

MEA Growing Power In School Votes

An Observer Roundup

If last week's elections were any indication, the local branches of the Michigan Education Association could be becoming a powerful voters' guide.

Whether by luck or by growing influence, nine of 13 winning candidates — or 69 per cent — in Observerland Education Association but who were endorsed by the local MEA chapter won seats.

Another six seats were fielded but were not endorsed by up in the local elections where

the MEA affiliates had not endorsed specific candidates.

OF THE SIX teachers and former teachers who ran, three received the backing of the teachers union but only two won. A former teacher and an administrator won in Plymouth. A school principal was endorsed by the Livonia Education Association but who were endorsed by the local MEA chapter won seats.

Two teachers ran in Southfield but were not endorsed by the Southfield Education

Association. They lost. A former teacher ran in Farmington with the backing of the teachers group but lost.

The greatest influence of the local MEA groups was demonstrated in both Southfield and Plymouth where all the endorsements took the seats.

A two-man slate backed jointly by the Southfield Education Association, the Committee for Excellence in Education, and the Southfield Democratic Club won in the election where three millage proposals on the ballot brought out a large portion of the electorate.

Paul Blinklike and Leonard Teicher far out-poll Marcelline Gross, an assistant professor at Oakland Community College, and Vincent W. LaPointe Jr., an assistant principal in Birmingham.

IN PLYMOUTH, the three endorsements of the Plymouth Education Association took all three seats.

John Graves, a former teacher and current director of student activities at Franklin High School in

Livonia, was the top vote-getter for a four-year term and was followed by a systems engineer, Fredrick Penar. An Eastern Michigan University professor, Winion Klosterman, lost.

In the race for a two-year term in Plymouth, a former professor beat a former teacher, John Ohno, who has taught in several universities and is now employed in research for General Electric, won the term over two contestants including former teacher Kathleen Williams.

The MEA now has an 80 per cent record after picking three winners this year and one out of two in the 1970 June election.

dorsed only one candidate — but the candidate polled the most votes.

The current board secretary, Robert Reichard won along with the board's first woman member in more than 20 years, Mrs. Anne Harbison.

THE BIRMINGHAM Education Association, whose school district includes part of Southfield, came out of the election with a 67 per cent record after backing two of the winning candidates in the three seat race.

Leonard Bellison, a BEA endorsee, won one of the two four-year terms, but another endorsee, Joseph Findling came in fifth of seven candidates.

John Siegesmund Jr. was the lone candidate and was endorsed by the BEA for the two-year term he won.

The Livonia Education Association split 50-50 after

endorsing one winner and one loser in the two seat race.

In a record turnout for Livonia, LEA endorsee Mrs. Constance Hierta, incumbent, won a place on the board but the other endorsee, Board President William Craft (a Northville principal) lost to challenger Martin Seitz.

Farmington voters also jammed the polls to defeat a proposed 4.5 mill increase by more than 1,000 votes.

In the Garden City and two Redford township races, the local MEA groups did not back specific candidates.

Frank Wadzarski Jr. was re-elected to the Garden City board over his only opponent, Mrs. Shirley Gilmore.

Two incumbents also easily re-elected in South Redford, Carl Zeeb and Richard Guregian won over five other opponents.

REDFORD UNION voters replaced one female board

member with another by electing Edith R. Seghi over 18-year board veteran Mrs. Anna Mary Vollick.

Incumbent Frank Copeland also took a RU seat with a naval science instructor at Livonia's Bentley High School running an unsuccessful third.

Robert Zaetta, president of the Redford Union Education Association, said that the RUEA plans to take a more active role in "political education" in future school elections. He said the group will probably act to disseminate information on the candidates rather than to endorse specific candidates.

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SURROUNDED BY WOMEN -- Acting Schoolcraft President C. Nelson Grote administers the oath of office to a lone male surrounded by five females for the college's Student Senate. From left the new senators are: Mary Ellen Wiltzie, Melody McClendon, Gary Schlachter, Sue List, Jeanette Antonelli and Shirley Byler. A seventh senator, Ben Reuland, was absent.

7 S'craft Senators Elected

Mary Ellen Wiltzie, of 19983 Mayfield, Livonia, was elected president of the Schoolcraft College Student Senate recently along with six other sophomores officers.

Seven freshman members will be elected to the student governing body in the fall.

Also elected with Miss Wiltzie for terms expiring next April were:

Vice President Ben Reuland, 17755 Fairway, Livonia; Secretary Melody McClendon, 4074 Crabtree Lane, Plymouth; Treasurer Jeanette Antonelli, 20373 Gill Road, Livonia; and representatives, Sue List, 21875 Novi Road, Northville; Shirley Byler, 15333 Huff, Livonia; and Gary Schlachter, 17319 Delaware, Redford Township.

The new president and secretary as well as Miss List and Schlachter will be serving their second terms on the senate.

The senate supervises student organizations and student activities as well as serves as a coordinating body between the students, faculty, and administration.

Why Volunteers Must Help Rouge

By W.W. EDGAR

As time draws near for the annual cleanup of the Rouge, the question again is being asked why the work of cleaning the debris and removing the log jams is left to volunteer workers.

"Why can't the county take over the job and do it with professionals, instead of using mostly volunteer youngsters?" they ask.

Up to now, there has been no official answer, and the work for the coming drive has been divided into two sections with more than 5,000 volunteers expected to answer the call.

"WE'VE GOT to rely on volunteer workers," Ervin A. Steiner, chairman of the Public Works Committee of the County Board of Commissioners, told the heads of the "Rescue the Rouge" and the Jaycees at a planning meeting during the past week.

"First of all," he explained, "we haven't got the manpower. And we couldn't afford the money for such a payroll even if we had the men."

"Second, there is the matter of insurance," he pointed out. "We can't take over the supervising of the work of the volunteers because of the danger involved. It would mean we'd have to insure every volunteer — and that would be nigh onto impossible."

THE TWO groups had gathered to ascertain the amount of help the county could offer this year.

It was recalled that the commissioners appropriated \$10,000 to the drain commission for the work last year.

Both groups were hopeful the County Board of Commissioners would fund this year.

"We didn't give you fellows any cash last year," Chairman Steiner pointed out. "We gave you \$10,000 in kind. That means we appropriated the money to the drain commission to offset the expense of using the county equipment. We couldn't give you the money. So whatever we appropriate will be 'in kind' again this year. It will be money to offset the use of the county equipment without getting the department budgets out of kilter."

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