



WOMEN'S CIVIC CONFERENCE CO

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

December 15, 2024
January 2025 Newsletter

Board Meeting – No Board Meeting in January.

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

General Meeting – Thursday, January 9, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

General Meeting – Thursday, January 9, 2025 Chairs of the Day: Linda Brown, Bernadette Asiatidis

10:00 am – Business Meeting

10:15 am – **“Ideas on How to Grow Milwaukee’s High Tech Economy”**

Speaker – **Kathleen Gallagher**, Executive Director, 5 Lakes Institute

Noon – Luncheon

1:00 pm – **“Milwaukee Has a Port?”**

Speaker: **Jackie Q. Carter**, Port Director, Port of Milwaukee

Menu - Cream of Mushroom Soup, Warm Rolls and Butter, Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Buttered Carrots, Apple Pie

This month’s Honored Affiliated Club is the **Woman’s Club of West Allis**

PRESIDENT – Mary Cherweznik

As we move into another New Year, we take time to count our blessings, to gather with friends and family, and to plan for 2025. What changes will we face in our own lives? What global changes will affect us all? What can we each do to ensure a positive outcome in all the phases of our lives? So much to ponder...

Meanwhile, I am so pleased and proud of our organization. At the November meeting we placed gift bags on each table to collect members’ checks (and some cash) to benefit the **Convergence Resource Center**. Treasurer Kerstin Lanser reported that the members’ donations totaled OVER \$1,300. You all rock! We’ll have the gift bags out again at the December 18th conference so if you forgot your checkbook at home, you’ll have another opportunity to add a donation. With WCC’s first ever match up to \$500, Convergence Resource Center can look forward to over \$1,800 coming from WCC and our members. Kerstin will report on the final total next month. Thank you!

And have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Warm regards, Mary C

CAN MILWAUKEE’S HIGH-TECH ECONOMY BE REVIVED? – Linda Brown

In the first half of the 20th century, Milwaukee was a city of engineers that was a world leader in some of the most important advances of the time such as combustion engines, resistors and other electronic devices, pneumatic temperature control systems, new forging techniques, portable power tools and more. But as digital and other new technologies ascended, the city lost its edge. While some remnants of Milwaukee's high tech past remain, it is no longer a global center for technological innovation. We'll discuss what we can do to grow a new high tech, higher margin economy.

Kathleen Gallagher was a business reporter at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Milwaukee Sentinel for 23 years. She was one of two reporters on the team that won a 2011 Pulitzer Prize for the One in a Billion Series. Gallagher is now executive director of 5 Lakes Institute, a nonprofit working to grow the Great Lakes region’s high technology entrepreneurial economy and culture. She will lead off our discussion on how Milwaukee can become a leader in the next economy.

MILWAUKEE HAS A PORT? - Bernadette Asiatidis

Our January 9th afternoon speaker will be Jackie Q. Carter who is the first woman to serve as Director Port Milwaukee. Her responsibilities include directing commercial and recreational operations from cargo to cruise ships. As Port Director she oversees a staff of twenty people, and she administers Foreign Trade Zone No. 41 whose goal it is to facilitate and expedite US participation in international trade. Ms. Carter's responsibilities are awesome as Port Milwaukee is a regional transportation center serving Illinois, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, and Indiana as well as the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in addition to Wisconsin.

WCC'S CHOSEN CHARITY FOR 2024 – Kerstin Lanser

Every year WCC names a charity. At the November and December conferences, we collect members' checks (made payable to the charity) and forward the checks to the organization. AND, for the first time ever, Women's Civic Conference WILL MATCH YOUR DONATIONS up to \$500. This year the Board has chosen **Convergence Resource Center**. Dr Debbie Lassiter, CEO of the organization, was our October conference speaker and opened our eyes to human trafficking happening right here in the Milwaukee area. If you cannot attend the December conference and you wish to donate, please make your check payable to Convergence Resource Center and mail it to Kerstin Lanser, 744 Elm Grove Rd, Elm Gove, WI 53122. Information about this year's chosen charity can be found at www.convergenceresource.org

ARRANGEMENTS & REGISTRATION – Glenna Vance

A prepaid reservation is required to attend each conference. The cost is \$35.00 per person and a check made payable to WCC is to be mailed to **Glenna Vance, 7582 S. 51st St, Franklin, WI 53132** and must be postmarked by the first of the month. **Please note: Because the January meeting will be held two weeks earlier than usual, your reservation for the January 9, 2025 meeting must be mailed by December 24, 2024.** If you are paying for more than one conference, please indicate the month(s) you are paying for on your check. Also, if you are paying for others, please include their name(s) with the reservation. If, after checking the menu selection for the month, you have food allergies or special menu restrictions, please enclose a note with that information along with your check. Contact Glenna 414 517-4040 with other questions. Once the reservation count has been submitted to Tuckaway, we cannot refund payments.

