



STATE OF WISCONSIN Senate Journal

One-Hundred and Third Regular Session

2:06 P.M.

TUESDAY, January 3, 2017

The Senate met.

The Senate was called to order by Senator Roth.

The Senate stood for the prayer which was offered by Pastor Alvin T. Dupree, Jr. of Family First Ministries in Appleton.

The Colors were presented by the VFW Day Post 7591 Color Guard Unit of Madison, WI.

The Senate remained standing and Senator Risser led the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The National Anthem was performed by Renaissance School for the arts from the Appleton Area School District and Thomas Dubnicka from Lawrence University in Appleton.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 17 (6), the Chief Clerk made the following entries under the above date.

Senator Fitzgerald, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate stand informal.

Remarks of Majority Leader Fitzgerald

“Mister President-Elect, Justice Kelly, Pastor Dupree, Minority Leader Shilling, fellow colleagues, dear family, and distinguished guests:

It is with great honor that I stand before you all once again as Majority Leader. I thank my colleagues for continuing to bestow their trust in me, and welcome our incoming leadership, including Senator Roger Roth who today is beginning his term as President of this body. We also welcome back Senator Fred Risser, who continues to hold the record of the longest serving state legislator in United States history. To our returning Minority Leader Senator Shilling: we offer our congratulations and look forward to another successful session. I would now like to take a moment to recognize two individuals who passed away last year during their service in the Senate. Please join me in a moment of silence for Senator Rick Gudex and Rachel Veum of the Senate Chief Clerk’s Office.

I now return the floor to President-Elect Roth, who will begin the proceedings.”

State of Wisconsin Wisconsin Elections Commission

November 29, 2016

The Honorable, the Senate:

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the official canvass of the November 8, 2016 General Election vote for State Senator along with the determination by the Chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission of the winners.

With this letter, I am delivering the Certificates of Election and transmittal letters for the winners to you for distribution.

If the Elections Commission can provide you with further information or assistance, please contact our office.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL HAAS
Interim Administrator

Statement of Canvass for State Senator

GENERAL ELECTION, November 8, 2016

I, Michael L. Thomsen, Chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, certify that the attached tabular statements, as compiled from the certified returns made to the Wisconsin Elections Commission by the county clerks of the several counties of the state, contain a correct abstract of the total number of votes given for the election of candidates for State Senator, *excluding Senate District 32, which is under recount*, at a General Election held in the several towns, villages, cities, wards and election districts in said counties on the Eighth day of November, 2016.

I DO, THEREFORE, DETERMINE AND CERTIFY that the following candidates, having each received the greatest number of votes in their respective senatorial districts, are duly elected State Senator:

<u>Senate District</u>	<u>Elected</u>
2 nd District	Robert Cowles
4 th District	Lena C. Taylor
6 th District	LaTonya Johnson
8 th District	Alberta Daring
10 th District	Sheila E. Harsdorf
12 th District	Tom Tiffany
14 th District	Luther S. Olsen

16 th District	Mark Miller
18 th District	Dan Feyen
20 th District	Duey Stroebel
22 nd District	Robert W. Wirsch
24 th District	Patrick Testin
26 th District	Fred A. Risser
28 th District	Dave Craig
30 th District	Dave Hansen
32 nd District	<i>Under recount</i>

Done in the City of Madison, this 29th day of November, 2016.

DON M. MILLIS
Commissioner, Designee of the Chair
Wisconsin Elections Commission

**Statement of Canvass
for
State Senator**

GENERAL ELECTION, November 8, 2016

I, Don M. Millis, designee of the chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, certify that the attached tabular statements, as compiled from the certified returns made to the Wisconsin Elections Commission by the county clerks of the several counties of the state encompassing Senate District 32, contain a correct abstract of the total number of votes given for the election of candidates for State Senator, District 32, *including the results of a recount in said office*, at a General Election held in the several towns, villages, cities, wards and election districts in said counties on the Eighth day of November, 2016.

I DO, THEREFORE, DETERMINE AND CERTIFY that the following candidate, having each received the greatest number of votes in their respective senatorial district, is duly elected State Senator:

<u>Senate District</u>	<u>Elected</u>
32 nd District	Jennifer Shilling

Done in the City of Madison, this 6th day of December, 2016.

DON M. MILLIS
Commissioner, Designee of the Chair
Wisconsin Elections Commission

With unanimous consent, the party leaders introduced their respective members as they came before the bar to be sworn in.

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Cowles

“Senator Cowles represents the people of the 2nd Senate District, and lives in the Village of Allouez just south of the City of Green Bay.

Senator Cowles will continue to serve as the Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee on Audit and will Chair the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

When Senator Cowles previously held the position of Co-Chairman of the Joint Audit Committee, he was a key player in numerous state audits, such as the audit of Medicaid, the fleet audit, and the IT audit. Along with Senator Cowles’ vested interest in his committees, he has a long standing history of being a strict fiscal conservative who has always been willing to take a stand against government spending.

