

**Alpha Omega News
March 2026**



Thank you Dr. Nancy Rogers for sharing your passion of being an author with us!





Joann Zigler sharing information about sending out an evaluation for everyone to fill out and about creating a committee to go through results of survey.



It was nice to hear about everyone's favorite Valentine experience.



Alpha Omega Chapter
CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER— DKG-LA CROSSE, WI
AND WEBSITE

<https://www.alpha-omega-chapter.com/>



Old News

- Remember to be saving items for the garage sale in May to raise monies for our teacher scholarship.
- If you have had any changes with your address, email address, phone, or name change please give updated information to Rox Fox. She will make the changes for you. This is important for when information will go directly to you from state and not through me.
- Just a Reminder: At our August 2024 meeting it was asked that any member who has news about a fellow sister who is experiencing a hospitalization, is very sick, or the death of a spouse, partner, child, parent or sibling, to please contact the Vice President Joann Zigler or President Barb Albrechtson so that no sister that is hurting will be missed. They, in turn, will contact the members on the schedule.

- Thanks to Roxanne Fox, she has created a new updated web page for our chapter.
<https://www.alpha-omega-chapter.com/>
- Our officers for 2026-2028 will be: Joann Zigler, President; Kathy Dressler, Vice-President; Lois Holper, Treasurer; Kathy Fuss, Recording Secretary, and Rox Fox, Corresponding Secretary. Barb Albrechtson will be there to help out with the transition of duties for Joann.
- Just a reminder about communicating or responding to Barb's emails. Instead of attaching your comments to someone else's response do email Barb directly. Often times Barb will miss your response when attached to someone else's email. That goes with text messages as well.
- Please fill out forms if you haven't already done so, especially the Biographical and Meet Your DKG Member. These are important for spotlighting our members in the newsletter.
- **Challenge:** States that welcome **100** new or reinstated members by **2029** will earn the prestigious title of **Centennial State Organization**.
- What an amazing Pop-Up with Brad Pfaff. See Joann's article about this event. Thank You Kathy Dressler for making this happen!



Sitting: Carol Egge, Kathy Fuss, Terri Daley-Mack, Carol Nelson-Britten, Denise Christy

Middle Row: Joann Zigler, Barb Albrechtson, Lois Holper, Brad Pfaff, Michele Cook, Dr. Nancy Rogers

Back Row: Karen Weigel and Kathy Dressler

Pop-Up Event with Brad Pfaff

Respectfully submitted by Joann Zigler, Vice-President

In the early evening of Jan. 5th, we had a Pop-Up event with Wisconsin State Senator, Brad Pfaff. Almost 1 dozen of our members & family attended this personal “mini town meeting” visit in Onalaska, WI.

[♥ Thank you to our sister Kathy Dressler for the many calls she made to secure this opportunity with WI State Senator Pfaff. Thank you to sisters: Kathy who reserved her neighborhood’s comfortable Community Room once again for this DKG event, and Barb, Lois and Rox providing refreshments.]

The visit began with handshakes and cordial greetings to all attending. Pfaff started by recalling his local roots, having graduated from Mel-Min HS and growing up on a La Crosse County farm family-owned through generations.

He interjected some personal notes: his daughter is working on her PHD and recently engaged. In September, their son and daughter-in-law welcomed their first child, making Pfaff and Betty grandparents!

Pfaff shared a review of his work in WI and Federal government: he worked behind the scenes with former Governor Jim Doyle's 2003-2011 administration and served in former President Obama's 2009-2017 administration as a supporting Agricultural Advisor. He served in a similar capacity, with Wisconsin's District 3 former US Congressman, Ron Kind, (noting Kind has been both an influential mentor (& become good friend) through the 26 years Kind served. Pfaff led the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and was the director of business and rural development at the WI Dept. of Administration.

Jumping forward to present day, it was actually through the suggestion of both Governor Tony Evers and Congressman Kind, that Pfaff ran in 2023 for that same 3rd District seat opposite Republican candidate, Derrick Van Orden and as we know, that race ended with a narrow margin loss.

