GOP committeewoman battle what they say between the lines

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

In a campaign of code words, three rivals are seeking to be Republican national committeewoman from Michigan.

Rarely does the public see a national committee member at work. The job is fund-raising and bolstering the spirits of the party faithful.

Nanna Romney of Bloomfield Hills emerged from the Headlee for Governor campaign eight years ago to win the job. Seeking a third term, from delegates to the GOP national convention, she is being challenged by Betsy DeVos of Grand Rapids and Andrea Fischer of Birmingham.

There's no salary but some travel reimbursement. The GOP National Committee picks the national chair and sets the national budget. Members may do any number of jobs at the state level.

Delegates to the Oakland County GOP convention heard from the Romney, Fischer and a stand-in for DeVos. Here is what they said and, with the help of assorted delegates who asked to remain anonymous, the meaning of the code words.

"I had hoped I could run unopposed," said Romney, 48, promising this would be her last term. She announced early so that successors can have "four years to prove themselves."

In the job you "drive and drive and drive and raise money. I invited some people to my house for dinner one night, and they asked how much it would cost."

When her predecessor, Nanny Hiecker, left after 14 years, "she hadn't lost her luster, and neither have I."

Translation: I've done the job, at great personal sacrifice. I'm not over the hill. My rivals have yet to prove themselves.

Betsy DeVos, 38, comes from the Grand Rapids political and business family. Her letter was read by Lori Packer, a 1988 Robertson for President campaigner who stuck with the party.

The GOP needs candidates "who share our values . . ." The word "values" is repeated later.

"Like each of you, I have distributed literature, put up yard signs, recruited volunteers, worked on campaigns from local school board to president." DeVos emphasized her "grass roots experience" as a county and district party chair.

Translation: My rivals' divorces lurk in the background. I started at the bottom, not the top. The religious right plays a role.

Fischer, 33, of Birmingham, is "a working mother (with) a successful career" as an attorney at Miller Canfield, her literature says. She started by working on housing arrangements for the 1980 national convention in Detroit.

Fischer is an Oakland University trustee, former board member of the Michigan Strategic Fund (per Engler appointments) and former aide to then-VP George Bush.

"In 1988 I went out and helped Engler raise over $1 million. You helped me . . .

"When Brooks Patterson came to me two years ago and said I want to run for county executive, I said I'm here and started right away, and that's why he's on board with me. When the governor asked for help on Cut & Cap (property tax cut), I got out there, got petitions signed, raised money, spoke to groups.

"When Mat Dunaskiss came to me for help on his Senate race, I was there. That's why he's supporting me.

"When people ask me for help, I respond."

Translation: I'm wired to the current movers and shakers and can do the job you want better.

Prognosis: Young rivals don't want to wait for Romney to retire. Her divorce, after authoring popular psych books, has hurt.

Gov. Engler is taking no part, a rarity for him.

DeVos has a handicap: The national committeeman, Chuck Yob, also is from Grand Rapids, and Republicans believe in geographic ticket balancing.

Romney could survive. But the clear lesson is that it's unwise to hang onto a political job too long.

Delegates elected at county conventions will attend a state convention May 29-30 in Detroit to pick the national committee man and woman. (State chair David Doyle is the third Michigan member).

Service stations giving assistance to handicapped

More than 100 Oakland County gas stations will provide full service to handicapped adults at self-service prices as part of a statewide effort to improve conditions for people with disabilities.

Stations are participating on a volunteer basis. They are listed in a new Pump Guide.

To receive service at the reduced rate, handicapped drivers must have a valid plate or permit and no one else in the car who can assist. The 1,100 Michigan service stations participating in the program will display a window decal.

