Women’s Council
• Wisconsin •

State of Wisconsin

Biennial Report
2017-2019
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 January 14, 2019, end of prior Administration)

GOVERNOR’S APPOINTMENTS (7)

- **Mary Jo Baas**
  - Chair
  - President
  - Liberty House Consulting, LLC

- **Patty Cadorin**
  - Governor’s Designee and Vice-Chair
  - Vice President & Director of the Office of the CEO
  - BMO Harris Milwaukee

- **Dr. Lisa Armaganian**
  - Physician
  - Ascension Health Care

Public Member
- Vacant

SENATE APPOINTMENTS (4)

- **Senator Luther Olsen**
  - 14th Senate District
  - Green Bay

- **Senator Janis Ringhand**
  - 15th Senate District
  - Evansville

- **Cindy Block**
  - Legislative Aide, Office of Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald

- **Shelby Schmudlach**
  - Office of Senate Senator Luther Olsen

ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS (4)

- **Representative (designative legislate seat)**
  - Vacant

- **Representative (designative legislate seat)**
  - Vacant

- **Kim Nickel**
  - Stay-at-Home Mom & Freelance Graphic Designer
  - The Wurzburg Company, LLC

- **Carrie Richard**
  - HR Consultant
  - UW Hospitals and Clinics

Former Board Members: Brianna Buch, Michelle Mettner, Jessica Ward, and Representative Janel Brandjen.
Served during the biennium between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019
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In 2018, the Women’s Council hosted seven *Community Dialogues on Supporting Family Caregivers* programs. The issue of family caregiving is growing in recognition as a silent crisis in America, and in Wisconsin by virtue of its comparatively older population. A report from caregiver.org (2015) reported that 60% of family caregivers are women, and 60% of caregivers are in the workforce.

Each day-long program was divided into morning and afternoon sessions to respond to two distinct family caregiver groups: caregivers for seniors (frail adults, dementia, Alzheimer's) and caregivers for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Resource tables offered a selected set of materials on state and community programs and resources, along with staff to answer questions.

Each session offered a *panel and Q&A with state and local experts*, and a *listening session* with state agencies. The later giving family caregivers the opportunity to talk about their lived experiences, struggles and concerns, and offer suggestions and wishes for policy change.

The Community Dialogues project was co-sponsored by Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, The Arc Wisconsin & Respite Care Association of Wisconsin. Each session was hosted by the local ADRC and/or ARC chapter.

Results were shared with the Wisconsin Caregiver and Family Support Alliance for future research, recommendations and policy initiatives.

**Word map from program participant responses to “provide one word for “Caregiving”.”**

**PROGRAMS:**
- Appleton • January 29, 2018
- Racine • May 31, 2018
- Stevens Point • June 19, 2018
- Dodgeville • June 20, 2018
- Beloit • July 1, 2018
- LaCrosse • October 16, 2018
- Fond du Lac • October 26, 2018

**Agency Presenters (panels varied by location)**
- Mary Bakalars, Coordinator
  The Arc of La Crosse & Monroe Counties
- Amie Bastian, Aging and Long-Term Support Manager
  Outagamie County Health and Human Services
- Beth Belmore, Clinic/Community Care Coordinator
  Mosaic Family Health
- Margaret Galle, President
  The Arc Southwestern Wisconsin
- Lynn Gall, Office on Aging
  Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Valerie Hiltbrand, ADRC Manager
  ADRC of Southwest Wisconsin-Iowa County
- Cori Marsh, Dementia Care Specialist
  ARDC of Rock County
- Lisa Pugh, Executive Director
  The Arc Wisconsin
- Harriet Redman, Executive Director
  WisconSibs
- Lisa Schneider, Executive Director
  Respite Care Association of Wisconsin
- Julie Seeman, Family Support Specialist
  Rock County Council on Aging
- Tonia Simmons, Caregiver Services Manager
  ADRC of Portage County
- Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator
  GWaar
In 2017, the Council began to expand its review of the progress of women in state and local elected office to look at the origins of women’s access to elected office. We learned three things that led to producing this fun fact sheet on the trailblazing women who were the first to hold elected office, beyond school and library boards, in Wisconsin.

1. Passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 is seen as opening the door to allow women to run and hold any state or local office.

2. In 1921, Wisconsin passed the nation’s first equal rights bill. Among the provisions, it affirmed women’s right to hold public office.

3. In 1923 and 1924, UW Extension surveyed and compiled a list of all the women they could identify holding elected office across the state—more than 400 women! — including identifying Wisconsin’s first female Mayor. City Council and Town
Status of Women in NE Wisconsin

The Women’s Council served as the research partner to a consortium of Women’s Funds for the 2017 Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin Report, updating a 2011 version. The reports were developed and produced by the Fond du Lac Area Women’s Fund, the Women’s Fund for the Fox Valley Region, the Women’s Fund of Greater Green Bay and the Women’s Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, in partnership with the Women’s Council, which developed the research model, and collected and analyzed the data.

Using current data for Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago counties, as well as for Wisconsin statewide, the report is intended to help inform local communities about the realities experienced by women and girls in Northeast Wisconsin. The 2017 update provides a current and comprehensive picture of the most pressing issues today I these communities.

