

Soronen joins SEMTA board

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Lillian Moffitt, vice chairwoman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, was one of the most enthusiastic delegates to congratulate JoAnn Soronen after last week's meeting of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments General Assembly.

"She takes the time to dig into issues. She does her homework," said Moffitt, patting Soronen on the back and offering to treat for libations.

Soronen, a second-term member of the Farmington Hills City Council, had indeed done her homework. The result was that the SEMCOG General Assembly elected her to the board of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) by a 53-11 vote.

Loser was James Seeterlin, Waterford Township supervisor who had been elected to fill a vacancy only three months ago and was seeking a full three-year term on the SEMTA board.

"VERY HONESTLY, there was not an issue between us," Soronen said. Her campaign offered no criticism of Seeterlin's voting record or attendance.

Nevertheless, there were two unspoken issues: The northern townships/southern cities theme that dominates much Oakland politicking, and the fact

that only one current SEMTA board member (from Detroit) is a woman.

Under a cumbersome procedure used only in Oakland County, a SEMTA seat is filled by the SEMCOG General Assembly from a list of three persons nominated by a caucus of cities, villages and townships in the county.

Last winter, the townships packed a caucus, most city representatives failed to show up, and the caucus nominated three township supervisors for the SEMTA seat. Two conveniently dropped out. The third was Seeterlin, who won the SEMCOG General Assembly's vote to finish the SEMTA term.

THIS TIME around, "Jody" Soronen and the cities were prepared.

"I sent a letter to everybody but Jim Seeterlin and asked their support," she said.

She was urged on by Moffitt, R-Bloomfield Township, a SEMCOG delegate from the Oakland County Board of

Commissioners. "I called Jody a long time ago and asked her to run," Moffitt said.

"I have worked with her on a number of committees, and she always did an excellent job."

The caucus, held six weeks ago, in the Farmington Hills City Hall, nominated Soronen, Seeterlin and a second township supervisor who bowed out.

Meanwhile, Soronen "did her homework" on SEMCOG delegates.

"I was a mass transit rider myself for 20 years," said Soronen, who was raised in the Woodward-McNichols area of Detroit. "I have some thoughts on it."

SHE WILL serve a three-year term on the board of SEMTA, a seven-county authority that operates all non-Detroit public buses, local dial-a-ride buses and two commuter trains. Oakland has three seats.



JoAnn Soronen
on SEMTA board

Registration starts this week at Oakland Community College

Regular registration for the 1982 summer semester at Oakland Community College will begin this week.

Registration will be from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday according to alphabetical order.

Students may register at any one of the following OCC campus locations: the Auburn Hills Campus in

Auburn Heights; Highland Lakes Campus in Union Lake; Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills; and the Southeast/Southfield Campus in Southfield.

Applications for the 1982 summer semester currently are being accepted. New students should contact an admissions counselor at the campus of their choice for information.

Nonunion OEC staffers to receive raises

The Oakland Community College Board of Trustees recently approved raises for non-union administrators and support staff, effective Thursday.

Most of the administrative staff will receive 7.66-percent pay hikes. Some selected administrators who are at the top of the pay scale will receive 0.5-percent raises.

Administrative annual salaries cur-

rently range from \$24,184 to \$63,336.

Most support staff members will receive a 7.9-percent pay hike. Selected support staff will receive a 0.37-percent raise.

Support staff monthly salaries range from \$348 to \$2,454.

In both instances, lower-salaried employees will receive the larger percentage increases.

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