



WOMEN'S CIVIC CONFERENCE CO

Founded 1922 as Women's Court & Civic Conference
www.womenscivicconference.com

April 2026

Board Meeting – Thursday, April 17, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

New Berlin Library Conference Room, 15105 W Library Ln, New Berlin, WI 53151

General Meeting – Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuckaway Country Club, 6901 W Drexel Ave, Franklin, WI 53132

General Meeting - Wednesday, April 22, 2026 Chair of the Day: Linda Brown

10:00 am – Business Meeting

10:15 am – **“Firearm Harm – Prevention and Care”**

Speaker: TBD

“From Awareness to Action: Preventing Firearm Suicide”

Speaker: Sara Kohlbeck, PhD, MPH Suicide Prevention Research Asst. Professor, Medical College

Noon – Luncheon

1:00 pm – **“We Can End Gun Violence”**

Speaker: Tyler Kelly, Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE) Senior Policy & Engagement Associate

Menu – Tomato Soup, Warm Biscuits and Butter, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Wild Rice Blend, Fresh Asparagus, Cherry Pie

This month’s Honored Affiliated Club: **American Association of University Women – Milwaukee Branch**

Mark your calendar for the following future conference:

May 20, 2026 Topic: Our Beautiful Milwaukee County Parks

PRESIDENT – Mary Cherweznik

Membership in Women’s Civic Conference is so easy! Membership only costs \$30 per year and it entitles you to attend monthly conferences that feature presentations on contemporary public issues – issues you need to know more about if you want to be an informed citizen. I always learn something new, and even on topics I haven’t thought about, I am fascinated by the various presentations. I expect you feel that way as well. It will be a very sad day indeed if WCC has no choice but to disband if we do not have people who will step up and give some extra time to guide WCC now and into the future.

LATE BREAKING NEWS! At Wednesday’s meeting (March 18th), two people volunteered to work as Co-Presidents for the upcoming 2026-2027 season. Many thanks to Jean Kreul and Linda Brown who will take on this challenge. I know the whole organization will support your efforts. See page 4 for the Slate of Executive Positions. We will vote at the April meeting. (Phew!) Warm regards, Mary C

PROGRAM NOTES – Linda Brown

Our first planned speaker for April, Dr. Stephen Hargarten, is unable to join us because he will be at a meeting in Washington, DC. We are working to fill that spot with a substitute speaker. Our second speaker is Sara Kohlbeck, PhD, MPH, a professor from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her work focuses on understanding suicide from a public health perspective. She is conducting research that focuses on better understanding suicide among disproportionately affected populations, including farmers, veterans, and youth of color. Our last speaker is Tyler Kelly a Carthage College graduate who works for WAVE (Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort) which is Wisconsin’s largest grassroots gun violence prevention organization. Tyler was in elementary school when school shootings started happening and he wanted to make a difference.

ARRANGEMENTS & REGISTRATION – Carol Dohoney

A prepaid reservation is required to attend each conference. The cost is \$40.00 per person and a check **payable to WCC** is to be mailed to **Carol Dohoney, 11077 W Forest Home Ave, Apt 2510, Hales Corners, WI 53130** (be sure to include Apt number). If you are paying for more than one conference, please indicate the month(s) you are paying for on your check. After checking the menu selection for the month, if you have food allergies or special menu restrictions, please enclose a note with that information along with your check. PLEASE NOTE: The Post Office sometimes takes up to 10 days to deliver mail. We need to give final numbers to Tuckaway by the 5th of the month, so **please postmark your check by the 20th of the month prior** to the meeting. Once the count is submitted to Tuckaway, we cannot refund payments. If you have not reserved and paid for your spot, please do not expect to be seated at the conference. Contact Carol Dohoney (414-745-8104) with questions.

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE – Linda Brown

Here are topics we are considering for 2026-2027: Prison Reform, Women 's Health, Artificial Intelligence (A.I.), Safety, Education, and Bigotry/Discrimination (i.e. Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Hispanic prejudice). The more we learn, the more we can work to improve our country. If you have suggestions or would like to join the programming committee, please call or text Linda Brown (414-507-5431). We have had some excellent speakers in the past few years, and we want to continue to provide thought-provoking information. Look for information on our May/June Program Committee meetings and advise if you can attend (414-507-5431).

