

Laurie Stupak Appointed to Island Park Commission, Manoogian Re-appointed

Laurie Stupak, the wife of U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak (D-Menominee), has been appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to a six-year term on the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, replacing former U.S. Congressman Bob Traxler, and Richard Manoogian has been re-appointed to a second term on the commission.

The appointments are confirmed unless disapproved by the

Senate within 60 days.

Mrs. Stupak, who was Menominee's mayor from February 1996 to December 2003, has been serving at her husband's campaign fundraising office in Menominee, scheduling and coordinating fundraisers since 2003.

Mrs. Stupak is a certified Yooper, as she was born and reared in Escanaba. She and Sen. Stupak have lived in Menominee

for more than 20 years.

She is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Menominee, Bay Area Medical Center Foundation board of directors, and Marquette Diocese Legacy of Faith Board.

She is also a substitute teacher at the Menominee Area School District, subbing for all grades in both public and Catholic schools. She is a few

credits shy of earning a teaching degree but, she said, she has put off attending classes for the time being.

"I'm honored and thrilled to have been appointed to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission," said Mrs. Stupak, who planned to attend her first Park Commission meeting Friday, May 27, on the Island. "Our family just loves the Island. We go there several times a year.

"I'm looking forward to serving the people of the state of Michigan through this board and will do my best to preserve the traditions and history of the Park Commission," she said.

Richard Manoogian, of Grosse Pointe Farms, was first appointed to the Park Commission in 1999. He is the CEO of the Detroit-based Masco Corporation, which is one of the world's leading manufacturing companies of faucets, cabinets, architectural coatings, locks, and other consumer-brand home improvement and building products.

He, along with his wife, Jane, have owned a cottage on the West Bluff since 1989. Mr. Manoogian also is a major art collector, mainly of 19th century American painters.

Mrs. Stupak and Mr. Manoogian join a seven-member board that includes Chairman Dennis Cawthorne of Mackinac Island and Lansing, Audrey Jaggi of Mackinaw City, Karen Karam of Ray, former state Attorney General Frank Kelley of Okemos, and Joan Porteous of Reed City.

Mrs. Stupak and Mr. Manoogian's terms expire April 12, 2011.

Robert Traxler of Mackinac Island and Bay City, was appointed to the park commission in September 2000 to a term expiring in April this year. He served as a member of Congress from 1974 until 1993 and chaired the House Appropriations Committee, and, before that, was a state legislator for 12 years, serving as House Majority Leader and as chair of the House Judiciary Committee. He was elected to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees in 1992 and served there as chairman. He is a founding member of the Mackinac Island Community Foundation.

"This is the first time since 1962 that I have not been in public office," he said of his retirement from the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. "I'm free at last."

He said he has been looking forward to a leisurely summer and an opportunity to explore new interests outside of politics.

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission was formed in 1895 to manage Michigan's first state park. Since then, its historic interpretation of the state's early history has been expanded to include a number of downtown museums on the Island, the reconstructed British fort at Mackinaw City, called Colonial Michilimackinac, the area's first commercial sawmill, Old Mill Creek, and Old Mackinaw Point Lighthouse.

Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



Republicans Line Up For Stabenow's Job

A second and politically obscure clergyman has joined the race for the GOP nomination to oppose Sen. Debbie Stabenow in 2006. Other more prominent Republicans are considering entering the race.

The Rev. Jerry Zandstra, on leave as a minister in the Christian Reformed Church and program director of a Grand Rapids religious-oriented think tank, announced in Lansing and Grand Rapids last week he'll run for the Senate in his first bid for public office.

Zandstra, 41, said he's running because "Our culture, our economy, and our international engagement matter."

The Rev. Keith Butler, a former Detroit councilman who founded the Word of Faith Church in Southfield, announced against Stabenow in April on a tour that included Traverse City and Marquette.

Butler, a conservative activist who is endorsed by Atty. Gen. Mike Cox, has been making waves on the Lincoln Day speaking circuit in recent weeks and is the clear early frontrunner for the nomination. Republican State Chairman Saul Anuzis says, "he's doing an awesome job" on the trail.

Others are actively pondering, including businesswoman Jane Abraham, former Michi-

gan GOP operative and wife of ex-Sen. Spencer Abraham, the former energy secretary now at the Hoover Institute in Washington. She said Friday she'd decide, "in the next handful of weeks--it could be less than that."

She's among potential or announced candidates for statewide offices expected to be at the June 2-6 Mackinac Island Conference of the Detroit Regional Chamber.

Abraham said that based on her discussions with party activists, polling and other soundings in the political "analytical phase" of her exploration, she'd run. But the Abrahams are now focusing on what's best for the family, including twin daughters, Julie and Betsy, 11, and son Spencer, 8. Abraham is president of the Susan B. Anthony List, a non-profit group of more than 100,000 members with a political action committee that supports pro-life candidates on abortion--a counter to the EMILY's List that bundles huge bucks for such pro-choice candidates as Stabenow and Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Republican National Committeeman Chuck Yob is among GOP state leaders impressed with both Butler and Abraham. He said: "He's a better speaker;

she's a better campaigner." Both are in the prevailing conservative mold of the Michigan GOP.

There are other Republican prospects in the distant Senate wings, including Domino's Pizza CEO David Brandon, a University of Michigan regent, and Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

But Brandon's prime option is a possible run for governor if former Amway President Dick DeVos, a crusader for school choice, declines the bid for governor that party leaders expect him to make. Land's stance is that she'd consider running for the Senate only if no one else is catching on.

Meanwhile, maneuverings for the nomination to oppose Stabenow are far less of a buzz in the party than the showdown over confirmation of President Bush's judicial nominees, including Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Richard Griffin of Traverse City.

It's an issue where Stabenow is front and center because of her initial opposition to the Michigan Four and her support of a proposed compromise that would result in zapping one of them--Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Henry Saad's nomination to the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

Yob, based on calls last week to the White House and such Republican senators as Arizona's John McCain, says "they're not going to throw Saad under the bus."

George Weeks is the political columnist for The Detroit News and is syndicated by Superior Features.

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Letter to the Editor

How Many Off-Islanders Subscribe to Town Crier?

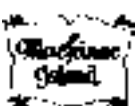
To the Editor:

We have been visiting the Island since 1979 and have only missed being there one year. After several visits, we decided we would subscribe to the *Town Crier* to keep up on what was going on at the Island throughout the year and have enjoyed reading about events, personal items, and some of the concerns the mayor and her commissioners have to deal with.

It is also interesting to see letters to the editor from others who do not live on the Island but feel a part of it. We were wondering the percentage, or number of subscriptions, you have from people other than those who live or work on the Island.

Harry and Barbara Bradbury
Dayton, Ohio

Editor's Note: We like to think that everyone living on Mackinac reads the *Town Crier*;



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