

2 SEMCOG Blocs Get Observerland Leaders

By KATHY MORAN

At least two local residents will be in the forefront of regional planning and problem solving with their selection to leadership positions in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

Arch Vallier of Plymouth was elected to chair the school bloc, and Lawrence Pernick of Southfield will chair the county bloc. Both were elected in the posts during SEMCOG's annual general assembly on Friday.

Vallier serves as Schoolcraft College's delegate to SEMCOG and as a college trustee had recently advised the college to renew its membership.

Pernick is an Oakland County commissioner and is one of the board's three delegates to SEMCOG.

SEMCOG HAS for a bloc for each type of government—counties, townships, cities and villages, and school districts.

During the annual meeting other officers were elected without challenge, including James L. Grannan, councilman from Fraser, as chairman.

Former Chairman Robert FitzPatrick, chairman of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, didn't seek the customary second year term so that "the chairmanship could be turned over to a delegate from outside of Detroit and Wayne County."

My purpose was "to demonstrate that this association has roots in local government in southeast Michigan and that all of our large cities and small, rich communities and poor, urban counties and rural counties need a healthy regional council," he said.

Homer Case, supervisor of Bloomfield Township was elected first vice chairman and Conrad L. Mallett, a Wayne county commissioner, was elected second vice chairman.

BOTH VALLIER's and Pernick's election as bloc leaders came at the same meeting where steps were taken to lessen the impact of individual blocs on the total group.

The delegates received an amendment to the by-laws to eliminate bloc voting. The amendment will be voted on during a June general assembly.

In the five years since SEMCOG was formed, voting was done by each bloc, and approval of a motion required affirmative votes by three of the four blocs.

In some cases this meant that a motion was defeated because two blocs opposed it even though a majority of delegates favored it. It was this method of voting that caused some members, particularly school districts, to withdraw.

The voting change is more equitable, Vallier said, noting that in the past community colleges were generally outvoted by the school districts.

MEMBERSHIP in the school bloc has dwindled to only nine districts, but Vallier hasn't determined if one of his new responsibilities will be to recruit members.

Altogether, 135 districts are eligible for the school bloc. The nine members include the intermediate school districts from Livingston, Macomb, and Wayne; Bloomfield Hills and Taylor School Districts and the community colleges of Monroe, Washtenaw, Wayne County and Schoolcraft.

Of one thing Vallier is certain: Colleges and school districts should be more regional minded.

"I strongly feel that the community colleges and school districts are too in-bred and belong only to educational organizations," Vallier said.

It was this argument which Vallier used in convincing Schoolcraft to renew its membership. He also pointed out they get valuable information through SEMCOG.

SEMCOG's members include six of the seven eligible counties, 41 of the 118 cities and villages eligible, 24 of the 120 townships and nine of 135 school districts.

The units within Livingston, Macomb, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties are eligible. Macomb withdrew its membership, but SEMCOG hopes Macomb will rejoin, particularly since the new chairman is from that area.

The City of Farmington and Lathrup Village are members from Oakland County. Members from Wayne County include Livonia, Plymouth and Northville cities and Canton, Plymouth and Northville Townships.

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The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 requires aliens resident in the U.S. on Jan. 1 to make the address reports to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

As in past years, all post offices are participating in the program to the extent of distributing address reporting cards (form 153) to aliens and forwarding the cards after completion to immigration offices.

The form -- a manila punch card similar to the one used for 1972 alien reporting -- is available at all post offices. Completed forms must be turned in before the end of January.

The cards were supplied to post offices late in 1972 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, but following their regulations the forms could not be handed out to the public until this month.

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Mrs. Raymond Overturned SC Board Switches Heads

By KATHY MORAN

The chairmanship of Schoolcraft College's Board of Trustees was pulled out from under Rosina Raymond last week.

John LaRue, who has sat on the board nearly four years, emerged as chairman after an emotional debate.

Mrs. Raymond was re-elected vice chairman, Paul Kadish was re-elected treasurer and Mrs. Clara Rousseau was elected secretary. Mrs. Raymond is administrative assistant to President C. Nelson Grote. The secretary and treasurer don't have to be trustees.

The terms expire on June 30. Mrs. Raymond sat in the chairman's seat Wednesday during the first regular board meeting since former chairman R. Robert Geake was elected state representative.

As previous vice chairman, Mrs. Raymond thought she was sitting comfortably and even had removed an item regarding election of officers from the agenda prior to the meeting.

BUT IMMEDIATELY after the meeting opened, trustees Arch Vallier and Leroy Bennett moved to elect new board officers.

Apparently caught off-guard, Mrs. Raymond asked if they meant election of a vice chairman (to fill her vacancy) and secretary to fill Mary Dumas' vacancy, created when she was elected Wayne County commissioner.

"I'm talking about the seat of chairman and secretary," Vallier said, starting the move to replace Mrs. Raymond.

Mrs. Raymond had requested an attorney's opinion on whether she could officially succeed Geake as chairman.

Although Gregory Currier of the law firm Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, stated that the "vice chairman automatically became chairman as of the effective date of the previous chairman's resignation," he also quotes from the community college statutes which say, "The officers shall be elected for a term of two years, subject to change of officers by resolution of the board."

MRS. RAYMOND interpreted the opinion as meaning she was the official chairman but the majority of the trustees said it gave them the authority to resolve to elect new officers.

"If we are to have any election of officers, it would seem fit to me that we have an election of all officers," trustee Paul Kadish said.

"This is a complete reorganization of the board—it is quite different from election of one officer," Mrs. Raymond said. "I think we're stretching a point here."

She fought the proposed election, saying it possibly conflicted with the college by-laws, was unnecessary and was contrary to precedent.

The precedent she cited was when Harold Fischer resigned from the board in 1969 and Mrs. Jane Mophle succeeded him as chairman.

TRUSTEE ERV Brown challenged Mrs. Raymond's request for an attorney's opinion without approval from the majority of trustees.

"I don't care who is going to be chairperson of this board, but they're not going to do my thinking for me," he said.

Despite Mrs. Raymond's protest the trustees voted to reorganize the board and she finally voted with them.

The board moved on to other business, but as soon as the election came up for discussion, Bennett nominated LaRue for chairman.

Again Mrs. Raymond protested: "I think the chair would rule that we are ahead of ourselves here. We are Michigan is one of the nation's leading growers of rhubarb. Produced mainly in Macomb county holocausts, it is harvested from January to April in specially constructed cellars and shipped to consumers as far away as Boston, New York and Kansas City.

When Vallier protested her "insinuations of railroad," Mrs. Raymond rebuffed him saying he shouldn't get personal.

As nominations resumed Kadish was nominated but withdrew, and a unanimous ballot was cast for LaRue.

Vallier nominated Mrs. Raymond for vice chairman and, after hesitating, she accepted "because I'm a good sport, but that's off the record" she added referring to the press. She voted against her nomination.

The next reorganization will occur after the June 12 trustee election.



JOHN La RUE
New Chairman



ARCH VALLIER
School Leader



LAWRENCE PERNICK
Counties' Leader

reorganizing something here. A reorganization of the board is not in order."

Debate over the election became increasingly intense until Mrs. Raymond declared "right now I do not have the stomach" for the chairmanship.

"BELIEVE ME, it's not that I want it. I believe I don't think I want it now. I feel a little like in Britain where if you don't have the support, you don't have it. I just don't want any railroad here. I believe in the democratic process."

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