

Second WNA Annual Meeting Draws Crowd

The 2nd WNA Annual Meeting held November 3 at the Tabitha Life Quest Center drew a crowd of more than 60 residents and visitors. Two agenda items commanded the lion's share of the program, one educational and one business.

Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady was the featured speaker. He explained current department challenges and priorities by highlighting changes it and Lincoln has seen during the past 30 years. Alcohol used to be sold only downtown, now it available throughout the city; very few places were open 24 hours/day, now there are scores of places open 24/7; now schools call police instead of taking care of all discipline issues themselves; there are new crimes of holdups and robberies, many resulting from the use of methamphetamine; the department handles more mental health related matters; Lincoln and the surrounding area is growing more than 1% annually – adding 3,700 residents each year which means more work for the police force, and Lincoln has the smallest police force than many other cities of Lincoln's size.

The department has an officer per capita ratio of 1.34/1,000 and a goal of raising that ratio to 1.5. The national average is 2.07/1,000. The department is requesting eight additional officers and Casady hopes they can be added within the next few years. The department is responsible for 80 square miles and is planning to add substations to reduce response time and increase effectiveness. The next substation is planned at 49th St. and Huntington and should be open in November.



Chief Tom Casady speaks on department challenges

Casady's topic generated a wide range of questions from WNA residents. For example, he explained how all calls are prioritized.

The business aspect of the Annual Meeting was the election of board members and officers. Past President Mike Fitzgerald explained the board's goal is to involve more residents from throughout the WNA area to help with the growing list of Witherbee activities, such as garage sales, a holiday lighting contest, a neighborhood clean up, newsletter delivery and monitoring development proposals and projects. He presented the nomination committee's report and candidates for the six open director positions were elected. Fred Zarate (5110 L St.), Steve Schwab (3510 Woods Ave.) and Mike Fitzgerald (3794 H St.) were re-elected to serve two-year terms and Larry Frisch (4105 N St.), Russell Miller (341 S 52nd St.) and Karen Vogeley (3535 Frost Ct.) were newly elected, also for two-year terms


After the 12-member board was determined, election of officers was conducted. Fred Freytag (530 S. 38th St.) was re-elected as President. Rick Bagby (389 S. 47 St.) was elected Vice President. Larry Frisch (4105 N St.) was elected Secretary. Ann Richards (5030 L St.) was re-elected Treasurer.

The annual program included time for visiting and enjoying DaVinci's pizza and a large variety of salads and deserts brought by residents.



Pizza and salad were enjoyed by all

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