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Women on the Go

League To Commission-- It's A Natural Step

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor



From the League of Women Voters president to top voter in a city commission race was a natural progression for Beverly McAninch of Plymouth.

And the lady behind the new face in Plymouth city government plans to go right on using all she has learned in the league to try to become an effective voice in her new position.

Mrs. William McAninch, who has daughters in college and kindergarten and two sons in between, somewhat surprised herself by pulling down 917 votes, 145 more than her nearest competitor, when Plymouth voters went to the polls last week.

Yet, as she thought back, she decided it wasn't so surprising that a member of her sex ran so well.

"I CERTAINLY didn't intend to run as a 'woman's candidate,'" Bev said. "But of course that's how it worked out. And I was amazed at the number of women—older women who never would have been big supporters of the women's lib movement—who made a point of saying they thought it was time to have a feminine voice on the city commission."

For Mrs. McAninch, the decision to run grew out of serving as the first president of the new Plymouth-Northville League of Women Voters.

Retiring from that office last spring, she had decided she'd stay well in the background and let the new board work out programs in its own way.

"But when you leave a job like that and the phone stops ringing it's just great—for two days," she said.

"And I had been a league observer of the Plymouth City Commission for quite a while. 'You go to the meetings every week, and you get caught up in the business of running a city government. And I just had a feeling that running for city commission right now would be a good thing to do.'"

SHE CAMPAIGNED without the support of her organization—not because members of the league didn't personally favor her candidacy, but because the league has a strict prohibition against giving support—or appearance of support—for any candidate for office. The league supports issues, not candidates.

But there was plenty of help on the home front. Husband Bill, a Ford Motor Co. executive, helped set up campaign strategy—one of his ideas was to get more nominating petitions than necessary in order to get better known—and he also did a lot of passing and talking up her candidacy.

Son David, a senior at Plymouth High School, joined his father in passing out flyers on election day. Daughter Karen, a sophomore at Brown University at Providence, R.I., confided with delight she had "plunked" for her mother in voting for the first time. For the benefit of non-politicians and non-LWV members, that means voting for a single candidate when several are to be chosen.

Now in office, Beverly McAninch doesn't see herself as a great innovator, although she notes some areas where she thinks she may be able to make good contributions.

She does hope the city commission will be able to put more stress on long-range planning, and she's sure others in the group feel the same.

"It's easier to govern by crisis and much harder to get on top of the problems and stay on top," she said. "But we can do a better job if we can get a longer view."

BEVERLY McANINCH will find less piano playing time now that she's a member of the Plymouth City Commission. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

And eight-year-old Brian and kindergarten Barbara spread the word among Nellie Bird school classmates and took Beverly's election quite calmly.

Community support was gratifying, too, Beverly found. She was pleasantly surprised at the number of people "who took the time to invite others in for coffee and talk about the issues."

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"It's easier to govern by crisis and much harder to get on top of the problems and stay on top," she said. "But we can do a better job if we can get a longer view."


SHE'D ALSO like to work for some streamlining of commission meetings. "We shouldn't cut off those who wish to speak, but try to find a way to keep things moving so residents would come even if they didn't have a particular gripe."

Beverly figures she'll have to put a lot of hours each week on her new job, but again feels League of Women Voters has prepared her to do so.

"This paper, in giving me its endorsement, said I'd done my homework," she pointed out. "But really, I didn't have that much homework to do. 'My years with the league gave me a big head start.'"

She definitely feels more women should try running for office—because they would enjoy it and because their voice is needed.

And she'll be glad to recommend a training ground for women voters.



DEBRA LENTOVICH ELYCE LENTOVICH

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Lentovich of Farmington and Lapeer announce the engagements of their two daughters, Debra Lee and Elyce Ann. Debra will be married Nov. 27 to Richard F. Ayotte, son of Mr. and Mrs. Urban Ayotte of Farmington. She is a 1971 graduate of the University of Detroit where she affiliated with Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, and an elementary teacher in Holly. Her fiancé is a pre-law student at Wayne State University. The wedding will be held in St. Alexander Catholic Church, with a reception at Vladimir's. Elyce's fiancé is Mark R. Anway, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anway of Redford Township. Both are WSU students, the bride-elect majoring in computing and the prospective bridegroom in accounting. No date has been set for their wedding.

DAR Chapter Will Mark Anniversary

Members of John Sackett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, will mark the 30th anniversary of the chapter's founding with a luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 13, at 12 noon, in Meadowbrook Country Club, 40941 W. Eight Mile, Northville.

Guest speaker will be Mrs. Leslie O. Carlin of Mount Pleasant, state regent of the DAR. Her topic will be "Home, Then and Now." Theme of the day will be "American Heritage."

Other state officers attending will be Mrs. James B. Eastin, Southfield, first vice regent; Mrs. Eldon A. Behr, Okemos, second vice regent; Mrs. Walter Fysh, Southfield, chaplain; Mrs. Richard Meacham, Royal Oak, recording secretary; Mrs. Norman Parker, Grosse Pointe Park, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Leslie G. Lee, Hillsdale, treasurer; Mrs. Clarence Mitchell, Birmingham, registrar; Mrs. Milton Hopkins, Livonia, historian; Mrs. Clarence Miller, Monroe, librarian; Mrs. Clayton A. Hopp, Ypsilanti, director; and Mrs. Bruce Gillespie, Flint, director.

Regents of area chapters have also been invited.

The chapter first met Oct. 11, 1941, in the home of Mrs. Etta Turnbull. A month later, the formal organization took place in the Botsford Inn.

The organizing group consisted of 18 members, 10 of whom were descendants of John Sackett, private in the Revolutionary War.

The regent, Mrs. Urbini R. Suttin, will preside at the meeting.

Economist To Speak

"Inflation and the President's Economic Plan" will be the subject of an address by economist Martha Seger at the Nov. 17 meeting of the Farmington Branch of the American Association of University Women.

The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. in the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Rd.

Miss Seger has been an economist with the Detroit Bank and Trust since 1967. Before coming to Detroit, she worked as a financial economist for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. She has a doctorate in economics and finance from the University of Michigan.

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