Pfaff is now serving as the Ranking Member of the Agriculture and Tourism committee and doing extensive work with education issues. His emphasis ~Higher Education, Public/Private school funding & school-voucher systems~

Pfaff summarized his work history as a public servant by sharing some of his personal ideology. He noted, “My intent is to be a worthy representative of the people in my district...neither party, Republican nor Democratic nor Independent, are monoliths. We can be a productive and cooperative government.”

To inspire some smiles, he offered a quote from humorist Roy Rogers: "I'm not associated with any political party. I'm a democrat."

Pfaff opened the floor to us, asking for our thoughts about issues facing us personally this evening.

Education related issues took priority with many impactful questions and discussions:

1. Have political, societal, economic and cultural changes been major things impacting our field of education?

2. **Public schools and Private schools —State taxpayer funding for private school vouchers has gone from a budget designated for 1,000, low income eligible students qualifying in 2 locations (primarily Milwaukee and Madison), in 2005 designed through Tommy Thompson's initial voucher program, to what exists today where it is up to 60,000 with no low income eligibility limits.
What does PER STUDENT dollars—caps on funding to schools—schools forced to referendums—all look like in our reality today?**
3. **Virtual education pros and cons?**
4. **AI in education pros and cons?**
5. **Higher education and what is at stake with Federal funding losses?**
6. **In the individual communities of our State and Our Nation—the political scene. The cultural scene. We know both have had a great impact, but did one prompt the other? Would culture and/or political change have happened regardless? Why? What do we do?**

Those in attendance brought up the example of one of the first major influences in WI, knowing ACT 10 and its impacts on educators and school districts was a huge change we live with today.

Act 10 occurred (during former Governor Scott Walker's 2011-2019 administration), which ran parallel, in part, (during former President Obama's 2009-2016 Administration) which inherited financial institution bailouts & failing automobile manufacturing businesses.

SUMMARY and ending remarks included a discussion, affirmation and call to action for our elected officials and those attending: ~We ALL must get out the VOTE this November. ~We must continue to have productive dialog and further these issues of making schools and communities what we need them to be.

- **Everyone had a fun time at the new WAFER facility. Thank you Karen Weigel for putting this event together for us in giving us a first-hand look into what WAFER provides for our community members that need the essential food and support it provides every day. This well-equipped building on 1603 George St. (formerly housing grocery stores and historically housing Birnbaum's) is a FOOD BANK location that also distributes to FOOD PANTRIES in our area and beyond. Because of this, this Pop-Up event gave us a first-hand look into how this is a busy hub, that supplies 20,000 Food Packages each year. Therefore, there are a lot of steps and hardworking volunteer hands needed to feed this community. You can donate and/or volunteer (inspire friends to help, too!) during their hours: Monday-Friday 8-12:30 and Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 4-7. They need lots of hands! We saw the vans that must be driven to acquire and redistribute donated goods. Help is needed unpacking donations, shelving goods, and registering 1,500 families that come through the doors each month to shop for themselves and their families.**



Front Row: Barb Albrechtson, Jan Marson, Carol Nelson-Britten, Priscilla Thibodeau, Marilyn Arndt, Mary Clark, Julie Anderson, Karen Weigel, Kelly Wilde (Program Director/On-Air Announcer at Magnum Media) who gave an excellent tour of WAFER facilities

Back Row: Michele Cook, Lois Holper, Joann Zigler, Kathy Fuss, Roxanne Fox



- Some of the historic sections that were found during the renovation of WAFER when it was Birnbaum's Grocery Store
- Some of those who attended the Pop-Up continued on as a gathering at Ardies Restaurant which was a fun time!



Barb Albrechtson, Mary Clark, Lois Holper, Kathryn Hutter, Marilyn Arndt, Carol Nelson-Britten Going From Left to Right around the table.

New News

- Thanks Mary Clark for taking photos in December.
- Our Photographer for April 29th will be Joann Zigler. I do need one more member to take photos while Joann is being inducted as our new president. Let Barb Albrechtson know if you are interested in doing this.
- Joann Zigler will be forming a committee in looking at possible different venues for our meetings and also when they should take place (during the day or early evening) for 2026-2027 program year. A poll should be taken of our membership for their input on this matter. Remember we are planning and hoping to start a collegiate program at UWL and Viterbo.



