



WOMEN'S CIVIC CONFERENCE CO

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

January 15, 2025
February 2025 Newsletter

Board Meeting – Thursday, February 13, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

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

General Meeting – Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

General Meeting – Wednesday, February 19, 2025 Chairs of the Day: Glenna Vance

10:00 am – Business Meeting

10:15 am – **“Standing Together in Support of Freedom to Read”**

Speaker – **Kristina Gomez**, Library Services Manager, Milwaukee Public Library

Noon – Luncheon

1:00 pm – **“Family Literacy Campaign Read for Your Life”**

Speaker: **Deb Marett**, Milwaukee Federated Library System

Menu - House salad with assorted dressings, Warm rolls and butter, Sliced Roast Pork Loin, Parsley boiled potatoes, Steamed broccoli, Brownie sundae

This month's Honored Affiliated Club is the **American Association of University Women – West Suburban Milwaukee**

PRESIDENT – Mary Cherweznik

I confess...I am a compulsive reader. If I see words, I must read them. I've been known to read billboards and store signage...out loud...to the chagrin of my fellow travelers. I was really into Nancy Drew when I was a kid and couldn't wait for a new volume to come out. I still enjoy a good mystery or a suspense-filled book. I believe that reading is a gift, and I am so grateful for my grade schoolteachers who gave me that gift.

Today there is a lot of attention on the topic of book bans. The February conference will address this issue, and I am looking forward to learning more about how our libraries are reacting to it as well as how they are developing and encouraging life-long readers.

In this issue of the Newsletter, please also see the message from Diane Mee about the soon-to-be opening for a new Budget and Audit Chair. It's an important job with a very small time commitment.

Warm regards, Mary C

LIBRARIES, INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND BOOK CHALLENGES – Glenna Vance

Our first February speaker, Kristina Gomez, is the Library Service Manager of Milwaukee Public Library Business and Technology Department at the Central Library. She will be followed by Burlington public school librarians to learn how they address the challenge of book banning. The afternoon program also centers on libraries. Deb Marett, Public Information Coordinator, Milwaukee County Federated Library System will make us keenly aware of adult illiteracy and how a new program, “The Juice,” is a tool to help.

WCC'S CHOSEN CHARITY FOR 2024 – Kerstin Lanser

This year WCC selected Convergence Resource Center as the charity for which we would collect donations. At the October conference, Dr. Debbie Lassiter gave a compelling presentation on human trafficking. Not only did we learn a lot about human trafficking, but we were impressed by the work this organization does for women in our community. As their mission states: “Convergence Resource Center provides support services for women rebuilding their lives after trauma with an emphasis on human trafficking survivors and justice involved women.” Our WCC members contributed \$1,790 and WCC as an organization contributed a match of \$500 for a total of \$2,290. We are happy to support CRC with this donation.

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. 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

Last chance to pick up your membership directory is at our upcoming meeting. Find your copy at our registration sign-in table. Please help our membership grow. Invite your friends and neighbors to come to a conference. 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

In 2023 lawmakers passed a phonics-based reading curriculum called Act 20. Some school districts have implemented it by using their own funds, but the Wisconsin legislature has not released the \$50 million to pay for it. A Dane County Circuit judge rejected Gov. Tony Evers request to release the money. Attorney General Josh Kaul is asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to rule on releasing the funds in an attempt to save time by bypassing the Appellate Court. The money would cover curriculum materials, training programs for teachers at the college level as well as the school district level and reading tutors among other things.

WAYS TO STAY OUT OF THE EMERGENCY ROOM THIS WINTER – Mary Ellen Clinton

Identifying seasonal hazards and taking action to avoid them will help keep you safe. Fractures, frostbite, and influenza seem to be the health problems that surge every winter.

Beware of slippery terrain - Salt sidewalks and driveways before an ice storm. Wear shoes with anti-slip treads or spiked shoe covers.

Dress warmly - Cold weather exposure can cause 3 conditions: hypothermia which can trigger a heart attack, kidney or liver damage; frostnip, or the freezing of the outer layers of the skin, is reversible if you warm up; and frostbite which causes frozen skin, nerves, and blood vessels. Hypothermia can happen indoors if temps drop too low. Keep a supply of outdoor gear you can wear indoors in case the heat goes out.