MEMBERSHIP – Mary Wilde

Please pick up your membership directory at our next general conference. If you know someone who will not be coming, pick up and deliver theirs as well. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come to a conference. It is the best way to help our membership grow. Annual dues are \$30. New members can mail a check payable to **WCC** to Mary Wilde, 2300 S. Brookside Pkwy, New Berlin, WI 53151. Please see our website for the Membership Application Form, www.womenscivicconference.com, and include it with the membership dues.

EDUCATION UPDATE – Bernadette Asiatidis

The Department of Education is a federal cabinet-level agency founded in 1980. Prior to that it was part of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Although education is primarily a local and state responsibility, the Department of Education provides funds on the K-12 level through its Title I program and its partial funding of special education programs. It collects and reports data on K-12 performance nationwide. There are two programs which support college students. One is the Pell Grant program which provides a maximum of \$7,395 in 2024 -2025 for students who qualify and the other is the federal student loan program which provides more generous loan terms than private sector loans.

A GOAL FOR 2025 – *Mary Ellen Clinton*

In 2025 work on loving yourself, inside and out. Focus on ways to improve or support your own self-esteem and self-worth. Feeling good about yourself is essential for overall health and well-being. When you maintain a positive self-image it can boost your mental health, reduce stress, and improve your physical health. Confidence and self-esteem influence how you approach life's challenges, and feeling good about yourself can make it easier to maintain healthy habits such as exercising regularly, eating well, and getting enough sleep. Self-care plays a crucial role in this process. Take time for activities that make you feel relaxed, fulfilled, and that boost your mood. These activities promote a sense of balance and happiness. Cultivating a positive mind set can benefit your immune system and heart health. Take care of yourself because how you feel on the inside truly matters. HAVE A HAPPY 2025!!!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – *Diane Mee*

On December 2nd, a Dane County judge overturned Act 10, the thirteen-year-old law enacted by then-Governor Scott Walker, that effectively eliminated collective bargaining for teachers and other public employees. Efforts to overturn Act 10 recently began again in November 2023 when several unions that represented public employees filed a lawsuit saying that parts of the act were unconstitutional because they separated public employees into two distinct classes: “general” and “public safety.” Public safety employees (police, firefighters, etc.) were exempt from Act 10 while teachers and other employees were not.

HONORED CLUB – WOMAN’S CLUB OF WEST ALLIS – *Kim Herrick*

A proud member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs founded in 1890 during the Progressive Movement, is a federation of approximately 2,300 Women’s Clubs throughout the United States which promotes civic improvements through volunteer service. Community Service Projects are organized by local clubs for the benefit of their communities. GFWC maintains nearly 60,000 members throughout the United States and Internationally. GFWC is one of the world’s largest and oldest nonpartisan, nondenominational, women’s volunteer service organizations.

Our largest and most successful fundraiser is the Scholarship Salad Luncheon whose proceeds are used for scholarships for West Allis and West Milwaukee graduating students.

WAWC also partners with the West Allis Police Department’s W.I.S.H. Program, a support, empowerment and education group for women who are in or have been in an abusive relationship.

Operation Smile is a global, nonprofit organization providing children with life-saving surgery and care for cleft lip and palate. Club members sew hospital gowns, armbands and blankets for children having surgery.

If you are interested in learning more about our club, please contact Kim Herrick, President, Woman’s Club of West Allis (kim21856@gmail.com)

WEBSITE – *Mary Wilde*

Please try our website, www.womenscivicconference.com, for all your newsletter and conference meeting information. If you need help, stop at the reservation table at monthly meetings at Tuckaway for some hints.

SUNSHINE – *Jean Reinemann*

If you know of a WCC member who is sick, having surgery, or who has passed away, please contact Jean Reinemann, 262 993-8112, jeanreinemann@gmail.com with that information.