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Fond du Lac County Clerk Lisa Frolberg stands in front of the American flag. **Aileen Andrews/The Reporter.**

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OPEN DOOR INVITATION

Lisa stresses her open door policy and invites citizens to come in and ask questions about any of the services provided by the County Clerk's office. "I make myself available to the public because they put me in this position and they deserve it," she said. "Customers and the counter always come first."

Counter services includes a variety of licensing options focusing on animals and people.

Department of Natural Resources fishing and hunting licenses of all types, as well as registration for ATVs, snowmobiles and boats, are available at the County Clerk's first-floor counter. "People say we are the best-kept secret for special hunting licenses," Lisa said.

Dog licenses and tags are supplied to county municipalities for local distribution to pet owners. The Fond du Lac County office then keeps records of tags sold in municipalities, which can play a key role in identifying hometown locations for stray dogs.

And the Fond du Lac County Clerk's counter is the only place for county residents to apply for a marriage license.

"We had well over 500 marriages licenses this year. That's a high number," Lisa said. She added that those applying for licenses need to be aware of the five-day waiting period between license application and marriage date, and that the license must be completed in black ink. The County Clerk office also has supplied domestic partnership forms since 2009.

The office of four employees compiles and prints a county directory of public officials, and all county contracts are kept in the office. Lisa also supervises the central mail and photocopy department.

COUNTY HISTORY

"My vault is full of history," Lisa said. County records date back to 1835, and these beautifully hand-written documents enabled the current Fond du Lac County Board to reenact the board's first 1839

session last summer.

"Our relationship with the County Board is another good thing," said Lisa, who serves as board secretary in her clerk role. "We work closely with them. We collect agenda items and set up meetings. Minutes are typed and posted here. Their pay comes through our office. Everybody who runs for office on a county level fills out paperwork in our office."

Lisa has a deep understanding of the County Clerk's role, having worked in a support position in the office for 10 years prior to her election to lead the unit. Former County Clerk Joyce Buechel focused Lisa on the office's election work, which is serving Lisa well in her current position.

That doesn't mean there aren't occasional glitches. A higher than anticipated turnout for the April 2011 election led to a ballot shortage in Fond du Lac. "I heard it from the news, and then got a call from the Government Accountability Office," Lisa said. "Fortunately the printer is local—and it won't happen again."

Lisa said she does regularly call town and village municipal clerks to check on ballot numbers during the election process. "Most municipal clerks have full-time jobs," she said. "I will do whatever I can to make things easier for them. I want our elections to run smoothly."

In line with her goal of easing others' workloads, Lisa voluntarily chose to earn certification in chief inspector and municipal clerk training, so that election inspectors and municipal clerks would not have to drive to Madison or Little Chute for training.

"Our counts are great," she said of ballot tallies. "Recounts come out."

"I'm proud of our voter turnout in Fond du Lac County," she said. "It's not just me, it's the municipal clerks and election officials... it takes a lot to do these jobs, and these people get little pay to do it. It's a service for residents on Election Day."

NOVEMBER PREPARATION

In late September, Lisa already was programming voting machines for the No-



Fond du Lac County Clerk Lisa Frolberg, left, works with Terri Moyle and Barb Wirkus, program assistants for the county, on ballots recently. **Aileen Andrews/The Reporter.**

vember election, some of which take a day and a half to program and another two days to test. Of the 63 reporting units in the county, 14 units serve the City of Fond du Lac and must be programmed to handle ballots from multiple wards.

"It's a presidential year. I truly believe we will have a huge turnout," she said. "Presidential elections bring out the most interesting situations at the polls."

She urges people to seek information on candidates, using online search tools like Google. Although people often call her, Lisa is not allowed to provide information about candidates.

Lisa will put in long evenings and weekends to complete the ballots for all 33 municipalities. She'll ensure that clerks have their Election Day manuals and are updated with the most current law changes—including the latest status on voter I.D. laws—and have ballots and needed forms and envelopes. She'll be on standby to call the Government Accountability Office to sort out unusual situations, if necessary.

In conjunction with those long hours, she'll continue to be an attentive parent, along with hus-

band, Craig, to daughter Kadi, 20, son Ryan, 17, and daughter Meg, 16. Lisa volunteers in Winnebago Lutheran Academy's lunchroom and supports the school's Booster Team.

"I want them to have good childhood memories," she said, noting that her job became more demanding during her children's prime teen years. "I'm the mom who took them to tournaments. That's why I volunteer as needed at Winnebago Lutheran Academy."

Lisa serves on the East Fond du Lac County Thrivent Board and graduated from Leadership Fond du Lac in 2011. In her professional role, she was elected to the Wisconsin Counties Constitutional Officers Board in March 2012, and serves on ad hoc committees with the Government Accountability Board and on the Wisconsin Counties Association County Organization and Personnel Committee.

Her first term ends in January 2013 and Lisa, herself, is on the Nov. 6 ballot she has been preparing.

"I can optimistically say I'll win in November," she said. "No one else is running. I will continue as long as the voters want me to be in this position." □

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