

New chairman in 18th has long commitment to supporting Bush

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

The first time she backed George Bush in an election, he lost to Lloyd Bentsen.

But that was long ago and far away, recalls Judy Riedinger, the Bloomfield Hills resident who is the new Republican chairwoman in the 18th Congressional District that encompasses much of Oakland County and parts of Livingston and Macomb counties.

Riedinger was elected over the weekend during the GOP state convention in Grand Rapids. She replaces Joseph Knollenberg who did not seek re-election.

Andy Bergstrom of West Bloomfield was elected vice chairman.

"I'm really looking forward to the next two years," said Riedinger, 36, who takes over the largest congressional delegation in Michigan. "I hope to get more people involved in grass roots politics."

Oddly enough, Riedinger got her first taste of grass roots politics fighting uphill battles against a host of big-name Democrats including Lyndon Johnson and Lloyd Bentsen. That was in her hometown of Victoria, Texas, about 100 miles southwest of Houston.

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GOP Chairman, 18th District



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Bentson for the U.S. Senate.

Even though her candidate lost, Riedinger remained a staunch Bush supporter and, after moving to Oakland County in 1984, jumped at the chance to again get involved on his behalf.

"I supported Bush during the Pat Robertson thing," she said, referring to the bitter intra-party Bush-Robertson squabble. She was a precinct committeewoman as well as a fundraiser, two jobs she retains ... and relishes.

"I'm looking forward to next year," she said.

Riedinger and her husband, Kenneth, came to Michigan imbued with philosophies and practices associated with big business. He worked for EBS and she had been in sales and marketing for IBM.

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ularly supportive of John Engler and his pledges to improve the state's business climate.

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Based on voting results linked to the number cast for secretary of state in the last election, the 18th District is the largest GOP stronghold in Michigan, according to Republican headquarters in Lansing.

The 18th had 202 delegates to the state convention, well ahead of the second largest congressional district, the 5th in Kent County with 170.

Even so, the new chairman sees recruiting as a major objective. "We have a lot of precinct committeewoman slots that aren't being filled," she said. "One of my priorities is to get active people to fill them and help build the party base."

AS THE CO-OWNER of a small business, Riedinger said she is particu-

Joachim to replace Novak

In his first public appearance since a Jan. 5 stroke, Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy had a farewell to his deputy and announced the deputy's successor.

Murphy received a standing ovation Friday night when he appeared at a farewell party for Patrick Novak, who resigned as deputy executive to become executive director of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Looking a bit frail and walking with a cane, Murphy wished Novak well in his new job. Novak has been Murphy's chief assistant since 1975.

Murphy also announced that Joseph Joachim, director of the county's department of economic development, will succeed Novak.

Murphy has been recovering at home since being released from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. He appeared to have some minor difficulty speak-

ing, but appeared to be in fine spirits.

Murphy has been in contact with his office on a regular basis. But there was no word on when he will return to work.

Commissioner Donald W. Jensen, R-Birmingham, said Joachim is a good selection as a successor to Novak. "He's done a fine job in economic development and will be an asset to Murphy's office," he said.



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