

Primary

(continued from page 1)

Edwin Kern, Michael Warner and Rosemary Howard.

Region 1: 2 incumbents, 1 challenger

In Region I, Kern, incumbent Elizabeth Sichler and Kopcha are contending for two seats.

Seeking his second term, Kern says it will be his last.

"Two terms are enough," he said. "You tend to get a bit stale if you stay in any longer than that. I favor some type of term limit to allow other people with good ideas to have a chance at it."

A Lake-Lehman graduate and medical salesperson, Kern has served on the transportation and buildings and grounds committees, and has represented the district on the board of the West Side Area Vocational-Technical School.

"If the Taxpayers' Association candidates all are elected, you'll see real fiscal responsibility which will not harm educational programs," he said. "I want to keep our educational programs and not hurt the students, but I also want a zero millage increase."

Lois Kopcha has become so committed to making education everyone's business that she quit her job as a licensed practical nurse to have more time to work with taxpayers' groups.

Formerly vice-president and presently secretary of the Lake-Lehman Taxpayers Association, she is also on the board of the Wilkes-Barre Area Taxpayers' Association and a member of the Luzerne County Public Forum and the Northeast Taxpayers' Alliance.

"I believe in it," she said simply.

In addition to attending all Lake-Lehman school board meetings, Kopcha goes to different area school board meetings, especially at budget time, to see how other districts do business.

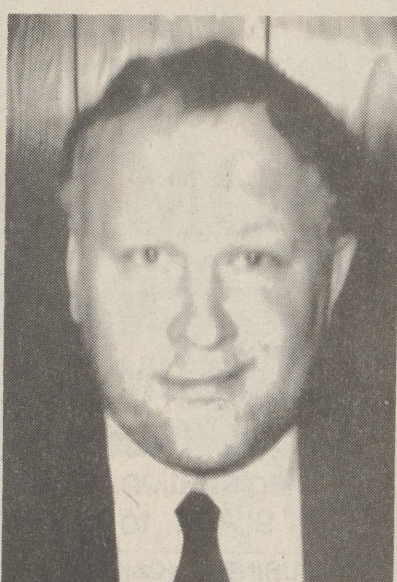
"I want to make our board taxpayer-friendly," she said. "The only way to change things is to get elected."

Her primary goal, if elected, is to make the board accountable to its constituents.

"I would like to see the board hold community meetings to explain programs and answer



LIZ SICHLER



ED KERN



KAREN WHIPPLE



THOMAS WILLIAMS



MARTIN McMAHON



LOIS KOPCHA



MICHAEL WARNER



ROSE HOWARD

questions, not to transact business," she said. "The people must understand where the district is going."

Since the taxpayers' group became active, Kopcha said she has seen smaller millage increases.

"For a while it went up steadily," she said. "Our group has been trying to keep the millage increases down."

She said her organization could have saved the district \$150,000 - if the school board would have

listened to them.

"Our athletic director and driver training instructors each cost the district \$75,000 in full-time teachers' wages and benefits," she said.

"The athletic director doesn't teach any classes - he does paperwork and pushes equipment around on carts during the first three periods of the day for audio-visual duty, then does the athletic director's work for the last four periods of the day, for which he gets an additional \$5,000. He gets another \$5,000 for coaching basket-

ball. It's the same with the driver training teacher - we could subcontract that job out and save more money."

Harveys Lake resident Elizabeth Sichler, a paralegal, is seeking her third term on the school board.

A past treasurer, second vice-president, first vice-president and president, she has served on the policy and athletics and activities committees, and represented the district on the boards of West Side

Area Vocational-Technical School and Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18.

She wants to continue to improve academics and incorporate more education in technology into all facets of the curriculum.

"I believe the district should serve all students in an environment conducive to education and prepare them to enter the work force, technical school or a two-year or four-year degree program after graduation," she said.

McMahon runs in new district this time

In Region II, incumbent Thomas E. Williams has squared off against Dr. Martin McMahon, Jr., for one seat.

McMahon is no stranger to the school board, having served one full term. Elected a second time in 1993, he was forced to resign his position after moving from Region III, where he was elected, to Region II, which he would like to represent now.

A dentist at the Monroe-Noxen Health Center, McMahon served on the board's transportation committee and has been second vice-president, first vice-president and president.

He wants to keep improving the district, capitalizing on its good strategic plan, strong faculty and the community's involvement in the schools.

"I would like to see a computer in every classroom, especially in the elementary schools," he said. "The PTA and PTO groups have worked hard to donate computers to the schools. I would also like to see foreign languages offered in the junior high and the use of satellite technology to help us expand our curriculum in a cost-effective way, for example by adding Russian to the foreign language curriculum."

Williams, seeking his fourth term, has served on all of the board's committees and is presently its treasurer. He has been second vice-president, first vice-president and president.

He wants to continue the district's excellent academic and strong athletic and activities programs, noting the band's many nationwide awards and the accomplishments of the wrestling team.

"My children and I received a very personalized education all the way through Lake-Lehman," he said. "We have many interested and dedicated faculty members and parents who volunteer in the schools."

We must continue these programs, especially for students who have both parents working."

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Golf tourney to benefit Arthritis Foundation

Ken Wallace Dealerships will sponsor the 10th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Arthritis Foundation June 26 at the Wyoming Valley Country Club.

This year's prizes will include a '95 Chevrolet Cavalier, '95 Saturn SL1, or a '95 Dodge Neon for any hole-in-one on the designated holes. A \$115 donation includes: buffet lunch, golf cart, green fee, course refreshments, and dinner following the tournament.

A shotgun start will begin at 12:30 p.m.

For reservations and information, call the Arthritis Foundation at 823-2888.



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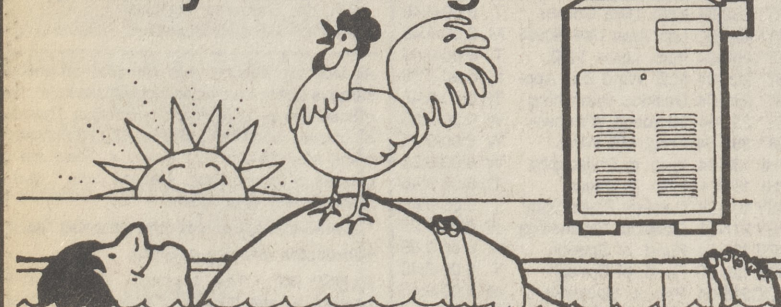
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