

Sanford Announces 1987 Committee Appointments

BY JOE YANKOWSKI
CANTON — Republican District 1 Legislator Stephen Teele of Lisbon and Madrid will start his career on the county legislature chairing one of the board's major committees as he takes the helm of the Legislative and Judicial Committee.

But Bennett Abrams, a Massena Republican, emerged with the legislature's most powerful committee chairmanship as Legislature Chairman Rosemary Sanford (R-Potsdam) announced her appointments shortly after her reelection.

Abrams was named by Sanford as chairman of the county Finance and Audit Committee, replacing former District 1 legislator Robert McNeil, who is now county Treasurer.

The Finance Committee also saw one other major change, as Stockholm legislator Duana Carey was named to a post on the Legislature's Finance Committee to fill a vacant seat Abrams previously held. Carey also received an increased amount of responsibility from Mrs. Sanford, as she was also named to the Transportation Committee while continuing as chairman of the Health Committee.

Abrams was named, Mrs. Sanford said, "because Ben is an experienced legislator who I think will do a good job. We can't predict what is going to happen in upcoming years, but Ben will do a good job." Abrams is a former chairman of the county legislature. He is also a former supervisor of the town of Massena.

Abrams stated that he isn't worried about possible interference

from Mrs. Sanford in the operation of the committee.

"Rosemary has never endeavored to implement any of her interests on the committee since she has to sift and strain all of the matters that go before the floor," he said.

Teele, a former Lisbon Town Justice, saw his county legislator career get off to a strong start as he was named chairman of the Legislative and Judicial Committee. He will also serve on the Economic Development Committee as well as Central Services and Data Processing.

"Considering my background, this appointment (as Legislative and Judicial Committee Chairman) is not out of context," said Teele, a former Lisbon town justice. "I have a definite interest in it."

The committees for the 1987 year will be as follows:

Agriculture: Earl Morrill (Chairman), James McFadden, Teele.
Community Services: Dunham (Chairman), Abrams, Michael Deshaies, LePage, Otto.
Data Processing: Miller (Chairman), LePage, McFadden, Robert Snider, Teele.
Economic Development: Snider (Chairman), Deshaies, Miller, Sheridan, Teele.
Finance and Audit: Abrams

(Chairman), Betty Bradley, Carey, Livingston, Rische, Sheridan, Donald Smith.

Health: Carey (Chairman), Bradley, Robert Hayden, Purvis, Snider.

Legislative and Judicial: Teele (Chairman), Hayden, Morrill, Sheridan, J. Smith.

Personnel: Donald Smith (Chairman), Carl Ashley, Deshaies, Dunham, Livingston.

Planning and Conservation: Moore (Chairman), Ashley, Hayden, Purvis, J. Smith.

Public Safety: Otto (Chairman), Ashley, Dunham, Morrill, D. Smith.

Social Services: Bradley (Chairman), Abrams, Carey, Rische, Snider.

Transportation: Livingston (Chairman), Carey, McFadden, Moore, D. Smith.

Sanford Reelected

BY MICHAEL HIRSCH
CANTON — Republican county representatives Friday gave Potsdam legislator Rosemary Sanford the reigns to the chairmanship of the county legislature for another year and the full county board made Republican Stephen Teele of Lisbon the new District 1 legislator.

In a straight party vote, Sanford outpolled fellow Potsdam legislator Betty Bradley, a Democrat, for the chairmanship by a 12-9 vote. Bradley was the Democratic legislators' candidate.

Sanford also released her committee assignments for 1987 Friday. She was able to shuffle the committees following Lisbon legislator Robert McNeil's resignation to serve as county treasurer.

William Sheridan (R-Canton), who nominated Sanford for chairman, praised her hard work as chairman in 1986 and said she "brought this board through some difficult times in the last year."

The legislature voted unanimously to approve Teele's nomination as the new District 1 representative on the county board replacing McNeil.

Teele, a former Lisbon town justice and school board member, took his oath of office at the beginning of the meeting. Republicans

needed Teele's vote to maintain their 12-10 edge on the county board.

Republicans considered Teele's vote crucial to the reappointment of Sanford as chairman of the county board. Lloyd Moore (R-Clare), who has expressed dissatisfaction with last year's administration, indicated that he might swing his vote to the Democrats if he wasn't satisfied with the Republican choice for chairman.

People

SULLIVAN HOSPITALIZED
Potsdam Village Trustee Robert Sullivan, a resident of 106½ Main St., has been hospitalized at the Medical Center Hospital of Burlington in Burlington.

A spokesperson for the hospital said the patient's condition cannot be released without permission from family members.

Sullivan was treated for angina in October at the Burlington hospital. He underwent heart surgery in 1981.

