WOMEN'S CIVIC CONFERENCE CO
Founded 1922 as Women's Court & Civic Conference
www.womenscivicconference.com
October 2026

Board Meeting – Thursday, October 15, 2026, 9:30 a.m.
New Berlin Library Conference Room, 15105 W Library Ln, New Berlin, WI 53151
General Meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Tuckaway Country Club, 6901 W Drexel Ave, Franklin, WI 53132

General Meeting - Wednesday, October 21, 2026 Chairs of the Day: Linda Brown, Jean Kreul

10:00 am – 2 pm Business Meeting and Programs
"Voting Matters & The Path to Citizenship - Could you pass the test?"
Speakers: Mary Voelker, Volunteer, League of Women Voters
Speakers from the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition
Rosalia Navarro, Manager of New American Program, Voces de la Frontera
Noon – Luncheon
Menu – Cream of Mushroom Soup, Warm rolls and butter, Meatloaf, Garlic mashed potatoes and gravy, Buttered carrots, Apple Pie

This month's Honored Affiliated Club – **Lalumiere League**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE– *Co-Presidents Jean Kreul & Linda Brown*
For our October Conference, we will have several presentations on the topics of "Voting Matters and the Path for Citizenship – Could you pass the test?" Our speakers and their topics are highlighted in this newsletter. With "Civic" in our name, voting and the right to vote needs our full attention. It's fitting that our second Conference covers this important topic, as well as the process immigrants need to follow to become citizens.
I have had the fun opportunity to look at some of our organization's Program information from the 1989 -1990 year. Topics that year included an update on the court system, schools in the 21st century, and the ripple effect of drugs. Any of those sound familiar? The cover of the program brochure that year states:
"Objective: To unite women's groups of the community, for the improvement of the courts and public institutions; To Inform and be informed on local, state and national issues; To be enlightened on civic questions; To take concerted action, as individuals, and through member organizations."
Being informed is at the heart of this organization. Your continued participation each month speaks well of what our founders had in mind.
Jean Kreul & Linda Brown Co-Presidents

PROGRAM NOTES – *Linda Brown*
Let us not take our right to vote for granted! These speakers from local organizations will provide us with the information we need to make informed decisions. Mary Voelker from the League of Women Voters will provide a review of the current voting process in Wisconsin. She will walk us through the ballot in November and how to evaluate candidates including the use of VOTE411.org. Three ballot measures (referendums) will also be described, and a handout will be distributed.
Speakers from the Fair Maps Coalition will informs us about the effects of gerrymandering on voting and what we can do about it. Gerrymandering is a bi-partisan problem that affects all of us.
Roselia Navarro from Voces de la Frontera will discuss the pathway to U.S. citizenship program, the work they do at the New American Program, and will share a few sample U.S. citizenship test questions. I hope we can answer the questions! Invite your friends to join us as we learn how much voting matters while enjoying a lovely lunch at Tuckaway Country Club.

ARRANGEMENTS & REGISTRATION – *Mary Cherweznik*

A prepaid reservation is required to attend each conference. The cost is $40.00 per person per conference and a check **payable to WCC** is to be mailed to **Mary Cherweznik, 3858 S Oakridge Ct, Greenfield, WI 53228.** 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 claims it will deliver first class mail within 5 working days, but sometimes they don't, and Tuckaway needs our attendee count 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 Mary Cherweznik (414 395-3001 landline) with questions.

MEMBERSHIP – *Diane Kaminski*

Happy fall season to everyone and to another year of educational and inspiring conferences! Thank you to those who have paid their membership dues for Sept 2026-May 2027. Dues remain at $30. I will continue to accept dues payments at our meetings. Please remember that if you have changed your address, phone number or email address, it is important to let us know because that is how information gets to you about our monthly conferences. Please encourage friends and relatives to come and listen to our speakers and to join. Word of mouth is the best advertisement for WCC. They can also check out our great website at www.womenscivicconference.com.

