

DRIVING FORWARD

OUR WORK IS NOT DONE



MILWAUKEE
WOMEN INC.
ADVANCING INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP

2023-24
YEAR IN REVIEW



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM MILWAUKEE WOMEN INC CHAIR



As I finish my term as Chair, I am grateful for the continued progress towards our vision of achieving balanced representation of all women on boards of directors. This year has been filled with opportunities and educational events, highlighted by the addition of our own President/CEO and our 9th annual CEO Roundtable. I remember our inaugural CEO Roundtable, and since then, we have hosted 40 CEOs. Over the last several years, our research and mission have gained attention throughout Wisconsin – not just Milwaukee. By fulfilling our mission, we are helping Wisconsin's long-term economic development.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I would like to thank our steering committee members, partners, sponsors, and the business community for their continued commitment to advancing inclusive leadership; and I look forward to seeing MWi's continued impact toward achieving balanced representation of all women on boards of directors.

Kim Stoll | Vice President - Sales and Marketing, Badger Meter

MWi MISSION

Milwaukee Women inc is an organization of executives determined to change the quality and composition of corporate boards to enhance the performance of public and private companies with a focus on women and women of color.

MWi VISION

Achieve balanced representation of all women on boards of directors to enhance the performance of public and private companies

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

134

STEERING COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

18%
(24/134)

WOMEN OF COLOR STEERING
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

48

NUMBER OF STEERING
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ON BOARDS

14 SERVE ON PUBLIC COMPANY BOARDS
34 SERVE ON PRIVATE COMPANY BOARDS
10 SERVE IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY

10

NEW MEMBERS IN
2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR

120

COMPANIES
REPRESENTED

19

INDUSTRIES
REPRESENTED

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



MWI PANEL DISCUSSION WITH TEMPO MADISON: Personal Journeys to the Boardroom

April 11, 2023

Shana Lewis and Patti Epstein hosted Kim Stoll, Phyllis King, DeVona Wright Cottrell, and Laura Gutierrez.



CEO CONVERSATION WITH GEORGE OLIVER Why is gender diversity important for you personally and for your company?

September 17, 2023

Gender diversity – and all diversity – is vitally important for society and for businesses to succeed.



MWI RESEARCH AND RECOGNITION BREAKFAST Driving Forward: Our Work Is Not Done

October 25, 2023

Presented latest research results, recognized Power of Three companies, and heard from a distinguished panel of Nominating Committee Chairs as they demystified corporate board nominations.

[Read more >](#)



BOARD PRIORITIES FOR 2024 AND BEYOND

January 18, 2024

Special guest Cigdem Oktem shared important insights in a fireside chat facilitated by MWI member Deb Seeger.



MWI ANNUAL MEETING

April 19, 2023

Table discussions hosted by Steering Committee members serving on boards. Susan Finco, Linda Gorens-Levey, Karen Hung, Xia Liu, Lori Stortz, DeVona Wright Cottrell



CELEBRATING WOMEN OF COLOR

September 19, 2023

Celebrating MWI's women of color and their journeys to the corporate boardroom. Great insights from our impressive panel Laura Gutierrez, Christy Brown, and Nancy Hernandez. Special thanks to Janette Braverman for moderating the discussion!



MWI LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

November 28, 2023

MWi welcomed new President/CEO Lori Syverson



MWI'S SIGNATURE EVENT | 9th Annual CEO Roundtable

Rich Poirier | Church Mutual Insurance Company, Retired CEO
Ron Dunford | Schreiber Foods, President/CEO
Marissa Geist | CEILO, CEO
Kim Sponem | Summit Credit Union, President/CEO
Dave Kievet | Boldt Group, CEO

2023 RESEARCH REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

MWi released its research report on October 25, 2023, at the Research and Recognition Breakfast held at the University Club. The percentage of women on the boards of Wisconsin's Top 50 public companies continued to increase, reaching an all-time high, soaring past MWi's goal of 25% women directors by 2025.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT INCLUDE:

27.3%
(126/462)