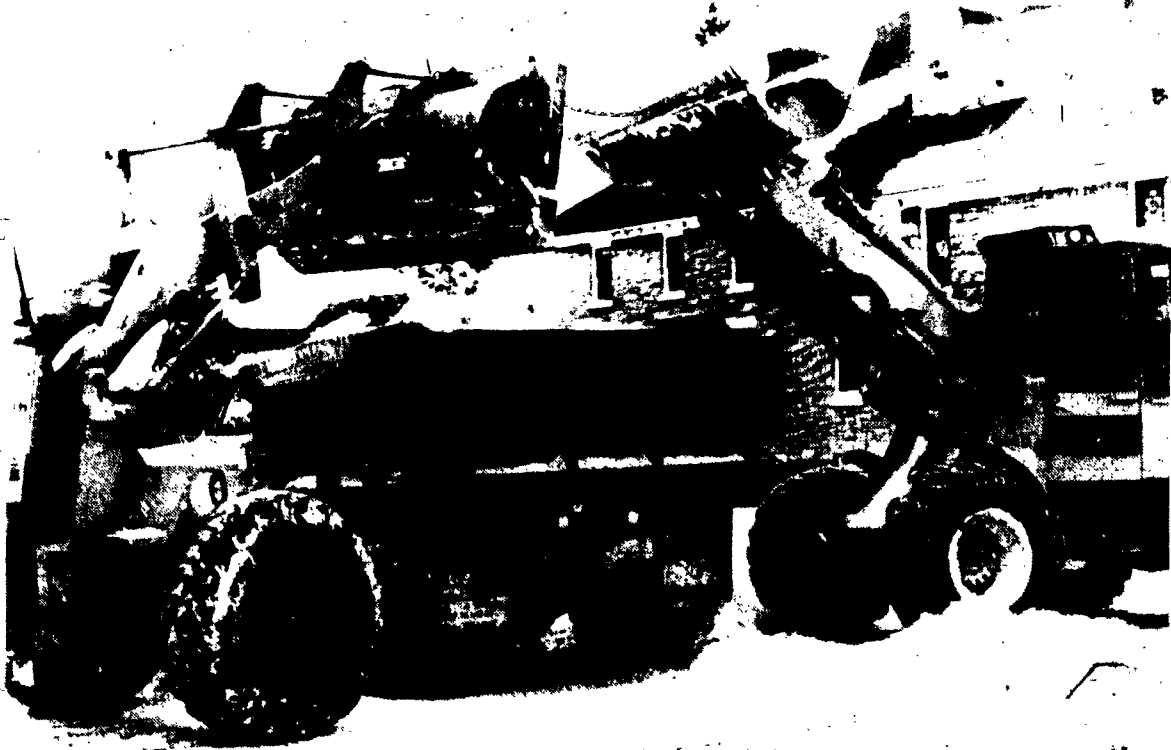
He is employed at Farm Cottage alcohol rehabilitation center in Ogdensburg and has been a village trustee since April 1985.

Pneumococcal Vaccine Clinic

The St. Lawrence County Public Health Nursing Service will offer the pneumococcal vaccine from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Jan. 13 in Midtown Apartments, Potsdam. This vaccine is intended for immunization against diseases caused by pneumococcus; it is available to all persons 65 and over. Persons 18-64 will be provided the vaccine if their medical history indicates a need for it. If under 18, persons need their private physician's signed request for this immunization.

The NYS Health Department now mandates that a parent or legal guardian accompany the child and sign for each immunization received.

A donation of \$3 is accepted to help defray the high cost of the vaccine.



SNOW REMOVAL — Potsdam village crews were at work Monday removing snow banks from the downtown area following last week's snowstorm. (Ron Robertson photo)

County May Get Money For Consolidation Plan

BY MICHAEL HIRSCH
CANTON — The chairman of the state legislature's Commission on Rural Resources has praised St. Lawrence County's decision to combine its human services departments and said the county may receive additional state funding.

"Consolidation of human resource programs is a top priority of the Commission on Rural Resources," wrote state Senator Charles D. Cook, chairman of the commission.

"We have a bill in the Legislature that would provide some very substantial funding for counties which will undertake this initiative."

Cook's bill, which would provide extra state money to rural counties that agree to consolidate, was shot down in the state legislature in 1986. But Cook apparently plans to push the proposed legislation again this year.

The state senator addressed his letter to county Treasurer Robert McNeil, who last month as a county legislator introduced the resolution to combine St. Lawrence County's

Social Services and Health departments.

"I encourage you to keep in touch on this issue," Cook wrote. "The financial incentives we hope to provide are extremely substantial, intended to compensate counties which have the guts to endure the birth pains of these consolidated human services programs."

"Congratulations on your courage and much success in your endeavor."

