

DANE COUNTY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: PRESERVING THE PAST



Project Team: Abi Sann, Intern; Lindsay Menard, Legislative Management System Specialist/Policy Analyst, Courtney Erdman, Intern; Karin Peterson-Thurlow, Chief of Staff; and Supervisor Doyle

Scope of Project

- Board has been a launching pad for higher office
- Individuals who have first served on the Dane County Board of Supervisors have gone on to serve in the:
 - United States Senate
 - Congress
 - Wisconsin Legislature
 - Wisconsin Cabinet
 - Countywide and Citywide positions
- Purpose is to record an oral account to capture the history of the Dane County Board, particularly as an incubator of future leaders
- All interviews occurred pre-pandemic
- Project outcomes: 7 podcasts, 3 videos, 1 report



Audio Interviews

- 15 individuals interviewed for audio portion of project
 - Representative Pocan
 - State Senators Mark Miller and Melissa Agard
 - Assemblywomen Shelia Stubbs, Terese Berceau, & Dianne Hesselbein
 - Assemblyman David Clarenbach
 - Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Mary Kolar
 - Dane County Clerk Scott McDonell
 - Former Fitchburg Mayor Tom Clauder
 - Rod Matthews
 - R. Richard (Dick) Wagner
 - J. Michael (Mike) Blaska
 - Scott McDonell
 - Sharon Corrigan
 - Analiese Eicher



Podcasts

- Introduction
- Family and Community Support to Run for Public Office
- Collaboration between Board Supervisors (Reaching Across the Aisle)
- Dane County Projects and Policies in the 1970s and 1980s
- Dane County Projects and Policies in the 1990s
- Dane County Projects and Policies in the 2000s and 2010s
- Dane County Criminal Justice Policy Through the Years

Video Interviews

- Project could be further enhanced with a video component
- Interviewed a subset of the 15 people for video interviews:
 - Sharon Corrigan
 - Mary Kolar
 - Scott McDonell
 - Melissa Agard
 - Shelia Stubbs
 - R. Richard (Dick) Wagner



Videos

- Inspiration to Run
- Making a Lasting Impact through Public Policy
- Attributes that Make an Effective Elected Official

Thank You

- Podcasts, videos, and report can be found here:
<https://board.countyofdane.com/History>

- Questions or Comments?