

# The Local Council of Women

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The Local Council of Women

## President's Message

Welcome to a new year with the Local Council of Women!

Spring has finally arrived, and our board is busy finalizing plans for the rest of the LCW year. We hope you will add the future events listed in this newsletter to your calendar and plan to join us.

We would like to thank you for paying your 2023 membership dues. We are so glad to have you with us again this year. If you have not paid your dues, we will be accepting payment at our upcoming spring meeting. You can also mail them to our post office box if you find that to be easier.

We have a few updates to share concerning our LCW Board of Directors. As you can see from the listing of the 2023 LCW board in this newsletter, we have welcomed Tana Chapman, Jennifer Johnstone, and Carol Weiss-Kennedy to our team. We would like to thank Nancy Boerner, Sally Hegeman, and Susan Wier for their service as they begin new chapters in their lives. We will recognize our past board members for their service during a new presentation at our 2023 LCW Annual Meeting. Be sure to check our Save the Date newsletter section for all upcoming meeting dates.

We were honored to participate once again in the Women's History Luncheon this year. We promoted Local Council of Women through our LCW display table, and we are happy to report that numerous attendees signed up to learn more about our wonderful organization. We plan to bring back our newsletter's member profile section in the fall edition of the newsletter, where we will highlight both new members and members who have been with us for many years. We would like to thank past board member Victoria McClary-Carrera for this great idea. As we continue to highlight members, we will also begin work to increase our membership. Our board has agreed to set up information tables at various events in order to be more visible in the community and help people better understand who we are and what we do. If you would like to help in this tabling capacity, send us an email or let us know at an upcoming meeting to get on the LCW volunteer list. We also have LCW brochures that members can give to friends. These brochures will be available at all upcoming meetings, and we hope you will pick up a couple to pass on to help us strengthen our membership.

As a new member, one might ask – what efforts does LCW support as a voice for community health? We are excited to report that one of the programs we support and have supported from its inception is the IU Health Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Can you believe they are celebrating five years of impact this year? I recently attended their celebration and wanted to share some of their exciting news with you. Here are a few details from their five-year report:

### During the past 5 years IU Health NFP has:

- Served 504 families and has had 124 graduates to date.
- Completed 12,787 home visits
- Expanded to serve Brown County
- Grown to a 7 Nurse team and added a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW)
- Currently supports 160 families NFP continues to find new ways to reach out to new communities. They have been working with HealthNet, El Centro and the Sherwood Oaks

(Continued on page 2.)



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Christian Church Hispanic Church, and are looking for other opportunities to network into the Hispanic, refugee, and other communities. Being able to hire a nurse who also speaks Spanish would be at the top of their wish list. Please share any ideas to help with this request. You can help support NFP's Saturday May 13 Diaper Dash. LCW plans to help it financially as well as collect diapers for the event. We would like to ask members please to bring diapers to our April member meeting. A pile of diapers could make for a great LCW photo opportunity! Thank you for your membership and your continued support of the Local Council of Women. We appreciate your commitment to our mission and to our wonderful community.

**Vanessa McClary**

*President, Local Council of Women  
Your Voice for Community Health Since 1897*

## LCW Board Welcomes Three New Members

Jennifer Johnstone, Tanalee Chapman and Carol Weiss-Kennedy recently joined the LCW board. The board is very happy to welcome them.

### Jennifer Johnstone



Jennifer grew up in Bloomington. Moving to Florida as a young adult, she became a licensed Paramedic, working 911 response for Lake & Sumter Counties, as well as Ground and Air Transport for Florida Hospital EMS. In 2011, she accepted a civilian contracted Paramedic position at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and later transferred to their Jeddah branch to assist with the development and expansion of the Ambulance service at that hospital. Appointed chairman and representative for her department, Jenn sat on the Continuity and Acuity of Care committee during the International Joint Commission Accreditation process, as well as developing and implementing the internal policies and procedures for the Ambulance Services Department. After returning stateside, Jennifer moved back to Indiana to be closer to family. With an Associate's degree in Emergency Medical Services and a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration, Jenn currently works as Ground & Air Dispatcher for IU Health LifeLine. In addition to being a member of SCI Kiwanis and a volunteer photographer for the Indy Honor Flight, she is also a licensed foster parent. Jenn spends her free-time gardening, crafting and enjoying the visiting pet-friendly business with her kitten Geordie, who has his own ambitions of becoming a certified therapy cat.

