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Citizens League starts drive

With an eye toward the 1976 elections, the new officers of the Oakland Citizens League are launching a membership drive aimed at beefing up their ranks before tackling a new roster of state and local candidates.

The League, a non-partisan, fact-finding organization affiliated with Detroit's Civic Searchlight, issues a voter's guide which rates candidates for all state and local offices.

Its recently-elected president, Peter A. Cartwright of Birmingham, said the group hopes to widen its membership base by adding 500members from all over Oakland County.

At present, the majority of the group's membership is centered in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

"Our prime goal," said Cartwright, a partner in the international accounting firm of Touche Ross & Co., "is to get a representative membership from all cities and areas within Oakland County."

ONCE THE MEMBERSHIP, has expanded, the group will form committees to interview the 1976 candidates. Each committee is provided with job descriptions of offices to be filled and autobiographies of the candidates.

Cartwright said that 10 committee members take part in each 20 minute interview. A discussion period follows, then the group arrives at a rating: qualified, well qualified, preferred or no rating.

After elections, Cartwright hopes to expand the group's activities to include monitoring county government. Civic Searchlight currently has a monitoring program which stations 100 volunteer courtwarchers in the city's courtrooms. The League's program would be patterned after Detroit's.

Cartwright said the group may eventually sponsor research reports on legislation, but that was "a long way down the road."

Now Cartwright and his vice president, Gabriel Werba of Bloomfield Township, are most concerned with finding a membership drive chairman and five district chairmen.

"WE HOPE TO find people who have chaired other membership drives," Cartwright said. "Our main target is to line up some dynamic, organizing women. The job requires timebusinessmen either don't have or say they don't have. Once a woman decides to tear into one of these things, it usually goes."

For general membership, Cartwright said, the group plans to scan local newspapers for letters to editors, since people who write them are usually interested in community affairs and politics.

Cartwright would also like to line up speaking engagements before local service clubs.

Membership in the Oakland Citizens League is open to any person 18 years of age or older. Membership can take a variety of forms, from a $5 subscription membership to a business membership for $50 or more.

Cartwright said the group welcomes all memberships but is looking particularly for $5-10 enrollees who will take an active role in the organization.

More information can be obtained from the Oakland Citizens League, 2337 Commonwealth Building, Detroit 48226.

County jobs go to lucky

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—For many of the 250-300 youths who get jobs this summer with the county, it won't be who they know but how lucky they are.

That is, when the county board of commissioners approves anti-nepotism controls to reduce the practice of past years that crowded the summer payroll with the children and relatives of county employes.

Last week the personnel practices committee approved a plan to dispense most of the summer jobs through a lottery system.

The resolution will now be sent to the full board, where quick approval is expected.

IN THE PAST the county has been criticized for keeping a good share of the summer jobs "in the family."

With hirings done at the discretion of department heads, 68 relatives of county employes made the summer payroll in 1974. Although a lottery system was instituted last year to check nepotism, it came too late to affect all but a few hirings.

In 1973, 87 children or other relatives of county employes worked for the county including two children whose fathers were county commissioners at the time.

John Witherup, county personnel director, agreed that summer placements were regarded by county employes as "unofficial fringe benefits." Witherup said the county acted like "one big happy family."

ACCORDING TO the plan approved by tee personnel practices committee, nepotism will be checked but not eliminated.

As County Executive Daniel Murphy argued, while the county shouldn't play favorites it should also not discriminate against relatives of employes.

The plans allows for former summer workers to be rehired apart from the lottery, which will return many relatives of county employes.

However, no other special considerations will be given, Murphy said. Other relatives will jam what this year is expected to be a tremendous increase in applicants. The applicants will be divided according to the position they are seeking and their qualifications and a number of drawings will be held.

WITH THIS plan Murphy expected roughly 30 per cent of summer jobs to go to relatives of county employes, which he considered fair.

The county will advertise for summer help sometime this month.

Witherup expects to receive as many as 10 applications for every position available.

The county hires youths each summer.

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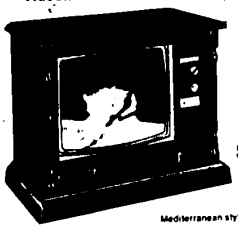

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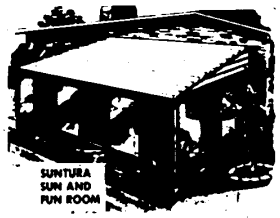

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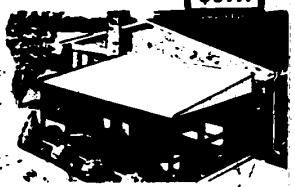

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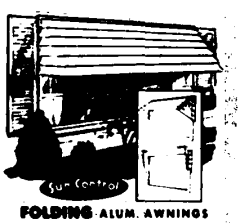

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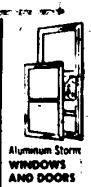

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