## District Common Cause leader

# Coordinator lobbies for changes



RON MOURANT

By SURAN AVERILL
PARMINGTON HILLS—It was 16
months ago that Ron Mourant of
Farmington Hills stopped to look
about him and saw the lack of education and transportation, pollution, inflation and foreign wars... and promptby became a member of Common
Cause.

Issues more than the control of the

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If You're Looking

--Ron Mourant of Common Cause

'We don't pay anybody's lunch'

MOURANT MAINTAINS that it is every citizen's duty to become more aware of government and more active in politics. Yet he understands the apathy and discouragement which move characterise the individual citizen's attitude toward government.

"People have been working for years to get a lot of worthy things passed into law, and a lot of other things changed. Yet there isn't a sense of hopeleasmens and defeat." The said that have an a lot of other things changed. Yet there isn't as sense of hopeleasmens and defeat. The said that have a lot of the political to the said of the political to the said of th

campaigns.
"As a consequence, they don't enact laws and regulations in the general in-terest of the people.
"So who represents the citizen? No-

terest of the people.

"So who represents the citizen? Nobody."

To loosen the grip of the lobbyists.
Common Cause has sponsored bills in
the state legislature to make it mandatory for any group which spends more
than 1820 to register as a lobby and
lasep track of its expenditures. Lobbyist expenditures would be limited to
816 per week.

Such a bill is being readed for the
state house, in tandem with a candidate financial disclosure bill.

Common Cause is lobbying for a in
dependent enforcement agency to police legislators and lobbyists. The
agency would prevent conflict of interent witch might occur when governmental officials try to judge their
peers for infractions. Included in the
lill is a statement of the right of the
citizen to sue for enforcement.

It is by lobbying for laws that Common Cause hopes to make government more accountable to the people.

Mourant estimates that of 850 members in the district, 390 are thring in
the Farmington area. Robert Gardon.

Cause lobbyist working as a contact
of State Rep. Wilbur V. (Sandy)
Brutherton.

BEING A CONTACT will not mean picking up expensive huncheon tabs: it's just not done. "We don't pay anybody's lunch. We don't feel we have to do that to in-fluence the legislature. We lobby by

### Varsity Vagabonds to visit Tuesday

A morning concert will be presented by the Varsky Vagabonds. Western Michigan University's music depart-ment singing and instrumental group. The performance, offered free to the public, begins at 1:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 18, in the Middle Belt School in Farmington.

meeting with congresserus, senstors and representatives for discussion and by writing, letters."

And that type of lobby is not insignificant, for at the end of a phone call is an extensive telephone network, general to alert members to their part in a planned barrage of letters which may be simed at any legislator.

their part in a panner ourrage on acters which may be aimed at any legislator.

"They don't have to identify themselves as a Common Cause member. But even if they did, when he gets this number of letters, you'd better believe he pays attention."

Common Cause has 300,000 members nationally, but Mourant said that is not enough.

bers manneaux, was manneaux to the source of government. We need more people to be aware of government. We need more people to pay steredint on all sames, nationally as well as locally. As citizensan, it is our democratic duty to become more involved. The group is non-partisan and does not endorse either candidates or political parties. In was founded in 17th by John Gardner. For a citizen's looby it has been rather long-lived. After joining, members receive a book by Sardners and a newsletter published every other mouth.

Common Cause will sponsor a talk by Richard Wiener, a representative of U.S. Rep. Williams Brothender 7:8 p.m. Wednesday, May 21 at the YWCA. He will speak on lobby and financial disclosure bills now before the House of Representative Judicial Committee.

Mourant's 17th district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Latitup Village, Southfield, Reddord Township and a portion of northwest Detvok.

Although he spends 10-15 hours a week working for Common Cause.

sup and a portion of northwest De-roit.

Although he spends 19-15 hours a week working for Cummon Cause, Mourant spends most of his time re-searching and teaching industrial engi-neering at Wayne State University. Born in Hobbies, NJ., Mourant properties of the Control of the Born in Hobbies, NJ., Mourant has the his hard to the control has been and the control of the word south for coolege.

He lived in Florida for several years later and received a doctorate in industrial engineering from Ohio State University.

Mourant lives at 2070; Aranel with his wife Wands and his 18-year-old daughter, Judith.

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