Senator Cowles would like to welcome two guests from his district in attendance today, Fred and Marian Krumberger.”

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Taylor

“Senator Lena Taylor is beginning her fourth term in the State Senate representing the 4th Senate District. Senator Taylor serves the north side of Milwaukee, including the historic Riverwest, Harambee [ha-ram-be], and Rufus King neighborhoods, as well as the community of Shorewood and parts of Glendale and Wauwatosa.

Senator Taylor continues to serve as the Senate Democratic ranking member of the Joint Committee on Finance. Wisconsin’s One-Thousandth Senator fights hard to secure funding for her district, especially in the areas of education, health care access and affordability and improved capital opportunity for minority and local business. She champions her LOVE & FAITH Initiative, which partners with dozens of agencies and organizations to break down government’s silos to improve service delivery outcomes by maximizing resources. Senator Taylor has been an outspoken advocate for the civil liberties of all people, including working to maintain the right to vote and reforming the justice system.

Senator Taylor previously served in the State Assembly and continues her private law practice outside the Senate. She lives in the Rufus King neighborhood on the block on which she grew up, with her son, Isaiah.”

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Johnson

“Senator LaTonya Johnson is beginning her first term in the State Senate after serving in the State Assembly for the past four years. Johnson represents the 6th Senate District, which is located on Milwaukee’s Northwest side.

As State Representative for the 17th Assembly District, Senator Johnson served as Ranking Member on the Assembly Committee on Children & Families, and has made improving the health, safety, and quality of life for Wisconsin’s children and their families her top legislative priority. Already successful at working across the aisle, Johnson co-authored a recently enacted law to enhance child abuse investigations for children with special needs, and ushered through a package of four bills to improve safety and permanence in Wisconsin’s adoption system.

Prior to being elected to the State Assembly, Senator Johnson owned her own business as a child care provider for 10 years, serving some of Milwaukee’s highest need children. She saw firsthand the struggles her families faced, and how children paid the price when we allow poverty to persist in our community. This experience, and Johnson’s

work organizing child care workers as President of AFSCME Local 502, inspired her to run for office, so that the voices of the hard-working people in her community would continue to be heard here in the Capitol. Senator Johnson lives in Milwaukee with her daughter and campaign dynamo, Sydney.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Darling

“Senator Alberta Darling was elected to the State Senate in 1992 after previously serving in the State Assembly. The 8th Senate District includes portions of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, and Ozaukee Counties.

Alberta has served on the Joint Committee on Finance since 1999 and will be co-chairing it this session for the fifth time. She is the first woman Senator to co-chair the state’s budget writing committee.

Under Senator Darling’s leadership the state budget was balanced without raising sales, income, or property taxes. All of that while still increasing funding for K-12 education.

Education is her passion. A former teacher, Senator Darling entered public service with a commitment to protecting, educating, and improving the life of every child in the state – no matter where they live. She helped create Wisconsin’s landmark school choice and charter school laws.

Senator Darling also helped to ease the teacher shortage by making it easier for experts to teach in our public schools. She also championed legislation to make sure foster children have more consistency in the home and the classroom. Senator Darling also authored legislation to increase the number of organ donors in Wisconsin.

Joining Senator Darling today are her grandchildren Charlie and Andie.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Harsdorf

“Senator Harsdorf was re-elected last fall by the voters of the 10th Senate District by the largest margin of victory since her first election to the Wisconsin State Senate in 2000. Sheila served in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1989 to 1998 after which she returned home to farm before running for the State Senate.

During her time in the legislature, Sheila has been a tireless advocate for Northwest Wisconsin and has long fought for issues affecting rural Wisconsin. As a former dairy farmer, Sheila knows firsthand the challenges facing agricultural producers and the importance of agriculture to our state’s economy. In representing a district that borders Minnesota, Sheila recognizes the critical need for Wisconsin to remain competitive with other states as we seek to attract jobs and grow our economy. Her responsiveness to her constituents is evident by the legislation she has passed on behalf of veterans, law enforcement, seniors and those fighting against drug addiction.

Senator Harsdorf serves on the Legislature’s budget writing committee, chairs the Senate Universities and Technical Colleges Committee, and serves on several other standing committees including the Senate Agriculture, Small

Business and Tourism Committee. In addition, since 2003 Senator Harsdorf has served as a commissioner with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact and was recently awarded the prestigious Philip Sirotkin Award for exemplary leadership in advancing Midwestern higher education through interstate cooperation.

Sheila is joined today by her son, Ryan, her sister and brother in law, Susie and Steve Josephson, and her brother Jim Harsdorf. Jim also served in both the State Assembly and State Senate. Jim and Sheila are the only brother and sister to have served in both the State Assembly and State Senate.

