

Petrie Chosen Administrative Assistant As Legislature Re-Organizes

BY JIM REAGEN
CANTON — St. Lawrence County's Republican caucus voted to reject their former chairman's last-minute run for the legislature's administrative assistant's position, voting by a razor thin margin last Thursday to elect Eileen Petrie over Augustus Marscher.

Mrs. Petrie was elected by an 11-to-11 vote, with only Duana Carey, a Republican legislator from Stockholm, voting with the Democratic caucus for Marscher. Under weighted voting, Mrs. Petrie had a slim majority of 50.3 votes to Marscher's 49.3 votes, as 11 Republicans stuck together for Mrs. Petrie.

Under weighted voting, Mrs. Petrie was elected to the four-year term for administrative assistant. Potsdam legislator Rosemary Sanford, a Republican, was easily elected over Democratic legislator Betty Bradley of Potsdam as the board's first woman chairman in a 12-to-10 party line vote.

Mrs. Sanford had originally chosen Mrs. Petrie as her choice for the administrative assistant's

position. During Thursday's organizational meeting she held the normally unwieldy GOP caucus together despite pressure from Marscher's supporters, and a last-minute plea by leading Democrats to give Marscher, a popular Republican, the job.

High Regard
 "Gus Marscher has had experience in this position," said Mrs. Bradley, reminding legislators that people throughout county government held him in "high regard" during his term in office.

Allen Rische, an Ogdensburg Democrat, joined in urging the GOP to vote for Marscher, saying that claims that the Democrats "dumped" Marscher two years ago "is not really true."

Rische said the Democrats could not appoint Marscher as administrative assistant because he was also serving on the legislature. When the Republicans were in control, Rische said, Marscher served as both administrative assistant and full-time chairman of the board.

"He couldn't be chosen as the chairman by the Democrats," Rische said. "The only way that we could have appointed him is if he had resigned his position as a legislator."

Donald Smith, a Louisville Democrat, told the board that Marscher distinguished himself as chairman through his close work with the board's committees, and tight control over the county's departments.

"He was really a strong administrator," Smith said.

By One Vote
 But when the roll call vote on the administrator's choice was taken, Marscher lost by one vote.

After the meeting, Marscher declined to criticize his former GOP colleagues.

"Life's too short," he said. "There's nothing I can say. People have a free choice."

"I want to thank all the people who supported me in my nomination," Marscher said.

Marscher said Republican claims that the Democrats dumped him two years ago were not true.

"I never applied for the job," Marscher said. "I never thought to apply. They (the Democrats) advertised."

Marscher also urged the Republicans not to take legislative reprisals against Mrs. Carey, the lone Republican to support his candidacy.

"I would hope that they would realize that with a 12-to-10 majority they may never Duana," he said. "Duana is a very good legislator. To bury her would be incomprehensible."

"The wheel always turns," he

said.

Marscher said Mrs. Petrie would "do all right" as administrative assistant.

At Thursday's meeting, Marscher's friends were evident in the audience.

Former Lisbon legislator Robert Thompson, a Republican, said he supported Marscher.

"I feel sure that if the Republicans had realized Gus was available they would have supported him," Thompson said.

Robert McNeil, a Lisbon Republican who was elected to the board after Thompson retired two years ago, voted against Marscher.

Roll Call
 Voting for Petrie were the following Republicans: Mrs. Sanford, McNeil, Lloyd Moore of Clare,

Donald Livingston of Oswegatchie, William Sheridan of Canton, Peter Otto of Lawrence, Robert Snyder of Star Lake, Carl Ashley of Ogdensburg, Bennett Abrams of Massena, Allen Dunham of Hammond, and Robert Hayden of Gouverneur.

Voting for Marscher was Mrs. Carey and Democrats Bradley, Rische, Don Smith, James Smith of Canton, James McFaddin of Norwood, Donald Purvis of Norfolk, Jean LePage of Massena, Stanley Morrill of Hermon, Orville Miller of Ogdensburg, and Michael Deshaies of Massena.

Thursday's organizational meeting included few fireworks as the Republican legislature took control. With former legislature Chairman Nicholas Viskovich

retired, McNeil gavelled the meeting to order as the board elected Mrs. Sanford.

Bennett Abrams of Massena, a Republican, was elected by a 12 to 10 party line vote to the vice chairman's position.

William Maginn, a Republican attorney from Massena, was elected county attorney over Steve Easter. Easter was originally appointed by the Democrats. He has since been appointed by St. Lawrence County Judge Eugene Nicandri, a fellow Democrat, as the judge's law clerk.

In the vote, two Democrats, Jean LePage of Massena and Donald Smith of Louisville voted for Maginn. One Republican, Lloyd Moore of Clare, voted for Easter.

County Lawmakers Approve Groups' Funding

BY MICHAEL HIRSCH
CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators last Thursday morning voted to fund 17 organizations with amounts ranging from \$500 to \$380,000.

Among the appropriations was a \$12,000 contribution to the St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House, which provides help to battered women.

St. Lawrence County Cooperative Extension service received the largest allocation — \$380,000 in the county 1968 budget.

