



The GAD Report



Spring Election Section

January 2014

Volume 6, Issue 10

Special points of interest:

- Culture Change Year 1
- Spring Elections
- Craig Retires After 21 Years on EC Board
- Westlund Announces For Congress
- News & Notes With Al Arnold
- Frac Sand Forum Signup
- R & G Day Signup

The Year Of Culture Change

2013 was one of the best years for RPAC in recent memory. Our Association joined 11 others across the state in exceeding their fundraising goals. We also increased our percentage of participation to just under 35%.

With the advent of culture change, members increased their investment in RPAC by \$7,048 over 2012. Members who had never given to PAC invested \$35 on their dues, others increased that to become Direct Givers, and others who never gave anything, became Large

Donor Council members. The combination of all three helped to not only exceed our goal, but that of WRA's. Statewide, goal was exceeded by \$35,699 and percentage of participation increased to 41%

This year was clearly a success in terms of our members listening to the message that investment in their business and the people who are elected, both partisan and non-partisan, matter. Equal success was obtained by having many of our brokers invite us into their offices and sales meetings to discuss RPAC

with their staffs. In 2014, we have an aggressive program planned to hit our budget of \$28,000. It will take a continued effort to reach out to our members and convince them to invest. How we do that, however, will receive some tweaking.

More face-to-face contact, less bulk e-mail, and the e-mail that does go out will be more personal, we want as many of our members as possible to participate, but we also know that lofty goal has to be weighed with respect for the individuals personal or political (continued below)

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Culture Change (continued)

beliefs. That last thing we want to do is to alienate members into not investing. Hence, more listening, more talking, less e-mail overload.

Thru the year, we will send all of you updates on our progress, invite

you to events and provide you with information of political fundraisers.

It's going to be another big year for politics in the state, as always, your GADs are here for you.



Spring Elections: Eau Claire

Only the City Council President is up this spring in the City of Eau Claire, and a freshman councilperson will challenge the incumbent.

Two term President Kerry Kincaid will be challenged by Monica Lewis, who won an at-large seat on the council last year.

At issue is council support of the proposed Confluence Project, a \$72 million mixed use development in downtown. Kin-

caid supports it while Lewis was one of three council members that voted against pledging \$5 million of taxpayer dollars to help fund the project. *(note, the Eau Claire County Board's Committee of Administration approved \$3.5 million to the Confluence Project by a vote of 4-1, the full board could approve it as early as January 21st.)*

Lewis also supports citizen efforts to have a referendum on the spring ballot, those signatures are

being tabulated and could be approved this month. The council could adopt language for a referendum or put it on the spring ballot.

Kincaid has been President since 2009 and was a councilperson for six years prior to being President.

Spring election is Tuesday, April 1st.

“RANWW Frac Sand Mining Forum is Wednesday, February 5th at Horizons Conference Center in Tilden. Admission is FREE! Contact Bruce to register!”

Spring Elections: Chippewa County Races

There will be a handful of contested county board races in Chippewa County.

In District 7, Charlene Kervina will face incumbent Mike Goettl. In District 5, Tom Thornton will meet incumbent Henry Shakal. In District 9, Doug Olson will face incumbent Larry Willkom, and in Dis-

trict 10, Steve Gerrish will face incumbent Mary Ellen Brehm.

In addition, nobody has filed to run in Districts 1, 11 and 14. Write-in candidates can vie for those seats.

Supervisors Roger Kresin and Gary Misfeldt are both not seeking re-

election to the county board.

The board was recently downsized from 29 members to its current size of 15, which has in the past election cycle pitted incumbents from different districts against each other, the last of those running this year.

Spring Elections: Chippewa Falls & Altoona

You'll have to look hard to find a contested race in either of these communities.

That's because there are only two races, and both are in Altoona.

In Chippewa Falls, all incumbents, 2nd Wards Rob Keifer, Chuck Hull in the 4th and Bill Hicks in the 6th Ward are all run-

ning unopposed. In Altoona, Mayor Jack Blackburn and Bob Hanks in the 2nd District are running unopposed.

Former Altoona Mayor Tom Meyer is running in District 3 against incumbent Andy Schlafer and in the 1st District, incumbent Dale Stuber is being opposed by Timothy Raap.



Spring Elections: Eau Claire County Board

There will be no lack of contested races in Eau Claire County as a number of seats on the 29 person County Board will be contested.