Also joining Sheila today are her nephew Johnathan Harsdorf, his wife Karissa and son Christian, her niece Sonja Beyerlein with son Ezekiel and daughter Ariella along with a number of friends who made the drive from Northwest Wisconsin.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Tiffany

“Senator Tom Tiffany was reelected in November to represent the 12th Senate District. Tom just completed his first term in the Senate, previously serving as State Representative of the 35th Assembly District. Tom is well known for his hard work on issues related to natural resources, tourism, and economic development.

Tom and his wife, Chris, live in the Northwoods on the Willow Flowage. They have three daughters. Tom and Chris are formerly the owners of Wilderness Cruises and he is the dam tender on the Willow Flowage. Tom was recently recognized for 25 years of service as the dam man on the Willow making him the second longest serving dam tender on the flowage.

Today, Senator Tiffany is joined by his wife, Chris. Daughter Karlyn, a freshman at UW-Stout. His sister, Lou, and brother-in-law Jim Welter. Daughters Lexie and Katherine chose to go to school today.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Olsen

“Senator Luther Olsen, representing the 14th Senate District, is from Ripon, Wisconsin. He is a graduate of Berlin High School and the University of Wisconsin Madison. Today marks the start of his fourth term in the Senate, after having served in the State Assembly since 1995. Prior to being elected to the Legislature, Senator Olsen served his hometown for 20 years as a member of the Berlin Area School Board – 9 of those as school board president.

Senator Olsen will be returning as the Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance and the Chairman of the Education Committee where his leadership on K-12 education is recognized not just in the Capitol but nationwide. He serves as a member of the National Conference of State Legislators’ Education Committee, following a term as co-chair of that committee. Luther co-authored a white paper that has garnered nationwide attention called “No Time to Lose” looking at how we can improve our school systems to compete with high-performing countries. Several family members, including his wife Joan Wade, join Senator Olsen today.”

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Miller

“Senator Mark Miller, representing the 16th Senate District, is entering his fourth term in the State Senate. His district spans a large portion of Dane County. Prior to being elected to the Senate, he served six years in the State Assembly and four years on the Dane County Board.

Senator Miller is a former small business owner and served our country for 30 years as a fighter pilot in the Air National Guard, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1995.

Senator Miller is a leading advocate for smart environmental policy and preserving the integrity of Wisconsin’s elections.

Joining Senator Mark Miller today is his wife Jo Oyama Miller, his daughter Chandra Miller Fienen, Jeff and Karen Miller, Tyler Verana, Mia Kuhn, Kiichi Okubo, and Randall Miller.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Feyen

“Senator-elect Dan Feyen was born in New Holstein where he graduated from High School and went on to earn a diploma in printing at Fox Valley Technical College. After Technical College Senator-Elect Feyen was hired by a local printing company and has been employed by that same Fond du Lac printing company for over 30 years.

Serving the community was something that Dan learned from his parents early in life. Serving his community as a member of the Fond du Lac Jaycees, and past Jaycees President, Dan learned the importance of quality leadership and the significance of giving back to his community.

It was in the Fond du Lac Jaycees that he met his wife Lori. Dan and Lori have been married for 22 years and have two children. Jenna is a senior at Fond du Lac High School and his son Nick is sophomore attending UW Madison.

He has been involved in politics at the grassroots level since 2004. Starting out volunteering at the local GOP office in Fond du Lac making phone calls after work. In 2007, he was elected Chairman of the Republican Party of Fond du Lac County, and in 2010 was elected chairman of the Sixth District Republican Party. During that time he has led the party though some of the busiest and most consequential times in Wisconsin’s political history.

Senator-Elect Feyen will begin his legislative career this session by serving as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Commerce and has been appointed to serve on the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation’s Board of Directors.

Senator-Elect Feyen would like to thank his family and friends for their love, support, and prayers. Joining Dan today is his wife Lori, their Son Nick and Daughter Jenna. As well as Dan’s Mother and Father, Bob and Mary Feyen, his brother Steve Feyen and Lori’s father Jerry Barker. We’d also like to welcome Bob, Lisa, Becca, and Brian Sheahan, Annie Moore, Hunter Lisko, and Terry Shoemaker.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Stroebel

“Senator Duey Stroebel was elected to the Senate in April of 2015. Prior to serving in this body, Senator Stroebel was a member of the Assembly, the Cedarburg School Board, and numerous civic organizations and boards.

As a successful small businessman in real estate development, Senator Stroebel’s focus is toward reforms that preserve taxpayer resources. While in the Assembly, Senator Stroebel authored reform of double-dipping for retirees. While in the Senate, Stroebel worked with his senate colleagues to repeal prevailing wage for local projects.

This session, Senator Stroebel will chair the committee on Government Operations, Technology & Consumer Protection; vice-chair the committee on Financial Institutions, Constitution & Federalism; and serve as a member of Judiciary & Public Safety, and the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules.

