

Open Vote Unusual At Schoolcraft

By KATHY MORAN

Schoolcraft College trustees may have set a precedent by voting in public when they appointed Mrs. Nancie Blatt of Livonia and Floyd Kehrl of Northville to fill two vacancies on the board.

In the past two years, the board has voted by secret ballot on at least two controversial issues.

Secret ballots were used at the October meeting in 1971 when the newly-elected board

chose a chairman. It used secret ballots again in November of 1972 on a vote to remove former trustee Mary Dumas as board chairman.

Although the discussion on both issues had taken place in public, individual voting was kept secret, leaving the public to speculate on board splits.

AT LAST WEEK'S meeting, the board agreed to keep the vote open, and no one disagreed. Mrs. Rosina

Raymond, who chaired the meeting, said she had consulted the college's attorney to make sure that the board was obligated to vote in public.

Three persons were nominated to fill the vacancies created when board chairman R. Robert Geake was elected state representative and board secretary Mary Dumas was elected Wayne County commissioner in November.

Dr. Gerald Cox of Garden City was the third nominee but

lost the appointment largely on a parliamentary rule. The nominees were used in order of nomination, and the first two were elected to the board.

Because Cox was third, some board members argued that it would be useless to vote on his candidacy since the board couldn't elect three persons for two vacancies and, therefore, would have to defeat him.

Mrs. Raymond said that the board "owes it to the public" to have a recorded vote on Cox's candidacy. A vote was taken, and Mrs. Raymond and Jack LaRue were the only supporters for Cox.

IT WAS THE third time that Cox came close to winning a seat on the board. In 1971, Cox ran third in a special trustee election for two two-year terms which were won by Mrs. Dumas and Paul Kadish. He also was the runner-up on a 1963 trustee election.

His name was placed in nomination for the appointment by Mrs. Raymond, who said that Garden City should be represented on the board.

Kadish pointed out later that the board does represent Garden City and has just opened an extension center there.

At the conclusion of the special meeting, Cox commended the board for voting in public, saying it showed there was "great hope for American democracy."

The next chance Garden City residents will have to elect a trustee to the board will be June 12, when either three or four seats will be available.

If the Legislature reduces the board to seven members, only three seats will be available.

THE TWO RECENT appointments expire in June as

does Paul Kadish's term and Erv Brown's appointment. Brown was appointed to fill George Martin's seat after he resigned in the fall of 1971.

Mrs. Blatt has been an active supporter of Livonia schools, winning the 1972 distinguished service award from the Michigan Council of PTAs and participating in the vocational-technical high school study and 1971 successful millage campaign.

She is also active in the League of Women Voters and Northwest Communities Assn. for Retarded Children.

Kehrl retired two years ago as a vice president of National Bank of Detroit. He is a lifelong resident of Plymouth and Northville and continues to farm in Northville.

He was described by trustee Arch Vallier as a "good friend of the college." Vallier pointed out that Kehrl donated the bells in the college's tower and lights to decorate the tower during Christmas.

Jane Moehle, who was then vice chairman. "The only reason this was on the preliminary agenda was there was some misunderstanding about what had happened on this before," Mrs. Raymond said. "It was put on the agenda by people who had a false impression of what had happened."

"I'm not fighting it," she said. "I just wanted to show what the situation is. If we act differently, all right, then the other board was wrong."

If one of the trustees requested that the item be replaced on the agenda, the board will have to vote on the addition.

If trustees decide against challenging Mrs. Raymond, she will serve as chairman until July when a new set of board officers will be elected after the June 12 election.

Some trustees apparently thought election of a chairman would be on the board agenda, but it isn't.

Arch Vallier confirmed reports that the item had been on the preliminary agenda but failed to appear on the final agenda which board members received Monday.

ACTING AS chairman, Mrs. Raymond reviewed the agenda last week before it was printed. She said that the item was removed because both Robert's and Sturgis' Rules of Order indicate that the vice chairman replaces the chairman when a vacancy occurs.

The college's by-laws are "silent" on such a question, she said.

Robert's rules state, "In case of resignation or death of the president the first vice president automatically becomes president for the unexpired term unless the by-laws provide otherwise..."

"It is a mistake to elect a vice president who is not competent to perform the duties of president."

Mrs. Raymond has requested an opinion from the college's legal counsel, the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone.

"It is not a matter of whether I want to serve as chairman or not," she said. "I don't have a choice if the ruling is such."

MRS. RAYMOND pointed out that when Harold Fischer resigned in 1969, he was succeeded as chairman by

'Fish-Eye View' Course Topic

Of interest to fishermen (and women) who wish to make their fishing experience more enjoyable is an eight week course offered by Oakland University's division of continuing education on Wednesday evenings, beginning Jan. 31. To register, call the university.

'A Fish-Eye View for Fishermen' is conducted by Ronald J. Spittler, district fisheries biologist, Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

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The City of Plymouth, Michigan will receive proposals up to 2:00 P.M. E.S.T., Tuesday, January 30, 1973, for:

Operation of Pro Shop in Plymouth Community Cultural Center Building, 425 Farmer Street, Plymouth, Michigan.

The City Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities. Address proposals to Paul Brumfield, City Clerk, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, in a sealed envelope bearing the inscription: "Proposals for Pro Shop." For appointment to inspect premises, contact Mr. Water Adams - 455-6620 or 455-6623.

PAUL V. BRUMFIELD, City Clerk

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