WEBSITE – *Mary Wilde*

The WCC website has been updated with additions and changes for the upcoming year. If you have taken any pictures at our meetings of a speaker, a tour with WCC, or a group of your friends participating on our tours would you please send them on to me with a few words to describe the picture so that they could possibly be used on the website. Please know your photograph will be posted on our public website. Take some time to check out the website: www.womenscivicconference.com The Newsletter for each month is always posted on the website under "Current Docs"

EDUCATION – *Bernadette Asiatidis*

AI, artificial intelligence, has become a controversial topic for use in schools nationwide. In Wisconsin, the Dept. of Public Instruction provides a framework called "AI Guidance for Enhancing K-12 and Library Education." However, individual school districts set their own rules for implementation. Recently, AI has become embedded in every aspect of our lives. With that in mind, in New York, home to the largest school district, Gov. Kathy Hochul, Mayor Mandami, as well as several educational leaders have decided to put a one-year moratorium on the use of AI in grades K3 - 8. Students in NY will learn about AI in high school using 5 AI pilot programs that have been rigorously vetted. The prior 38 programs used in NY that did not meet safety and oversight standards are discontinued & disabled. Student data can be mined by big tech for enormous profit, therefore, safeguards and oversight must protect the educational experience.

HEALTH CARE – *Mary Ellen Clinton*

Medication Side Effects That Can Mimic "Getting Older"

The older we get, the easier it becomes to blame our age for a variety of symptoms such as memory lapses, balance issues, or fatigue. But medications may be the culprit. Both prescription drugs and OTC remedies can produce side effects that look like normal aging. These effects are often reversible. Some of these side effects are clearly tied to a new medication. Others are sneakier, part of a spiral when someone is prescribed medications that causes side effects resembling another condition, which then gets falsely diagnosed and leads to another prescription. It's called cascade prescribing and happens quite frequently. Older adults are more likely than younger people to take multiple medications. They're also more sensitive to medication side effects for two physical reasons. Most medications are broken down in the body by either the liver or the kidneys. These organs

become less efficient with age, not metabolizing as quickly and building up in the body and causing a cumulative effect. Also, muscle mass is lost as we age and fat mass tends to expand. A lot of medications settle in fat and can stay there for months as they're slowly broken down.
These are several symptoms that can mimic typical aging and the medications that typically cause them. Memory problems or confusion can be caused by various medications that can interfere with brain signaling by blocking a neurotransmitter which is involved in memory or focus. They include drugs for allergies or insomnia, urinary incontinence, anxiety, depression, and sleep aides. Dizziness or balance problems may occur with certain drugs that can cause gait changes that make falls more likely or make people feel weak and off-balance. These include muscle relaxants, some high blood pressure medications such as the beta blockers, and gabapentin which is used for anxiety, pain relief, and restless legs syndrome. Fatigue or sluggishness may be caused by some drugs that reduce the absorption of nutrients that cells need to make energy or by slightly hampering circulation. These include the opioids and stomach acid blockers.

CIVICS – *Kelley Knoerr*
Don't be confused! Recently there was a notification in local media that the Governor's debate *had been cancelled*. That was in reference to a tentative event that had been set for early October. The actual agreed upon debate between Democrat David Crowley and Republican Tom Tiffany is still on and is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 7 p.m**. It will be broadcast on WISN 12 and other partner stations across the state. It will be moderated by Matt Smith and Gerron Jordan from WISN 12. Stay informed and VOTE!

HONORED AFFILIATED CLUB – Lalumiere League
Lalumiere League is a non-profit, philanthropic organization founded in 1933 as a Marquette University alumnae association and has since grown to include any Catholic woman interested in promoting the goals of education and charity in our community and state. We give partial scholarships yearly, not only to Marquette University, but also to Alverno College and Mount Mary University. These are to help young women with average grade points who would not otherwise qualify for academic based aid.
We hold a yearly Charity Luncheon whose proceeds are distributed to local charitable organizations. Over the years these have included Bay View Community Center, Felix Mantia League of Journey House, Fr. Gene's H.E.L.P. Center, St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program, Kathy's House, Hope House, and Notre Dame Middle School, as well as many others. We participate yearly in a clothing drive of new dresses, skirts and tops for girls, shorts and tops for boys, and underwear for both to be shipped to small villages in a number of African countries.
Lalumiere League provides for its members the opportunity to do collectively, in the name of charity, what they cannot do individually.
We will be having our annual Charity Luncheon at the Wisconsin Club on November 21. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Jeanne Sprangers, President, Lalumiere at 414-430-1246 or psprangers@aol.com.

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.

Mark your calendar for the following future conferences:

November 18, 2026	Topic: Veterans. They fought for us, how are we caring for them?
February 17, 2027	Topic: The Melting Pot (and we're not talking food)
March 17, 2027	Topic: Criminal Justice and alternatives to incarceration
April 21, 2027	Topic: Trends in Education
May 19, 2027	Topic: Milwaukee – It's all About the Waters