- Thanks go out to Michele Cook and Karen Weigel for being our greeters at our December 1st Meeting.
- Our Greeters for April 29th will be Carol Nelson-Britten and Mary Swingle.
- Thanks to Michele Cook and Karen Weigel for bringing a door prize to our February meeting.
- Lois Holper and Kathy Fuss will be bringing door prizes for our April 29th meeting.
- Our April meeting will be Wednesday, April 29th at the Freight House where we will be inducting new officers and members. There is no charity this month.
- Membership dues are due April 30th of \$72
- Please set aside the date April 18th & 19th for the State Conference. I'm one of the members working on putting this weekend together. It is taking place in Wisconsin Dells this year. Love to see some Alpha Omega members attend. I'll be presenting "Make Your Body Move in Space" (belly dance) for one of the sectional. More information coming soon.
- Joann Zigler who will be our new president and will be asking a member to volunteer to be our parliamentarian at meetings to make sure we run

our meetings according to “Robert’s Rules of Order.” Thanks to Rox Fox for purchasing a newly revised in brief book for us to use. Thank you Rox!

- Our Pop-Up event at the Heritage Center will be postponed to September when they will be highlighting beer advertising just in time for Oktoberfest.
- The books that were donated to Hamilton School. Some of the books had duplicates.



- The Monday following our February meeting, Kathy Fuss and Barb Albrechtson went to Hamilton School to drop off books for Kindergarten to keep as their own. There are two classes and we participated in giving the books to one of the classes as they were having a reading session. How special it was to see the individual kindergartners come and pick out the book that they would take home. It was very touching. The kindergartners where so sweet with coming up to pick out the book that they wanted and then saying “Thank you.” While talking with the

social worker in charge, she thought we were a sorority. Then I told her that we were a society and she said “Do you have to be a retired teacher to join?” I told her that we were actually looking for working educators. She then asked if teacher assistants could join and of course I said “yes.” I mentioned that anyone who is an educator for two years can be part of our DKG society such as, physical and occupational therapists and school nurses. I was then asked if TAs (teacher assistants) could join and I immediately said “yes”. The social worker talked to a teacher assistant who was in the office just then and told her she could be a member of our society. The social worker was so excited about our group that she said that she would send information about our group to the educators in her school and how they could become a member. Her excitement was very contagious.

- \$66 was raised for WINN (What I Need Now.) Their mission is: We lovingly care for our un-sheltered and marginalized neighbors wherever they may be and accept individuals as they are without judgement.
- There will be a new sign-up at the April meeting for the 2026-2028 program committees. This is a two year commitment. Everyone needs to sign up for at least one committee. You may sign up for more than one. You can sign up for the same committee that you are already on or can sign up for a new committee. Committees are the following: Communication/Marketing, Membership, Program, Scholarship, Service/Charity, Fundraising, By-Laws/Rules, Finance, Nominations, Collegiate Community, and new Parliamentarian
- If you have anything that you would like to add to the newsletter such as a poem, quote, photo etc., please send it to Barb Albrechtson tzigane2@hotmail.com



WSO Conference

Saturday April 18, 2026

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Check out the wsodkg.weebly.com website

For more information about the upcoming conference



Officers for 2024-2026

President – Barb Albrechtson

Vice-President – Joann Zigler

Treasurer – Lois Holper

Corresponding Secretary – Roxanne Fox

Recording Secretary – Kathy Fuss



Remember YOU are the center of the reason for DKG!

Taken from book "Our Heritage in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society" by

Eunah Temple Holden

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Calvin Coolidge once reminded us that "***No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.***" And Dr. Annie Web Blanton, founder of DKG, richly gave—professional leadership, business acumen, and prophetic guidance as she envisioned the chapter, state and national character of Delta Kappa Gamma.



