

2018  
BIOGRAPHY

**Name:** Jean R. Maszk      **County Board District:** 24

**What year did you begin your service on the County Board:** January, 2007

**Committee Assignments:**

Extension, Education and Economic Development

Solid Waste Board

Partnership for Progressive Agriculture

**The challenges and opportunities of the County which I am most interested are:**

Seeing our UW Cooperative Extension department come up to full staffing again is going to be a very valuable asset to our county. During the last county board term the Area Extension Director asked for priorities the county wanted Extension to focus on. The same issue came up for all positions and that is to *direct some programming to fight the war on drugs, help children at risk and focus some programs on reducing recidivism*. The visioning session that was held for input on bringing on board a Horticulture Educator position was driven by the fact that therapeutic horticulture has been proven to help individuals at risk to change. It will not be a fast process, but with proper collaboration this program can make a huge difference.

**The best thing about Marathon County is:**

After traveling to 45 of our 50 states for work over the years I was asked where I would like to live if the opportunity arose. That question made me realize that I never want to live anywhere else but here in Marathon County where I grew up. Many of my family members were or still are dairy farmers which is dear to my heart. I spent a lot of my childhood on my grandfather's and uncle's farms and my husband grew up on a dairy farm.

**The second best thing** is our 38 member county board. Other counties and states might think it is overkill, however, I do believe that we have the best that any county board can be. There is equal representation in the largest county by acreage in the state, which means the rural areas are also well represented. Over the years I have seen 38 people debate an issue with no rock unturned. The more minds solving a problem or addressing an issue brings the best possible solution. I am proud to be part of such a unique board.

**Something about me that most people might not know or expect is:**

My husband and I are self-employed and own our semi-tractor and flatbed trailer. I drove over the road with him for many years. We raised two Miniature Schnauzers from puppies in our first truck. We now have Giant Schnauzers at home, some of them adopted as adult dogs.

**Family:** Married to Allen, 2 sons, 1 daughter and a revolving door for Giant Schnauzers, rescued cats and birds.

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