Biennial Report
2013-2015

Women’s Council
• Wisconsin
• State of Wisconsin

Biennial Report
2013-2015
The Wisconsin Women’s Council is governed by a 15-member board. Members are appointed by the Governor and leaders in the State Senate and Assembly. Most members serve a two-year term beginning July 1st.

**Board Members** (serving as of June 30, 2015)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>GOVERNOR’S APPOINTMENTS (7)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Jo Baas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty House Consulting, LLC</td>
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<td>Michelle Mettner</td>
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<td>Governor’s Designee and Vice-Chair</td>
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<td>Vice President for Government Relations &amp; Advocacy</td>
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<td>Children’s Hospital of Milwaukee</td>
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<td>Nicole Bowman-Farrell, PhD</td>
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<td>Mohican/Lunaape</td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Bowman Performance Consulting</td>
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| Patty Cadorin              |
| Vice President & Director of the Office of the CEO |
| BMO Harris Bank            |
| Karen Katz                 |
| Marketing Director         |
| EO Johnson Business        |
| Technologies               |
| Katie Mnuk                 |
| Chief Executive Officer    |
| Lakeland Care District     |
| Jessie Nicholson           |
| Stay-at-Home Mom           |

| Senator Dave Hansen        |
| 30th Senate District       |
| Green Bay                  |
| Senator Janis Ringhand     |
| 15th Senate District       |
| Evansville                 |
| Cindy Block                |
| Legislative Aide, Office of Senate |
| Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald |
| Jessica Ward               |
| Chief of Staff, Office of Senate |
| Assistant Majority Leader Leah Vukmir |

| Representative Janel Brandtjen |
| 22nd Assembly District        |
| Menomonee Falls               |
| Representative Mary Czaja     |
| 35th Assembly District        |
| Tomahawk                      |
| Kim Nickel                    |
| Stay-at-Home Mom & Freelance Graphic Designer |
| The Wurzburg Company, LLC    |
| Carrie Richard               |
| HR Consultant                |
| UW Hospitals and Clinics     |

Former Board Members: Senator Jennifer Shilling, Sarah Briganti, Heidi Green and Heather Smith.
Served during the biennium between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015
Current and Past Executive Directors Eileen Mershart, Hannah Rosenthal, Christine Lidbury and Katie Mnuk together to celebrate the Council’s 30th anniversary.
“WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has a proud tradition and deep commitment to foster a community in which gender is no longer the basis of either privilege or denial of opportunity.”

Executive Order 5 establishing the Women’s Council

Governor Anthony S. Earl
WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING SYMPOSIUM

ROSIE REVISITED
WOMEN AND MANUFACTURING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

October 20, 2014
Edgewater Hotel
Madison, Wisconsin

U.S. Senator
Tammy Baldwin

Lieutenant Governor
Rebecca Kleefisch

Susan Siman
News Anchor
WISC-TV Madison
WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING

Rosie Revisited drew more than 125 women leading and working in the manufacturing industry for a day of featured speakers, expert panels and workshops.

featuring
U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch
Allison Grealis, Women in Manufacturing
Susan Simon, WISC-TV Madison (Emcee)

with
Pat Kampling, Alliant Energy
Gail Ambrosius, Gail Ambrosius Chocolatier
Katherine Gehl, Gehl Foods
Maureen Easton, Greenview Brewing
Diane Schmoller, Plastic Ingenuity
Lauren Schultz, Purple Door Ice Cream
Sandra Schmidt, Wisconsin Technical College System
Daphne Wilson, Malone’s Fine Sausage

Wisconsin State Journal • October 14, 2014
Wisconsin Women

The Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association was formed 50 years earlier, in 1869—the year the Wisconsin legislature passed a law allowing women to run for school boards and other elective school offices, though they still could not vote in school board elections until 1884!

Virginia Hart
first woman appointed to a Governor's Cabinet Post
Appointed as Secretary of the Department of Regulations and Licensing.

Barbara Thompson
first woman elected as State Superintendent of Education

Vel Phillips
first woman elected as WI Secretary of State
And, the first African-American woman in the nation elected to a statewide office.