Senator Stroebel resides in Cedarburg with his wife Laura. The Stroebels have eight children, three of whom are here today: Trevor, Stewart, and Mary. Senator Stroebel is also joined by his sisters Robin and Christine and mother-in-law Dolores.”

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Wirch

“Senator Bob Wirch was re-elected this November to his sixth term in the Wisconsin State Senate. He proudly serves the 22nd Senate District, which includes the City of Kenosha, the City of Racine, the Village of Mount Pleasant and the Village of Elmwood Park. Throughout his tenure in public service, Senator Wirch has been steadfast in his commitment to speaking with constituents and responding to their concerns.

A third-generation Kenosha native, Senator Wirch followed in his father and grandfather’s footsteps working at the American Brass Company for over two decades. While working at American Brass, he attended night classes at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, earning a Bachelor’s degree. He also served in the Army Reserve from 1965 until 1971. Senator Wirch was elected to the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors in 1986 where he served for eight years and worked to help establish the Shalom Center. He was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1992 and served until his election to the State Senate in 1996.

Senator Wirch is supported by his loving family. He is the oldest of six children born to Walter and Dorothy Wirch. Senator Wirch and his wife Mary have two grown children, David and Julia.

Today Senator Wirch is joined by his wife Mary and his cousin Sue Dopp and her husband Ron Biendseil.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Testin

“Senator-elect Patrick Testin, representing the 24th Senate District, will be joining the legislature for the first time. Born in Madison, raised in Marinette, Senator-elect Testin has been active in the community since graduating from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. He is a

member of the Ignite Leadership Network of Portage County, a young professionals branch of the United Way, and a member of the Elks Lodge 641.

Senator-elect Testin brings his knowledge from a successful career in sales to the legislature, and will apply it as the Chair of Workforce Development, Military Affairs and Senior Issues.

Senator-elect Testin would like to welcome his fiancée, Hannah Henderson, as well as his parents Matt and Paula Testin. Also in attendance today is his Uncle Joel Egan, Bill Henderson, Mary Henderson and BJ Henderson and friends April Disher, Baylie Disher, Amelia Heup, Brian Morczynski, and Nik Nelson.”

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Risser

“Senator Fred Risser was re-elected to represent the 26th Senate District—home of the State Capitol and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The district includes much of the City of Madison and the Village of Shorewood Hills. A native Madisonian, Senator Risser is the fourth generation of his family to represent this area in the Wisconsin Legislature. He was elected to the Assembly in 1956 and to the Senate in 1962. Senator Risser’s lifelong dedication to public service gives him the distinct honor of being the longest serving state legislator in the United States. He is also regarded as an expert on the rules and procedures of the Wisconsin Senate.

During his tenure in the Wisconsin Legislature, Senator Risser has left a mark on countless areas of policy. His most notable achievement has been enactment of the SmokeFree Wisconsin Act, which has cleared the air in businesses and public spaces throughout the state. Senator Risser is a tireless advocate for maintaining the University of Wisconsin as a world-class teaching and research institution by providing appropriate resources and facilities to draw top students and faculty. He is passionate about preserving Wisconsin’s natural resources through stewardship, the protection of state parks, and expansion of Wisconsin’s vast network of recreational trails.

Joining Senator Risser today is his wife, Nancy Risser, his son Warner Risser, his daughters Lisa White and Sara Risser, his son-in-law Doug Falck, and his grandchildren Adam White, Lizzy White and Noelle Risser.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Craig

“Senator Craig joins the Senate after having served in the Assembly from 2011 to 2017.

A practicing real estate agent, former Trustee for the Village of Big Bend, and former aide to Congressman Paul Ryan, Senator Craig brought his experiences to the Assembly where he worked primarily on banking, judiciary and regulatory reform issues.

Joining Senator Craig in attendance today are his wife, Amy, their children; William, James, Henry, Greta, Paul, and Ruth; his parents, Bill and Carol Craig and his in-laws, Bernie and Karen Schulz as well as his sister Mary, brother Paul and many other members of his family who he thanks for their

support as well as his constituents and the Lord for blessing him with the opportunity to serve his state in this office.”

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Hansen

“Re-elected to serve the 30th Senate District, Senator Dave Hansen will once again represent communities in Brown, Oconto, and Marinette Counties. He was first elected to the district in November 2000, making this his fifth term in the Legislature. Senator Hansen will also be a strong voice for the Senate Democratic Caucus as Assistant Democratic Leader once again.

Senator Hansen’s roots in the Green Bay area run deep. Not only is he a third-generation resident, but he also worked as a teacher for eight years at Annunciation Grade School, a truck driver for nearly 20 years at Green Bay’s Department of Public Works, and a Supervisor for six years in Brown County.

Through years of dedicated service to his neighbors, Senator Hansen has been a proponent of middle class workers, like himself, and their families. This session, he will be fighting to protect Wisconsin’s shared values as a member of the following committees: Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism, Energy, Consumer Protection, and Government Reform, Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs, and Survey of Retirement Systems.

