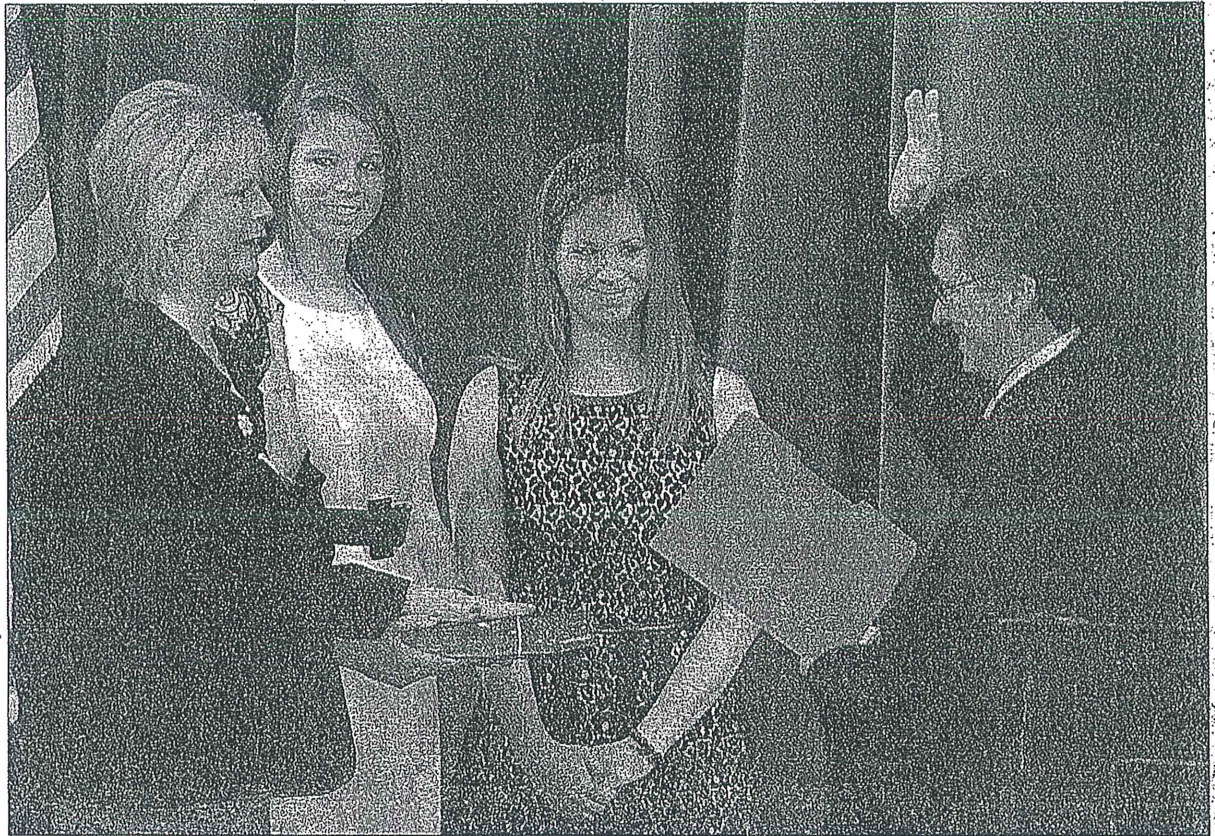


The year of the woman?

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Lake County Commissioner Judy Moran is sworn in by Mentor Municipal Court Judge John Trebets on Tuesday at Lakeland Community College. Looking on are Moran's daughter, Alyssa, and niece, Marisa Vesel.

Lake Dems swear in 4 women, 2 men

■ First Democratic female commissioner among those taking oath for county-wide offices

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At least in Lake County, 2013 looks to be the Year of the Democratic Woman.

Of the six people sworn in Tuesday in front of a packed audience at the Democratic Inaugural Ceremonies at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, four are women.

Three of them — Lake County Treasurer Lorraine M. Fende, Lake County Commissioner Judy Moran and Lake County Recorder Ann M. Radcliffe — defeated male opponents.

The fourth, Lake County Clerk of Courts Maureen G. Kelly, was re-

elected over her Republican female challenger.

"I am very honored to stand before you as the first woman Democrat ever elected commissioner in Lake County," Moran said. "Lake County has some challenges, but I prefer to look at them as opportunities."

Also inaugurated were John M. Rogers, state representative for the 60th House District, and Robert E. Aufuldish, re-elected as county commissioner.

"No offense to John and Bob, but I gotta tell ya, the women — the Democratic women — in Lake County have really done an outstanding job. Judy, Ann, Maureen and myself," said Fende,

who previously served eight years as the 62nd District's state representative.

The men hardly seemed offended. "I'd like to start off by saying that John Rogers and myself would like to thank the ladies for inviting us to their swearing in," Aufuldish quipped.

"I'm sure that they will be the future of many more of these great ceremonies."

After the ceremony, Lake County Common Pleas Judge Joe Gibson said having the majority of winners be female is unusual in Lake County politics.

"I think it's wonderful," Gibson said. "It's just great. They're all good candidates, and they're all well qualified."

Lorraine M. Fende, Judy Moran and Robert E. Aufuldish talk about the winning women at News-Herald.com

