

School Board Member Discusses Task Force Proposals With Bustleton Residents



Thomas A. Masterson, member of the Board of Education, said that the K-4-4-4 proposal of the Task Force was "not proposed as an educational panacea, and no one is stupid enough to suggest that changing the organization will change the product."

He made this statement at a meeting of the Greater Bustleton Civic League on Tuesday evening in the George Washington High School. Dr. Domenic A. DeBias, League president, said Masterson had been invited so the residents of Bustleton could get first hand information on the Task Force proposals. Masterson told the more than 200 residents that the School Board has not made any decisions on K-4-4-4 or any other proposed plans changing the system.

He said that District 8 has some of the finest schools in the city and the Board does not intend to do anything to lower the present educational output of this district. Henry Fineman, counsel for the League, told Mr. Masterson that the residents will oppose busing pupils from their neighborhood schools, whether it be for some hypothetical

theory, or pressure by some group.

In answer to a question about educational parks, Masterson said that no specific location for parks have been determined; he suggested that he could imagine George Washington High as such a park or campus school. He said that the Board was not going to jam decisions down the public's throat, and that the Task Force was not a grab for federal funds for integration.

Dr. DeBias said that if the K-4-4-4 plan is proven to be a superior educational structure than the present structure, a neighborhood K-4-4-4 plan could be set up in Bustleton using the Greenberg School for grades 1-4, the Bustleton Elementary School for grades 5-8, the George Washington School for grades 9-12, and the Jacobs School could be renovated or rebuilt for Kindergarten classes.

Left to right: Dr. Domenic A. DeBias, President of Greater Bustleton Civic League; Mrs. Sider, Vice President; Mr. Norman Walker, and Mr. Anthony Stumpo, Co-chairmen of the League's Educational Committee; Mr. Thomas A. Masterson, member of Board of Education.

Civic Association Gives Strength To Individual Resident in Bustleton

By JOHN L. DUBOIS
Of The Bulletin Staff

In fast-growing Bustleton, the Bustleton Civic Association has realized the dangers of impersonalization of the individual being removed too far from his landlord, his governing bodies, other official sources.

So the association has interceded for individuals, represented them before officials who have some control over their lives. There is strength in numbers, the association knows, and prestige has grown behind the civic organization.

The association almost always represents groups of individuals—homeowners who have similar complaints, children who need inoculations and the like—but in so doing, the needs of each are probably served.

The association has been doing this since its inception in the early 1950's, and members proudly believe they now belong to one of the most active, dynamic civic groups in the city. The membership averages about 2,000, now is posted at about 1,500.

Problems Proliferate

Dr. Domenic DeBias, association president, said that Bustleton is the fastest growing section in the Northeast, that many people are moving to Bustleton from other parts of the city. Hence, he indicated, living problems tend to proliferate, and that is where the association comes in to try to help.

"We handle problems that will affect the community, like meeting with builders," he said. "We have confrontations with those in authority. Through the association, problems can be attacked in a more organized manner than through single efforts of individual residents."

At present, the association is concerning itself with complaints from residents of Bel Air, a relatively new section of about 500 single-family twin homes, brick-built with cement foundations, in the vicinity of Bowler st. and Bustleton av.

The complaints, which apparently began in February, range from the installation of pipes other than specified to cracked basement walls. The association formed a committee to check the matters with the builder, Human Korman, and to ask him to make adjustments.

Report Heard

This week the committee met with the association's executive committee (in executive session), composed of association officers and chairmen of other committees to report on progress toward satisfying complaints. From the report, the executive committee will decide what recommendations to make to a general membership meeting Tuesday.

"We want to see that the standards of the community, of homes are kept up to standards originally intended," said Dr. DeBias, who is an associate professor of physiology at Jefferson Medical College. "There is always a danger of abuses. And we don't want to be overrun (by too much population)."

Otherwise, the association has sought in Philadelphia City Council to keep "compatible homes" on both sides of the street in the area of Conwell and Haldeman avs., that is, to have "homes facing like homes" across the street.

The matter involves a proposed residential zone change. Council now has it in committee.

Children Immunized

In the field of health and welfare, the association last year brought about the mass inoculation of pre-school children against polio. It was realized, DeBias said, that driving children downtown posed difficulties of time and parking, so the immunization was brought to the community.

