

Citizens Given New Regional 'Voice'

By TIM RICHARD

If homeowners dislike a zoning change being considered by the city council, they can squawk to the council, either individually or through their subdivision associations.

If parents don't like the facilities at the neighborhood school, they can gripe to the school board, either individually or through the PTA.

But how do private citizens make their views known to such multi-county agencies as SEMCOG, the Transportation Authority, the Huron-Clinton parks authority? The persons who make regional decisions aren't directly elected, and so they have no private citizen constituency to pipe in ideas, complaints or praise.

Well, maybe they will have a vocal constituency now. It's a group of 138 (so far) persons in the six-county area who have paid at least \$5 dues to join Regional Citizens. Interim chairman is

Patrick M. Sheridan, 33, who lives in Macomb County and commutes to work in Farmington Township.

Precisely what Regional Citizens will do is vague at this point... but that's getting ahead of the story.

Regional Citizens is the latest spin-off of Metropolitan Fund, a private, non-profit research and education group whose funds and board members come from most of southeastern Michigan's most prominent corporations, unions, educational institutions and the like.

Some earlier Metro Fund spin-offs include New Detroit, the Transportation and Land Use Study, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, and Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority.

Specifically, Regional Citizens is the brainchild of Donn Shelton, Metro Fund vice president who has been working on it for a year. Shelton studied similar organizations in San Francisco



--Regional Citizen Pat Sheridan

and Minneapolis - St. Paul and put together a steering committee for southeast Michigan.

Sheridan met Shelton through the Jaycees - Sheridan is a former state Jaycees president and one of Michigan's five "outstanding young men" - and was tapped for the interim chairman's job.

A certified public accountant by trade, Sheridan recently joined Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. in Farmington as vice president of marketing administration. Richard Headlee, who became Hamilton's chief executive last year in a major corporate shakeup, is another Jaycees acquaintance. Sheridan is a part of the new management team.

"Four years ago," Sheridan explains, "I moved to Clinton Township in Macomb County. I lived there but worked in downtown Detroit. I felt very much a part of several communities."

Sheridan has headed up a steering committee to launch Regional Citizens, and his leads to the very practical question: What will Regional Citizens do?

Regional Affairs

"The steering committee brainstormed the areas to be involved in, and ranked 22 priorities. They're broad in nature - for example, transportation, not just mass transit or highways," Sheridan answers.

Other priorities are the usual catalog of problems that spill across provincial boundaries: economic climate, health care, land use, public safety, pollution control, racial polarization and just plain "regional understanding."

"Will we lobby? Today I'd say no," Sheridan continues. "As SEMCOG is a voluntary organization of governments, this is a voluntary organization of citizens."

"We'll create committees to study - not what the problem is, because those things have been studied to death - but how the individual can have impact on them."

"We hope to talk to PTAs, Lions, Rotarians," Jaycees Shelton, contacted at his Metro Fund office, was hesitant to commit Regional Citizens to a course of action; that's up to the group itself.

"It can use the observer process - monitor county boards and local boards on regional issues."

"This is not something coming out of paid professionals and academicians. It's a way to get citizen points of view to regional agencies - when the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority deliberates, for example."

For the time being, Regional Citizens has interim officers and uses the Metro Fund headquarters - suite 1002 at 211 W. Fort, Detroit. In time, a formal structure will be set up.

Indians Of Western Michigan Find 6,103 Reasons For Joy

Indians along the Lake Michigan coastline got a Palm Sunday gift of thousands of cans of food, toys, household items and candy, thanks to residents of Ob-

serverland and northwest Detroit. Altogether, 6,103 items were donated through the Indian Affairs Committee of the Western Wayne County Conservation Assn.

Hank Chruschal, committee chairman, drove an 18 foot van whose use was donated by Ryder Truck Rentals. Three apprentice ironworkers - George Wilson, Marc Newhouse and Dick Penn - drove their own trucks and used their own fuel to help make the delivery.

Indians at Cross Village, the Indian mission school at Harbor Springs, Custer and the Thornapple River band received 61 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste, 316 bars and boxes of soap, many cans of food (including meats, stews and soups).



There were also 24 cartons of new toys, several cartons of new and used clothing, and 46 cartons of candy.

Two dozen apprentices from Local 25 of the Bridge and Structural Ornamental Ironworkers union helped load the trucks under the guidance of instructor Carl Fry.