Joining Senator Hansen today is his wife Jane Hansen, his brother and sister-in-law Dennis and Mary Jo Hansen, his brother Donald Hansen and members of the Bicoy family.”

Senator Bewley Introduced Senator Shilling

“Senator Jennifer Shilling was elected to her second term in the State Senate in November. The 32nd Senate District is home to the communities of Monroe, La Crosse, Vernon, and Crawford counties in western Wisconsin. The area is known for the natural beauty of the Mississippi River, many rural communities and home to the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse and top notch health care facilities. Prior to being elected to the Wisconsin Legislature, Senator Shilling worked as a legislative aide to State Representative Mark Meyer and Congressman Ron Kind. In addition to representing her community as a State Senator, Senator Shilling also served as a La Crosse County Supervisor and the State Representative for the 95th Assembly District.

Senator Shilling has been a strong vice for the values and priorities of her neighbors and constituents. She is proud to support public education and higher education, including our technical colleges and university system, in addition to fostering economic development and creating family supporting jobs. Senator Shilling will again further her efforts to move Wisconsin forward by continuing to serve as the Senate Democratic Leader.

Joining Senator Jennifer Shilling today is her husband Chris, their sons Nate and Zach, several family members, including her sisters Joy Ehlenfeldt and Dana Sampson, several nieces, nephews and cousins, Chris’s sister, Amanda Shilling, and relatives Bill and Marge Babcock, Ann Ehlenfeldt, and Barbara Wiese. Jennifer thanks her family

for their love and support and good humor. Together they attend parades, pancake breakfasts, county fairs, and countless other community events, and after 5 years in the Senate, they are still good sports about it. “

OATH OF OFFICE

Upon the calling of the newly elected Senators on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, the following appeared before the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office which was administered by the Honorable Daniel Kelly, Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Robert Cowles	Lena C. Taylor
LaTonya Johnson	Alberta Darling
Sheila E. Harsdorf	Tom Tiffany
Luther S. Olsen	Mark Miller
Dan Feyen	Duey Stroebel
Robert W. Wirch	Patrick Testin
Fred A. Risser	Dave Craig
Dave Hansen	Jennifer Shilling

CALL OF ROLL

The roll was called, disclosing the presence of a quorum.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 15, the official attendance for session was:

Senators Bewley, Carpenter, Cowles, Craig, Darling, Erpenbach, Feyen, S. Fitzgerald, Hansen, Harsdorf, Johnson, Kapenga, C. Larson, Lasee, LeMahieu, Marklein, Miller, Moulton, Nass, Olsen, Petrowski, Ringhand, Risser, Roth, Shilling, Stroebel, L. Taylor, Testin, Tiffany, Vinehout, Vukmir, Wanggaard and Wirch - 33.

Absent with leave – None - 0.

IN THE CHAIR

Pursuant to Senate Rule 2 (1), Senator Fitzgerald in the chair.

2:54 P.M.

**CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS,
RESOLUTIONS, AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
NOT REQUIRING A THIRD READING**

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Resolution 1

Relating to: notifying the assembly and the governor that the 2017-2018 senate is organized.

By Senators S. Fitzgerald, Roth, Vukmir, Shilling and Bewley.

Read.

The question was: Adoption of **Senate Resolution 1**?

The ayes and noes were required and the vote was: ayes, 33; noes, 0; absent or not voting, 0; as follows:

Ayes - Senators Bewley, Carpenter, Cowles, Craig, Darling, Erpenbach, Feyen, S. Fitzgerald, Hansen, Harsdorf, Johnson, Kapenga, C. Larson, Lasee, LeMahieu, Marklein, Miller, Moulton, Nass, Olsen, Petrowski, Ringhand, Risser, Roth, Shilling, Stroebel, L. Taylor, Testin, Tiffany, Vinehout, Vukmir, Wanggaard and Wirch - 33.

Noes – None - 0.

Absent or not voting – None - 0.

Adopted.

SENATE OFFICERS OATH OF OFFICE

The President, Roger Roth, the President Pro Tempore, Howard Marklein, the Chief Clerk, Jeffery Renk, and the Sergeant at Arms, Edward A. Blazel, having been duly elected by the adoption of **Senate Resolution 1**, appeared together before the bar of the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office which was administered by the Honorable Daniel Kelly, Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

IN THE CHAIR

Senate President Roth in the chair.

3:01 P.M.

Remarks of President Roth

“I’d like to begin by thanking a few people whose presence here today has greatly added to the spirit of this celebration. Pastor Alvin Dupree, I deeply appreciated your opening prayer today. Pastor Dupree came to my community not that many years ago – after a 20 plus career in the Marine Corps, he and his wife Chantelle established Family First Ministries in Appleton. Pastor thank you for being with us today.

I would like to thank Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Daniel Kelly. Your presence here today made everything official, so thank you for being here. We appreciated your words.