The volunteer services of doctors and nurses were engaged, the rest of the expense was absorbed by the civic group. The shots were free. Later, follow-up immunization was given, along with shots for diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

On education, the association helped foster the building of the Joseph Greenberg Elementary School, opened last September at Alicia and Charette sts., which eliminated the question of busing youngsters out of the area, DeBias said.

Playground Approved

"This was another example of direct confrontation," he said, in this case with the school board and school superintendent.

In further review, DeBias said the association was instrumental in getting approval for Bustleton's first playground, or "recreational area." At the planning stage now, the project should be started by the end of the year and perhaps finished the latter part of 1967, he said.

City Council bought ten acres of farm ground for the playground, at Krewstown road and Bustleton av.

Also, the association helped start the first evening classes for adults in the community, which began last fall in George Washington High School and attracted "thousands," said DeBias. He said the courses are many, from English and foreign languages to shop.

Drive-Ins Opposed

The association has opposed drive-in theaters because of possible parking and "spooning" results for teenagers, and some liquor licenses, but does not want to be known just as "opposers," the president said.

The organization concentrates on civic affairs and does not entertain itself much with "social affairs." It sponsors an annual Greater Bustleton Civic League Award for an outstanding youth.

The largest single civic group in the Northeast, covering the largest areas, the association has 12 standing committees: zoning, health, education, membership, recreation, streets and lighting, transportation, program and entertainment, community facilities, publications and community improvements.

Giving legal assistance to the executive committee are Robert Hess and Henry N. Fineman.



SCHOOLS DISCUSSION: Dr. C. Taylor Whittier, superintendent of schools, was presented at the April meeting of the Greater Bustleton Civic League to explain the necessity of the controversial \$60 million bond issue which will appear on the ballot in the May Primary. From left to right are: Jerome Revello, principal of the Joseph Greenberg School; Dr. C. Taylor Whittier; Mrs. Dori Sider, vice president of the league, and Dr. Domenic A. DeBias, president of the league.