Five term District 6 representative Richard Ziemann is not running again, running for his seat will be Brian Westrate and Katy Forsythe.

In District 1, incumbent Gary Gibson will face Judy Willink, while in District 3, incumbent Doug Kranig

will meet Terry Meyer. In District 5, incumbent Bruce Stabenow will meet Cory Bauch.

Incumbent District 7 representative Steve Chilson will meet Ed Gorell, and in District 9, the incumbent Gordon Steinhauer will meet Brenda Gruber.

In District 11, incumbent Ray Henning will meet Mik Deveraux and in District 14, Jean Schlieve will meet Kayla Budd. In District 16, incumbent Joel

Mikelson will face off against Richard Freitag and District 21s Mark Beckfield will meet Phillip Lyons. In District 27, incumbent Paul Lokken will face Drew Duggan.

All of County Board incumbents are running unopposed.

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Spring Elections: Craig Not Running For School Board

Serving for 21 years on the Eau Claire School Board, in two different stints dating back to the early 1980s, current board President Carol Craig announced that she would not seek another term on the board. The other incumbent on the ballot, Trish Cummins is running and will be joined by the

only other person to file, Charles Vue who is making his first run for public office.

The Eau Claire school district will boast one of the only districts in the state, or nation for that matter, with two Hmong school board members. Only incumbents are running in Chippewa Falls

and Altoona school districts. In Menomonie, there are five people seeking three seats on the board of education, including incumbents Tammy Schneider and Amy Swanson. Incumbent Frank Burdick is not running. Glenda Jones, Joe Holland and Jeff Jaeger are the others.

Spring Elections: Rice Lake

Incumbent Polly Wolner will not run for another seat on the Rice Lake City Council. Wolner served as an at-large councilperson, Justin Fonfana has filed for the at-large seat.

Half of the at-large seats are up including REALTOR® Dan Lawler who has filed to be on the spring ballot. Other incumbents include Mark O'Bri-

en, Cory Schnacky, and Mayor Steve Harrington. The Barron County board will have three open seats on its board as no one took out papers to run in Districts 6, 8 and 24. There will also be an open seat on the Rice Lake School Board as one of the four available seats has no candidate.

In Hayward, there will be

one race for City Council as incumbent Joe Kreyer will be opposed by Paul Ludzack in Ward 1. Ward 4 incumbent Al Voight is not running, James Miller will run unopposed for that open seat, incumbents Verna Worman in Ward 2 and Charles Munich in Ward 3 are also running unopposed.

News & Notes From The Northwoods-by Al Arnold

Gogebic Mine

There have been a number of iron ore mining stories in the past month.

The Iron County Forestry Committee voted to evict the protesters living near the proposed mine. This vote was unexpected and really came out of nowhere. Then within a few days after the vote to evict was passed, it was rescinded.

Bill Williams, the President of Gogebic Taconite may face criminal charges in Spain for "possible crimes and continuing damage to the environment." Williams

claims he left that company before any of those issues arose. No matter ... this PR doesn't help his cause.

A coalition of 59 groups from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan has asked the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a broad review of the cumulative effects of expanded mining in the Lake Superior basin. Basically a request to stop further mining by burying all chances in paperwork. A study like this could take YEARS.

Now think for a moment, what if this mine is actually

built and put in operation? Over 700 employees working at a mine in the middle of nowhere. Another 1300 jobs or so in transportation and secondary jobs. Where are those people going to live? Where will the secondary jobs most likely pop up? The economic impact of this mine will be benefiting 12+ counties in northern Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Should some pre-planning begin? Not subdividing property or building houses, but start talking about what might happen? Send me your thoughts ...

Al@AlArnold.US

Westlund Announces For Congress

Ashland city alderperson Kelly Westlund recently announced that she will run for the 7th Congressional district seat, currently held by Sean Duffy.

The sprawling 7th district covers most of the northwest and north central portion of Wisconsin.

Duffy, meanwhile has

indicated that he will run for a third term to Congress. Two years ago, Duffy defeated former state Senator Pat Kreitlow. Kreitlow currently serves as a regional representative to U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin and covers the 7th Congressional District.



“Email Bruce (bruce@ranww.org) to register for the Frac Sand Mining Forum and REALTOR® & Government Day”

Spring Elections: Dunn County

Ward 11 Councilman Andrew Mercil will challenge current Mayor Randy Knaac in Menomonie. In Ward 2, incumbent Jerry Traxler is challenged by former council member Sandy White, in Ward 4, newcomers Clayton Brice and Dan Louis will meet incumbent Lynn Dickmann, in the 6th Ward, incumbent Lee Schwebs will

meet Josh Risler, the 8th Ward has incumbent Mary Solberg running unopposed and in the 10th Ward, incumbent Sue Beety is not running, Ryland Erdman and Joe Wright are.

