

Harmony Unprecedented

Wayne, Oakland Dems Agree On Delegates

By DENNIS PAJOT

Wayne and Oakland portions of the Democratic 19th Congressional District organization will cast ballots on equal terms at the special political reform state convention in January.

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IN KEEPING with the stated aims of the reform proposals, the conventions agreed to allow elected 1968 precinct delegates and any other paid up party members who show up to serve as the voting delegation for the state convention.

Additionally, the district conventions identically agreed that their allocated votes would be cast proportionate to the voting in their delegations. The Oakland portion has 77 state convention votes, the Wayne portion 52.

Within the Democratic 19th, the novelty of identical balloting is noteworthy. Otherwise the provision to allow party members who need not be precinct delegates, party officers or office holders join in the state convention voting is of utmost significance.

THE SIGNIFICANCE goes beyond an effort to "encourage more party participation."

Since current precinct delegates were elected during a presidential election year, they could be expected to reflect views predominant during that year.

To qualify as a state convention delegate, all a person



FORGING FOURSOME—These four Democratic party notables, attended the 19th Congressional District Democratic Dinner Friday. From left, Livonia Paul Kadish, dinner chairman who admitted a desire to run for the 14th District State Senate seat; Billie S. Farnum, former

need do is pay Democratic Party membership dues by Dec. 15 and register with his district chairman at the district caucus just prior to the convention.

Also, according to the rules adopted by both the Wayne and Oakland conventions, paid up members who are not precinct delegates will have an equal vote this coming Friday in a total district convention.

It will be held at Eagle School, 14 Mile and Middle Belt in West Bloomfield, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington, chairman of the overall 19th District Democratic organization, will preside.

THIS CONVENTION, like the conventions this past weekend, will be primarily for the purpose of previewing opinions of the Haber Commission political reform proposals to be acted upon at the state convention.

Also like the conventions of this past weekend, the district convention Friday won't be able to take any binding stands on the proposals. Advisory votes will be allowed, however, according to Vagnozzi.

Primary means of affecting the state convention measures

is to be through informal motions filed with a pre-convention resolutions committee already active.

This may be done by filing a resolution to amend the political reform proposals.

WAYNE 19TH party members may submit their resolutions to Frank Blackford, a member of the 19th District resolutions committee.

Blackford lives at 34443 Grove, Livonia, telephone 261-0061.

Oakland 19th party members may submit their amendatory resolutions to Alan Sallan, 2887 Millbrook, Farmington, telephone 851-1470.

Blackford, who has been a supporter of current Wayne 19th party chairman Ron Mardiros and helped Mardiros unseat former chairman Jerry Raymond, was chairman of the Wayne 19th convention

resolutions committee which offered the "open delegation" proposal.

Thus Mardiros was able to keep his promise of opening the district party ranks.

He was one-upped during the proceedings Sunday at Thurston High in Redford, however, by Jerry Raymond, an in-party opponent who in mid-discussion of the reform proposals proposed to allow non-delegates as well as delegates

discuss the issues.

Mardiros had promised an open convention and quickly endorsed passage of the Raymond motion.

Further strengthening an unusual display of unity among the 19th Democrats were several other convention actions.

AT THE ONSET, when Mardiros announced his pre-approved resolutions committee, it was noted that they contained membership of both his backers and some who had backed his opponent, Owen Cummings, in the last struggle for leadership.

Sid Diamond, a Cummings supporter, served with Blackford on the resolutions committee.

OF 34 PRECINCT delegates present for the roll call, including Raymond and Raymond's former leadership cadre, Mardiros polled 32 votes for chairman, no opposition and therefore cross-section support.

The two abstainers were Charles Deamud of Redford, a secretary of state branch office manager, and Clayton Shackett, also of Redford.

Absent were the Democrats' two state representatives in the area, John Bennett of Redford and Marvin Stempion of Livonia.

VAGNOZZI WAS present, attending a Wayne 19th convention for the first time.

During an interlude — just before the resolutions committee reported its open delegation proposal — Vagnozzi said he'd expected to witness some of the famous faction fighting.

"I get here tonight and all I see is harmony and unity."

He was able to give the Wayne assembly pre-notice that the Oakland convention had accepted the open and proportionate delegation rule.

After the convention, Mardiros told Observer Newspapers the identical rules mean "we've guaranteed autonomy for the Wayne 19th."

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After the convention, Mardiros told Observer Newspapers the identical rules mean "we've guaranteed autonomy for the Wayne 19th."

HE CREDITED the achievement to an agreement hammered out between his faction and that of Raymond's which added 11 members to the Wayne 19th executive committee, all Raymond supporters.

Rather than ruling with a solid 13-vote executive board, Mardiros thus has only a two-vote edge but a better chance at strength through harmony.

The last vestiges of open dissent seem, in fact, to be withering. Mardiros officers have received the records from the Raymond officers, albeit nine months after taking office.

Said Mardiros: "I'm pleased that all differences have been resolved with the factions."

Said Raymond: "We're really pleased that we've found a way to work together."

They agreed, "We've got more similarities than differences."

"What this really means," said Mardiros, "is trouble for Republicans."