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Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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Run for the Money

Photo by Mary Ann Ginnerty

Rainy and slippery it was; so what? More than 400 runners entered what was called the First Annual Fun(d) Race in Auburn Sunday, Sept. 17, to signal the opening of the 1978-79 United Fund Campaign in Cayuga County.

CCGEB Greets New Staff

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) greeted new personnel and elected officers at its meeting Sept. 14.

The meeting was the first for the newly constituted board, now with nine voting members.

Among the new personnel welcomed to the school system were Sister Yvonne Blind, principal of St. Casimir's School, Sister Marilyn Reeves, St. Mary's principal, and Mrs. Gail Callahan, new system business manager. New board members also were welcomed.

Lawrence Stephens, Ph.D., a chemistry professor at Elmira College and St. Mary's parishioner, was elected to serve a third year as CCGEB president. He is not a board member, and will serve as non-voting president, as he did last year.

Elected to serve as vice president was Martin Tracy of St. Patrick's. Mrs. Eileen McCarthy, Ms. Peter and Paul representative, will be secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Callahan reported an enrollment of 911 students, down 42 from

last October. She noted that the percentage decline, 4.4 percent, is similar to what the public schools had this year.

Sister Davidica, Our Lady of Lourdes principal, pointed out that that school's enrollment has increased from last year.

Mrs. Callahan also noted that \$1,909 in tuition from last year remains uncollected. Stephens noted that the figure was "down significantly" from previous years.

Sister Davidica reported that the elementary schools will be using a new diocesan report card this year. The greatest change, she said, is that grades one through six will be marked with letter grades. Previously the primary grades had been graded on a satisfactory-needs improvement basis.

Tracy reported for the finance committee that it is working on a capital expenditures policy and expects to have a proposal ready for the board's October meeting. The committee meanwhile has agreed to share with St. Patrick's parish the cost of repairing the school gymnasium roof, he said. The total is estimated at \$6,900, and the committee

will pay half. This is an example, Tracy noted, of what the policy will deal with.

Reporting for the Ways and Means Committee, Thomas Klotz noted that the Walkathon has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 28, preceded by poster and slogan contests in the schools.

Stephens noted that a board workshop will be Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. He emphasized the benefits of increasing the board's effectiveness, and urged all members and alternates to attend.

Speaking of the challenge of the year ahead, Stephens called on the board to be willing to make tough decisions after studying the issues, and not fail to decide for fear of offending.

He also noted the need for public relations work all year, and not just at Catholic Schools Week. Educational quality also should take more of the board's time, he noted. While allowing that board members are not educational experts, Stephens said that it is "our responsibility to ask those questions" relating to educational programs, and then listen to the answers.

St. Joseph's Reaffirms Scanner Decision

Elmira—St. Joseph's Hospital officials have reaffirmed their decision to lease space in the Elmira Medical Arts Center for a CT Scanner.

Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator, in a prepared statement, outlined the chronological series of events that prompted the unanimous action of St. Joseph's Hospital Board of Directors on Aug. 30.

The hospital's decision has been criticized as being a violation of the intent of the health care planning process, and of an agreement with Elmira's other hospital, Arnot Ogden, that neither hospital would unilaterally place the \$500,000 sophisticated X-ray device on its premises.

St. Sister Martha related the following events:

The recognized effectiveness of the CT Scanner as a diagnostic tool was supported in a St. Joseph's Medical Staff Executive Committee resolution presented to the administration in 1975. It was then that a decision was made to initiate a cooperative study to review various alternatives for the provision of a CT Scanner to the Elmira community. The task was assigned to an ad hoc committee comprising representatives from both hospitals. The study evolved from a recommendation of the Special Committee of the Chemung Hospitals in January 1976.

St. Joseph's Board of Directors strenuously endorsed the "cooperative effort" in establishing a CT Scanner at a mid-site between the two hospitals.

On March 10, 1978, the St. Joseph's administrator was informed by the Arnot Ogden administrator that the Board of Managers of that hospital had voted on Feb. 27 to apply for a scanner for Arnot Ogden. This action was taken before receipt of a report of the proposed options from the ad hoc scanner committee, which was to have been made on March 14.

