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19th Dems Stick By Jim McNeely

By Staff Correspondent

Local Democrats from the 19th District gave majority support to Democratic State Chairman James McNeely in just about the only excitement at an unusually calm and unified state convention over the weekend.

McNeely, incumbent state chairman and former high school teacher in Farmington, survived challenges from Robert Dwyer of Plymouth, Ralph Hoag of Dearborn, and William Blue of Flint to sweep to reelection.

Delegates from the 19th District, which includes Livonia, Farmington and Redford Township, gave support to McNeely in his 75% final

margin, giving 108 votes to the incumbent, 20 to Hoag, 17 to Dwyer, and three to Blue.

DISTRICT delegates also elected a new slate of district officers and State Central Committee members at the two-day convention in Grand Rapids which observers called the most harmonious in many years.

Alto Vagnozzi of Farmington, re-elected district chairman at the convention, called the gathering "the best we've had since 1967."

"It was a calm convention, partly because there were few big issues at stake, and partly because I think we've worked out our problems in the 19th District fairly well."

"The Wayne County part agreed beforehand on their representatives, and I think the fact that our elected officials such as Livonia's Mayor Ed McNamara and the state representatives got involved was a positive step," Vagnozzi explained.

DEMOCRATS disposed easily of a long list of resolutions, including a compromise which both praised American fighting men in Indochina and noted the moral scruples which made it impossible for others to serve in the military forces for such a purpose.

Vagnozzi was one of three delegates to second McNeely's nomination for state chairman.

Fights over convention rules characterized the early hours of the convention.

The major split came over a rules proposal which would have set election of the state chairman at 3 p.m. Sunday, with adjournment immediately following. A minority report would have set the election at 3:30 p.m., with other pending business to be settled thereafter.

The majority report was sustained by the entire con-



19TH CONGRESSIONAL District members of the Republican State Central Committee pose with their state chairman after last weekend's convention. From left: Bruno Jendasek of

Lake Orion, Mrs. Delores Kory of Redford, State Chairman Bill McLaughlin, Mrs. Isabel Haynes of Farmington and Robert Swanson of Livonia. (Observer photo)

vention by a better than 2-1 majority.

Delegates from the Nineteenth District supported the majority report, 108 votes to 43.

The real issue behind the squabble was a charge by some delegates and the New Democratic Coalition that the 3 p.m. cut off time represented a "rig rule," artificially cutting off debate on complex resolutions.

IN A comparatively rare show of unity, 19th district delegates at prior caucus elected officers and State Central Committee members with practically no debate.

Re-elected district chairman was the veteran Vagnozzi.

z. of Farmington, Bill Robbins, of Redford Township, was elected one vice chairman, and Rebecca Woods of Pontiac as the other.

Livonia's Barbara Johnson was picked to be secretary, while Kathleen Brang, of Redford Township, was tapped to be treasurer.

Last year's unsuccessful congressional candidate, Fred Harris, of Farmington, was elected controller.

Joining the executive board from Redford Township were Jim Connolly, Dick Manning, Bob Rowland, Herb Noga, Gerald Gafford.

Livonia's representatives on the executive board were: Ed McNamara; Paul Kadish; Joe Dempsey; Ron Dugas; Lloyd Hughes; Bill Kopaniak; and Sid Diamond.

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Sorrows Captures Hub Cap Trophy

At stake was the annual Hub Cap Trophy and it was a typical battle between Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Agatha's.

Regular season, schedules behind them in Catholic League play, the rivals met with Sorrows taking the nod, 62-57, thanks to an 18-11 spurge in the third period.

In regular action, they play in different divisions in the Catholic League.

But there's always a spot on the post-season state in basketball as they keep sharp for the forthcoming state basketball tournament.

SORROWS	G	F	P
Blouin	6	2	14
C. Centers	6	5	17
Fleiss	2	1	6
T. Centers	4	1	9
Harte	3	0	6
Bergeron	3	5	11
TOTALS	24	14	62

ST. AGATHA	G	F	P
Miron	9	6	23
Barbour	7	2	16
Churches	4	2	10
Schrook	2	1	5
Yaskey	1	1	3
TOTALS	23	11	67

By quarters:	13	13	18	17-62
Sorrows	18	12	11	18-67
St. Agatha				

ST. AGATHA WENT ahead, 18-13, in the first period on the hot-shooting of Mark Miron, who collected 10 of his 23 points in the first period.

It was 30-26 for St. Agatha at the half, but Tom and Chris Centers each tallied six points in the third period when Sorrows went ahead to win.

Chris Centers had 17 points, Don Blouin 14 and Ross Bergeron 11 for Sorrows while Tom Centers chipped in with nine.

Miron drilled in 23, George Barbour 16 and Tom Churches 10 for St. Agatha.

The box score:

Airman Goes To Texas Base

Airman Harvey F. Vernier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Smith of 3306 Norfolk, Livonia, has received his first U.S. Air Force duty assignment after completing basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex.

The airman has been assigned to McGuire AFB, N.J., for training and duty in the supply field. Airman Vernier is a 1970 graduate of Belleville (Mich.) High School.

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