Also receiving funding were: North Country Library System, \$91,403; St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, \$35,000; St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District, \$34,600; St. Lawrence County Well Child Clinics, \$20,000; St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, \$15,000; St. Lawrence County Historical Association, \$11,000 and St. Lawrence County

Historical Association Museum. Also, Planned Parenthood of Northern New York, \$9,000; WSLU-FM, North Country Public Radio, \$5,000; Adirondack North Country Association, \$3,420; Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, \$3,000; St. Lawrence County and Gouverneur Fair, \$2,200; North County Conservation Education Associates, Inc., \$1,800; Federated Sportsmen's Clubs of St. Lawrence County, \$1,000 and Hammond 4-H and FFA Fair, \$500.

The legislators also established the salary for several county officials.

The salary for the St. Lawrence County commissioner of social services was established at \$35,000; the county highway superintendent, \$36,637; county data processing director, \$36,000; economic development director, \$29,774; county treasurer, \$29,453; personnel officer, \$28,096; clerk to the board of legislators, \$21,962; county attorney, \$20,000 and election commissioners, \$19,176.

Sanford Makes Committee Assignments

BY JIM REAGEN
CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Legislature's committee system will probably take a more activist role in overseeing the county's agencies under the committee's picked by new Legislature Chairman Rosemary Sanford.

Mrs. Sanford, as the chairman of the board, issued the list of committee appointments last week. The committee appointments have traditionally been a way for the majority party caucus, and to direct the opposing party's members.

Committee assignments, with the chairman listed first, include:

Agriculture: Stanley Morrill (D-Hermon), Allen Dunham (R-Hammond), Donald Purvis (D-Norfolk), James Smith (D-Canton).

Buildings and Grounds: William Sheridan (R-Canton), Jean LePage (D-Massena), Orville Miller (D-Ogdensburg), Lloyd Moore (R-Clare), Peter Otto (R-Lawrence).

Community Services: Dunham, Bennett Abrams (R-Massena), Mike Deshaies (D-Massena), LePage, Otto.

Data Processing: Miller, Duana Carey (R-Stockholm), LePage, James McFaddin (D-Norwood), Robert Snider (R-Star Lake).

Economic Development: Snider, Deshaies, Robert McNeil (R-Canton), Miller, Sheridan.

Finance: McNeil, Abrams, Betty Bradley (D-Potsdam), Donald Livingston (R-Oswegatchie), Allen Rische (D-Ogdensburg), William

Newly Named County Attorney Will Break Ties With CSEA

BY MICHAEL HIRSCH
CANTON — William Maginn, the newly appointed St. Lawrence County Attorney, said he will give up his law work with the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) to avoid conflicts with his county post.

"I have given up my work with CSEA because I feel it is in direct conflict with my county job," Maginn said.

He said negotiations, disciplinary proceedings and other matters he currently handles for CSEA would conflict with his county attorney position.

A Republican attorney from Massena, Maginn said his work for CSEA now makes up a "significant part" of his private law practice.

Maginn said he expects to spend two days a week working on county law matters.

"It will depend a lot on the court's schedule," he said. "One week I may work three days and the next week one. I don't really know yet how my schedule will work."

An assistant district attorney for St. Lawrence County from 1974-75, Maginn said he has not yet decided what law firms he will hire to help him with the county's law work.

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Sheridan (R-Canton), Donald Smith (D-Louisville).

Health: Carey, Bradley, Robert Hayden (R-Gouverneur), Purvis, Snider.

Central Services: Rische, Ashley, Livingston, McFaddin, McNeil.

Legislative and Judicial: Abrams, Hayden, Morrill, Sheridan and J. Smith.

Personnel: D. Smith, Ashley, Deshaies, Dunham, Livingston.

Planning and Conservation: Moore, Carey, Hayden, Purvis, J. Smith.

Public Safety: Otto, Ashley, Dunham, Morrill, D. Smith.

Social Services: Bradley, Abrams, Carey, Rische, Snider.

Transportation: Livingston, McFaddin, McNeil Moore, D. Smith.



JAMES A. WILLIAMS

Williams Named Shelly V.P.

James A. Williams has been named vice president of Shelly Electric, Inc. of Potsdam.

Williams, a Potsdam native, had been an accountant upon joining Shelly Electric in 1974; then in 1977 became office manager.

A graduate with a B.S. in accounting from Clarkson University, Williams is currently active in the Potsdam Rotary Club, Potsdam Town & Country Club where he acts as treasurer, director of Potsdam Junior Hockey and St. Lawrence Valley Electrical Contractors Association.

Williams resides with his wife, Kathleen, and five children in Potsdam.

Writing Conference Set

The North Country Writing Cooperative Dinner/Conference has been rescheduled for Jan. 21 at Thatcher Hall, Potsdam College.

The program is designed to bring educators from local schools and colleges together to discuss the teaching of writing.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Paul Eschholz, professor of English at the University of Vermont.

Registration and a cash bar begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., and Dr. Eschholz is scheduled to speak from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Dinner is included in the registration fee of \$11. For more information, contact the Office of Graduate and Lifelong Learning at 267-2165.

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