For the full report, see: https://www.fdlwomensfund.com/status-of-women-ne-wi-2017/

Key findings included:

- Poverty rates are higher for women than men, across all age groups, and older women are twice as likely as older men to be in poverty.
- Regionally, the wage gap ranges from 72 cents on the dollar on average for women in Fond du Lac County to 78 cents in Brown County.
- In Northeast Wisconsin, the percentage of women-owned business grew from 24% to 27%, but is still below the statewide percentage of 31%.
- One out of five women in the region has some college experience, but has not completed a degree.
- Almost half of all single-mother households with minor children received FoodShare benefits in 2015—nearly 2x the rate for single-father families and over 4x the rate for married-couple families.
- The teen birth rate in Northeast Wisconsin continues a steady decline, following the statewide trend.
- Women in the region have fewer poor physical or mental health days than in the past.

Milwaukee Women inc

The Women’s Council continued its long-standing relationship as a MWi’s research partner for its annual report on gender diversity in the leadership for Wisconsin’s largest public and private companies. Representatives of the Women’s Council serve on its steering and research committees. The Council collected and analyzed data for two reports released during the biennium: Measuring Change 2017 (Oct 2017) and Power of Three: 2018 Research Report (Oct 2018).

Formed in 2002, MWi is a collaboration of executive and professional women working to change the face and quality of leadership through the advancement of women. MWi researches and publishes annual reports benchmarking women in leadership roles (executives and board directors) in Wisconsin’s largest public and private companies. MWi also advocates to accelerate the advancement of women in key leadership positions.

The Council’s Executive Director joined Governor Evers and women in the State Legislature for the signing of Executive Order #19, Creating a Committee to Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Wisconsin’s Ratification of the 19th Amendment.

The Women’s Council is a long-time research partner for the Status of Girls reporting series. The Council was first approached by a group of girl-serving organizations in 2005 to produce a status report for girls. The Council partnered with Averno College for produce the first report, issued in 2007. Since then, Alverno College’s Center for Research for Women and Girls has continued to publish expanded, high-quality updates, with reports in 2010 and 2014. Among the key findings of the 2018-19 report, nearly 1-in-5 girls in Wisconsin lives below the poverty level. Economic distress is correlated with race and ethnicity, including, for example, 1-in-2 black and 1-in-3 Latinx girls in households below the poverty line, compared to 1-in-10 white girls. In March 2018, the Women’s Council hosted a Legislative Briefing on the findings, held at the State Capitol.
To-date, more than 100 women-owned Wisconsin businesses have received Governor’s Trailblazer Awards. Thirty women-business owners from this cohort attended the event, joined by members of the Women’s Council, BMO Harris Bank and WWBIC.

The evening offered an opportunity for networking, as well as a program on best workplace practices for supporting family caregivers. Remarks by Washington, DC-based, award-winning journalist Katherine Reynold, were followed by discussion with, mostly, small business owners on challenges and considerations for such policies enlightening perspectives as the Council explores the topic of women and family caregivers, and particularly working caregivers.
In 2016, 17 women business owners were presented with Governor’s Trailblazer Awards. Recipients were honored at an award program at the State Capitol, followed by a reception in the Senate Parlor sponsored by BMO Harris Bank.

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

Since the Governor’s Trailblazer Award program was founded in 2007, 78 women business owners, representing 24 WI counties, have received awards.

www.womenscouncil.wi.gov/Trailblazer
Award Ceremony
Governor’s Conference Room
Wisconsin State Capitol

Wednesday May 23rd, 2018

AWARDS CEREMONY
INVITED GUEST Governor Scott Walker
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm Please arrive by 1:15 pm
Governor’s Conference Room | First Floor, East Wing

BMO HARRIS BANK TRAILBLAZER RECEPTION
SPECIAL GUEST Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Senate Parlor | Second Floor, South Wing

Watch the Ceremony Live!
https://livestream.assistive.wisc.edu/GovernorTrailblazerAwardsforWomeninBusiness

Governor’s Trailblazer Awards

Honoring
CHARLENE BLOHM ◆ TAMMY DANNHOFF ◆ DIANE EVerson ◆ MARY FLOYD
KATHLEEN GIONS ◆ ANGELA GOFF-CHIMURA ◆ MARY BETH GROWNEY SELENE ◆ ERICA HERRERA
KIM LORDELL ◆ ANNE MAEDKE ◆ JULIET NORAK ◆ NANCY ORTH ◆ DIANE PLENZENSTADLER
JOCELYN RILEY ◆ LYNN SEUL BABCOCK ◆ JANE SVINICKI ◆ LAURIE ZIEGLER
AGENCY OPERATIONS & BOARD MEETINGS

Women’s Council Staff and Office

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
Taylor Palkowski, Intern

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

The Council benefited from over 300 hours of staff time with its 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 9, 2017 • March 7, 2018 • May 23, 2018
September 5, 2018 • December 9, 2018
March 6, 2019 • June 5, 2019

Women’s Council Committees

Trailblazer Award Committee
Mary Jo Baas, Chair, Patty Cadorin, Sue Ann Kaestner (Widget Source), Andrea Hughes (WWBIC), Christine Lidbury, Kim Nickel, Vickie Wenzel (Target Interiors)

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.

Presentations to the Board

Lynn Gall, Alzheimer’s & Family Caregiver Coordinator
Office on Aging, WI Department of Health Services
Comments on the recent Wingspread Conference, “Convening Wisconsin’s Family Support Coalition”

Dr. Jodi Eastberg, Ph.D. Alverno College
Research Center for Women & Girls
Status of Girls in Wisconsin Report

Lisa Pugh, Executive Director, The Arc Wisconsin & Co-Chair, WI Family & Caregiver Support Alliance
Survey of Wisconsin Employers: Assessing the Needs of Employee Caregivers - Current Results

Wisconsin State Representative Amanda Stuck
Wisconsin Future Caucus

June 10, 2019