



## WOMEN'S CIVIC CONFERENCE CO

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

May 2026

### **Board Meeting – Thursday, May 14, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**

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

### **General Meeting – Wednesday, May 20 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

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

### **General Meeting - Wednesday, May 20, 2026      Chairs of the Day: Jean Kreul, Diane Edward**

10:00 am – Business Meeting

10:15 am – **What to Know about our Parks**

Speaker: Danielle Pahlisch, Community Engagement Coordinator Milwaukee County Parks

11:15 am – **Installation of 2026-2027 WCC Officers** – James Santelle officiating

Noon – Luncheon

1:00 pm – **The Wonders of Boerner Botanical Gardens**

Speaker: Cassie Panera, Horticultural Supervisor, Boerner Botanical Gardens

**Menu** – Strawberry Spinach Salad, Braised Swiss Steak, Cheddar Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine and a Turtle Sunday

### **PRESIDENT – Mary Cherweznik**

It has been an honor to serve as your President for the last two years, and I want to thank you for your support and encouragement. I also want to thank the Executive Officers (Vice President Carol Dohoney, Recording Secretary JoAnne Meyer, Corresponding Secretary Diane Edward, and Treasurer Kerstin Lanser) for their support and their work on behalf of WCC. JoAnne, Diane and Kerstin will continue in their positions for the upcoming year. We also had an excellent group of Committee Chairs, most of whom will continue in their roles as well. And special appreciation to Linda Brown and Jean Kreul who will serve as your Co-Presidents. I know they will do an outstanding job leading WCC and will continue to bring interesting, thought-provoking programs to our members. Sincerely and with warm regards,  
Mary C

### **PROGRAMMING – Linda Brown**

We need your help! Come and join other interested WCC women if you would like to help with conference programming for next year. Our planning meetings are scheduled for Thursdays, May 21 and June 25 at 9:30AM. We will meet in the upper-level conference room of the New Berlin Public Library (15105 W Library Ln). I have also reserved the room for Thursday July 16th but in the past, we have not needed more than two formal meetings.

Topics under consideration include the following –

- Educational issues - including what is happening at MPS
- Housing issues - especially for Veterans
- AI and Data Centers - impact on communities
- Women's Health - issues that have been overlooked by medical professionals
- Road Safety - issues such as speeding and reckless driving
- Criminal Justice Reform - including new prisons
- Mental Health - issues that can affect everyone
- Racism, Islamophobia, and Antisemitism - raise awareness to combat injustice

We also welcome suggestions for new topics and speakers. You can attend a meeting or text me, Linda Brown at 414-507-5431. Please let me know if you plan to attend a meeting as we may not need to meet after May 21<sup>st</sup> if all the topics are covered. I hope to see you!

### **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. 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.

PLEASE NOTE: The Post Office is sometimes taking up to 10 days to deliver mail. We need to give final numbers to Tuckaway by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month, so **please postmark your check by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 any questions.

### **MEMBERSHIP – Mary Wilde**

WCC membership dues for Sept. 2026 - May 2027 will be collected starting at the May Conference on Wednesday May 20th. The dues will remain at \$30 at this time for both members and affiliated clubs. Please remember that if you have changed your address, phone number, and/or email address, it is important to let us know because that is how information gets to you about our monthly conferences.

Please encourage your friends and relatives to come and listen to the speakers and to join. Word of mouth is the best way to advertise Women's Civic Conference. Suggest to them that they check out our great website: [www.womenscivicconference.com](http://www.womenscivicconference.com)

### **EDUCATION – Bernadette Asiatidis**

Of the 421 school districts in Wisconsin, 75 had referendum questions on the recent April 7 ballot. Wisconsin Act 16 limits the amount of revenue available to a district through state aid and property tax. Current formulas for state aid are tied to enrollment which is declining in the majority of districts, while costs for services and operations are rising. Unofficial election results show that 46 of 75 referendums passed while 29 failed. Margins for passage or failure of a referendum were generally tight. School districts are advocating for change to the current school aid formula as funding for school districts has not kept up with inflation.

### **HEALTH CARE – Mary Ellen Clinton**

The most pressing health issues today include chronic lifestyle diseases (cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer), an increasing mental health crisis, and the intersecting threats of climate change, infectious disease outbreaks, and health inequity. Other critical challenges include substance abuse, maternal mortality, and worldwide health worker shortages.

Responsibility for the majority of deaths include cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases. Growing rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide, particularly among young adults, with significant gaps in treatment pose key global health threats. Climate change and environmental health affects millions through heatwaves, pollution, and the expansion of infectious diseases. These diseases reemerge due to lower immunization rates. Lifestyle factors as obesity, sedentary lifestyles, and poor nutrition are primary drivers of poor health. Disparities in health outcomes are due to poverty, lack of insurance, and structural inequality. A global shortage of health workers is due to many professionals being overworked and underpaid.

Most chronic diseases are driven by a short list of preventable risk factors: tobacco use, poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and excessive alcohol use. Things that need to be continually monitored: Drug overdose deaths, exposure to unhealthy air, household food insecurity, and vaccination coverage.

There is a little bit of positive health care news to report! Linda Jenzake's daughter-in-law Phylcia worked alongside congresswoman Terri Sewell from Alabama to get a very important bill passed recently. The bill is called The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED) Screening Coverage Act. The legislation—which will expand access to early detection cancer screenings for America's seniors—cleared both chambers of Congress as a part of the revised Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations package and was signed by President Trump on World Cancer Day Wednesday, Feb. 6th. Good News!

### **CIVICS – Kelley Knoerr**

How is your Civics knowledge? How long ago did you have a Civics class? If you feel like brushing up or connecting with others regarding civics, there is a new website and application available to you called “Civics for Life” sponsored by the Sandra Day O’Connor Institute. Launched in 2023, Civics for Life is a multigenerational online resource for civics education, civil discourse and civic engagement.



- Explore self-paced civics micro-lessons designed for learners of all ages
- Listen to podcasts featuring authors, thought leaders and policymakers as they model respectful, thoughtful dialogue
- Join in on discussions and chat with fellow members, or “Public Square” virtual conversations like a book club

Here's the website, check it out! [civicsforlife.org](https://civicsforlife.org)

And remember, there's another important election coming up this year. The primary for the gubernatorial race is scheduled for Aug 11 followed by the general election on Nov 3. Remember to VOTE!

### **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](mailto:jeanreinemann@gmail.com) with that information. Jean will send a card so that the member will know we're thinking about her.