I’d also like to thank Craig Kellenberger, who is the Director of Orchestras at the Renaissance School of Arts, which is a half-day charter school and part of the Appleton Area School District. You and your students did an amazing job here today – thank you for sharing your talents with us.

Next, I’d like to recognize the members of the Chief Clerk’s office, particularly those seated before me today: Chief Clerk Jeff Renk, Erin Gillitzer, Sarah Burhop, Jeffrey Bighley and John Gibson. Together with the Sergeant at Arms Ted Blazel, the Sergeant’s staff and page staff – you make our lives as Senators easier in immeasurable ways. We thank you in advance for all you do for us.

And now I’d like to thank the individuals closest to me. First, I’d like to recognize my life’s inspiration, motivation

and love – the mother of our three amazing little boys – my beautiful wife Rebecca. Thank you for your love and support.

Sir Isaac Newton was rumored to have once said that, “if I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Seated next to my wife are the two individuals whose shoulders my three brothers and I stand on. They taught us to be gentlemen – to love God and treat people with dignity and respect. They have names in their own right, but to me they’re Mom and Dad. Thanks for all you do for me.

And now to the members of this body. I am honored by your selection of me to serve as Senate President for this body during the upcoming session. It is a responsibility I do not take lightly. I’m deeply committed to ensuring this session of the legislature is wildly successful – and I assure you it has nothing to do with the fact that I’m up for re-election in two years.

Inaugurations like these truly are remarkable celebrations. They are the crowning achievement in our system of self-government, as fought for and advanced by faithful men and women through the ages. The people of our great state have spoken on Election Day, and we here today respect their wishes with a peaceful transfer of power to the 33 men and women seated here – chosen by the people – who will exercise their powers in the upcoming session as granted to them through our constitution.

We have been well served by our past Senate presidents through the years, from Senator Fred Risser, whose accomplishments have been well noted already today, to that of Senator Mary Lazich who herself became the first woman to serve in that leadership role, whom I might add did an amazing job.

In talking with my immediate predecessor in the State Senate, former Senator Mike Ellis, he impressed upon me the fact that though political parties have their place – nothing can be allowed to trump the integrity and institution of the Wisconsin State Senate. To that end, it is my aim to enforce the rules of this body in equal measure on all members to ensure the minority has an opportunity to be heard while at the same time not infringing on the right of the majority in achieving their goals.

I appreciate in advance your patience with me presiding, as I become more settled in this new role, and I look forward to listening to your many thought-filled debates.

Thank you.”

President Roth introduced the Senators returning from the 102nd Session: Senators Lasee, Carpenter, Vukmir, Larson, LeMahieu, Nass, Fitzgerald, Ringhand, Marklein, Roth, Wanggaard, Moulton, Bewley, Erpenbach, Petrowski, and Vinehout.

With unanimous consent, Senator Fitzgerald addressed the members from the rostrum.

Remarks of Majority Leader Fitzgerald

“As we begin the important duty of conducting the work of the people of Wisconsin, I would like to welcome and congratulate the 16 Senators whose oaths were renewed or taken for the first time today. Your constituents have entrusted you with the great privilege and responsibility of representing their interests here in Wisconsin’s statehouse, and I look forward to working with each and every member of this body, new and returning.

I am particularly excited to get back to the work of the legislature after an incredible year both for the Senate and for Wisconsin. Thanks to our work, in 2016 Wisconsin reached record high employment levels, saw our best twelve month private sector job growth in a decade, and is currently enjoying our state’s lowest unemployment rate in 15 years.

In this new session, we must build upon all of the achievements of the last. While Wisconsin’s voters once again cast a vote of confidence in our responsible stewardship, this session we must renew our commitment to moving Wisconsin in the right direction. Over the next two years, this body will be dedicated to improving our business climate and continuing to ensure accountability and efficiency at every level of government. Just as every Wisconsin family must budget for their needs each year, our government must continue to operate within its means, eliminating waste and checking abuse to ensure that our taxpayers’ dollars are well spent.

As we embark on the process of crafting the next biennial budget, we will ensure that the best interests of Wisconsin’s residents remain a priority. Under Republican control, Wisconsin has already seen over four and a half billion dollars returned to the pockets of taxpayers. We still believe that individuals should ultimately decide how to spend their hard-earned paychecks—not the government. Despite our already significant efforts to lower the tax burden, Wisconsin remains a high-tax state due to the exceptional quantity and quality of services that the state provides. More reform of our tax code is still needed so that it is simple, streamlined, and eases the overall burden on hard-working Wisconsin residents while maintaining this excellent quality.

Last session I began the year by reminding this body not only of all that we have been able to accomplish, but how much we have achieved with a spirit of bipartisanship and cooperation. This remains true today: in the last two legislative sessions, well over 90 percent of the bills that passed through these chambers and were signed into law in Wisconsin garnered support from both sides of the aisle.