PERCENT OF BOARD MEMBERS OF WISCONSIN'S TOP 50 PUBLIC COMPANIES ARE WOMEN, UP FROM 26.3% IN 2022

21.1%
(72/341)

PERCENT OF BOARD MEMBERS OF WISCONSIN'S TOP 50 PRIVATE COMPANIES ARE WOMEN, UP FROM 20.5% IN 2022

6.3%
(29/456)

PERCENT OF DIRECTOR SEATS HELD BY WOMEN OF COLOR, UP FROM 5.7% IN 2022

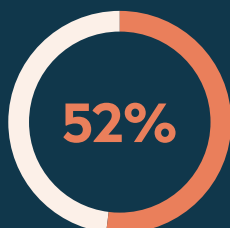
64%
(32/50)

PRIVATE COMPANIES WITH AT LEAST 1 WOMAN BOARD MEMBER. NO CHANGE SINCE 2022

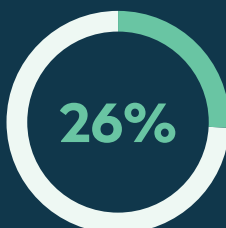
98%

PUBLIC COMPANIES WITH AT LEAST 1 WOMAN BOARD MEMBER. NO CHANGE SINCE 2022

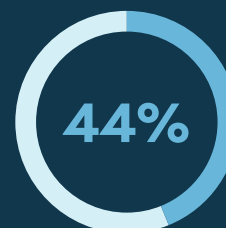
POWER OF 3 COMPANIES



WISCONSIN TOP 50
PUBLIC COMPANIES



WISCONSIN TOP 50
PRIVATE COMPANIES



RUSSELL 3000 INDEX

Sources: 2023 Gender Diversity Index Report/ 50/50 Women on Boards

WELCOME NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jennifer Abele | VC 414

Tricia Geraghty | (Retired) Children's Wisconsin

Sheryl Hopkins | Badger Meter

Kristin Lynes | Ready Rebound

Ann Pieper | Pieper Properties

Kim Preston | First Business Bank

Susan Schmitt-Winchester | Applied Materials

Judie Taylor | DUECO Safecurity LLC

Rebecca Cameron Valcq | Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Staci Wellentin | Milwaukee Jewish Community Center

THANK YOU BOARD MEMBERS

Chair: Kim Stoll
Vice Chair / Chair-Elect: Kristin Dufek
Immediate Past Chair: Pat Ackerman
Secretary: Sandy Cunningham
Treasurer: Leslie Plamann
Member At Large: Cecelia Gore
Member At Large: Nancy Hernandez
Co-Chairs External Engagement:
 Janette Braverman and April Dunn
Co-Chairs Member Engagement:
 Karen Hung and Julie Glynn
Co-Chairs Communications & Research:
 Marilyn Vollrath and Emily Phillips



THANK YOU SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

By-Laws (ad hoc): Amy Lindner
External Contributions: Sherri Albinger
External Parties: Brenda Campbell and Sharon Reed
Nominating: Abby Hanna
Onboarding: Sandy Wysocki
Programs: Kelly Ottman and Lisa Attonito

Thank you to the many MWi members who lead and serve on committees for your hard work and commitment. We appreciate your participation and commitment to our mission.

WELCOME



Milwaukee Women inc (MWi) is pleased to announce that its board of directors has named **Lori A. Syverson** its first full-time president and CEO. Syverson returns to her hometown of Milwaukee from the Twin Cities, where she most recently served as president of the Edina Chamber of Commerce.

“After 20 years of growth and impact, the MWi board determined the time was right to further enhance our mission by thoughtfully expanding our strategic

direction. We remain committed to change the composition of corporate boards to maximize the performance of public and private companies, with an increased focus on women of color, engaging men as advocates and expanding into other leading Wisconsin regions. We need a strong full-time leader to drive these initiatives. Lori Syverson’s well-rounded experience as president of a leading member-based business organization and her commitment to empowering women made her a perfect fit,” said Kim Stoll, MWi chair and vice president of sales and marketing for Badger Meter.

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Together we #EmbraceEquity



Please contact Lori Syverson, President/CEO at
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@MilwaukeeWomeninc

