



WISCONSIN FRATERNAL CONNECTION



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GOVERNOR-ELECT DOYLE & LEGISLATIVE LEADERS PROMISE COOPERATION FOR COMING SESSION

BY MARTIN SCHREIBER, WFC LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Political leaders in the state are promising more openness and cooperation following the November elections and recent allegations of legislative misconduct. Wisconsin will benefit if those promises are kept as the legislators and the governor meet to solve the ongoing imbalance between the state's revenues and spending.

The big news of the November election was the victory of **Democrat Jim Doyle** over incumbent Governor Scott McCallum by 70,000 votes, a 45% to 41% margin. Libertarian candidate Ed Thompson got 10%. Jim Doyle and other elected officials will be sworn in on January 6, 2003.

DOYLE INHERITS \$3.5 BILLION DEFICIT

As governor, Jim Doyle will have the strongest veto power in the nation. He will also be able to appoint more than 140 people to lead state agencies and divisions, as well as hundreds of members of boards and commissions during his four-year term. But he must work with a Legislature that will now be controlled by Republicans in the



Senate as well as the Assembly. That means both parties must work together to solve the state's budget problems the Governor-Elect Doyle will inherit. If current trends were allowed to continue, the 2003-05 state budget would end with a \$3.5 billion deficit.

Both Jim Doyle and the Republican candidates for the Legislature campaigned on "**no new taxes**" platforms and appear sincere in their commitment to avoid tax increases. However, the enormity of the projected deficit and the difficulty of the solutions mean that fraternal benefit societies and other tax-exempt organizations must work to discourage budget

proposals that may impose new taxes or fees that reduce their ability to meet their missions in our communities.

LEADERS CHANGE AS DEMOCRATS LOSE CONTROL OF THE STATE SENATE

Three incumbent state Senate Democrats have lost their elections, giving **Republicans control of the Senate** with an 18-15 majority. In one of those races, the initial results showed Sen. Jim Baumgart losing his Sheboygan-area seat to a challenge from Rep. Joe Leibham by only 20 votes in a Senate district of about 150,000 people. A recount changed the vote totals for both candidates, but increased the margin of victory for Sen.-Elect Leibham to about 40 votes.

All three of the Democratic losses appear tied to the legislative caucus scandal as opponents tied the losing incumbent Senators to former Senate Majority Leader Chuck Chvala. The total margin of victory for the Republicans in these three districts was about 1,500 votes out of more than 160,000 votes cast there. Senator Rod Moen

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WFC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2002-2003



FRONT ROW (left to right):

Secretary/Treasurer Joseph Kuzma (Western Fraternal Life Association)
Vice President Barbara J. Wolf (Thrivent Financial for Lutherans)
President Joseph E. Gadbois (Catholic Family Life Insurance)

SECOND ROW (left to right):

Director Gene Schindler (Catholic Order of Foresters)
Director Kim Ingram (Catholic Knights)
Director Elaine Nap (Employes' Mutual Benefit Association)
Director Karen Coonen (Thrivent Financial for Lutherans)

THIRD ROW (left to right):

Director Anne Rogers (National Mutual Benefit)
Past President Lee Berg (Catholic Knights)
Corresponding Secretary Marsha J. Mahan (Thrivent Financial for Lutherans)
Immediate Past President George Reckin (Equitable Reserve Association)

NOT PRESENT FOR PHOTO:

Director Kathy Maio (Catholic Family Life Insurance)



Holding his WFIC of the year award plaque is Frank Bradley, FICF, LUTCF, CSA, a full-time career agent with Catholic Order of Foresters since 1970. Bradley became a general agent in 1996 and currently has five agents working with him. He is actively involved with the Wisconsin Association of Insurance and Fraternal Advisors both on the local and state levels. Frank lives in Denmark, Wisconsin, with his wife, Shirley. He enjoys fishing and hunting with his four adult sons during his free time. He is active in his parish and serves on the local rescue squad. Also pictured are Frank's wife, Shirley, and John Schenk, VP Sales, Catholic Order of Foresters.

COMMON BOND.....

One hundred forty-two people took advantage of a "dynamic, uncommon opportunity" and attended the Joint Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Fraternal Congress & the Wisconsin Fraternal Insurance Counsellors held October 17-18 at the Ramada Inn in Fond du Lac, WI.

The new WFC Officers and Directors elected for 2002-2003 are:

PRESIDENT

Joseph E. Gadbois
Catholic Family Life Insurance

VICE PRESIDENT

Barbara J. Wolf
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Joseph Kuzma
Western Fraternal Life Association

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Marsha J. Mahan
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
4321 N. Ballard Rd.
Appleton, WI 54919-0001
(920) 628-2866

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

George E. Reckin
Equitable Reserve Association

PAST PRESIDENT

Lee F. Berg
Catholic Knights

DIRECTORS

Karen Coonen
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Kim Ingram
Catholic Knights

Kathy Maio
Catholic Family Life Insurance

Elaine Nap
Employes' Mutual Benefit Association

Anne Rogers
National Mutual Benefit

Gene Schindler
Catholic Order of Foresters

WFC LODGES OF THE YEAR

Uncommon Opportunity

Both practical and timely information was presented at the joint meeting. Thursday afternoon workshops included "New Tax Law Impact" by Karen Dudley, JD, CLU, ChFC, and "Estate Planning" by George Twohig, JD.

