

Hotel room? Tickets? Delegates ask Jackie

By Tim Richard
staff writer

It's fun, but Jackie Stewart will be delighted when the Republican National Convention is over.

An aide to Oakland prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, Stewart is housing chairperson of the 77-member Michigan delegation heading for New Orleans to nominate candidates for president and vice president.

"We'll house close to 400 people," she said, running over the list of delegates, alternates, guests, donors, 11 honorary delegates and 80 media people she must fit into the luxurious Fairmont Hotel, a favorite haunt of the legendary Huey Long.

MICHIGAN, IN case you've been in a cocoon for seven months, wasn't an easy delegation to handle. For six months, there were two rival delegations. Not until July 25 did they work out a compromise.

"My biggest problem was that the rooms were scheduled to go back to the national committee," she said, meaning that unreserved rooms were to be parceled out by the na-

tional party. "We didn't want to give them back. But it was not a major snag."

As it turned out, the Bush, Kemp and Robertson presidential factions compromised, with one Bush and four Kemp delegates voluntarily resigning and five Robertson people taking those seats.

Stewart arranged Michigan attendance at New Orleans events honoring first lady Nancy Reagan and the vice president's wife, Barbara Bush. She also arranged a Mississippi riverboat cruise, tickets to "home parties" in New Orleans for the delegates, a booklet listing all attendees, a calendar of events and Patterson's own reception.

IT'S HIGHLY unusual that Patterson is chairing the Michigan delegation. That honor usually goes to a sitting governor or the state party chairman, E. Spencer Abraham.

But Abraham retained absolute neutrality in the intraparty war and bowed out as a national convention delegate. So the delegates elected Patterson, due to retire as prosecutor after 16 years Dec. 31, as chairman.

Stewart works for Patterson as an investigator in election fraud and white-collar crime cases. Her husband is James Stewart, Huntington Woods public safety director and close friend of Patterson.

Many western Wayne and Oakland residents knew her as Jackie Boulter, a 1970 candidate for state representative against the late James Tierney of Garden City; campaign manager for now-U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell's first state Senate race in 1970; and a campaign leader for the first Jack McDonald, a representative from the old 19th District from 1967-72.

"John Long (George Bush's executive director in Michigan) and John Engler (Senate majority leader) recommended me for the job," said Stewart. The appointment was made by Abraham and national committee members Ronna Romney of Bloomfield Hills and Peter Secchia of Grand Rapids.

YOU'LL BE able to spot Michigan easily on your TV screen, thanks to her.

Stewart has 200 Detroit Pistons hats, 200 Detroit Tigers hats, 250 University of Michigan football buttons, and Lions and Red Wings hats," Stewart said. Each night the delegation will wear a different hat promoting a team.

In addition, the University of Michigan Club of New Orleans will host the Michigan delegation at a wine-and-cheese reception Wednesday afternoon, just prior to the session at which Bush will be nominated for president.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Scatterblitzer

Suzanne Miller, Farmington Hills resident and youth vice chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, leads send-off ceremonies for the "Scatterblitzers," 38 volunteers who met on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College last week to begin a bus trip to the GOP National Convention in New Orleans. Formed during President Gerald Ford's 1976 campaign, Scatterblitzers work in precincts along the route. "We have Scatterblitzers of all ages," said Miller.

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