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MORTGAGE RATE UPDATE
A Weekly Summary of Detroit Area Lenders

Lender	Phone	Term	Rate	Pts	Down %	Lock	App Fee
ATLAS MORTGAGE CORP.	1-800-365-2200	30 yr Fix	8.25%	2.00	5%	60 days	-
		15 yr Fix	7.87%	2.00	10%	60 days	-
		7/37 Bal	7.87%	2.00	10%	60 days	-
		Servicing all of the above mortgages. Area & nationwide. Call in Saginaw St. Livonia, MI 48150					
MORTGAGE CORP. OF AMERICA	358-5550	30 yr Fix	8.375%	3.00	5%	60 days	-
		15 yr Fix	7.875%	3.00	10%	60 days	-
		5/25 Bal	8.00%	3.00	10%	60 days	-
		Residential home loan specialists since 1952. 23999 Northwestern Hwy., Ste. 101, Southfield, MI 48075					
DETROIT SAVINGS BANK	961-7500	30 yr Fix	8.375%	1.00	5%	60 days	-
		15 yr Fix	7.875%	2.00	5%	60 days	-
		7/23 Bal	7.75%	2.25	5%	60 days	-
		15 yr Fix	8.25%	2.00	5%	60 days	-
		5 yr Bal	7.625%	2.00	10%	60 days	-
		1 yr Arm	5.00%	1.875	10%	60 days	-
		1 yr Arm	5.50%	1.00	10%	60 days	-
		1 yr Arm	6.00%	1.00	10%	60 days	-
		Points vary based on loan amounts. Above prices for $175,000 loan amounts. 611 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48226					
MUTUAL FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.	474-8470	30 yr Fix	8.50%	3.00	5%	60 days	2.75%
		15 yr Fix	8.00%	3.00	5%	60 days	2.75%
		5/25 Bal	7.375%	2.00	10%	60 days	2.75%
		We meet lowest prices daily competition. 21625 Farmington Rd., Farmington, MI 48336					
OMEGA MORTGAGE CORP.	471-5000	30 yr Fix	8.00%	3.00	5%	60 days	-
		15 yr Fix	7.75%	3.00	10%	60 days	-
		5 yr Bal	7.50	3.00	10%	60 days	-
		Limitations: See lender under $150,000. Total dollar loans. 30445 Eight Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48152					
EQUITRUST MORTGAGE CORP.	462-5990	30 yr Fix	8.50%	1%	5%	60 days	-
		15 yr Fix	8.00%	1%	5%	60 days	-
		30 yr Jumbo	8.25%	1%	5%	60 days	-
		APR JUMBO (200,300 Plus). 8.75% (150 plus 34 Mo. Balloon Refin Plan). Southfield, MI 48075					
PACIFIC WORLD MORTGAGE	642-1030	30 yr Fix	8.375%	3.00	5%	60 days	-
		15 yr Fix	8.375%	3.00	5%	60 days	-
		5 yr Arm	8.375%	1.00	10%	60 days	-
		Call for current rates. Refinance, purchase, jumbo mortgages. 1633 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304					
FIRST INTRNL. FINANCIAL CORP.	649-6304	30 yr Fix	8.625%	1.00	5%	60 days	3.75%
		15 yr Fix	8.375%	2.00	10%	60 days	3.75%
		15 yr Fix	7.625%	2.00	10%	60 days	3.75%
		15 yr Fix	7.50	2.00	10%	60 days	-
		Mortgage Rate Sun. Jun. 181. Free, MI 48066					
PRUDENTIAL MORTGAGE INC.	851-6410	30 yr Fix	8.625%	1.00	5%	60 days	3.75%
		15 yr Fix	8.375%	2.00	5%	60 days	3.75%
		5 yr Arm	7.625%	2.00	10%	60 days	3.75%
		Don't miss our CLOSING COSTS! Low and up - 3.75% Arm. 29800 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334					
FIRST SAVERS FINANCIAL CORP.	333-2333	30 yr Fix	7.875	2.00	5%	30 days	3.75%
		30 yr Fix	8.00	1%	5%	60 days	3.75%
		Low 30 yr. New Yrs 2 yrs. 3.875% Yrs refinancing rates.					