### Tanalee Chapman



Tanalee has been a Bloomington resident for over 20 years. Throughout her time here, she has been active in various community service groups and volunteer roles. Most days she is busy juggling life between being a mom of 3 growing boys and her work as the General Manager for Home Instead. Her role at Home Instead allows her the opportunity to serve others, change the quality of lives, and change the face of aging, while continuing to grow in her professional career. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's in business administration at WGU. Tanalee is a member of the Welcome Committee for the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce where she is able to help support business growth in our local community. She joined LCW to bridge the gap in her roles between business support and community health. Quickly, after becoming a member of LCW, she joined the board on the membership committee.

### Carol Weiss-Kennedy



Carol retired in May of 2022 from the IU Health SCR Community Health Director position. She was in this position from June of 2007 through her retirement. She oversaw a number of programs that support a variety of populations in the SCR. Prior to her role in Community Health she worked in Occupational Health for Bloomington Hospital. From 1981 through 2002 she oversaw the Cardiopulmonary Rehab program at the Monroe County YMCA. As a graduate of Ball State University with a BS and MS, in Community Health and Adult Education she has used her education well.

Carol and her husband (Dan) have a blended family of 6 adult kids, their spouses and 4 grandkids with one more on the way in April. Carol and Dan enjoy time with family as well as staying active hiking, exercising and having that second cup of coffee in the morning.

# LCW's Third Quarterly Meeting

## Indiana State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box addresses LCW's third quarterly meeting

State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box and IU Health South Central Region's Chief of Staff Lesley Snyder were the featured speakers at LCW's third quarterly meeting, held on October 12, 2022 in the Health Sciences Building on the campus of the Regional Academic Health Center, adjoining the new hospital. LCW appreciates being able to meet in these impressive new quarters.

Noting that it was now the 10-month mark for the new hospital, Lesley Snyder gave an update on how it is faring. While the staff have had to get used to the new way in which the hospital is organized, things are going well in this "stabilization" phase, even though supply chain issues have caused delays in the arrival of signage, and doors, which are fire-rated, do not have windows in them. There are new things for patients to become accustomed to, as well, including, when needed, beds that "talk:" for example, they can tell a patient not to get out of bed without assistance. Masking is still required, even though Covid cases are at their lowest level of the year, as risks still exist for hospital workers and patients. New opportunities for staff parking are being considered, including possibly a garage for protection in inclement weather.



Unexpected in the South Central Region was the abrupt closing of St. Vincent's Hospital in Bedford, which caused IU Health quickly to organize teams to enable a continuation of healthcare to the Bedford area. The priorities were emergency department care and labor and baby delivery (already greatly diminished), and a collaboration has been established with Dr. Yolanda Yoder's Family Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology group in Paoli. IU Health is now working on obtaining more primary care providers for Bedford as well as for Bloomington, but this is difficult, as staffing shortages are being experienced throughout the state; IU Health as a system has more than 400 open positions, although some of them are for temporary jobs.