The turf battles between the heads of various county departments "has already arisen as one of the major reasons why this bill has not yet succeeded in passing the Legislature," Cook said.

The chairman of the Commission on Rural Resources said that news of the St. Lawrence County Legislature's move to consolidate "came as music to my ears and balm for my weary eyes."

The county legislature on Friday agreed to move forward with consolidation, voting 15-6 to appoint William Serafin its Human Resources commissioner.

Serafin, the county's director of Health-Mental Health Services,

will be responsible for developing a plan to combine the two departments. Legislators have said the county's Office for the Aging and Veteran's Services may also be included in the consolidation in the future.

While Senator Cook has said the county may receive additional funding because of consolidation, Ogdensburg legislator Allen Rische argued at Friday's meeting that the county could lose state and federal funds because of the move.

Rische said that no one has studied how consolidation of the departments will affect state and federal fundings for the county's human services programs. The Democratic legislator said he doesn't think the county will receive federal reimbursement for the \$55,000 a year position of Human Resources commissioner.

Republican supporters, however, said they think the consolidation can be structured in a way that would guarantee that St. Lawrence County continues to receive state and federal funds.

Phillips A Fighter, Friends Recall

BY JIM REAGEN
A week before the November election, Ella Mae Phillips boarded a bus loaded with campaign paraphernalia and politicians for a tour of the county, bringing the GOP's message and standard bearers to the voters.

That evening, at the Cattleman's East in Morristown, she emceed the dinner, urging party workers to take nothing for granted in the election.

"She'd been so ill," recalled State Sen. John McHugh shortly after learning St. Lawrence County's Republican Party Chairman had died early Saturday morning after two years of fighting cancer.

"She looked marvelous. It was a surprise to see her doing so much considering her health. But she never talked about her ill health. She had more courage than I've seen in 10 other people."

"I think she was one of the

bravest people I've ever worked with," said Assemblyman Robert Nortz (R-Lowville) and chairman of the Lewis County GOP. "She knew her fate. But it didn't deter her. When we were on the campaign bus, she'd put together the St. Lawrence County leg of the trip, and that night she presided at the dinner just as if everything was perfect. I remember remarking what guts that lady had."

"Nobody had more guts," said State Republican Committee member Roger Catlin of Canton. "She was a tough, tough lady. She fought as long as she could."

"She kept things together for us," Catlin said.

For 25 years, Mrs. Phillips was one of the county's top Republicans, a behind the scenes player in a host of GOP political campaigns. While others took bows, Mrs. Phillips was often the person who made things work, lin-

ing up votes, making calls, registering voters, working on all the nuts and bolts of a political campaign.

"She was an inspiration to us," recalled Congressman David O'B. Martin (R-Canton). "If you talk about playing hurt, she did it. To say the least, she was an outstanding leader. And not unlike her trying last days, she never gave up."

"I knew her for 13 years," Martin recalled. "And it was a privilege to serve with her. Her husband, Jim and the family have the satisfaction of knowing they shared the life of a great lady. We'll certainly miss her."

"If everybody spent as much time and showed as much interest in good government, we'd be far better off," Martin said.

"She was always a full-time participant," recalled Assemblyman John G.A. O'Neil (R-Parishville). "She always gave of herself. People didn't realize how much time, how many hours she put in. She was an indefatigable worker. I know we're going to miss her. I hope people can emulate her concern for public service."

"Even with the illness she had that spirit to bounce back," O'Neil said. "No matter how ill she was, she always said I'm coming back. She put the rest of us to shame. She didn't know what the word 'slow down' meant. Anything she did, she threw herself into it."

GOP County Vice Chairman Carolyn Cheney of Stockholm said the loss of Ella Mae was a personal loss to her.

"I met her when I first got involved in politics," she said. "She was a vice chairman for 22 years. When I became a county committee man, we got to know each other. I really feel a personal loss because we became good personal friends. I talked to her when she first became ill two years ago. But she never let it affect her. I talked to her a few days before she became ill this last time, and she still had plans for the future."

First Baby Born At C-P Hospital

The first baby of the new year at Canton-Potsdam Hospital arrived just two minutes into 1987, according to hospital officials.

Christine Anna Burns, daughter of Nancy and John Burns, Massena, was delivered by Dr. John Baker at 12:02 a.m. Jan. 1. She weighed seven pounds, one ounce.

Before the new year was nine hours old, two additional babies had been delivered by Dr. Baker. Christopher Frank Dixon, son of Laura and Frank Dixon, Massena, arrived at 1:39 a.m., weighing eight pounds, one ounce.

Katharine Rose French, daughter of Cynthia and Carl French, Brasher Falls, weighed seven pounds, two ounces, when she arrived at 8:50 a.m.

