

# Few surprises from state Republican convention

By MIKE SCANLON

To hear politicians tell the tale, life's only unhappy endings are the ones arranged by the opposition.

So it's no surprise that the Republican faithful are pleased with the outcome of last weekend's biennial state GOP convention. The Democrats didn't have a thing to do with it.

Mel Larsen, state Republican Party chairman from Oakland County, said Michigan Republicans "went into it with unity and we came out with unity."

Some observers had expected otherwise.

"THERE WAS some concern that there would be divisiveness that could cause a split in the ranks," acknowledged Gerald Kaminski, a Troy attorney elected to a state party vice chairmanship.

That concern ended when conservative and moderate speakers at a Saturday morning breakfast, honoring outgoing vice chairman Nancy Chase, resisted attacking each other, Kaminski said.

"I think that set the tenor for the convention," Kaminski said. "I think everybody walked away quite content." Some observers believed this year's convention could have turned into a slugfest, with moderate and conservative Republicans squaring off for control of the party.

Moderates have dominated Michigan's party — and the executive branch of the state government — for more than a generation. Conservatives, flush with President Reagan's decisive November victory nationally, were itching for more of the same in Michigan, or so the theory went.



MEL LARSEN  
Chairing unified ranks

THE SHOWDOWN fizzled almost before the fuse was lit, however.

Two years ago, Larsen was the only candidate for the state chairmanship and won by acclamation. But things didn't go quite so easily for the former state legislator and Pontiac high school football coach this time.

Almost as easily, but not quite, Larsen decisively staved off a conservative-led movement for control of the party chairmanship, garnering a comfortable 66 percent of the vote against Harry C. Versyer. Versyer is chairman of the Michigan Conservative Union.

Backing up Larsen in the GOP hierarchy is Vice Chairman Ellen Templin, a Bloomfield Hills resident who won the seat vacated by the retired Ms. Chase. Ms. Templin, vacationing in Mexico and unavailable for comment, beat Diana Forester of Williamsburg.

William Pickard of Dearborn faced no opposition in the race for second, or minority vice chair; Saul Anuzis of Detroit won a contested election to the third, or youth vice chairmanship; Kaminski unseated Al Zaparkas for the fourth vice chairmanship, and Marie Wenela of Dearborn was a landslide winner for the fifth vice chair.

SUBURBAN Republicans will be seeing plenty of new faces following the weekend's results for congressional district chairmanships.

State Rep. Kirby Holmes (Utica), a conservative, was elected chairman of the 12th District, in Macomb County and eastern Rochester.

Harry Greenleaf, a Ford engineering personnel manager and chairman of the Schoolcraft College board, remains chairman of the 2nd District, in northwestern Wayne County, eastern Washienaw and Monroe counties.

Patricia Ganzberger of Southgate now heads the 15th District delegation.

Frank Vallotin, a Redford Township Republican who prefers to be called a "strong moderate" rather than a conservative, unseated incumbent Detroit attorney Edward Haroutunian for the chairmanship of the 17th District. The district includes Farmington and Southfield.

Jeffrey Schorr of Troy won election to the 18th District chairmanship and Alan May of Bloomfield Hills now heads the 19th District delegation.

Of the area's six districts, only Greenleaf's 2nd District retained its incumbent chairman.

CONSERVATIVES may not have taken the whole ball of wax, but they did have some things to cheer about. Vallotin's victory seems to have been one of them.

## Unite to fight Sunbelt shift — Purcell

Business, labor, government — all three need to get together to plan Michigan's way out of the economic doldrums, U.S. Rep. Carl Purcell, R-Plymouth, told the Republican State Convention Saturday.

"Governments at all levels operate in a crisis-to-crisis vacuum. Labor and management operate in adversarial isolation," he said in remarks prepared for the convention.

Political leaders alone can't take on the task, Purcell said, and "the vast talents of our great universities and many fine community leaders are seldom utilized productively in formulating public policy."

IN AN interview, Purcell said legislative leaders liked the idea of an economic conference but thought in terms of meeting with Michigan's 21-member congressional delegation for a few hours.

The 2nd District congressman said he's thinking in terms of a tri-party conference for three or four days, possibly at such a quiet spot as Hillsdale College. He added he was specifically looking to University of Michigan President Harold Shapiro and idea people from Michigan State and Wayne State universities.

"I won because I appealed to the broader base in the political spectrum in the 17th District," Vallotin said. "The Reagan people will work with me, and the facts are they wouldn't work with Haroutunian because he bucked them during the last campaign."

Still to come in the biennial GOP spring housecleaning are new holders for the offices of secretary, treasurer, and subcommittee chairs and vice chairs. Those posts will be filled April 3-4 at the first meeting of the party's new state central committee, itself elected last weekend.

"We are experiencing a migration of some business and jobs to the Sun Belt. Automation has replaced other jobs. Both factors combine to intensify the importance of diversification of industry and employment in our state," he said.

MUCH OF the job loss is due to competition from Japan, he said, noting that "Japan involves all aspects of its society in a planning process — management, labor, education and government at all levels."

"In the U.S., however, these groups take it to be their task in life to fight one another."

In competing for industry, Purcell said Michigan, the northeast states and the Midwest should not get into a "donnybrook" with the South and West.

The third-term congressman praised the tax and spending cuts proposed by the Reagan Administration but said he would have preferred spending be cut across-the-board rather than selectively in ways that will hurt the industrial Northeast and Midwest.

Purcell addressed the Cobo Hall convention as spokesman for the Republicans in the Michigan delegation. The convention met to elect a state chairman and party leaders.

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