

Richard A. Kimball Is New Republican Head

NOV 13 1979

By MANLEY J. ANDERSON

The GOP's only successful city council candidate is the Jamestown Republican City Committee's new chairman.

The post will be filled on a temporary basis by Richard A. Kimball Jr., who was re-elected a week ago to a second two-year term as Fourth Ward councilman.

Kimball succeeds James E. Westman, an attorney, who had held the post since early last year and was defeated in his bid for a council seat from Lakeview Ward Two.

A party reorganizational meeting last night was attended by about 25 persons of the 37-member committee, with the rest represented by proxies. Kimball was the lone nominee for the chairman's post to which he was elected unanimously.

The new party leader is in his 15th year as a history teacher in the Jamestown Public School System and is academic supervisor for social studies. He serves on council's Public Safety Committee, is a member of Municipal Transit Commission and is council representative on the Planning Commission.

Kimball emphasized this morning he will serve as chairman of the city party in an acting capacity only, in the belief an elected public official should not hold both positions permanently.

He indicated he has no idea when a permanent chairman will be named, but noted the party is "looking for someone with the enthusiasm and ability to provide the leadership we need."

Kimball commented, "I would love to hear from the Republicans in Jamestown as to what they feel the party should be doing in general and me in particular. I welcome their ideas and suggestions as to what the party should be doing in Jamestown. I would ask that they contact me."

He went on to say, "I'm just going to

talk to some of the Republicans who were active in politics to solicit their ideas and suggestions." Kimball said the party proposes to work toward preparation of a platform and to fill committee vacancies. "We hope to create a favorable public image and raise issues to give the public a choice," he noted.

Westman, commenting this morning on the situation, said, "I offered the group the perspective that although the (election) results were disappointing, they demonstrated the strategic importance of our local Republican effort. For example, had we not run a slate of local candidates, the Democrats would have been able to divert the thousands of dollars they spent in the Jamestown races to other county races. This might have meant they could have elected their candidate over Joseph Lepkowski, our comptroller candidate."

"There was a general feeling that there is now a need for new perspectives, momentum and new faces in the Republican leadership here in Jamestown. To this end, I have announced that I am stepping down as chairman of the Jamestown City Republican Committee.

"Richard Kimball has accepted the position of acting chairman. It must be emphasized that Mr. Kimball's role is of a temporary nature. He feels it is not appropriate for a government office holder such as himself to be the permanent head of a political organization. He will be spearheading the drive to find new people to help in strengthening the Republican Party and the two-party system in Jamestown.

"I anticipate remaining active with in the party and look forward to working with Dick Kimball and others in the Republican Party as we continue to seek to make a constructive contribution to this community," Westman said.