

Republicans get to name new treasurer

With the resignation of Decatur County Treasurer Pat Fringer last week, Republican party officials have 21 days to make an appointment, meaning by the end of the month.

Mrs. Fringer, who had been a Democrat, decided to switch parties after she told the county commission that she would be leaving office, but before she turned in her resignation. After 20 years in the treasurer's office, she said she decided that it was time for her to leave, though her term does not expire until October.

Switching to the Republican party could allow her elected successor, Deputy Treasurer Jean Hale, to take office early. The Republican County



Pat Fringer



Jean Hale

Committee, made up of township and precinct committeemen and women, gets to make the appointment. County Chairman Jack Metcalf set a meeting for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the district courtroom.

Since the treasurer position represents the entire county, all precinct representatives will have a say in who is appointed. Elected members include Stephen E. Horn from Beaver Township, Todd Tompkins and Dolores Koeperich from Center Township, Thomas Franke and Connie Grafel from Finley Township, Sidney and Cheryl Metcalf from Harlan Township, Warren and Carol Weibert from Liberty Township, Debra Marshall from Lincoln Township, Ralph and Norma Unger from Logan Township, Jack and Karen Metcalf from Oberlin Township,

Duane and Norma Lee Carman from Prairie Dog Township, David Nichols and Ardith Wayne from Oberlin City 1 and Kenneth Morgan from Oberlin City 2.

In the November general election, Republican Hale was elected to the position, but because of how the taxes work she isn't scheduled to take office until October.

The Republicans' decision will be reported to the county clerk, who sends the name to Topeka. The governor has to make the formal appointment, but he is bound by the party's choice, the Republicans in this case.

Chamber board names grain man as president

The Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce board elected Doug Brown of Decatur Co-op as president during a meeting last Thursday at the LandMark Inn.

The board also elected Judy Cathcart, who is a new member, as vice president and Mick Glaze, with Farmers Bank and Trust, as the treasurer.

With the beginning of a new year, the board discussed setting goals. In the last year, some of the goals they accomplished were having a community garage sale, putting on the Ahs! Festival and holding a barbecue fundraiser for the Sunflower Cinema.

This year, the board said that they would like to do another fund-raiser for the theater. Mr. Brown said he would like to see the newsletter that is sent out monthly be more professional and include names of businesses that are members. His idea was to do a little column on each business, telling what they offer, how long they have been open, their hours and other information.

"Our newsletter goes out to all these people," he said. "We need to beat our own drum."

Dave Stapp, who is a Norcatour representative on the board, said this would be something that they could tell people when they ask why they should join the organization. The board agreed that they also need to do something on people who have joined the chamber as individuals.

New member Peg Smith said that she would like to see some type of form go out to poll the businesses and then see all the information combined and put in a spiral book in the office. Chamber manager Helen Gee and Ms. Smith have volunteered to work on

the project.

The board agreed they need to catch up on their ribbon cuttings for new businesses, too. There have been several that they have missed. Mrs. Gee said she would work on setting them up, but then would like to see everyone there.

That evening Mrs. Gee and Connie Grafel, marketing director of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., were scheduled to go in front of the City Council to get permission for a tourist center in the old police station. Ms. Grafel said for it to run, both the chamber and Convention and Visitors Bureau would need to pay \$50 each month. The board agreed that they could put this into their budget.

In other business, board members:

- Heard that Mrs. Gee would like to put a postage scale in the office for about \$55 to \$60 to weigh information packages that she sends out. She is going to bring information to the next meeting.
- Talked about selling scenic ornaments of Oberlin for a fund-raiser for the next year. The ball ornaments could have a picture of the Pioneer Family statue on Main Street, the courthouse or something else for the area. Then they would sell them in the chamber office. The board decided that a committee needed to be formed, but that if they ordered soon they could sell them during alumni weekend in May.
- Decided that the next board meeting would be at noon on March 14 at the A&W.



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