Once again, I call on all of my colleagues gathered here today to enter into this legislative session with that renewed spirit.

As members of the legislature, we are too often characterized by our divisions, but all of us here today are united by our shared desire to make our state a better place. With that in mind, I welcome all of you—new and returning—to the 103rd Session of the Wisconsin State Senate.”

With unanimous consent, Senator Shilling addressed the members from the rostrum.

Remarks of Minority Leader Shilling

“Mr. President, friends and colleagues. I am honored to join you here today as we begin a new legislative session and address the challenges facing our state.

I would like to welcome our new and returning members as well as their families. I especially want to recognize my husband Chris and two boys, Nathan and Zachary, who are here with me today. Thank you for your unconditional love, support and encouragement.

I also want to welcome everyone watching from home on WisconsinEye as well as our guests here in the Senate chamber.

While today marks the start of a new session, it also provides our legislature with a clean slate and the opportunity to chart a new course for our state.

We all know that Wisconsin is a unique, vibrant and hardworking state full of amazing people and unparalleled potential, but we need a clearer plan to invest in our future and ensure long-term economic success.

While the rest of the nation has seen strong job gains, our state has consistently ranked below the national average for job creation, we’ve struggled with declining wages and our aging infrastructure is preventing many businesses from expanding. Wisconsin communities, businesses and residents are already bracing for another round of difficult budget cuts and sacrifices because of fiscal policies that favor the rich over working families.

It doesn’t have to be this way though. Just across the border in Minnesota, their progressive policies are attracting businesses, growing their middle class, and resulting in major budget surpluses. Just last month, their budget office forecasted a \$1.4 billion surplus and they have a \$1.9 billion reserve fund. Rather than looking to cut and borrow, they are investing and growing.

As we seek to balance Wisconsin’s budget deficit and build a brighter future, my Senate Democratic colleagues and I are committed to focusing on the important issues at hand. We will put forward thoughtful proposals to improve workplace flexibility, increase economic freedom and invest in pro-growth policies to strengthen the middle class. We recognize that these aren’t Democratic or Republican issues. They’re Wisconsin issues and we must find ways to work together on these key priorities.

In this new session, it is important to recognize the shortcomings of past policies and look for new ways to deliver on legislative promises. Without adequately investing in our future, Wisconsin will continue to lag our neighboring states in job growth and prosperity. We know that a quality education is the foundation for lifelong success, yet state cuts, local funding challenges and the massive increase of student loan debt have become significant burdens for families. By making targeted investments in our schools, we can improve

education outcomes at all levels from pre-K programs to our technical colleges and universities.

Senate Democrats will also look for ways to help businesses improve workplace productivity, reduce employee turnover and provide greater workplace flexibility. We want to focus on increasing access to affordable childcare, reducing health care costs and improving retirement security to eliminate the barriers that prevent employers and employees from succeeding in a competitive global marketplace.

We also recognize that our government has a responsibility to strengthen communities and private enterprise by maintaining a strong public infrastructure. From repairing aging roads and bridges to encouraging broadband access in urban and rural areas, we need to ensure that our infrastructure is an asset, not a liability, to businesses growth and expansion.

Each of the members in this chamber represents a unique district and geographic area of our state, but we are united in our desire to do what’s best for everyone. Rather than focusing on policies that will divide communities, I hope that we will seize this opportunity to set a new tone and find commonsense solutions to the challenges we face.

As the Senate Democratic Leader, I look forward to working with Gov. Walker, my legislative colleagues, community leaders and local advocates to strengthen relationships and move Wisconsin forward. By working together, I know that we can provide greater economic opportunity, prosperity and freedom for all to enjoy. Thank you.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

The joint committee on **Legislative Organization** reported and recommended:

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2017–2018 biennial session period.

Introduction.

Ayes: 10 – Senator Roth, Representative Vos, Senators Fitzgerald, Vukmir, Shilling and Bewley, Representatives Steineke, R. Brooks, Barca and Hesselbein.

Noes: 0 – None.

ROGER ROTH

Senate Chairperson

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2017-2018 biennial session period.

By the joint committee on **Legislative Organization**.

Read.

The question was: Adoption of **Senate Joint Resolution 1?**

The ayes and noes were required and the vote was: ayes, 33; noes, 0; absent or not voting, 0; as follows:

Ayes - Senators Bewley, Carpenter, Cowles, Craig, Darling, Erpenbach, Feyen, S. Fitzgerald, Hansen, Harsdorf, Johnson, Kapenga, C. Larson, Lasee, LeMahieu, Marklein, Miller, Moulton, Nass, Olsen, Petrowski, Ringhand, Risser, Roth, Shilling, Stroebel, L. Taylor, Testin, Tiffany, Vinehout, Vukmir, Wanggaard and Wirch - 33.

Noes – None - 0.

Absent or not voting – None - 0.

Adopted.