		Quality, Long $150,000 limit and 5 Yr. home mortgage.					
		30 day closings, same day approvals.					
		1363 S. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302					
RESIDENTIAL MTG. FUNDING CORP.	262-5800	30 yr Fix	7.875	2.00	5%	30 days	3.75%
		Low 30 yr. New Yrs 2 yrs. 3.875% Yrs refinancing rates.					
		1 yr Arm	5.00	2.00	10%	30 days	3.75%
		30 day closings, same day approvals.					
		29777 Telegraph Rd., Southfield, MI 48034					
FIRST SECURITY SAVINGS BANK	332-7600	30 yr Fix	8.375	3.00	5%	60 days	3.00
		15 yr Fix	7.375	3.00	5%	60 days	3.00
		5 yr Arm	7.375	3.00	10%	60 days	3.00
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		3000 Livernois Rd., Troy, MI 48083-4943					
SECURITY HOME LOAN	669-4334	30 yr Fix	8.375	3.00	5%	60 days	3.75%
		15 yr Fix	7.875	3.00	5%	60 days	3.75%
		5 yr Arm	7.875	3.00	10%	60 days	3.75%
		Fast local quote. Easy, easy, but not to easy.					
		30200 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 275, Bingham Farms, MI 48025					
FLEET MORTGAGE	462-4041	30 yr Fix	8.375%	3%	5%	60 days	-
		15 yr Fix	8.00%	3%	5%	60 days	-
		7/23 Bal	8.375%	3%	5%	60 days	-
		5/25 Bal	8.00%	3%	5%	60 days	-
		30159 Grand River Ave., Ste. 275, Livonia, MI 48152					
ST. JAMES SERVICING CORPORATION	258-9600	30 yr Fix	8.375%	3.00	5%	60 days	3.00%
		15 yr Fix	8.00	3.00	10%	60 days	3.00%
		7/23 Bal	8.375	3.00	10%	60 days	3.00%
		Call for current rates on jumbo and fixed.					
		1249 Washington Blvd., Ste. 2115, Detroit, MI 48226					
MIDWEST MORTGAGE CO.	451-0000	30 yr Fix	8.00	2.00	5%	30 days	3.00%
		30 day or 15 day closings.					
		Non-FHA 7/23 Bal 8.125% 2 pts with a 12%					
		Non-FHA 5/25 Bal 8.00% 2 pts with a 12%					
		8 years of mortgage loan experience.					
		400 Starkweather Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170					
TRIAD MORTGAGE CORP.	477-6650	30 yr Fix	8.25	3.00	5%	30 days	3.00%
		15 yr Fix	7.875	3.00	10%	30 days	3.00%
		7/23 Bal	7.75	3.00	10%	30 days	3.00%
		31150 Grand River Ave., Farmington, MI 48336					
THE MORTGAGE COMPANY OF MICHIGAN	375-2626	30 yr Fix	8.375	2.00	10%	60 days	$295
		15 yr Fix	7.875	2.00	10%	60 days	$295
		5 yr Arm	5.375	2.00	10%	60 days	$295
		Call about our promotion programs.					
		2515 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills, MI 48309					
WORLD WIDE FINANCIAL	647-1199	15 yr Fix	7.75	Call	5%	5%	Call
		30 yr Fix	8.375	Call	5%	5%	Call
		5 yr Arm	5.375	Call	10%	5%	Call
		5/25 Bal	7.25	Call	10%	5%	Call
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MORTGAGE CONNECTION, INC.	855-0110	30 yr Fix	8.00	3%	5%	60 days	$350
		30 yr Fix	8.00	3%	5%	60 days	$350
		15 yr Fix	7.75	3%	5%	60 days	$350
		5 yr Arm	5.00	3%	5%	60 days	$350
		Call about our 15, 5 and 7/23 Balloon programs.					
		32251 Northwestern Hwy., Farmington Hills, MI 48334					

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