

Who's in their seat:

Here are attendance figures for Observer & Eccentric area Oakland County Commissioners for the 1991-92 session, including full board, committee and subcommittee meetings through May:

• 97-99 percent: Donald Jensen, R-Birmingham; John Papageorge, R-Troy and Donn Wolf, R-Farmington Hills.

• 92-96 percent: G. William Caddell, R-Walled Lake; Marilyn Gosling, R-Bloomfield Hills; Teresa Krause, D-Troy; David Moffitt, R-Farmington Hills; Lillian Jaffee, R-Ons, D-Southfield; Lawrence Pernick, D-Southfield.

• 86-91 percent: Donald Bishop, R-Rochester; Lawrence Olbrecht, R-Lake Orion; Charles Palmer, R-Clawson.

Bishop has attended 27 of 29 board meetings, 64 of 74 committee meetings. His key committees include finance and general government.

Caddell has attended 27 of 29 board meetings. His key committee is finance.

Gosling has attended 28 of 29 board meetings; 82 of 85 committee meetings. Her key committees include finance and personnel.

Jensen has attended 28 of 29 board meetings; 66 of 68 committee meetings. His key committees include finance and public services.

Krause has attended all 29 board meetings; 62 of 66 committee meetings. Her key committees include personnel and planning and building.

Law has attended 24 of 29 board

meetings; 50 of 70 committee meetings. His key committees include general government and personnel. He is also the only commissioner on the claims review committee.

McConnell has attended 28 of 29 board meetings; 37 of 43 committee meetings. Her key committees include personnel and planning and building.

Moffitt has attended 28 of 29 board meetings; 64 of 68 committee meetings. His key committees include personnel and planning and building.

Oaks has attended 28 of 29 board meetings; 57 of 62 committee meetings. Her key committees include general government and planning and building.

Olbrecht, who joined the board in February, has attended seven of eight board meetings; 10 of 11 committee meetings. His key committees include personnel and public services.

Palmer has attended 27 of 29 board meetings; 44 of 53 committee meetings. His key committees include planning and building and public services.

Papageorge has attended 28 of 29 board meetings; 57 of 59 committee meetings. His key committee is finance.

Pernick has attended 28 of 29 board meetings; 41 of 43 committee meetings. His key committee is finance.

Wolf has attended 28 of 29 board meetings; 54 of 55 committee meetings. His key committees are personnel and general government.

BY WAYNE PEAL
STAFF WRITER

Thomas Law's seat is empty far more than that of any other Oakland County commissioner.

Counting full board, committee and subcommittee meetings, Law has been absent roughly one quarter of the time in his 1991-92 term, missing 25 of 99 meetings.

The West Bloomfield Republican insists it's quality of time, not quantity, that counts.

"I'm there for all the important votes," Law said. "I don't just sit quietly in my seat, either. I'm not afraid to ask tough questions."

But with new districts, and a number of eager challengers, voters could soon ask tough questions of Law and others with less-than-perfect attendance.

Only two of 27 commissioners — Republicans Donna Hunston of Clarkston and David Moffitt of Farmington Hills can still boast of 100 percent attendance for the 1991-92 session.

Among Observer & Eccentric-area commissioners, attendance ranks from the 97.6 percent posted by Donn Wolf of Farmington Hills — absent for 82 of 84 meetings — to Law's 74.7 percent. (See related story for attendance figures for all area commissioners.)

Commission chairman Larry Crake, R-Waterford, and Lawrence

Mark him absent

WB county rep has worst attendance

"I'm there for all the important votes. I don't just sit quietly in my seat, either. I'm not afraid to ask tough questions."

Commissioner Thomas Law
West Bloomfield



Pernick, leader of board Democrats, both place a premium on meeting attendance.

"When I became chairman (earlier this year) I wrote a letter to commissioners telling them what I expected of them," Crake said. "To tell the truth, I feel attendance has been pretty good."

If anything, Crake said, attendance has improved.

"We had been accused of being a cocktail party without cocktails," he said. "But now, commissioners

stay in their seats and they stay throughout the meeting."

Crake and Pernick agreed committee meetings shouldn't be ignored.

"It's there where the work is actually done. A commissioner who misses committee meetings isn't going to have the background to do the job," said Pernick, D-Southfield.

"If someone has a problem attending meetings, maybe that someone shouldn't be on the board."

Most commissioners attend at least 90 percent of their assigned meetings.

While commissioners receive \$20,964 a year, the job is considered part-time.

As such, there are all kinds of commissioners.

"We have some commissioners who are retirees or housewives," Law, an attorney, said. "I think it's important we have some people out there in the working world, too."

Many of his 1992 absences were caused by "two big trials," Law said. However, Law has had a similarly poor attendance record in other years.

Fellow attorney Donald Bishop, R-Rochester, is among the other commissioners whose 1991-92 attendance falls below the 90 percent level.

Not is the work schedule equal. As chairman, Crake isn't a formal member of any committees or subcommittees.

Despite his absences, Law has had one of the busier schedules, serving on five committees and subcommittees in the past two years.

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(313) 851-2817

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BIG TALKERS

My kids and their friends wanted to know why I was late yesterday, so I told them I went to Oakland Mall to play 'Sports Of All Sorts'.

They said, 'The mall? Sure, you probably did step aerobics or something like that. I told them not to knock it, it was hard. Then I told them I played Pop-A-Shot, Putt-Putt Golf, sports trivia and I even watched karate.

And they said, 'Putt Putt Golf? Pop-A-Shot? Karate? Like in the movies?' Next thing I knew they were begging for a ride to 'Sports Of All Sorts'.

That's okay. I can't wait to beat the big talkers at their own games.

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OF ALL SORTS**

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