MEMBERSHIP – Mary Wilde

Membership Booklets will be available at our upcoming meeting. Please pick your copy up at the reservation table if you have not already done so. Please verify that your contact information is correct as printed in the booklet. If not, please contact Mary Wilde with corrections: marywilde7@gmail.com or 262 424-9832.

EDUCATION – Bernadette Asiatidis

National Blue Ribbon Schools was a program established in 1982 during the Reagan Administration with the purpose of recognizing high achieving schools throughout the USA. In August 2025 the program was abruptly cancelled. States were only one week away from nominating their chosen schools who had already gone through the rigorous process of becoming eligible for this prestigious award. A spokesperson for the Education Dept. said that the decision to cancel was a way to return education oversight to the state level. Spending at the federal level has been greatly reduced at the Education Dept. Although Blue Ribbon School recognition is no longer available, several states including Wisconsin have launched their own exemplary education programs. Eight schools in Wisconsin have been recognized by the Dept. of Public Instruction for this year, and this information is available on the DPI website (<https://dpi.wi.gov/>).

HEALTH CARE – Protecting Your Blood Vessels - Mary Ellen Clinton

New research has revealed a simple way to shield your heart from the hidden damage of long hours sitting: Eat more flavanol-rich foods like cocoa, tea, berries, and apples. Scientists studied 40 young men who drank either a high-flavanol cocoa drink or a low-flavanol version before sitting for two hours. Those who consumed the low-flavanol drink showed clear drops in blood vessel function, increased diastolic blood pressure, and reduced blood flow and muscle oxygenation. But the men who drank the high-flavanol cocoa experienced none of these declines. Their arteries functioned just as well after two hours of sitting as they had before. Flavanol -rich foods include apples, plums, berries, and both black and green tea. Pair these foods with short walks or standing intervals for more cardiovascular benefits. HOW ABOUT AN APPLE OR A SPOT OF TEA BEFORE THAT NEXT MEETING!!

SUNSHINE – Jean Reinemann

If you know of a WCC member who is sick, having surgery, or who has a family member who recently passed away, please contact Jean Reinemann, 262 993-8112, jeanreinemann@gmail.com with that information. Jean will send a card so that the member will know we're thinking about her.

CIVICS – Kelley Knoerr

On April 7, Wisconsin will hold a Supreme Court election to fill the seat of retiring Justice Rebecca Bradley. This election is especially important as it will shape the state's highest court for years to come. There are two official non-partisan candidates: **Maria S Lazar**, and **Chris Taylor**, they are both currently serving as judges on the State Court of Appeals. Make Your Voice Heard, VOTE!

2026 WCC SPRING TOUR - Jean Dueling & Linda Jenzake

A tour of the **Amazon Fulfillment Center** is planned in lieu of the proposed tour of the Black Holocaust Museum.

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026, Meet at Amazon reception at 9:15 am. Tour begins at 9:30 am.

No charge for the tour but notify Jean or Linda at the if you wish to attend. They will take reservations at the April WCC meeting or email Jean (duelingj@gmail.com) or Linda (jenzake19@yahoo.com) The tour is limited to 20 persons and WCC members will have priority.

Address: 9700 South 13th St, Oak Creek, WI (just north of Ryan Road)

NOTES: Parking is free but not designated for tours, so plan for time to walk from the parking lot to the building. The tour will be 60-90 minutes long and you may walk up and down 5 flights of stairs and approximately 1 mile.

Lunch will be at IKEA (I-94 and Drexel) following the tour. The meal will be self-selected and paid directly to IKEA.

HONORED AFFILIATED CLUB – AAUW MILWAUKEE – Lyn Hildenbrand, President

Since 1881, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), a national organization, has worked to advance equity for women and girls by championing their success in higher education—a pathway to economic security. Established in 1894, the Milwaukee branch of AAUW has a long history of supporting women through education, leadership, and community engagement. Early efforts included housing for women; today, the branch partners with local nonprofits and works to address barriers in higher education, the workplace, and public life. Since 1898, AAUW Milwaukee has provided scholarships to women, now awarding significant funding each year to graduates of Milwaukee Public Schools attending colleges across southeastern Wisconsin. Through its College Women's Fund, the branch offers four-year renewable scholarships, while the Girls Club Fund Board supports women returning to school. In total, more than \$1.25 million in scholarships has been awarded. The branch also extends its impact through 2 donor-advised funds at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and hosts programs, lectures, and events that foster learning and connection. Regular activities—including book clubs, luncheons, and community gatherings—culminate in annual events like the Woman of Merit Award Luncheon and the Scholarship Cruise, celebrating achievements and supporting future leaders. For more information, contact AAUW-Milwaukee President, Lyn Hildenbrand, 414 467-2182 or check the website <https://www.aauw-mke.com>