One part of the gift won't be delivered until the end of April. Gordon McCaw, of Local 2265 of the Carpenters union, suffered an arm injury and was unable to drive his truck. So the gifts for the Sault Ste. Marie area will go out a little late.

Sanders donated the candy, through the efforts of Bruno Genrich of Westland, and a man who asked to remain anonymous walked up to Chruschal at a WWCCA meeting and slipped him a \$50 bill.

Boy Scout Tad Taggart of Northville, wearing a bow tie, collected 225 food and dental items, fixed and donated a bicycle, and helped repair toys. Mr. and Mrs. Foster Smith helped mend clothing and toys, and also donated food.

"We had the help of many wonderful people," said Mrs. Chruschal, who herself helped put the clothing in shape and made the all-night truck trip with her husband.

"Through the Observer, we have acquired a number of new friends, and for this we are grateful. Those who received these things are well pleased and most appreciative. We wish we could convey their expressions and thanks as we see it, but it's difficult to do."

Here is a list of those who helped:

Bloomfield Hills honor society, Redford Boys Club, Bryant Junior High in Livonia, Xi Beta Chi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority in Lincoln Park, Xi Beta Pi chapter of the same sorority in Livonia.

Mr. and Mrs. Brad Carter of Livonia, Church of the Holy Spirit in Westland, Den of Cub Pack 832 at Jefferson School in Livonia, Ford Motor Girls Club (through efforts of Vera Arnold and Joan Smith).

Girl Scouts of Neighborhood 76 in northwest Detroit, 50 in Livonia, Girl Scout Troop 800 of Southfield, Girl Scout Troop 166 of Livonia.

Mrs. B. Moran of Plymouth, Salem United Church of Christ of Farmington, Ironworkers Local 25, and the Indian Maidens and Y-ettes of the Livonia Family Y.



ANOTHER NATIONAL AWARD was garnered by Observer Newspapers at last week's Suburban Newspapers of America convention in San Francisco. Publisher Philip H. Power accepts an honorable mention certificate for "best local display advertising" entry from SNA President Edward Dardonell.

Local Ad Quality Earns New Honor For ONI

Observer Newspapers, already Michigan's most honored, twice-weekly newspaper group, picked up yet another national award for journalistic excellence last week.

The group gained honorable mention for "best local display advertising" at the Suburban Newspapers of America annual meeting in San Francisco, competing against hundreds of other suburban newspapers throughout the country.

Observer Publisher Philip H. Power was elected to the SNA board of directors at the three-day session. SNA is the national trade association for suburban newspapers, and Power is the youngest man ever elected to serve on its board.

"I'm delighted that our continuing drive to attain the utmost in journalistic excellence in suburban newspapers has once again received the continuing national attention that it deserves," Power said.

"The award honored our superiority in local display advertising with respect to excellence of layout, crispness of copy writing, attractiveness of general presentation, and - most important - effectiveness in doing a selling job for our local merchants."

"It is a very important award to us, because it calls attention to the fact that we are doing an outstanding job in helping our local merchants get their advertising job done with high quality and good success."

"I'm very proud of Keith Ellibee, our advertising director, and his entire staff, whose hard work made this

award possible." Power added.

"I'm also very pleased to be on SNA's board of directors. It is an outstanding

K-Collegians Take To Field

Eight Observerland students are among a group from Kalamazoo College who are working at jobs off-campus during the spring career-service quarter.

The career-service program, now in its seventh year, was designed to provide experience in a job related to the academic work and future career interest of each student. Students in the program make their own selection of jobs.

After the quarter, they will return to campus on June 26 for a summer residence before beginning six months of foreign study during their junior year.

Area students in the program are:

Jeffrey Guinot, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Guinot, of Redford, is counseling and teaching field science and conservation to fifth and sixth grade students in Greenfield, N.H.

Sue Hahn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hahn, of Redford, is a research fellow in qualitative and quantitative analysis for Sinai Hospital of Detroit.

James Hanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald E. Hanson, of Livonia, is working at Annapolis Hospital in Detroit.

Frank Reynolds, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Reynolds of Plymouth, is serving as normal health volunteer subject at the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Md. He will be doing research of his own choosing in exchange for a few hours a day as a volunteer in control group experiments.

INDIAN CHILDREN happily unload boxes of food sent to them last weekend by Observerland and northwest Detroit civic groups, businesses

and individuals. Hank Chruschal (left on truck in lower picture) organized the effort of the Western Wayne County Conservation Assn.