Dr. Box pointed out that the South Central Region is a microcosm of the state, where on average it requires a 45-minute drive to get healthcare services, and local health departments are woefully underfunded. She praised Monroe County Health Department Administrator Penny Caudill for her excellent work, and especially for her department's effective efforts in dealing not only with Covid but also with long-standing problems like infant mortality, which in Indiana is among the highest in the nation: in 2020, with 522 infant deaths, Indiana ranked 47th out of the 50 states. To try to improve the situation, the state has launched the "My Healthy Baby" program, with a goal of becoming "the best in the Midwest" by saving the lives of at least 200 babies by 2024. The program began in 2020, working first with women at the highest risk, mainly non-Hispanic black women, among whom the infant mortality rate is 13.2%, compared to 6.5% for Hispanic women and 5.5% for non-Hispanic white women. The aim is to engage pregnant women in prenatal care and provide wrap-around services to them for at least the first year of their babies' lives. A "family support provider" offers personalized guidance, meeting with a pregnant woman where it is most comfortable for her, including in her home. The program is now being expanded statewide to include women who have Medicaid coverage. It has been offered in Monroe County since January 10, 2022.

Often the Department of Child Services refers women to the program, but anyone else, including individuals and organizations such as churches, can make referrals, as can pregnant women themselves. Referring someone to the program involves only three pieces of information: who is making the referral, the pregnant woman's name, and contact information. Brochures and posters about the program can be ordered at [www.in.gov/myhealthybaby/](http://www.in.gov/myhealthybaby/). As of September 2022, about 850 women had been referred to the program statewide, with 53 in Monroe County. It offers a supportive environment and aims to help build a woman's knowledge, skills, and confidence when taking care of her baby and her life. Dr. Box urged attendees to refer women at [myhealthy@isdh.in.gov](mailto:myhealthy@isdh.in.gov) and to spread the word to other people and organizations to do so as well. Pregnant women can go to [myhealthy@isdh.in.gov](mailto:myhealthy@isdh.in.gov) to refer themselves, or they can call 844-624-6667, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-5:30 pm.

LCW president Vanessa McClary ended the meeting with a drawing of door prizes of children's books donated by Kiwanis of South Central Indiana. To audience acclaim, Dr. Box and Liz Feitl won *What Will I Be?* and *Shady Baby* respectively.

# News from the Annual Meeting

LCW's December 7, 2022 annual meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Vanessa McClary. After board members introduced themselves, Vanessa commended outgoing Membership Chair Victoria McClary, Treasurer Sally Hegeman, and Newsletter Editor Nancy Boerner for their service on the board and then introduced new board members Tanalee Chapman, Jennifer Johnstone, and Carol Weiss-Kennedy. Sally then gave a brief summary of LCW's finances, noting that the organization's operating budget depends on dues and contributions from members. Philanthropic donations made by the organization are drawn from funds invested with the Bloomington Health Foundation, the Community Foundation, and Vanguard. In 2022, LCW donated a total of \$41,500 to a number of different organizations (see the year-end finance report on page X for details).

Two representatives from organizations that received contributions from LCW during the year attended in the meeting. Assistant Fire Chief Tania Daffron, thanked LCW on behalf of the Bloomington Fire Department for the bright yellow-green reflective and fireproof heavy-duty multiple-season jackets it funded for the department's more than 100 firefighters. Tania noted that the jackets were welcomed by all, as they enable the firefighters to perform their jobs in greater safety.

Stephanie Shelton from the Cancer Support Community South Central Indiana (CSCSI) presented a painting to LCW in thanks for its support of Hoosiers Outrun Cancer. Formerly sponsored by the Bloomington Health Foundation, the event is now run by CCSI, which opened its doors in Bloomington in March 2022. They now have four full-time employees and provide cancer patients and their families with counseling and support. There are regular "Morning Joe" coffee meetings for men who have cancer, and a support group for caregivers has been started. They also offer activities such as cooking demonstrations for preparing healthy food, which have proven to be very popular. Stephanie told attendees that the organization was "incredibly grateful" for LCW's support.

