

**Primary**

(continued from page 9)

**Four vie for two seats in Region III**

Region III's race is a bit more complicated, with one four-year and one two-year seat open, contested by Rosemary Howard, incumbent Karen Whipple, David Kaufman and Michael Warner.

Lake-Lehman Taxpayers' Association president Rosemary Howard decided to run for the school board after attending one meeting.

"Several people couldn't hear what was going on," she said. "When we asked them to speak up, they nearly asked us to leave the meeting. The public should be able to ask questions and get information from the board without getting the runaround or being cut off."

Howard also wants to make the board more accountable to the public, especially for every line item of the budget.

"The taxes and spending go up every year, but our enrollment has increased by only 50 students," she said. "Last year some children didn't have textbooks."

A Lake-Lehman graduate, she wants to be sure students are prepared to enter the job force when they graduate and have the necessary speaking and communications skills for job interviews.

David R. Kaufman, a civil engineer, hopes to bring his business management skills to the office of school director.

Her served on the superintendent search committee which selected Dr. William Price last year and volunteered with the Explorer Scouts. He is on the boards of the Wyoming Valley Oratorio Society and Pennsylvania Gas and Water.

"I want to maintain good fiscal responsibility, strengthen the district where it's necessary and do the best job possible to serve the people," he said.

Incumbent Karen Whipple, appointed to fill two years of Dr. Martin McMahon's position until the 1995 election, attributes the district's successful academic and extra-curricular programs to its attitude.

"Education must be a joint effort involving the school and the community," she said. "A caring school board has made our many programs and successes possible. In 1993, Lake-Lehman students earned \$250,000 in field hockey scholarships alone, not counting the scholarships from academics or other sports."

A positive, supportive attitude that all students can learn, a strong teaching staff and a good

administration have contributed to the district's success, she said.

Last year a record 146 students were inducted into the National Honor Society and 78 percent of the graduating class went on to technical school or college, up from 44 percent of 1987's graduates.

SAT scores are the highest in the district's history, with verbal scores above the national average and math just shy of it.

Lake-Lehman offers eight advanced placement courses, in which 72 percent of the 35 students taking the challenge tests passed them and qualified for college credit for their work in high school.

During the past several years, Lake-Lehman has implemented Head Start, before-and after-school day care programs, community volunteers in the schools, special classes and programs for at-risk students and those with learning disabilities and programs in which students help one another.

"These accomplishments have been made possible because of our attitude," she said. "A third of our students qualify for free lunches. We might be a poor rural district, but look what we have done!"

She is "very concerned about the growing number of people who seem to be only concerned with dollars and cents."

Lake-Lehman Taxpayers' Association member Michael Warner decided to run for the school board after it passed Outcome-Based Education, which he says has failed everywhere it's been tried.

"The district passed OBE because the state threatened to cut back its funding if it didn't," he said. "OBE is nothing more than a grand experiment. It's morally corrupt for the state to use this carrot-and-stick method to force school boards to comply with mandates or lose money. The boards are victims to the state mandates."

If elected, Warner said he will immediately move to overturn the district's "dreadful decision" to implement Outcome-Based Education.

Another top priority is the professional staff contract, which comes up for negotiation in 1996-97.

"I will not vote for a single penny in supporting salary increases," he said. "The average Lake-Lehman teacher's salary is about \$66,000, while the average salary

in Luzerne County is \$19,000. We can't afford any more increases - there are only so many apples on one tree."

Regarding the proposed addition to the overcrowded junior high school, most candidates agreed that an immediate solution is needed.

The seven-acre site is too small for a new building and has an outmoded septic system, no cafeteria and no auditorium, according to Dr. McMahon.

"It has served the district well, but we need an immediate solution which won't raise taxes. The condition of a facility doesn't guarantee a good education - the students and teachers do," he said.

The 25-year-old modular units, set up behind the building, have outlived their life expectancy of ten years and are in deplorable shape.

"To repair the existing modular units would cost about \$30,000," said Kopcha, who has suggested scheduling a couple of work days for community members to donate time to renovate them, which she estimates will cost about \$10,000.

Warner proposes a novel solution to overcrowding at the junior high: school choice vouchers.

"People would love to send their children to Catholic, Christian or other private schools but can't afford the schools of their choice," he said. "With the proposed state voucher system, many families would be able to choose private schools, which would save public

school districts millions of dollars by lowering public school enrollments."

Other candidates had mixed reactions to Governor Ridge's proposed school choice voucher system, in which families would receive \$1,000 per school-age child for schooling.

Kern and Howard have no problem with them.

"Parents are fed up with the public schools," Howard said. "They would like a better education for their children but can't afford it. If more people could afford to send their children to private schools, there probably wouldn't be any public schools."

While Kopcha says vouchers are worth a try, Sichter believes the needs of each district's own students must be considered first.

McMahon believes giving public money to private schools may be ruled unconstitutional.

He and Williams don't think vouchers are appropriate for our area. "They're more appropriate for urban areas which have many schools within one district," McMahon said.

Whipple agrees that public money must stay in the public schools.

Warner supports the voucher system but says it doesn't go far enough.

"The state wants to give each family \$1,000 per year, but it costs about \$8,000 per year to educate one child in the public school," he said. "The parents should be given \$8,000 to exercise their right to choose their children's education."



**CELEBRATING A MILESTONE** - Committee members for Wyoming Seminary's Class of 1945 reunion are: seated, Edith Kleinrock Iscovitz and co-chairman Rita Goldstein Wolberg; standing, Betty Reese DeBarry, publicity and Nancy Randall Gwilliam, co-chairman. Absent from photo: Allan Kluger, treasurer.

**Wyoming Seminary's Class of '45 will reunite**

The Wyoming Seminary Class of 1945 will celebrate its 50th reunion May 12-14.

The weekend will begin May 12 with a light supper and beverages hosted by Attorney Allan Kluger, alumnus and his wife, Sue, at their home in Kingston.

Registration will be held May 13, 10 a.m.-noon at the school, followed by an Alumni Day Luncheon, then, cocktails at President

Jeremy Packard's home in Kingston from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and the Class Reunion Dinner at 7 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Westmoreland Club, Wilkes-Barre.

Nancy Randall Gwilliam will host a picnic May 14, starting at 12:30 at her home at Harveys Lake. All alumni of the class of 1945 are invited to attend any or all of these events.

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