Dunn County Board:

Three county board seats will have contests, in District 14, REALTOR®

and incumbent Pete Wiese will face Todd Welch and Herbert White, a primary will be needed on February 18th. In District 12, incumbent Jill Noreen meets Clint Moses, and in District 1, Carol Anderson will square off against Ralph Follendorf.

No one has filed to run in District 17 or District 19.

Sand Mining-Frac Sand Forum

Wednesday, February 5

9am to 11:30am

Horizons Banquet Center-Tilden

FREE ADMISSION

(Reservations Required)

Coffee and Calories Provided

Hear from industry and regulatory leaders and learn what makes frac sand mining so big in Wisconsin and in our Association.

Already Confirmed:

Deb Dix, Department of Natural Resources

Jeff Plale, Wisconsin Railroad Commissioner

John Behling, Weld, Riley, Prenn & Ricci

Al Arnold, Government Affairs Director

***More Speakers Will Be Announced Soon!!!*

Contact Bruce King via email (bruce@ranww.org) to register for this event, there is NO CHARGE to attend, but we need a head count for seating and refreshments.



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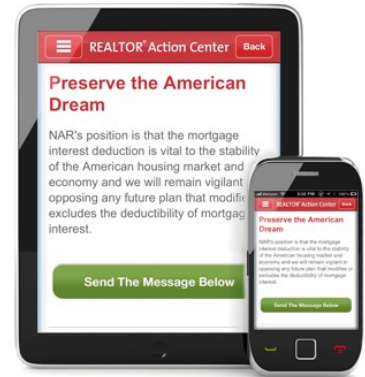
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THE GADABOUTS



The REALTORS® Association of Northwestern Wisconsin is the largest association in terms of area, stretching from Lake Pepin to the south all the way to near Cable in Bayfield County to the north. We are the fourth largest of the 24 associations in terms of membership. Between Al Arnold and Bruce King, your Association covers 270 units of local government, monitoring a wide variety of issues that can and do affect you. In addition to local government, your GAD's also monitor issues at the state and national level that will have a direct or indirect impact on housing and the industry, as well as legislation that can affect the consumer. The GAD's work with member volunteers to raise investment dollars for RPAC that helps to support elected officials that support your business. RANWW is one of only three REALTOR® Association's in Wisconsin that have their own PAC, which was started 34 years ago to support candidates at the local and state level. We have added a Facebook page, called "TheGADabouts", that aims to keep you up to date on political issues that will affect your business. Your GAD's also produce a government affairs program posted monthly on our YouTube channel, RANWWTV!!



R & G Day 2014: Your Voice Needed

WRA has a world-class team of lobbyists advocating for you daily in Madison. But nothing beats having the opportunity to meet your Legislator face to face and convey to them directly the impact of the laws that are passed (and considered); how the decision that are made can have a profound impact on the real estate industry, homebuyers, landlords, and your bottom line. From mining to taxation to aquatic invasive species, the bills that are passed and the decisions that are made will affect you for years to come. Now is the time to come. RANWW is the largest Association in terms of area in the state, we need numbers in Madison that reflect our Association's diversity. WE NEED YOU AT REALTOR® & GOVERNMENT DAY February 26th. Contact Bruce at the board office to register today. Registration for the first 500 members is FREE!!

Program

REALTOR® & Government Day is your opportunity to help shape the laws that impact you and your real estate business in Wisconsin. Through lobbying efforts at the state Capitol, you'll meet with state lawmakers and have a unique opportunity to advocate for issues that impact the real estate industry in Wisconsin.

Industry success requires advocacy from every REALTOR® in the state. Wisconsin lawmakers saw an impressive demonstration of REALTOR® strength in 2013 with the WRA bringing more than 300 REALTORS® to Madison. With your support, REALTOR® & Government Day 2014 will be a day to remember.

Agenda

- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Registration
- 1:00 – 1:15 p.m. Welcome
- 1:15 – 1:45 p.m. Gov. Scott Walker
- 1:45 – 2:30 p.m. Issues Briefing
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Move to Capitol
- 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Capitol Hill Visits
- 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception