

Karin Conway – Milwaukee Food Council BOD



I have been or am currently affiliated with these organizations;

- Outpost Coop owner/ employee 2017
- Tippecanoe Presbyterian church – garden manager 2015
- Victory Garden Initiative - Organic Farming Volunteer and Food Leader Mentor since 2013. I am a seasoned volunteer in the annual Blitz where we install about 500 raised bed gardens yearly.
- School Garden Coordinator for Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful since 2013. We facilitate the implementation of raised bed gardens at local schools. I manage a demonstration garden at KGMB, plus train the educators on how to build and manage their own gardens on-site at the schools. Permaculture plant guild maps streamlined systems for teachers. Volunteer since 2006.
- Events Committee and volunteer for Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee since 2012. Focused on fundraising through sponsor donations and raffles.
- Wisconsin Local Food Summit event registration volunteer since 2014.
- Steering Committee for the CIUAN (Institute for Urban Agriculture & Nutrition)
- Past Garden Coordinator/Volunteer for New Beginnings Are Possible. Taught at risk children the joys of gardening and facilitated growing a garden on-site, 2005-2007
- Vice President of Milwaukee Holistic Chamber of Commerce 2015 to present.
- Board member/Event Organizer for Milwaukee Holistic Health Expo 2011-2016. As organizer, I coordinated all details with the venue, billing, customer service, database management, volunteers, as well as event promotion and follow-up after the event. Raised money for local non-profits.
- Race Director for Badgerland Striders Lakefront Discovery Run 2007-2010. Responsible for coordinating budget, permits, course, venues, sponsors, volunteers, pre-planning, registration, race day management, follow-up, planning future improvements as a consultant to new Race Director.
- Race Director for Komen Milwaukee Race for the Cure 2003-2004. Served as liaison between the Komen fundraising committee and the Badgerland Striders running club to ensure cooperation and positive outcomes for all event stakeholders.
- Grupo Amistad (Mexico City) high school exchange student (cultural immersion, Spanish skills)

Some of my schooling and professional certifications include;

Dr Sears Wellness Institute– Health Coach Certification	4/2017
Victory Garden Initiative - Permaculture Design Certification	12/2013
Victory Garden Initiative – Food Leader Certification	12/2013
Cardinal Stritch University- BS Business Management	12/2003
Sandler Sales Training with D.I.S.C.	2010-2012
Coach Training Alliance, Certified Coach	2010-2011
Waukesha County Technical College - Associate Marketing	12/2000

I have been an active attendee and member of the Milwaukee Food Council and hospitality committee since 2014. I manage two raised bed community garden plots in the Green Corridor and have my own aeroponics garden indoors year-round. I have been an organic gardener since birth. I learned to respect nature and grow my own organic food thanks to my mother Jeanette. I have attended MFC while representing VGI as a food leader, Tippe church as the rooftop garden coordinator, as well as a health coach and concerned citizen.

I feel I am a wonderful candidate since I recognize the commitment level required and am happy to attend any necessary meetings. I have never been afraid to step up and make a difference.

While I do not have an abundance of personal funds to share, I have the ability and desire to be an active fundraiser for MFC. I have done many fundraising efforts in the past on behalf of non-profit organizations. I bring with me the creativity to discover new ways to bring in more funds to make a difference in the local food movement.

As a health coach, I am passionate about helping people improve their health. I fully recognize the value of real whole food. I believe in my heart that every human being has the right to have access to good clean food. I was one of the lucky ones who had a mother that gardened. From the time I could crawl, I was helping grow and harvest food to feed our family. At every opportunity I share my love of gardening and whole food nutrition.

My previous business experience will help me build and promote MFC. As a marketing consultant I have the creative talents required to market and manage a profitable business. One of my super powers is bringing stakeholders to the table and helping them see how we all benefit from collaborative partnerships. For numerous years, I facilitated a business networking membership organization which helped business owners connect with new clients and build their business.

I have participated in and organized large events related to health. One of my favorite activities is acting as a food ambassador for local food products at farmers markets and grocers. If we need a volunteer to work on community engagement and outreach activities on behalf of the council, I'm in.