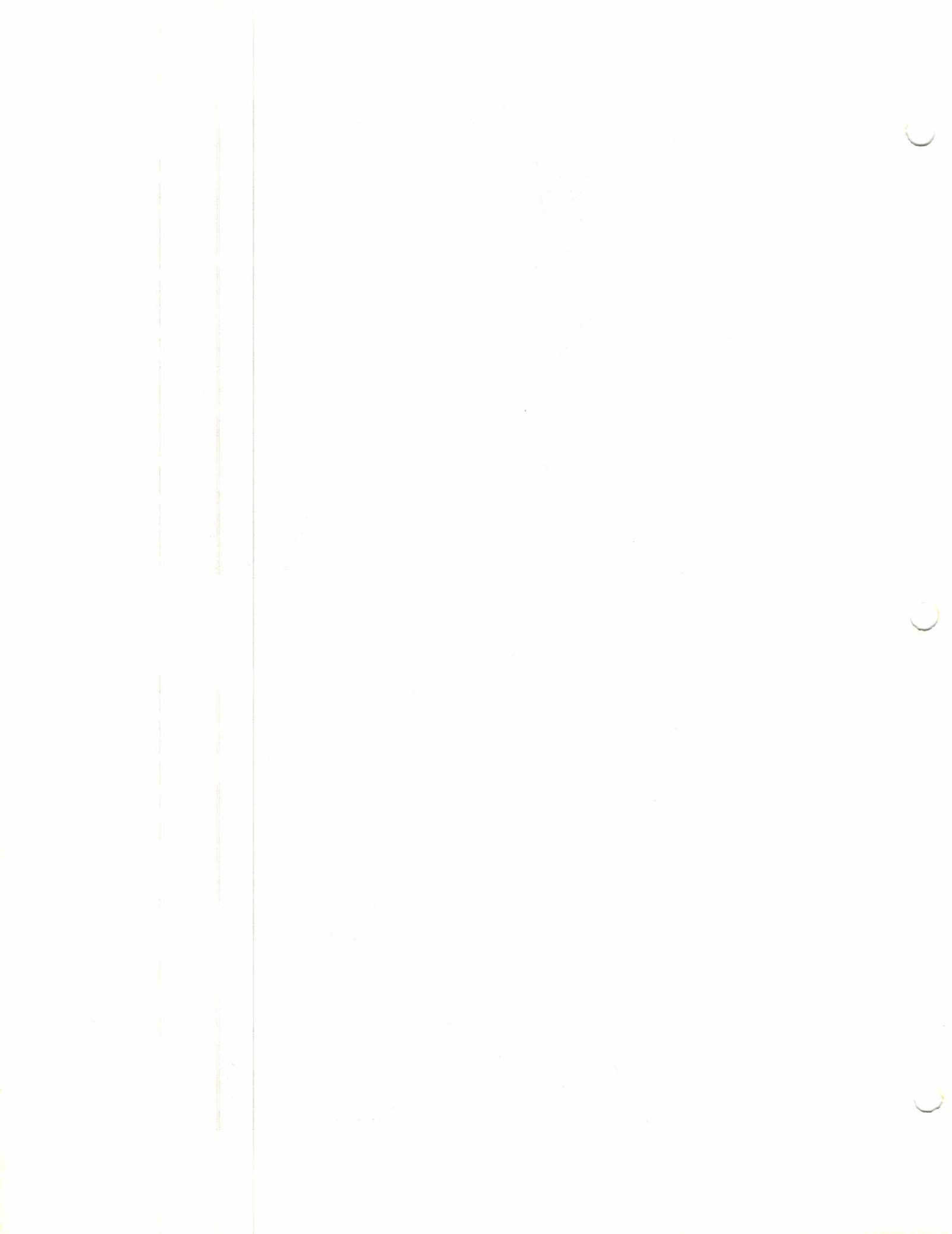
Civic League Elects New Officers

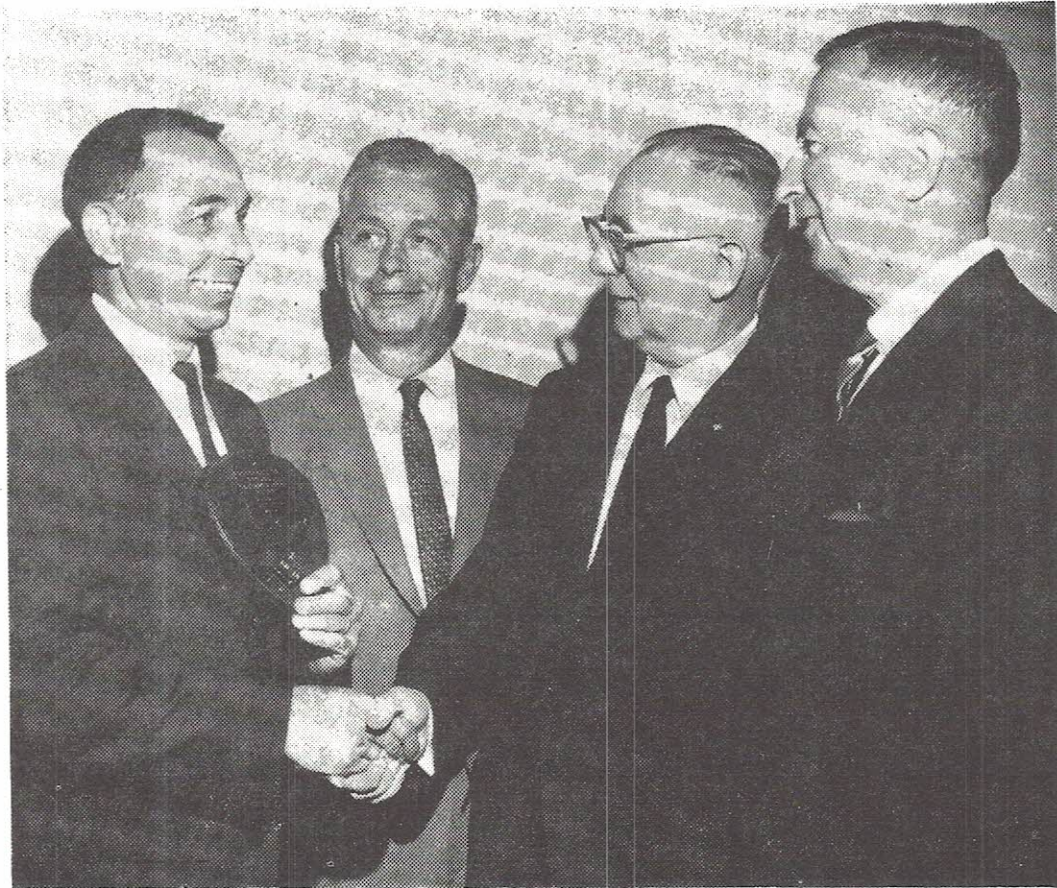


Members of the Greater Bustleton Civic League elected officers for the next year. The new officers will take office at the next scheduled League meeting, June 7, 1966. Elected were Mr. Henry Fineman, Esq. as president; Mr. Paul Grundke as first vice president; Mr. Ray Kohl as second vice president; Mr. Otto Knopf as treasurer; Mr. Robert Ferguson as corresponding secretary; and Mr. James Barbour as recording secretary.