IU Health SCR President Brian Shockney and Regional Director of Strategic Integration for IU Health Bloomington Hospital Mary Ann Valenta reported on news from the South Central Region. In general, the number of Covid cases is growing again, making up 25% of total hospitalizations, but the need for ventilators and other Covid-fighting equipment has decreased. In Bedford, after the closing of Dunn Hospital IU Health stepped in to increase the services provided at its hospital there. Shockney noted that Dunn Hospital was not alone in closing after finding itself in dire financial straits, as rural hospitals especially are closing in Indiana and other states for similar reasons. Due to the pandemic, in the SCR the cost for nurses has risen by 30.5%, increasing costs for staff on the front lines to \$42 million more in 2022 than in the previous year. IU Health sees these increased wages as an investment, and they are trying to be more efficient with services so they can offer more of them in areas where they are needed, such as Bedford. They are keeping their prices the same as they try to retool. As a result, IU Health lost about \$2 billion in 2022.

To help with rising healthcare costs, the IU Health Foundation has made grants to local organizations, including to:

- Southern Indiana Community Health Care in Paoli, \$1.25 million over three years to establish a Recovery Engagement Center in Orange County to treat addiction and substance use disorders.
- Ivy Tech Bloomington, \$500,000 over three years to hire staff and offer certification courses for medical careers in the fields of phlebotomy, electrocardiograph technician, certified clinical medical assistant, certified nursing assistant and emergency medical technician.
- Wheeler Mission in Bloomington, \$243,000 over three years to remodel the Wheeler Center for Men in order to provide space for job training, behavioral health services, and medical and case management.

In Monroe County, the Community Covid group, whose members include representatives from IU Health SCR, the Monroe County Health Department, and IU, continues to meet, but now is focusing on promoting the public health legislative proposals that reflect the recommendations of Governor Holcomb's public health task force. Indiana is 45th in the nation in the amount it spends on public health, and even if the legislature passes full funding of the recommendations, it will only bring Indiana up to "mediocre." Shockney urged LCW members to contact their state legislators to urge them to support the task force proposals fully.

In the last item of business, Sally Hegeman told attendees that as chair of the Scholarship Committee she "had the best job in LCW." Thirty-one applications for scholarships were received this year, and it was clear that the applicants were working hard at their studies, at the same time as many of them also have jobs and families to care for. In their applications, students were asked to provide documentation of enrollment in their chosen accredited program, along with a copy of their grades to date and a personal statement describing their work and volunteer experience, financial need, why they chose healthcare as a profession, and their goals for the future. Four scholarships of \$1500 each, sponsored by LCW and the Bloomington Health Foundation, were awarded to Kadila Adili, Emily Hawk, Cassandra Lopez, and Laura Beth Wayne. The \$2500 Cecilia Wahl scholarship, sponsored by LCW and named for a former LCW president who was very active in the community and her profession, was awarded to Ishod Vasquez.

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The winners were all impressive. Emily Fox was unable to attend the meeting because she was taking a final exam in Vincennes, where she is studying nursing. She comes from a rural community, and her goal is to work in one as a nurse practitioner. Kadila Adili hails from Windsor, Canada, and is studying at the IU Optometry School to become an optometrist. She has also been involved with using music education to help children with their mental health. Cassandra Lopez is working on her MA in the Speech and Hearing Department at IU, training to become a bilingual speech and language pathologist. She is also doing research on bilingual Spanish-English children and how they help their parents deal with English-only situations.

Laura Beth Wayne, a mother of two, comes from a family of nurses and decided after a number of years as a teacher to change fields and go into nursing, too. Although she has an MA in Education, the pandemic changed her perspective and left her feeling ready for something else. While she is studying to become a nurse, she is also working at IU Health Bloomington Hospital.

Cecilia Wahl scholarship winner Ishod Vasquez's goal is to become a radiation therapist. Sally pointed out that practitioners in that field need both an excellent background in math and physics and a talent for compassion, as radiation therapists must deal with many frightened people. Ishod is also a singer and has directed choirs that perform for events such as fundraisers and at nursing homes. He was also a tracer for Covid exposures during the worst of the pandemic. Ishod comes from a small border town at the southern tip of Texas and told attendees that "because of people like you, I have been able to do what I have so far, for which I am extremely grateful."