Committees for 2024-2026

Communication/Marketing

Rox Fox, Joann Zigler

Membership

Terri Daley-Mack, Jackie Meyer, Mary Wetterling, Dr. Nancy Rogers

Program Committee

Cyndy Schaper, Sally Emerson, Marilyn Arndt, Lois Holper, Kathy Dressler

Scholarship

Priscilla Thibodeau, Pam Griffith, Terri Daley-Mack, Cyndy Schaper, Sarah Stuber

Service/Charity

Terri Daley-Mack, Mary Clark, Cyndy Schaper, Deb Keller, Karen Weigel, Carol Egge, Lois Holper

Fundraising

Merry Kocar, Joann Zigler

By-Laws/Rules

Rox Fox, Cyndy Schaper, Mary Swingle, Carol Nelson-Britten

Finance Committee

Jan Marson, Connie Albrechtson, Michele Cook

Nominations

Kathy Dressler, Kathy Fuss, Pam Brose

Collegiate Community

Mary Wetterling

Jan Marson

Joann Zigler

Kathy Dressler

Dr. Nancy Rogers

DON'T FORGET



Julie Anderson Denise Christy



Pam Brose

Sarah Stuber

Dr. Nancy Rogers

Our newest members 2025-2026 are Sarah Stuber, Dr. Nancy Rogers and Pam Brose. We just got two new members who will be inducted this April.

Denise Christy and Julie Anderson

Photos coming in future newsletter: Sarah, Nancy, Pam and Denise.

Sarah Stuber: 1023 Whispering Winds Place N, Onalaska, WI 54650

sarahstuber5234@gmail.com

Dr. Nancy Rogers: 1614 Prairie Pl #216, Holmen, WI 54636

aranaska90@gmail.com

Pam Brose: 4921 33rd St. S, La Crosse, WI 54601 PamelaVbrose@gmail.com

Denise Christy: 1020 Sunrise Court, Onalaska, WI 54650 dnschristy@aol.com

Julie Anderson 821 Lakeview Dr., La Crosse, WI 54603 jaaona@charter.net



**Our Next Meeting Will Be April 29th
Induction of New Members**

Annual Dues

Dinner at Freight House

107 Vine St. – La Crosse

4:30 Social

5:00 Initiation/Meeting

5:45 Dinner



Membership Dues

Dues need to be paid by April 30th

Dues are \$72

This may change depending what dues will be for national and state. Will keep you posted if there is a change.

Checks should be made out to DKG.

**Send to Lois Holper if you are not attending the
April 29th meeting.**

Lois Holper

1155 Oak Timber Dr.

Onalaska, WI 54650



**Remember April is our induction of new members.
Please be thinking of promoting our Alpha Omega Chapter to
your friends.**

**We just need to open our minds to escape the word “teacher”
and think “educator” instead.**

Consider sharing other professions:

Physical therapists,

Yoga instructors,

Financial experts,

Food service directors,

Nurses,

Doctors,

Just think of someone who is

A Leader

Who has been an educator for two years and were paid

**Please send information to Barb Albrechtson for any new
members to induct by March 25th so materials can be purchased
for our new members. It’s okay if we have new members after
that. They will just get their materials at our first meeting for
the 2026-2027 program year.**

Members can join throughout the year.



A great big
THANK YOU

Thank you! -Kaylah
Many Thanks! -MsO.
Thank you! -Joel
Thank you!! -Mr. Young
Thank you! Mandy
Thanks Jordan
Thank you! -Meghan
Thank You -Madesu
Thanks -Sara
Thank you!! Jon Z
Much appreciated! -Shelly
Thanks! Bobbi
Thank you! Meghan Blakstad
Thank you! -Austin Micksch
Thank you! Carter Sem
Thank you! Father's Day
Thank you for the donation of hats and mittens. We appreciate your generosity!
Thank you! Laura
Thank you! very much! Mike
Thanks! Caden
Thank you! Hannel
Thank you! Zeeb
Thank you! Jenna Ferkel



Hi there! Thank you again for the sweet visit and beautiful books for our Kindergartners. It was such a gift to our school!

If you would like to send the idleness to share with staff regarding your organization, I would be happy to share it.

Happy March!

Respectfully,

Jenn Speckeen

, Title 1 Teacher Hamilton Early Learning Center

In the Spotlight



Carol Egge

Carol lives with her husband Ron on the south side of La Crosse on Bentwood Place near the bluffs. She received her Bachelor of Science degree – English, Library Media and Sociology from the University Wisconsin-La Crosse where she also worked on her Masters of Science degree in Educational Media. She has 30 credits that are beyond her Master’s degree.

Carol is happily retired from working 34 years for the Holmen School District. She enjoyed working with students for 5 years as a seventh grade English/Language Arts Teacher and 29 years as the Middle School Library Media Specialist.

