

Beloit Daily News
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I've never been president of anything. That doesn't mean I didn't have presidential aspirations. I started out by dipping my toes in the water of high school politics when I ran for Secretary of my senior class. However, considering I couldn't be bothered to write my own speech and asked a friend to write it for me instead, it came as no surprise that I didn't win the election. In college I tasted victory and was elected to the position of Social Secretary for my sorority. That role entailed finding out interesting snippets of trivia (gossip!) about my sisters and sharing them at our weekly meetings. However, considering I perhaps over-shared some highly personal bits of information, it came as no surprise that I was asked to resign about a month into my term. Hey, resignation is better than impeachment, right? What I've learned from these two experiences is that while I enjoy contributing to a team environment, I am not necessarily presidential material.

Now, if we are talking presidential material, one name that immediately comes to mind is Abraham Lincoln. He didn't let early failures get in his way of becoming President. He practiced law without a degree. He ran for the U.S. Senate, not once but twice, and lost both times. And he lost his first bid for a presidential ticket as an unsuccessful vice-presidential candidate. None of that stopped him from going on to become one of our country's greatest presidents.

Join us at the library on Thursday February 2nd at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate the life of and to learn more interesting facts about our 16th President of the United States. Presented by Kevin J. Wood, aka Mr. Lincoln, this is a free event for all ages.

For more information about this program and many more, visit us at www.beloitlibrary.org or like us on Facebook. In the meantime, be sure to check out these books coming soon to your Beloit Public Library:

Wrestling with His Angel: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln Vol. II, 1849-1856 by Sidney Blumenthal. Now, in one of the greatest American success stories, *Wrestling With His Angel* brings Lincoln from the wilderness to the peak of his career as he takes control of the nation's most profound spiritual crisis—slavery—and enters the battle for the nation's soul. (Book Description)

The Gatekeepers: How the White House Chiefs of Staff Define Every Presidency by Chris Whipple. The chiefs of staff, often referred to as "the gatekeepers," wield tremendous power in Washington and beyond; they decide who is allowed to see the president, negotiate with Congress to push POTUS's agenda, and—most crucially—enjoy unparalleled access to the leader of the free world. Each chief can make or break an administration, and each president reveals himself by the chief he picks. (Book Description)

Our Country's Presidents: A Complete Encyclopedia of the U.S. Presidency by Ann Bausum. Thematic spreads cover a variety of topics from the history of voting rights to writing a presidential letter. Full-page portraits, famous quotes, and fascinating facts help kids get to know each leader. This new volume is a fascinating read and excellent reference for students and kids of all ages. (Book Description)