Other topics presented that afternoon were "The Power of Appreciation" by Mark Therrien and "Building Relationships with Lawmakers through Grass Roots Lobbying" by Martin Schreiber & Associates.

On Friday morning, NFCA President Fred Grubbe spoke on "Fraternal Leadership and its Strategic Challenges." This presentation was followed by an agent panel discussion on relevant issues.

Frank Bradley, FICF, LUTCF, CSA, was awarded the WFIC of the Year. Frank has been a full-time career agent with Catholic Order of Foresters since 1970.

WFC Lodges of the Year were First Place: Whitelaw Lodge 20, Zapadni Jednota, Western Fraternal Life Association; Second Place: Kettle Moraine Lodge 8955, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and Third Place: Green Bay Assembly No. 3, Equitable Reserve Association.



FIRST PLACE

Whitelaw Lodge 20, Zapadni Jednota
Western Fraternal Life Association



SECOND PLACE

Kettle Moraine Lodge 8955
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans



Mark Therrien's keynote address, "Creating Joy," showed how to deepen the joy in yourself and those around you, even in the most difficult of times.



THIRD PLACE

Green Bay Assembly No. 3
Equitable Reserve Association

YOUTH FEST 2003

Valuable life lessons to be learned at WFC youth program

The Wisconsin Fraternal Congress will offer a one-day youth program Saturday, March 29, at the Sheraton-Brookfield. "Youth Fest 2003" is committed to assisting youth to explore important issues such as building self-esteem, money management, personality typing, coping with stress, taking the pressure out of peer pressure, managing credit and time management.

This statewide conference for youth grades 7-12 begins at 10:00 a.m. and runs through 4:00 p.m. The participant fee is \$25, which includes lunch and a souvenir T-shirt. Developed by a committee of youth and adult leaders, the day promises to be entertaining, educational, fast-paced and fun, including a hands-on service project benefiting children in Wisconsin.



PROMISE OF COOPERATION FOR COMING SESSION

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(D-Whitehall) lost to Republican Ron Brown of Eau Claire. Senator Kim Plache (D-Racine) lost to Republican Cathy Stepp of Racine. In the Assembly, the GOP expanded its majority by two seats, for a 58-41 majority.

The new Senate Majority Leader will now be a Republican, Sen. Mary Panzer of West Bend. In the Assembly, Rep. John Gard of Peshtigo will replace Rep. Scott Jensen, who has resigned as Speaker in the wake of the caucus scandals.

Senate Democrats had not yet chosen a new leader at the time of this writing. Assembly Democrats have chosen Rep. Jim Kreuser of Kenosha as their new Minority Leader, to replace Rep. Spencer Black of Madison, who resigned that post.

CHANGE IN LODGE MEETINGS A TOP PRIORITY FOR WFC

The changes in leadership will lead to **many changes in the chairs** and members of committees. The new co-chairs of the powerful Joint Committee on Finance are Sen. Alberta Darling (R-Menomonee Falls), whose district includes Catholic Family Life Insurance, and Rep. Dean Kaufert (R-Neenah), whose district includes Equitable Reserve Association. Rep. Kaufert authored last year's failed budget amendment to reduce the number of required lodge meetings. Legislative leaders claim, however, that next year's budget will contain fewer non-fiscal items than recent budgets have.

One of the top legislative priorities for fraternal benefit societies and for Martin Schreiber & Associates will be passing a separate bill to reduce the required number of business meetings for fraternal lodges or branches. Modern communications has made monthly business meetings unnecessary. Most volunteers would prefer to use their precious time volunteering in the community instead of discussing lodge checking account balances.



"Having a dream isn't stupid, Norm. It's not having a dream that's stupid." That bit of wisdom was offered by mailman Cliff Clavin on the comedy show, "Cheers." As I end my 2001-2002 WFC Presidential term, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who dreamed with me and helped foster the true fraternal spirit in the State of Wisconsin: WFC Officers Joe Gadbois, Barbara Wolf, Marcia Mahan, Lee Berg, and Mary d'Arras and Directors Robert Carignan, Karen Coonen, Kim Ingram, Joseph Kuzma, Anne Rogers and Gene Schindler. I'd also like to thank Brian Casey, Karen Coonen, Joyce Griffin, Kari Lueneberg, Peter Schmitt, Jr. and Martin Schreiber for their input, advice and help publishing and posting our quarterly newsletter. It's been an honor to dream and serve with you. Thanks for the memories!

Donna E. Parker

Wisconsin Fraternal Connection

is a quarterly publication. We welcome all submissions, including successful lodge and branch projects.

Photos will also be considered for publication. Society news and FIC news can be submitted.

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