Earlier in her career, she was the first woman and first African-American elected to the Milwaukee City Council (1956), and the first black woman to serve as a judge in WI (1971).

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Photo used with permission

Shirley Abrahamson
first woman to serve as WI Supreme Court Justice

1919

Dena Smith
first woman to serve as WI State Treasurer
Initially appointed to the vacancy caused by her husband's death, she was elected to the office in 1966 becoming the first woman elected to a statewide constitutional office in Wisconsin.

1957

1925

1964

Mildred Barber
Helen Brooks
Helen Thompson
first women elected to the WI State Legislature

elected to the State Assembly

Governor's Commission on the Status of Women established
Kay Clarenbach, Chair
Nationally, Kay Clarenbach was instrumental in the creation of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the National Women's Political Caucus.

1973

1976

1979

1985

When Seeking Status for Women
It's No Time to Be Ladylike

Wisconsin State Journal—October, 1965

Wisconsin Women's Council
In 2014, 12 woman-owned businesses were presented with Governor’s Trailblazer Awards. Recipients were honored at an award program at the State Capitol, followed by a luncheon at the Executive Residence sponsored by BMO Harris Bank with Honorary Co-Hosts First Lady Tonette Walker and Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch.

Governor’s Trailblazer Awards recognize the rich legacy of women’s business ownership in WI. By starting and sustaining businesses, exploring markets, creating jobs and stimulating local economic growth, WI’s women business owners play a leading role in our economy.

Since the Governor’s Trailblazer Award program was founded in 2007, 54 woman-owned businesses, representing 24 WI counties, have received awards.
Award Ceremony
Governor’s Conference Room
Wisconsin State Capitol
PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

The Council hosted a community education and outreach forum on human trafficking in Marathon County. The event was held in partnership with The Women’s Community, a shelter and domestic violence/sexual abuse support organization. Featured speakers included The Honorable John Vaudereuil (US Attorney for the Western District of WI), Jan Miyasaki (Project Respect), Captain Matt Barnes (Wausau Police Dept.), and Jennifer Price (WI Dept. of Justice). The Women’s Community held a press conference before the program, announcing a new grant award to hire a Human Trafficking Victim Advocate. The Council also sponsored two “Human Trafficking Happens Here” billboards in the Wausau area that remained in place for more than a month.

The Women’s Council participated in the EMPOWER initiative—a statewide educational campaign to encourage women to save for retirement—led by the WI Department of Employee Trust Funds and The WI Deferred Compensation Program. The Council distributed more than 1,000 jointly branded MoneySaavy Financial Tips for Women brochures to state employees (in English and Spanish). www.womenscouncil.wi.gov/MoneySavvy

The Women’s Council works to empower women as their own agents of change – at home, at work, and in the community. When that change involves interacting with government, or seeking government office, access to practical, timely information on elected officials and their activities is vital.

ConnectWI promotes excellence in local government website transparency. Recognition is based on 10 pre-set criteria for website transparency, with additional criteria for Gold designation. Local governments may apply for recognition year-round.

Municipalities recognized by ConnectWI during the biennium:
- City of Appleton
- Village of DeForest
- City of Eau Claire
- Village of Kronenwetter
- City of River Falls
- City of Waupaca
- Village of Weston

ConnectWI partners:
Wisconsin Newspaper Association and Wisconsin Broadcaster’s Association

www.womenscouncil.wi.gov/ConnectWI
Status of Girls

The Status of Girls in Wisconsin report offers a unique analysis of progress for WI girls ages 10-19 and identified opportunities for investing in this next generation, while growing our economy in the process. The 2014 Report identified a number of troubling issues for girls, including low STEM-related educational achievement, and high levels of stress, depression, bullying, and social media use. Improvements (over past years) for WI’s girls were noted in lower rates of sexual activity, births to teens and smoking. In 2006, the Council was a founding member of the Status of Girls research project. It continues to support this work as a sponsor and member of the report review committee. Following the release of the report, the Women’s Council and Alverno College co-authored an op-ed: Wisconsin Girls Remain at Risk of Falling Behind in STEM Fields, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (12/1/14).