Carol is a member of the Wisconsin Educational Media Association.

She is involved with Steppin’ Out in Pink which is a non-competitive fundraising walk for all ages and abilities to raise money to support breast cancer research, purchase diagnostic instruments to detect breast cancer sooner, and patient support programs at Gundersen’s Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care.

Carol is also a member of DEAR Friends Book Club.

What brings Carol joy is watching her grandchildren grow up and recently welcoming a great grandson. She loves traveling, reading, and scrapbooking.

Carol's favorite colors are blue and turquoise. She also loves to wear red at Christmas and for her Valentine's birthday.

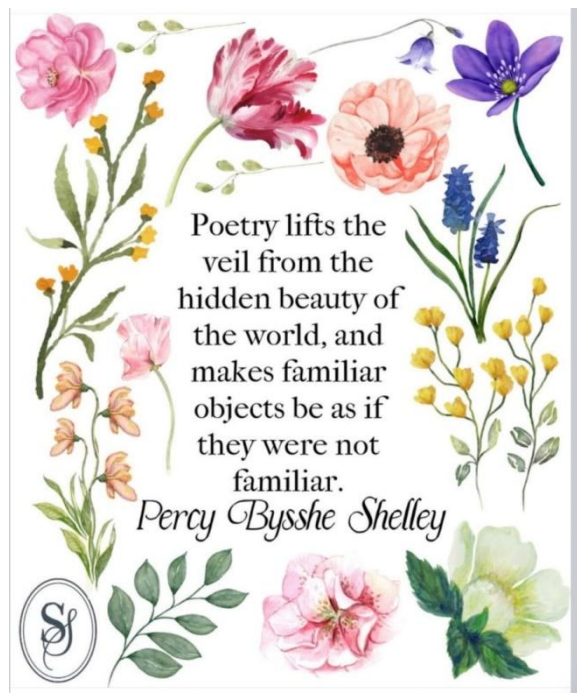
Her favorite memory occurred while she was in college when she met her husband, Ron, while traveling home from La Crosse to Viroqua on the Greyhound Bus. He had memorized her address on her luggage tag and sent her a letter the following week. They were married 2 ½ years later and will celebrate their 58th anniversary in July.

Carol's "guilty pleasure" is scrapbooking with buying scrapbooking supplies. She also likes to go shopping for clothing, jewelry and household items. Her favorite splurge purchases are jewelry especially unique earrings.

Carol cannot live without her family. She stated that "I can live without most things that I have, but not my family."

Most people do not know that Carol worked with Jackie Meyer as a carhop at Rudy's Drive-in on La Crosse Street during college and that she shares a Valentine Birthday with Mary Wetterling.

The celebrity that Carol would most like to have lunch with is Oprah because she feels that she could have a good discussion with her about almost any topic.





Jackie Meyer March 1st
Cyndy Schaper March 11th
Denise Christy March 22nd
Carol Nelson-Britten April 1st
Dottie Baumgartner April 6th
Roxanne Fox April 17th



**Save your books as a fundraiser
for Alpha Omega Chapter.
Books not sold will go
for the Free Library
in memory of Claire Jandt
at Jandt-Fredrickson Funeral Home and Crematory.
You can bring your books to the April meeting.**



**Just a reminder:
Bring socks & undies for
Trinity Clothes Closet
Throughout the year**



**Something New:
Please bring food items for
A Place of Grace**

**Volunteers
needed**

- **Wafer Food Pantry**
Volunteer

If you would like to join our growing team, call us at 608-782-6003 or email them at volunter@waferlacrosse.org

Each day, volunteers sort and stock food, help patrons, and assist with general upkeep.

Some volunteers help out weekly, some monthly, and some with special events. Every one of every age is invited to volunteer, but children under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers are needed: 8:30 am-1:00 pm Monday through Friday and 3:30 pm -8:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Donate

Bring food donations to WAFER during business hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am to 12:30pm and Mon, Tues & Thurs 4:00 to 7:00pm.

- **The Nature Place**

Reception Volunteers Needed.

If you are passionate about the environment. Want to work with the public. Are self motivated and hard working. Want to be more involved in our community. We'd love to have You!