Ending the meeting at 7:30 pm, Vanessa congratulated door prize winners: thanks to the Kiwanis Club of South Central Indiana, Jiamila Maimenti received a large box of Godiva chocolates, Haddie Katz a blanket for keeping warm at football games, and Jenn Johnstone a Santa bag with a Starbucks card.

## Photos from the Annual Meeting



## Save The Date

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING DATES TO YOUR CALENDARS

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### First Quarterly LCW Member Meeting of 2023

**Wed, Apr. 12, 2023, 11:30-1:00 pm**

We have scheduled Room C1001 of the new IU Health Sciences building next to the new hospital for the upcoming meetings. When you face the entrance to the new hospital, the Health Sciences Building is all the way to your left. Park at the west end of the parking lot. You will see the large numbers 2631 on the HS building. A walkway alongside the east side of the building heads north from the parking lot, leading to the double doors of the main entrance on your left. As you enter you will face a bank of elevators. Immediately turn right — room C1001 will be on your left just beyond the elevators.

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### Second Quarterly LCW Member Meeting

**Wed, Jul. 12, 2023, 11:30-1:00 pm**

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### Hoosiers Outrun Cancer 5K

**Sat, Sept. 26**

See <https://hoosiersoutruncancer.org> for more information.

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### Third Quarterly LCW Member Meeting

**Wed, Oct. 11, 2023, 11:30-1:00 pm**

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### Kiwanis Club 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Air Balloon Fest

**Oct. 26, 27, and 28**

Kiwanis Club of South Central Indiana 11th Annual Hot Air Balloon Fest at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. LCW has supported the Balloon Fest since its beginning.

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### Annual Meeting

**Wed, Dec. 6, 2023, 6:00-7:30 pm**

# MOW Celebrating 50 Years

**Join MOW in celebrating 50 years at the LCW First Quarterly Meeting on April 12, 2023.**

Bloomington Meals on Wheels has been serving our neighbors in Bloomington, Indiana for almost 50 years. Founded in 1973, our program provides medically-tailored meals to homebound people who are unable to cook for themselves due to chronic illness, disability, injury, or advanced age. We ensure that our clients receive two nutritious meals per day, delivered by a friendly visitor.

## What are other benefits?

Meals on Wheels helps people maintain their independence and cuts health care costs by allowing our clients to remain in the comfort of their own homes.

## Who is eligible?

Bloomington Meals on Wheels delivers within the city limits to people who are unable to prepare meals for themselves due to chronic illness, advanced age, or disability. Many clients depend upon the service long-term. Others need the service temporarily as they recover from a hospital stay or illness.





# The Local Council of Women

## LCW Financial Statement | December 31, 2022

### OLD NATIONAL BANK (ONB):

#### ACCOUNT 1 - Business:

*Activity - December, 2022*

##### Checking

Balance November 30, 2022.....	\$2,361.71
Deposits* .....	\$2,025.00
Withdrawals.....	\$00.00
<b>Balance December 31, 2022**</b> .....	<b>\$4,386.71</b>

\* \$955 encumbered. Donations from members given in 2022. This will be deposited in 2023 to the special account

\*\* **Deposited** 01/2023 \$915.00 to the **special** account (donations from member 2021 and encumbered in this account during 2022). Reported in January 2023 statement.

#### ACCOUNT 2 - Special (Philanthropy - est. 03/13/2020):

*Activity - December, 2022*

Balance November 30, 2022.....	\$12,883.34
Deposits* .....	\$5,848.00
Withdrawals** .....	\$8,500.00
<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b> .....	<b>\$10,231.34</b>

\* Community Foundation yearly distribution. \*\* Scholarships

#### INVESTMENT FUNDS

Vanguard (12/31/2022).....	<b>\$8,599.92</b>
Bloomington Health Foundation (12/31/2022) .....	<b>\$393,904.07</b>
Community Foundation (12/31/2022) .....	<b>\$130,242.73</b>



# *The Local Council of Women* NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023 Issue

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