Dr. Domenic DeBias, outgoing president of the League, said

at the League meeting last week that another meeting will be scheduled with representatives of Hymn Korman, Inc. to expedite repairs to the homes in the Belair community, especially the cement work. The major complaints received by the League from the homeowners concerned the quality of cement work in walks, driveways, and curbs. Foundation cracks are also listed for repairs. Look for next week's article on answer to "Ferndale Resident's" charges.

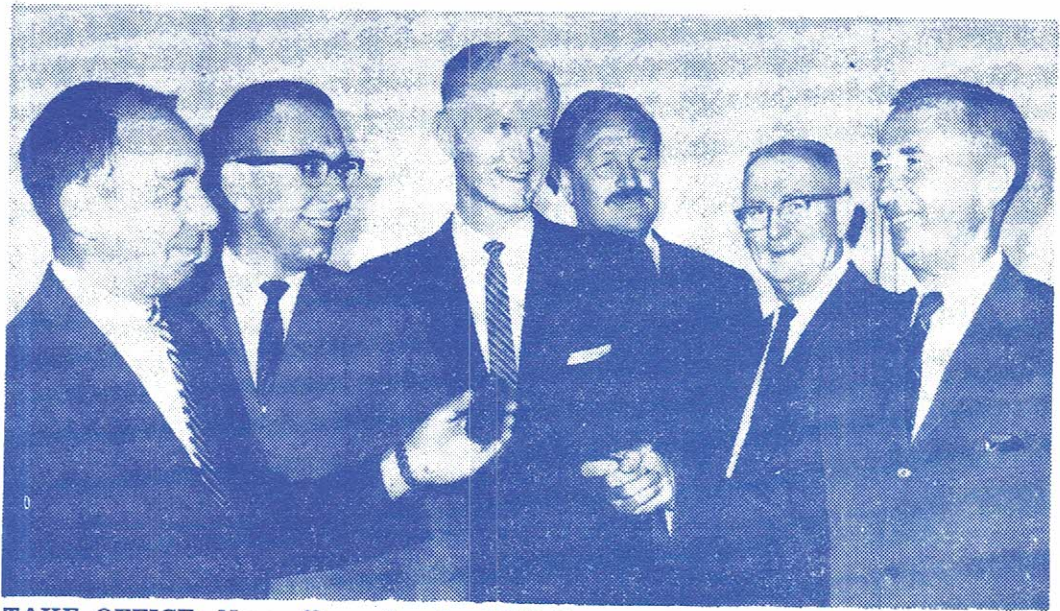




HONORED: Dr. Domenic A. DeBias, at left, outgoing president of the Greater Bustleton Civic League, receives a plaque from fellow league members Otto Knopf, second from right, the league's treasurer, and Henry Fineman, at right, the leagues' incoming president. DeBias was cited for his leadership as president of the league for the past two years. Also taking part in the ceremonies is City Council President Paul D'Ortona. Knopf, long-time treasurer, was also given a plaque for his untiring efforts.

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TAKE OFFICE: New officers for the 1966-67 season were installed recently by the Greater Bustleton Civic League. Here, left to right, are: Dr. Domenic DeBias, of 725 Pecan St., outgoing president; Robert Ferguson, of 2013 President St., corresponding secretary; Paul Grundke, of 1021 Grant Ave., first vice president; Raymond Kohl, of 9535 Northeast Ave., second vice president; Otto Knopf, of 9980 Haldeman Ave., treasurer, and Henry Fineman, of 9731 Lockwood Rd., president. James Barbour, of 9400 Hilspach St., recording secretary, was not present when picture was taken.

Paid at Philadelphia, Pa.

Philadelphia, Pa., Thursday, December 29, 1966



'OUTSTANDING': The Greater Bustleton Civic League recently presented its annual award to the outstanding boy of the Bustleton Boys Club for scholastic and athletic achievement and for service to the community at the Bustleton Municipal Building. Left to right are: Henry Fineman, president of the league; Frank O'Neil, past president of the Bustleton Boys Club; Paul Grundke, vice president of the league; Roy Hesser, father of Kenneth Hesser; Kenneth Hesser, recipient of GBCL award, and William Rice, president of the boys club.