AAUW – WEST SUBURBAN MILWAUKEE “Fashion in Bloom” Style Show

Saturday, May 2, 2026 10:30 am Wisconsin Club

Invite your friends and family to join you for a delightful time of fun with raffles, silent auction baskets, plant sale, luncheon, and style show featuring our newest clothing vendor, Kalon Boutique, along with our long-standing supporter, cabi fashions. You will be excited to see new styles and colors for the upcoming season!

We have terrific raffle prizes including a luncheon with James Santelle, former Eastern District US attorney; a Lake Michigan boat trip; and an up north stay at Owl's Perch in Mercer, WI. You will love this fun event which benefits our scholarships to support women's education!

Reach out to Marty Gholston or Deb Newbauer to get more information and to get on the invitation list.

Marty Gholston martygholston@gmail.com 414-399-7710

Deb Newbauer debnewbauer@gmail.com 262-309-5116



WCC SLATE OF EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

At our April 22, 2026 meeting, we will be electing people to assume the Executive positions for the 2026-2027 season. The following positions must be confirmed through election:

Co-President	Linda Brown
Co-President	Jean Kreul
Recording Secretary	JoAnne Meyer (<i>incumbent</i>)
Treasurer	Kristen Lanser (<i>incumbent</i>)
Corresponding Secretary	Diane Edward (<i>incumbent</i>)

WCC EXECUTIVE POSITIONS & COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS

Please review this list of volunteer positions. Talk with or “shadow” an officer or committee chair if you want to learn more or would like to volunteer your time to sustain and improve WCC.

Co-President – Preside at all meetings, establish WCC’s direction, appoint chairs of various committees, provide a monthly Newsletter message, and encourage new membership.

Recording Secretary – Keep a safe, secure record of the Board and regular meetings.

Corresponding Secretary – Conduct the general correspondence of the organization.

Treasurer – Keep a record and accurate account of all monies, report as required and serve on the Audit and Budget Committee.

Arrangement & Reservations Chair – Collect members’ and others’ payments for monthly meetings, place event orders with Tuckaway, check in attendees at the event, and resolve any issues with venue staff.

Audit & Budget Committee Chair – Following the May WCC meeting, convene and conduct a meeting to review the year’s budget and expenses, and prepare a budget for the upcoming year.

Civics Chair - Monitor news and other reports related to local, state, and national policy and legislation and how changes may affect members through reports in the monthly Newsletter.

Education Committee Chair – Monitor news and other reports related to education on all levels and advise members of findings through the monthly Newsletter.

Health Care Committee Chair - Monitor news and other reports related to health care and advise members of policy, health maintenance and other changes through the monthly Newsletter.

Historical Record Chair – Collect and maintain all WCC records including agendas, meeting minutes, and Program information.

Hospitality Committee Chair – Arrange for members to serve as greeters/hostesses for general meetings.

Membership Chair – Maintain membership information, collect annual dues, provide information for publication of the annual membership directory, and encourage new members to join WCC.

Newsletter Chair – Establish a Newsletter format, update monthly with the month’s events and recognition, collect committee Chairs’ articles, publish and distribute the Newsletter monthly to all members.

Program Committee Chair – Select topics, programs, and dates for substantive, even-handed material to be presented at monthly conferences, arrange for Program Chairs to coordinate the presentations, and prepare the annual Program Guide (prospectus).

Sunshine Chair – Send get well, sympathy, and other special occasion cards to members as warranted.

Tours Committee Chair – Plan and arrange for an annual tour to a place of interest, communicate details to the membership, collect payments as needed, and provide a wrap-up report.

Website Chair – Provide information about WCC to the website manager and oversee their work and expenses.

Parliamentarian – Provide procedural guidance at all general and Board meetings.