Ward off respiratory diseases - Flu, Covid-19, and RSV seem to peak in the winter as people stay indoors more and trade germs. Exposure to cold air makes the airways of your lungs more vulnerable. Viruses can make you sick and they also increase the risk for heart attack. Wear a scarf over your nose and mouth outdoors and a mask in public indoor spaces. Stay up to date on vaccines.

Limit alcohol use - Some people drink alcohol after being in cold weather. It may help you feel warmer, but several glasses combined with a rich meal can cause a potentially dangerous irregular heartbeat. In winter this is called "holiday heart syndrome." If symptoms with chest pain last for hours, go to a hospital. Alcohol should be limited daily to 1 drink for women and 2 for men.

Ease into exercise and shovel snow with caution - Check with your doctor before starting the ambitious new exercise program on your resolution list. Suddenly shoveling wet, heavy snow can stress the heart causing a heart attack. Cold weather adds to this by narrowing the blood vessels. Ask for help removing snow, but if you must shovel, warm up your muscles, stay hydrated, go slowly, and stop if you become dizzy or out of breath.

Build your emergency kit - Don't get snowed in without medicine, food, and drinking water (in case the pipes freeze). Keep a list of important phone numbers. If possible, offer your assistance to neighbors, checking in periodically. You could be providing someone with a lifeline.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Diane Mee

We have seven Supreme Court Justices in Wisconsin. They are: Chief Justice Annette Ziegler; Justices Ann Walsh Bradley, Rebecca Grassl Bradley, Rebecca Frank Dallet, Brian Hagedorn, Jill Karofsky, and Janet Protasiewicz. "Judge Janet" has been a member of WCC for many, many years, and has often spoken to our group. I listed our seven justices because there are two with the name Rebecca, and two of them with the name Bradley; and it is so easy to confuse them.

The term of Ann Walsh Bradley will expire on July 31, 2025. There will be a primary election on February 18, 2025, and then the final election on April 1, 2025, for a new justice to replace Ann Walsh Bradley. Mark your calendars and be sure to vote!

BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR OPPORTUNITY – by Diane Mee

Here is an incredible opportunity for a member to participate in the actual workings of the group and be part of the Board. I am going to step down at the end of this year, after serving on this committee for eight years.

Yikes! Before you cringe and think "I hate math" please read on.

The Audit and Budget Committee meets ONCE A YEAR, in June, for maybe two hours maximum. There are only four members of this committee. What do we do? Look at the bank statements and checkbook to be sure the numbers add up correctly. (They always do. We don't have any embezzlers in our membership!) What else do we do? Present a budget for the next year (which is usually the same as the previous year, so you just copy pretty much the last year's budget) and make any minor adjustments.

With a membership of over 125, I am hoping one of you lovely ladies will step up and take this over. It is such an opportunity to be a part of the executive Board without a huge commitment (and, of course, I will help you in your new position!).

HONORED CLUB – AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN – WEST SUBURBAN MILWAUKEE– Jennifer Madej, President

The American Association of University Women is a dynamic non-partisan organization that began in 1881. The AAUW mission is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. The organization has grown to 1000 branches across the U.S. The West Suburban Milwaukee branch started in 1957 and currently has 161 members.

Each year our branch grants six scholarships to women attending either Alverno, MATC, WCTC, MSOE, Carroll University, or Mount Mary University. The proceeds from our two major fundraisers—an Author Tea in October and a Style Show in April—go toward these scholarships.

Our branch meets monthly, September through May (except December). In 2024-25, some of our program speakers have included Dr. Vicki Martin, emerita president MATC; James Santelle, former U.S. prosecutor; Christina Clancy, Wisconsin author; and Barb Farrar, Executive Director of the LGBT Center of SE WI. We have eleven engaging interest groups ranging from golf to Mah Jongg, and an Out and About event every month.

Anyone interested in learning more about our organization can visit our website at

<https://westsuburbanmilwaukee-wi.aauw.net/> or contact Jennifer Madej, president, at jkmadej@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE – AAUW WSM SPRING STYLE SHOW – Marty Gholston

April 12, 2025, AAUW's 22nd Annual Style Show at The Wisconsin Club

The style show is our annual fundraiser to support scholarships for deserving women who are pursuing further education. Please make your calendars and join us for a day of shopping, raffles, silent auction, a delicious

luncheon as well as a fashion style show to start off the spring season! Invite a friend to come along; it is a fun time with something for everyone! Contact Marty Gholston, martygholston@gmail.com 414 339-7710 or Sandy Abraham, ladyinred49@sbcglobal.net, 414 659-0849 for details.

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.