

Dane County Historical Society Annual Meeting: June 20, 2025
Capitol Lakes Grand Hall, Madison

John Decker called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm

John gave a brief summary of the Dane County Historical Society (DCHS) activities.

- The Otto Schroeder Archives and Record Center is an important project. The Society makes the records available to the public, especially through digitization. There is a collection of high school yearbooks, including the complete run from Madison Central High School.
- The Unjust Deeds Exhibit is an important current project.
- DCHS reaches out to organizations throughout the county. John recently spoke to the Dane County Bar Association on the topic of non-profit organizations.

Jane Licht introduced the speaker Kathleen Falk, former Dane County Executive. Kathleen recognized several county leaders who were present, including DCHS board member Peter Williams, who worked in the Corporation Council Office and Helene Nelson, former Director of the Department of Health and Family Services. Kathleen described Jane Licht as a “rock star in the history of Dane County,” explaining that Jane had been proactive in developing benchmark systems. She complimented Rick Bernstein for his development of the Unjust Deeds exhibit. She went on to describe her career and accomplishments as Dane County executive in environmental and social justice initiatives.

Election of Board of Directors: Peter Williams, Gini Nichols, and Paul Hessman were re-elected to the board. Peter nominated Nino Amato; Jane Licht seconded the motion, which passed.

Rick Bernstein made a presentation about the traveling exhibit “Unjust Deeds: The History of Racial Covenants in Dane County and Beyond,” which was on display at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.