Opinion

Wisconsin girls remain at risk of falling behind in STEM fields
By Rhonda M. Ware and Christine Lidbury  Nov 29, 2014

4th Street Forum (March 2, 2015)
How well are girls faring in Wisconsin?
The Women’s Council participated in a broadcast from Alverno College featuring panelists Rhonda Ware (Alverno College Research Center on Women & Girls), Christine Lidbury (Women’s Council) and Denisha Tate (Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee). Hosted by Denise Calloway.

Lunch program and panel with business, non-profit, civic and other community leaders. Panelists (pictured): Rhonda Ware (Research Center on Women & Girls), Margaret Henningsen (Women’s Fund of Greater Milwaukee), Gerry Howze (Pearls for Teen Girls), Christine Lidbury (WI Women’s Council), Tracy Wayson (Girl Scouts of WI SE), and Denisha Tate (Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee).

Human Trafficking Legislation
The Women’s Council participated in the bill signing of AB16/SB18 by Governor Walker as 2015 Wisconsin Act 5. The Women’s Council supported AB16/SB18, sponsored by Representative Loudenbeck and Senator Petrowski. This bill requires the WI DOJ to design and make available on its website a poster that provides information regarding the national human trafficking resource center hotline.

Child Support
The Women’s Council was invited to serve on the WI Department of Children & Families (DCF) 2015 Child Support Guidelines Advisory Panel. The 18-member Panel was tasked with reviewing WI’s Percentage of Income Standard guidelines for child support. It was convened to review the results of Institute for Research on Poverty’s (IRP) research and make recommendations to the Department for changes to WI’s guidelines for establishing child support. In addition, the Panel was asked to review and make recommendations on the application of the guidelines in special circumstances, such as cases involving high and low income payers, and share placement cases. Expert assistance was provided by IRP and DCF staff. The Panel included representatives from advocacy groups, the State Bar, Judiciary, Counties, and Legislature. The Panel met in several full-day meetings over the course of 2015, with final recommendations submitted in September.
AGENCY OPERATIONS

Women's Council Budget & Staff
State Budget (GPR)
2013-2014
$140,400
2014-2015
$144,300

The Women’s Council contracts with the WI Department of Administration for office space and support services, including information technology, procurement, personnel, and finance.

Christine Lidbury, Executive Director

The Women's Council has one permanent full-time position. This is periodically supplemented by interns and LTE staff for special projects.

INTERNS DURING THE BIENNIUM
Lauren Devries    Jessie Steinhauer
Stella Furlano    Hayley Young
Eleanor Kukla

The Council benefited from over 800 hours of staff time through the use of student interns. Interns are often able to gain academic credit for their work, along with valuable job experience.

The Women’s Council follows the WI Department of Administration’s policies and procedures related to Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunities.

Women’s Council Board Meetings
September 11, 2013 • March 12, 2014 • June 4, 2014
September 3, 2014 • November 11, 2014 (retreat)
January 21, 2015 • March 4, 2015 • June 3, 2015

Women’s Council Committees
Executive Committee of the Board
Mary Jo Baas, Patty Cadorin, Karen Katz, Michelle Mettner and Katie Mnuk

Trailblazer Award Committee
Mary Jo Baas, Chair

In addition, Women’s Council staff and Board Members attend/participate in a variety of events and programs by, for, and about Wisconsin women, including meetings, award programs, seminars and conferences.

Organizational Memberships
Institute for Women’s Policy Research
National Association of Commissions for Women Wisconsin Women’s Network

Presentations to the Board
Fredi Bove, WI Dept. of Children & Families
Jan Miyasaki, Project Respect
Programs, Gaps and Challenges in Serving Victims of Human Trafficking
Julie Braun, WI Dept. of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services and Crime Victims Council (CVC)
CVC and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Referral Directory
Jill Karofsky, WI Dept. of Justice
Human Trafficking in Wisconsin
Dave Mand, WI Dept. of Financial Institutions
Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy
Kristin Redman, Cricket Design Works
Social Media for Messaging
Dr. Timothy Smeeding, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW-Madison—Measuring Poverty