

MAY '19 REP'S REPORT

As I look back at the last month, I realize how busy it has been. I will give you some of the highlights in this report. On May 1, I joined other area elected officials at the Kenosha County Building to speak on how local and state government entities operate and interact on Law Day.

I was also pleased to tour UW-Parkside, and as always, was very impressed. I was briefed on some of their capital budget requests for new investment, including a needed upgrade to their fire suppression system. Unfortunately all of the budget requests have been held up with Republicans on the committee voting against every single project. The nursing program at Parkside was particularly impressive and is in the process of undergoing a major increase in enrollment capacity.

That same week I attended a briefing by the Department of Tourism at the Capitol. Our tourism industry is major source of revenue and employment for Kenosha, as well as across the entire state.

We only had one session day this past month. Much of the agenda was taken up by anti-choice bills which ultimately will be vetoed by Governor Evers. Although they did not go as far as some recent legislation in other states, they did infringe on the ability of women to make their own healthcare decisions and were clearly only proposed to create a divisive political narrative.

Despite only having one day on the Assembly floor considering proposals, we have had a dramatic increase in committee activity. The Assembly Labor & Integrated Employment Committee held an informational hearing on the placement of people with special abilities in community workplaces. Another committee held both a public hearing and committee vote on legislation that will set the guidelines for the installation of 5G technology, the next generation of wireless connectivity.

I took another tour of Monarch Plastics with outgoing manager Nalin Mehta. I'd like to wish Nalin all the best and thank him for being such a great partner with Kenosha, as well as wishing the best of luck to the new owners and management team. I also toured the Clairidge House nursing home and had a great discussion

with the staff regarding nursing home reimbursement rates and CNA nursing training and compensation.

I joined with Senator Wirch and newly elected State Representative Tip McGuire for a budget listening session at the Union Club. Thanks to the Kenosha Education Association and Forward Kenosha for organizing this event.

WISPOLITICS held a panel discussion in Kenosha and I was pleased to join Revenue Secretary-designee Peter Barca, Representative Samantha Kerkman, Heather Wessling from the Kenosha Area Business Alliance, and Carthage College Economics Professor, Cassie Lau. The panel was the first in a series of statewide discussions on navigating the new economy.

Governor Evers invited all state legislators to come to the Governor's Executive Residence to play euchre. Although I had never played a hand before I joined in, I was thankful for the opportunity to spend some social time with my colleagues, Governor Evers, First Lady Kathy Evers, and his staff. Unfortunately only one Republican took Governor Evers up on the invitation.

As always, Memorial Day is a special day I spend going to various events to remember and honor all the individuals and families who have made incredible sacrifices to defend our country, and especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I was able to attend five different ceremonies in the district and would like to thank all the veterans who attended for their service.

In closing, I would encourage you to contact my office if you're having a problem with a state issue, have a suggestion, or have a complaint. If you would like to receive my monthly email update just call my office at (608) 266-0455 or email me at Rep.Ohnstad@legis.wisconsin.gov