This verbal report was confirmed in a written communication from Arnot Ogden, with inclusion of the Arnot Board opinion that a mid-site or mobile unit was

medically unacceptable.

On April 3, the Arnot Board was made aware of an offer of a professional corporation to lease space for scanner installation in the Elmira Medical Arts Center. In the letter from St. Joseph's Hospital Board Chairman Daniel J. Donahoe, the mid-site location and cooperative sharing approach was once again broached for consideration by the Arnot Board.

The response to the April 3 letter from the Arnot Ogden board chairman was interpreted as a rejection of further consideration of St. Joseph's request since it did not involve the placement of the scanner at Arnot Ogden.

Sister Martha repeated the statement made at the press conference Aug. 31, that "St. Joseph's has actively par-

ticipated in the planning process at all levels and has been represented on boards and various councils of those agencies and that this will continue to be the course that this hospital will follow.

"Favorable reaction and understanding by important segments of the community has confirmed the action taken in the interests of our patients and the health care system. The directors and administration of St. Joseph's Hospital deeply regret any bitterness or conflict resultant from that position to lease space to a professional corporation in the Elmira Medical Arts Center. We do not believe that we have violated an agreement with any institution or agency in arriving at our decision nor have we contributed to 'unnecessary' rising hospital costs," Sister Martha concluded.

R-T-L Movement Reviewed in Auburn

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn—Attitudes toward the Cayuga County Right to Life Committee and the issues it is involved in have slowly begun to change according to Mrs. Judy McKay, a member of the group.

"When my husband and I got into the Right to Life movement three years ago as co-chairpersons, we were startled by the response to us from the community, including people we knew. It was a personal attack. We thought everyone would want to jump on the band wagon to stop abortion. It was disheartening to learn that because abortion is legal many people felt it was all right. Many were people who previously thought abortion was wrong.

"The public has come to understand the RTL movement more during the past three years and are less suspicious. People are more aware of our goals," Mrs. McKay said.

She said that the work in the movement is hard and depressing work, explaining that it no longer appeals to those who simply want to be in the limelight.

McKay indicated that the number of core chapter members has remained the same, but that community participation in certain projects has increased tremendously. Over 2,300

signatures were collected in 2 days for a petition against Medicaid funding for abortions. There have been increased numbers of requests for speakers from youth, church and civic organizations.

She said that the RTL committee concentrates its efforts on legislative issues. Birthright, an agency geared to help pregnant women find alternatives to abortion, was started this spring to provide service for those in need. The Birthright office, located at 39 Williams St., is open from 3-5 p.m. Tuesdays with a trained counselor on duty.

Frank McKay, former co-chairperson, is now New York State Political Education Chairman. He organized a National Right to Life Committee Voter Identification project for New York State.

The program's goal, he explained, is to telephone every registered voter in the state and ask several questions to determine their position on abortion. The ultimate object of the survey is to make a positive act on making the Human Life Amendment a political reality, he said.

Explaining why they became involved Mrs. McKay said, "We simply believe in life."

Life Seminars Planned

Elmira—The Chemung-Schuyler Regional Human Development Committee is sponsoring a series of Respect Life Seminars on the five Mondays in October.

Each program will deal with a specific topic, addressed by knowledgeable persons, and followed by a question and answer period. The seminars will be in Lecture Room Two of the Dunn Memorial Nurses Residence at St. Joseph's Hospital, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

On Oct. 2, family life, child abuse and battered spouses will be the subject. A four-person panel will deal with various issues affecting the family.

On Oct. 9, abortion and teenage parents will be the focus of an obstetrician, a high school nurse and a parent. The program will deal with the fact that many abortions are performed on teenagers.

The community, the

criminal, and capital punishment will be the topic Oct. 16, addressed by three speakers professionally affiliated with the imprisoned.

Hunger, a Christian responsibility will be the focus of a film and speaker Oct. 23.

Growing old will be addressed Oct. 30. Personnel from the Office of Aging and the Elmira Psychiatric Center will discuss problems concerning aging.

The series is open to the public

Cardiac Club Forming

Elmira—A club for cardiac patients and their families is being formed through the efforts of former patients, the Arnot Ogden Hospital and the Southern Tier Heart Association.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, North Main and Church streets, Elmira.

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