Woman Killed As Auto Strikes Tree

BY SUE ELLEN FISHER
A 29-year-old Potsdam woman, Margaret (Peggy Ann) Merrick, was killed and her six-year-old daughter injured in a Sunday morning motor vehicle accident on the South Canton Road outside Potsdam.

Both were passengers in a car driven by Rhonda M. Cook, also of Potsdam. The Cook vehicle crested a hill, and the driver lost control of the vehicle, which slid off the right side of the highway and struck a tree, tearing the passenger door off, investigators say.

According to Canton-based State Police, Cook was charged with speed too fast for conditions. The roads, troopers said were slushy at the time of the accident.

Troopers say Cook, 23, of 17 Washington St., Potsdam, was driving a car owned by Merrick, 29, also of 17 Washington St., who was

a passenger in the vehicle, westerly along the South Canton Road at 10:40 a.m. Sunday.

The vehicle crested a hill and Cook lost control of it, driving off the side of the road and striking a maple tree with the passenger side of the vehicle, troopers say.

St. Lawrence County Coroner Russell B. Lawrence III was dispatched to the scene. He ordered the body moved to Canton-Potsdam Hospital where Dr. Allan Jacobs pronounced Merrick dead due to multiple head injuries. She suffered a broken neck and other head injuries. There will be no autopsy.

Cook suffered bruised ribs and hip. Merrick's 6-year-old daughter, Stacie, suffered scalp and facial lacerations. Both were treated at Canton-Potsdam Hospital.

Mrs. Merrick's other daughter, Jennifer, age 4, was not injured, troopers say.

According to troopers both the

driver and three passengers were wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident.

Bears Honor Fans

The Potsdam Bears basketball team is inviting the North Country to attend this Saturday's games against Brockport State free of charge as a "Fan Appreciation Day."

Potsdam College Athletic Director and Basketball Coach Jerry Welsh said, "We are having a fan appreciation day Saturday to thank area fans for the great support that the North Country people have shown toward the Potsdam Bears over many years. No admission will be charged and everyone is welcome as the guests of Potsdam College."

The JV team will take on Brockport at 1 p.m. with the varsity encounter to follow at 3 p.m. The Golden Eagles are a tough team with lots of talent, according to Welsh.

Potsdam currently owns a 9-0 record and a 41-game win streak entering Wednesday's game at the University of Buffalo.

Two Vacancies On Town Planning Board

Potsdam town officials say they are seeking to fill two vacancies on the town planning board, one caused by the recent death of Stewart Talcott of Potsdam, and one by the resignation of Richard Duryes.

Interested persons, particularly those from rural areas of the township, are asked to call the town offices, according to Town Clerk Mary Frost. Terms on the seven-member planning board are five years.

Reappointed to five-year terms on the planning board at the Potsdam Town Board's annual organizational meeting last Friday were George Donovan, presently the planning board chairman; Cecil Moore and Larry Colbert.

Other planning board members are Milton (Phil) Snell and John Charlebois, whose terms expire in 1989.

Wednesday Election This Year

While Potsdam village officials begin the process to switch elections to November, it's time for local residents, officials and candidates to begin thinking about this year's election, which is still slated for March.

Voters should take note that because of a change in the state election laws, this year's election will be held on a Wednesday instead of the customary Tuesday.

For those who plan on being out of town for the March 18 elections, applications for absentee ballots are available at Village Clerk Margaret Robinson's office and can be received at that office until March 10.

Her office is located in the Civic Center and the address is P.O. Box 5168, Potsdam, 13676. Her telephone number is 265-7480.

Today (Jan. 6) is the first date on which an individual may sign an independent nominating petition.

Party caucuses must be held between Jan. 20 and Jan. 27. Notices announcing the caucuses must be published at least 10 days but not more than two weeks before the

scheduled dates.

Certificates of party nominations must be filed between Jan. 22 and Jan. 29.

On the ballots this year will be the mayor's post and the trustee seats now held by Jeffrey Belodoff and Robert Sullivan. All three positions carry two-year terms.

The three available seats on board of trustees are held by Democrats. Trustee Hugh Sprague is the lone Republican on the current board. The fifth member of the board is Democrat Trustee Helen Brouwer.

JOB INFORMATION

EVERY WEDNESDAY — Pat Doyle, a representative from the Education and Job Information Center in Ogdensburg, will be in the Warren Room of Massena Public Library from 2 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday. He will answer questions relating to job opportunities, resume preparation, and interview techniques. For more information, call the library at 769-9914.



RAIDER HACK — Norwood-Norfolk sophomore Jeff Wellings (15) is fouled by Massena's Bob Ahlfed as he drives to the hoop. N-N bested the Red Raiders in the Can-Am Tournament finals last Tuesday. (Betsy Baker photo)