

# Counties Urged To Influence SEMCOG Role

**SOUTHFIELD** County commissioners in Southeast Michigan have been urged to continue involvement in a council of governments to "avoid the creation of another layer of government."

Lawrence R. Pernick of Southfield, a Democratic member of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and chairman of the county bloc of Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), sent the message above recently to county commissioners in the seven-county region.

Pernick cites action by the National Assn. of Counties (NACCO) in annual conference which urged county officials to support "different workable approaches" to regional problem solving.

The NACCO regionalism plank states:

"Local elected officials of counties and cities should support regional councils as the forum where they can discuss and seek solutions to regional problems."

"Local elected officials in each area should decide the questions of mandatory or voluntary membership and the basis for voting and funding."

"The regional council, in this context, isn't another layer of government, nor an agency having operational or service delivery responsibilities."

"The regional council is a means for local governments to identify regional issues, to examine possible solutions, and to decide what agencies should be responsible for implementation."

NACCO asks that these principles be followed by federal and state governments when organizing regional structures as the best way to support decisions made by local elected officials on regional issues.

"We particularly stress the need for elected county and city officials to control all regional agencies and to determine regional boundaries," the NACCO plank concluded.

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**WILLIAM LOUWERS**, 39, of Southfield, has been appointed labor relations director for Both Newspapers, Inc. He comes to Both from Federal-Mogul where he was personnel manager for that firm's corporate headquarters in Southfield. His experience includes personnel-type jobs for Sperry Rand and Chrysler corporations. He has an MBA from University of Detroit.

# Close Business On Sundays -- Suggests Kuhn

**PONTIAC** An appeal to close commercial businesses on Sundays to conserve energy has been made by Oakland County Drain Commissioner George W. Kuhn.

Kuhn made the suggestion while appearing before the personnel practices committee of the Oakland Board of Commissioners.

In a follow-up letter to Board Chairman Paul Kasper, Kuhn suggested that commercial businesses take the lead in seeking a shut-down of all commercial business such as gas stations, department stores, supermarkets and shopping centers from Jan. 1 through March 31, 1974.

"The only exceptions to this ban would possibly be restaurants and essential drug stores for emergency purposes. The vast savings of fuel, utilities and energy would be enormous."

Kuhn suggests the ban become effective Jan. 1 to avoid disrupting holiday sales volumes. The ban would be lifted March 31 because January, February and March are the hard-core winter months when energy needs are the greatest.

Kuhn suggests a board resolution asking voluntary compliance for a complete shut-down of all business operations in Oakland County on Sundays.

Although he prefers voluntary compliance, Kuhn said an alternative would be a countywide ordinance making compliance mandatory.

# Insurance FACTS

by Robert H. Bergstrom, CPCU

When you need to use your insurance coverage, there are four steps to follow to obtain it after a loss or a disaster. Give notice to the company and agent that you have a loss to report. Protect your property from further damage. Submit a proof-of-loss statement, after making an inventory of what has been lost. Make available to the company all books of account, bills, invoices, and other vouchers.

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# Leader Dog School Gets \$1,000 Check

**SOUTHFIELD** A \$1,000 check has been presented to the Leader Dog School for the Blind in Rochester by the Metropolitan Police K-9 Handlers Assn., headquartered in Southfield.

The check was from money raised by the annual Police Dog Show co-sponsored by the K-9 association and the Southfield Lions Club.

Receiving the check for the school was Edward M. Lang Jr. Presenting the check was Alex Perinoff from the Lions Club and Nick Kostinko, president of the Metropolitan Police K-9 Handlers Assn.

The Leader Dog School is expecting another \$1,000 donation soon from a special program being conducted by Kwikie Duplicating Centers throughout Southeastern Michigan.

During December, Kwikie centers are offering a special "extra energy dollar" incentive on printing orders to help raise money during the Christmas season for the Lions' Club Leader Dog training program.

Mike Casciani, manager of the Kwikie center at 19483 W. 10 Mile, Southfield, says some 10 centers are participating in the program.

Each printing order of \$35 received in December will provide a contribution to the Leader Dog program and the customer will receive a candy-stuffed Santa Claus doll.

# Tax Helpers Are Needed

**PONTIAC** Volunteers from throughout Oakland County are needed to be trained to give assistance in filling out income tax returns.

Emphasis will be on aiding senior citizens, veterans, Spanish-speaking, and low-income persons.

Training, conducted by IRS instructors, will be given on two all-day sessions in January.

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