration from Central Michigan University.

"I'd like to help the unemployed, there are a lot of people out there job hunting," Benzing said.

D'Arcy Gonzales, 41, of Lake Orion is a second vice president and district manager with National Bank of Detroit, Pontiac. He holds a bachelor's in business administration from Siena Heights College, Adrian and has attended the University of Wisconsin graduate school of banking.

"I feel there's a growing need for community colleges," said Gonzales, who added he'd like to see OCC target students right out of high school. Gonzales is one of two challengers who also applied for the board appointment last fall.

Laurence Imerman, 44, of Bloomfield Hills: Imerman is an attorney with an office in Bingham Farms. He received his law degree from the University of Detroit, holds a master's in public health from the University of Michigan, a master's in political science from Wayne State University and a bachelor's in political science from Washington University, St. Louis.

"I wanted to do something with higher education and junior colleges are where it's all happening today," Imerman said.

Richard Lindgren, 65, of Bloomfield Township: Lindgren is president of Lorr Corp., a Bloomfield Hills investment company.

He holds a master's from Harvard, and a bachelor's in business administration from the University of Minnesota.

Running because of his "long interest in the college," Lindgren helped develop a college manufac-

turing laboratory and is former chairman of the OCC Foundation.

Anne Scott, 51, of Royal Oak: Scott owns Temps By Scott, a Royal Oak employment service. She holds a bachelor's in elementary education from DePaul College, DePaul, Ohio.

"I've been involved with OCC for a long time," said Scott, who has helped develop college secretarial programs as well as being the mother of three former OCC students.

Janice Simmons, 47, of Rochester Hills: Simmons is vice president of marketing and public relations for North Oakland Medical Center, Pontiac. She holds an associate's degree from OCC, as well as a master's in administration and a bachelor's in nursing, both from Madonna University, Livonia.

"OCC was the foundation for my career," said Simmons, who has been involved with youth summer programs at the college. She also applied for the OCC board last fall.

Gary Welsh, 57, of Lake Angelus: Welsh is a thoracic surgeon with an office in Royal Oak. He received his medical degree from the University of Western Ontario, London, Ont.

"I am interested in building a liaison with area high schools, especially with regard to dropouts," said Welsh, a founding director of the OCC respiratory therapy program.

OCC trustees oversee the college budget and college programs. They serve without pay.

No new judges in wings for county

By Wayne Peal
staff writer

Two new Oakland Circuit Judges probably won't be added this year, short circuiting what could have been one of the county's hottest election races.

House members overwhelmingly

approved adding two seats, state senators resisted it to one seat, but no money is available for any new seats due to the state's budget deficit.

"There's still a chance something could happen this year, but the chances are growing slimmer," said

John Lorez, aide to William Van Regenmortel, R-Jensen, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The House proposal would have added two seats immediately. State senators sent back a proposal adding one seat in 1994.

House members were debating the Senate version Tuesday, but its future appeared uncertain. Circuit court seats are financed by the state and county.

"THE BIG ISSUE is money," Lorez said. "Is the governor going to approve something that would add to the deficit? Probably not."

Chief Oakland Circuit Judge Richard Kuhn said he understood the state's financial straits.

"I'm not disappointed, everybody has to face cuts," Kuhn said. "But if anybody should get money for new judges, it should be us."

Oakland's 16 circuit judges had eagerly anticipated adding additional colleagues, he added.

Judges in the Oakland circuit handle an estimated 2,900 cases a year.

Kuhn said. "Nobody has as big a workload as we do."

In 1990, eventual winners Deborah Tyner and Rudy Nichols were among six candidates who vied for two new seats on the Oakland circuit bench.

Another crowded field was considered likely this year, but candidates are now putting their campaign plan on hold.

"I was considering running, now it looks like I'm going to have to wait until 1994," Southfield District Judge Bryan Levy said.

NEARLY HALF the circuit court case load involves domestic issues, including divorce, according to a 1988 survey. The rest of its docket is nearly evenly divided among criminal and civil matters.

Oakland is the state's second largest judicial circuit, trailing only Wayne County.

The county has grown steadily since 1953, when the Legislature raised the number of judges from five to seven.

Oakland Probate judge heads state tenure commission

Barry M. Grant, chief judge of the Oakland County Probate Court, has been elected chairman of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission.

Grant is the first probate judge in state history to be elected to head the commission.

The Judicial Tenure Commission is a constitutionally created body to oversee and review the conduct of all judges with the authority to discipline them for misconduct.

Grant has been a judge since 1977. He is a director of the National College of Probate Judges and editor-in-

chief of their national publication. He is past president of the Michigan Probate Judges Association and served as treasurer and secretary of that association.

Grant started his career as a clerk of the probate court and served four years as an Oakland County assistant prosecutor. Grant was treasurer of the Southfield Board of Education.

A graduate of the Wayne State University School of Law, Grant is married and the father of three children.

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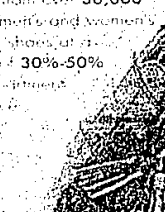


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