Senator Fitzgerald, with unanimous consent, asked that all action be immediately messaged to the Assembly:

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Messaged.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADJOURNMENT
HONORS AND REMARKS UNDER
SPECIAL PRIVILEGE**

Senator Cowles, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Fred and Marian Krumberger.

Senator Craig, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Amy Craig, William Craig, James Craig, Henry Craig, Greta Craig, Paul Craig, Ruth Craig, Lynn and Kathleen Johnson, Tim and Pat Johnson, Bernie and Karen Schulz, William and Carol Craig, Paul Craig, Gar and Mary Mengel, Benjamin Mengel, Alici Mengel, Elizabeth Mengel, Keith and Sharon Roder, Diane Affeldt, and Lynn Affeldt.

Senator Darling, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2017 inaugural; William Darling, Nancy Darling, Liam Darling, Charlie Winkeljohn, and Andie Winkeljohn.

Senator Feyen, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Lori Feyen, Nick Feyen, Jenna Feyen, Steve Feyen, Bob Feyen, Mary Feyen, Jerry Barker, Bob Sheahan, Lisa Sheahan, Becca Sheahan, Bryan Sheahan, Hunter Lisko, Terry Shoemake, and Annie Moore.

Senator Hansen, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Jane Hansen, Bret Bicoy, Alyssa Bicoy, David Bicoy, Bret Bicoy Jr., Kekoa Bicoy, Nalani Bicoy, Malia Bicoy, Donald Hansen, Dennis Hansen, Mary Jo Hansen, Jonathon Hansen, and Becky Rasmussen.

Senator Harsdorf, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Ryan Bailey, Susie and Steve Josephson, Jim Harsdorf, Jonathan, Karissa and Christian Harsdorf, and Sonja, Ezekial and Ariella Beyerlein.

Senator Johnson, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Derrell Anderson,

Brittani Cook, Curtis A. Cook II, Sydney M. Lee, Annie Wacker, Heather Ullsvik Loomans, Lillian Cheeseman, Supervisor Sequanna Taylor, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Laila Johnson, Shannon McCoy, and Christian Ullsvik.

Senator Marklein, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Peggy Marklein, Craig Steinbrink, Dawn Steinbrink, and Tom Harlan.

Senator Miller, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Jo Oyama Miller, Chandra Miller Fienen, Jeff Miller, Karen Miller, Tyler Verana, Mia Kuhn, Randy Miller, and Kiichi Okubo.

Senator Moulton, with unanimous consent, introduced his guest attending the 2017 inaugural; Sue Kay Moulton.

Senator Nass, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Sheila Reiff, Chris Goebel, Conor Ryan, and Monique Ryan.

Senator Olsen, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Joan Wade, Paul and Cheryl Olsen, Christine Olsen, Jennifer and Mark Olsen, Peter and Selma Olsen, Bethany and Jake Wagner, Jacob Olsen, Claudia Murillo, Dan, Theresa, Angelo, Antonio and Nash Olsen, and Ted and Carol Vander Woude.

Senator Risser, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Nancy Risser, Warner Risser, Lisa White, Sara Risser, Doug Falck, Adam White, Lizzy White, and Noelle Risser.

Senator Roth, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Rebecca Roth, Roger Roth, Sr., Karen Roth, Kasper Roth, Jesse Chase, Josh Goodman, Matt Paddock, Kristine Newhouse, and Thomas Dubnicka.

Senator Stroebel, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Laura Stroebel, Trevor Stroebel, Stewart Stroebel, Mary Stroebel, Robin Stroebel, Christine Scimeca, Peter Scimeca, Allan Bachmann, Carmen Cruz, Zach Palmer, Paula Purcell, and Dolores Johnson.

Senator Taylor, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Sheila Parrish, Nicole Sodivaish, Dr. ReShunda Stephens, Christine R. Thompson-Mosore, James Thompson, Wilbur Taylor, Isha Clayborn, LaDette Austin, Zeke Averhart, Nicole Brown, Former Representative Elizabeth Coggs, and Donna Shepard.

Senator Testin, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Hannah Henderson, Matt Testin, Paula Testin, Bill Henderson, Mary Henderson, BJ Henderson, April Disher, Baylie Disher, Amelia Heup, Brian Moczynski, Nik Nelson, and Joel Egan.

Senator Tiffany, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Chris Sully, Karlyn Tiffany, Lou Welter, Jim Welter, and Madison Mueth.

Senator Wirch, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Mary Wirch, Sue Dopp, and Ron Biendseil.

Senate Chief Clerk Jeffrey Renk, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; his wife Paula Renk, son Matt Renk, and father Ralph W. Renk, age 92, who lobbied for nearly 30 years in the Capitol and retired in 1990.

Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Ted Blazel, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2017 inaugural; Hanna Blazel, Ben Blazel, and Will Blazel.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Fitzgerald, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate stand adjourned until Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

Adjourned.

3:21 P.M.