

Group back with NE Federation

By Jack Corr

The Greater Bustleton Civic League has rejoined the Far Northeast Federation after an absence of several months, league members were told Tuesday night.

Donald R. Kelly, acting as a league delegate to the federation, told the 50 members attending the meeting in the community room at the Bustleton and Bowler st. police station:

"The federation has welcomed us back with open arms."

League President David Silver said the group withdrew from the federation late last year when the executive committee voted to do so under the recommendation of Charles Mallon. Now vice president, Mallon headed the league prior to the January elections.

"I found that the decision was unconstitutional," Silver said, "after taking office. Since the by-

laws forbade such action, it was nullified."

Clash expected

A clash over the issue was expected at the Tuesday meeting between Silver and Mallon. However, Mallon was not present.

Silver said he is happy that the league has realigned itself with the federation—which includes various Northeast civic organizations.

A new set of by-laws was read and touched off prolonged discussions concerning the boundaries of the area covered by the league, the number necessary for a quorum, the definition of the word quorum, requirements for membership, requirements for

holding office and issues of lesser moment.

Silver pointed out to a Times reporter that the revised by-laws not only retain the clause requiring membership in the Far Northeast Federation but strengthen that position.

Mostly, he said, the revised by-laws are the original ones, "just rearranged somewhat."

Limits expenditures

One change limits the amount of money that can be spent by the president or the executive committee without consent of the general membership.

The president may spend \$25 on his own hook, \$100 with approval of the executive committee and larger amounts with consent of the members.

Members will vote at next month's meeting on whether or not the revised by-laws will go into effect. The by-laws were drawn up by a committee headed by league secretary Mrs. Ruth Brannon, who is also president of the Jacobs Home and School Association.

In other business, emotions ran high over the recent State Supreme Court decision to allow a nursing home to operate near Welsh rd. and Grant ave.

Lost the battle

Robert Cohen, counsel for the league, admitted that the group lost the two-year battle, but indicated a few points should be given for how they played the game.

"We have a right to ask for a re-argument," Cohen said, "but I think we would gain nothing by it. We have gone as far as we can and at least we held it up for two years."

Silver took the count-your-blessings tact also.

"This is the third battle we have fought and lost against nursing homes in Bustleton. I want to point out, however, that we delayed each of them for a long period of time and anyone who wants to build another will think twice before doing it."

Silver said there might be many more nursing homes in the area if not for the league's stand against them.

"They know it will cost them time and money."

Comments from the membership included:

Throwing money away

"It's fine to fight these things but we never win and when do we stop throwing good money after bad?"

"There should be a law branding nursing homes, hospitals and convalescent homes as objectionable."

Silver read a portion of the opinion handed down by Judge A. Musmanno, writing for the majority. He said he thought it might "amuse" the membership.

Musmanno wrote:

"The picture the complainants painted of a convalescent home would more easily answer the description of a combined lunatic asylum, home for the incurables and refuge for victims of a plague than the establishment intended by the applicant."

Nobody laughed.

Mrs. Doris Sider, committee chairman, reported that the recent teenage square dance sponsored by the league was moderately successful.

"We only lost \$10," she said.

On the subject of teenagers, James Morrissey reported he approached local police officials about allowing youngsters to use the vacant basement room at the Bustleton ave. and Bowler st. station.

Not enthusiastic

The idea was not received enthusiastically, he said. Officers indicated uneasiness about youngsters being in such close contact with the daily affairs of a police station.

Morrissey said the position of the entrance to the basement room would make this contact almost non-existent. He announced he is preparing a letter to Police Commissioner Albert Brown requesting use of the room.

It was announced that the name of the recently deceased publisher of the Times, Richard T. Lawson, has been suggested to the board of education by the league for use as the name of the proposed junior-senior high school to be erected in Bustleton.