Responsibilities include – Greeting visitors, answering visitor questions, light paperwork, promoting public involvement, light tidying/cleaning and restocking flyers.

- **Trinity Clothes Closet**

Need volunteers for putting away clothes at the clothes closet at predetermined times or helping people gather clothes on Mondays from 4-6. Deb Keller could do a training session for those who are interested in Late October.

Monday meals program is looking for about 12 people to cook and serve a takeout meal for those seeking a warm meal on a Monday or two. It could be 1 to 3 times throughout next year. There is someone who would train us. They typically serve about 200 in one night.

- **School District of La Crosse**

Montessori School/Northside School

Jenna Anfang, Community School Coordinator

608-789-6780

janfang@lacrossesd.org

SOTA 1 School/Hamilton

Jonathan Zinniel Community School Coordinator

608-789-5092

jzinniel@lacrossesd.org

- **The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of La Crosse County** is always looking for volunteers to help with various tasks! Check out their volunteer opportunities below. If you have a talent/interest to share that is not listed, let them know!

Meal Delivery Driver

Meal Site Volunteer

Dementia Program Volunteer

Caregiver Support Volunteer

Prevention Program Volunteer

Volunteer Guardian

Ready to volunteer? Submit your application, along with required documentation, via mail, email, or stop by their office. If you are interested but need more information, please do not hesitate to contact them!

Contact the ADRC at 608-785-5700 or 800-500-3910 for more details.

Check out their website

<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/adrc/get-involved/volunteer>

Office Hours

Sunday Closed

Mon-Friday 8 am-4:30 pm

Saturday Closed

Other times are available by appointment.

- **New Life Resource Center**
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

1602 Park Avenue

La Crosse, WI. 54601

608-785-2377

Services offered:

PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO NEW MOTHERS

(Diapers, wipes, infant and toddler clothes to size 5T. Some baby equipment and furniture is available) All free of charge

CRISIS PREGNANCY COUNSELING

(24 hour hotline)

COMMUNITY REFERRALS

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

- **Kane Street Community Gardens**
Hunger Task Force of La Crosse
lacrossehunger@gmail.com

Welcome! Volunteers are *essential* to the success of The Hunger Task Force, and there are a variety of volunteer opportunities available for individuals and

groups. Whether you want to get your hands dirty at The Kane Street Community Garden, help sort donations at The Food Recovery warehouse, or assist at a special event, there are volunteer options for everyone!

Food Recovery Program Volunteers Office/Warehouse: [\(608\) 793-1002](tel:6087931002)

Volunteer Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Assist in the Food Recovery program by volunteering at the Hunger Task Force administrative building/warehouse:

Drivers assist with picking up or delivering food items (using the Hunger Task Force truck (no CDL needed)

Warehouse Workers assist with organizing, stocking, sorting, or inventorying food items

Office/Clerical Workers help with mailings, data entry, fundraiser prep, or general receptionist duties

Kane Street Community Garden Volunteers [\(608\) 386-3319](tel:6083863319)

Volunteer Hours

March - October

March 15 - May 31:

Share your gardening talents with us—and then take home fresh produce. Don't have a green thumb? That's okay too! No prior garden experience needed. Volunteers assist with a variety of tasks:

planting, weeding, or harvesting

tilling, composting, or irrigating

mowing the lawn, organizing sheds, inspecting equipment

- **Oasis**

A Welcoming Respite Program for Individuals Living with Mild to Moderate Symptoms of an Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, or Other Brain Related Diagnosis.

(608) 780 - 0471

<https://oasisrespite.org>

OAISS Respite Program, an outreach program of Causeway Caregivers is seeking volunteers for Mondays and Thursdays 11am - 3pm weekly.

OASIS is designed for individuals in the beginning to mid stages of a dementia diagnosis, providing activities to promote being active, being creative, and brain enrichment while their caregiver or care partner gets a well-deserved break.

Volunteers work 1:1 or 2:1 with participants in the activities during the respite time. Laughter and socialization is most important! Enrichment activities monthly bring unique experiences for all within OASIS.

Volunteers receive dementia training, communication techniques, Dementia Live experience, and ongoing training as needed.

Location:

4141 Mormon Coulee Rd, LA CROSSE, WI 54601, US

<https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp3777750.jsp>