

Moving on...

BY ANNE TRAUTNER
EDITOR



Anne Trautner

I believe that we are all called to make this world a better place.

This can be done in so many different ways: working hard at a job, helping your family and neighbors, praying, volunteering your time, donating money toward a good cause or simply being kind to one another.

Working at the Kewaskum Statesman for the past six and a half years has given me the chance to share many stories of how people have made a positive difference in our community. I have met so many wonderful people, and I have loved working with them. I am grateful for the time I have spent working at the paper, and I hope I have made a positive difference.

A few weeks ago, I was offered the opportunity to begin working as executive director of the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial & Education Center. It is a position I could not pass up.

I have closely followed the amazing story of how the community came together to create the memorial, and I am very excited to be part of it. In my new role as executive director, I will be developing the education center so that students and residents across the state can learn about the events of 9/11. That fateful day changed our nation, and it is important to reflect on what happened in order to move toward a better future.

In addition, since the election in April, I have been serving as town clerk for the Town of Kewaskum. I love serving the community in this important role.

These are both part-time jobs, but they will fill a lot of my time. So, after the publication of this edition of the paper, I will no longer be working as editor of the Campbellsport News/Kewaskum Statesman.

The new editor for the Campbellsport News/Kewaskum Statesman is Mitchell Keller, who also serves as editor for the Dodge County Pioneer. Mitch, who is originally from the Town of Auburn, has family roots in the area. In fact, Keller Street in the Village of Kewaskum is named after his grandparents. Mitch's email is mitchell.keller@mmclocal.com.

We also have a new journalist, Clarice Case. While Mitch will be covering events that happen in Kewaskum, Clarice will be covering Campbellsport news and athletics. Clarice is a 2017 graduate of Mayville High School and graduated from Lakeland University in December 2020 with a bachelor's degree in writing. She can be reached at clarice.case@mmclocal.com.

Please continue to send in story ideas and photos for the paper. Mitch and Clarice are both excited to get to know you and will do a great job sharing your stories. Because they will be working for both the Dodge County Pioneer and the Campbellsport News/Kewaskum Statesman, they have a wide area they will be covering, so please be patient as they get to

know everyone. And if you know of anyone who is interested in working as a reporter or editor who would like to join their team, please let them know.

As I move on, I can't help but look back and remember some of the amazing stories I have covered while working at the Kewaskum Statesman. Besides the creation of the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial, I have reported on the Kewaskum School District's building project as the new Kewaskum Middle School building and athletic fields were created.

I also have been awed by what a community can do when it comes together as I covered the creation and development of Reigle Family Park, the newest village park in Kewaskum.

I have covered tragedies as well. There have been a number of terrible fires I have witnessed, and I have such appreciation for the volunteer firefighters, first responders and law enforcement officers in our community. On Feb. 10, 2017, I watched firefighters battle a fire that burned through an apartment building on Braatz Drive in Kewaskum. In 2018, I watched with horror as fire spread through the Village of Kewaskum, destroying homes in its path. I watched firefighters battle flames as they ravaged through Westbury Bank in 2019. And sadly, I have reported on numerous families in the area who lost their homes to fire.

I reported on the horrific shootings that occurred in my neighborhood this past February.

And I reported on how the community has tried to make its way through all the challenges of COVID-19.

But mostly, the paper has been filled with good news. I have taken thousands of pictures of students at athletic events. I have visited businesses, schools, nursing homes and farms. I have reported on Honor Flights and shared stories from people's time serving in the military. I truly have loved meeting and talking with everyone.

I have gotten to meet community leaders, as well as county and state officials, including former Gov. Scott Walker and Gov. Tony Evers. But the stories that stick with me the most are the personal stories of individuals who live here in our local community. I have been warmed by how the individuals help one another.

My days at the paper are not completely over. I will continue to occasionally write articles and take photos for the paper. I also am currently working on a project as a volunteer for the Kewaskum Historical Society to digitize the Kewaskum Statesman newspapers. This will offer an opportunity for people to word search the archives, which will help with research and genealogy work.

I firmly believe that newspapers fill an important role in the community. They serve as a watchdog for the community and record history as it happens. Please continue to support your local paper.

Anne Trautner named executive director of Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial & Education Center

Kewaskum Remembers 9/11, Inc., the nonprofit organization responsible for the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial & Education Center, has announced the hiring of Anne Trautner as its new executive director. The newly established executive director role is a paid, part-time position that ensures the continued operation and maintenance of the memorial, as well as the promotion of resources and events designed to educate Wisconsin residents and students about the September 11th attacks. Trautner has closely followed and reported on the progress of the memorial since 2015 as a journalist for the Kewaskum Statesman. Trautner, the clerk for the Town of Kewaskum and co-author of “Kewaskum, Wisconsin: The Making of a Village,” will continue reporting for the Statesman on a part-time basis.

“I am very excited about the opportunity to serve as the executive director of the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial & Education Center. Creating this memorial has been such an important thing for not only the Kewaskum community, but for the entire state. This center will serve as a primary resource for educators across Wisconsin. Approved lesson plans and learning materials for different age groups ensure that students will learn about the events of 9/11, and how that fateful day impacted and changed our nation. By looking back and learning about the past, we move forward to a better tomorrow,” Trautner said.

At the board’s November meeting, Gordon Haberman also announced his resignation from the role of board president. Haberman will remain on the board of directors as past president. Former board vice president Fuzz Martin was elected to fill the vacated position. The organization’s former fund developer, Kathleen Christenson Fisher, was elected to the position of vice president.

“Gordon has been a dedicated leader since this project started. He has worked tirelessly to bring together the people and resources necessary to build this memorial. The fruits of his labor are evident, and Kewaskum and the state of Wisconsin are better for it. We could not be more grateful for his devotion to this project, and the board is committed to carrying his vision forward. We’re also quite thankful that he will remain active on the board,” said Martin.

The Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial & Education Center was built to remember the victims, honor those who responded, celebrate the resilience of our communities and country, and educate future generations. The memorial is operated by Kewaskum Remembers 9/11, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. It is located 40 minutes north of Milwaukee on US-45 and WI-28 “The Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway” in the Village of Kewaskum. Learn more about the memorial at <https://wisconsin911memorial.com>.