Regarding attendance; I believe that my employer Outpost will be cooperative and supportive of my board membership and will not allow my work schedule to interfere with MFC meetings.

Thank you for taking the time to review my nomination form. I hope that I answered all questions completely.

Karin Conway

Organic Growth Coach

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Planting Seeds of Change

I would like to apply for the position of Board Member with the Milwaukee Food Council. I am a very enthusiastic individual with a passion to serve in the community and would love the opportunity to give back by lending my community engagement skills to an organization such as yours.



I am a marketing manager at UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, a BadgerPlus HMO, by profession and work with community based organizations, faith based organizations, providers and other local agencies to provide accessible and affordable health care for the underserved population. My objective in my professional role is to ensure individuals are empowered to make health care choices for themselves and their families. I believe strongly in equipping individuals with information so they can improve their overall health and well-being. It goes beyond just health to ensure that a person lives a healthy lifestyle. It encompasses a range of other socio-economic issues to combat to achieve or maintain a healthy balance. One of the hardships many Wisconsin residents face is food insecurity. I know that food insecurity can be linked to poor nutrition, poor health, and increase risk of chronic diseases, impaired cognitive functioning and substandard academic achievement. We all understand that one person cannot tackle this feat alone. It takes a village. I desire to work with organizations to help Milwaukee residents struggling with the high cost of living expenses that run out of food, cut back or skip meals or simply settle for unhealthy foods because of their budget. I have a strong work ethic and background in community engagement and possess a broad range of skill sets in administration, managing a team, volunteering, event management, co-chair of various committees and business social responsibility. In addition, I come not only to provide a personal investment with Milwaukee Food Council but as a representative of UnitedHealthcare Community Plan. My genuine compassion to serve, reputation, long tenure and impeccable professional career as their marketing manager for Medicaid recipients, may also bring forth potential funding and support from UnitedHealthcare. With this experience and knowledge, I believe I would serve as an excellent adviser and Board Member to your organization. I've been praised for my leadership skills and the ability to create innovative programs within my company to outreach to people in need of improving their health and shifting their mindsets. I have been very selective on where I am going to be dedicating my resources and time in 2018 and therefore, I can proudly commit without hesitancy to the responsibilities and attendance requirements of a board member. I would be thrilled to have the opportunity to serve on your board and put my knowledge to use.

I am confident you'll find me a good fit for your needs as a Board Member to the Milwaukee Food Council. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Daphne Jackson

**Name:** Meg Kilkenny

**Employment/Position:** Coalition Coordinator at Fondy Food Center

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Food Studies, New York University 2015 (magna cum laude)

Eating isn't just an agricultural act, but also a loving act. I believe there is inherently community through food, so I have decided to work towards making sure there is food for the community. Food that is just, fair, sustainable, healthy and delicious!



Coalition Coordinator at Fondy Food Center

Milwaukee Food Council member

American Public Health Association member

Milwaukee Transit Riders Union member

When I'm not busy pondering food and environmental issues, or wondering the next thing I plan to cook and eat, I am working at Fondy Food Center as the coordinator for the Milwaukee Farmers Market Coalition (MFMC) as well as the agency's administrative assistant. I'm also running a cooking club called the Why Supper Club, aptly named for its core participants of millennials or "Generation Y." I have been running this club since April 2016 with meetings once a month at my house in a safe, nonjudgmental space to inspire my peers and empower millennials with the tool of knowledge and the caring act of cooking and breaking bread together. It is also a space of lively and important discussion, where we take what we learn, cook, and taste from one kitchen to our own and beyond.

Outside of my kitchen and the Why Supper Club, I have been working with Fondy for just over two years and have extensive knowledge on getting farm stands and farmers markets set up to accept SNAP/EBT (WI FoodShare or Quest cards) - just one of many solutions in making more healthy, locally produced food more affordable and accessible, while also providing economic prosperity for small family farmers. I have provided technical assistance to several farmers markets in Milwaukee County, and even beyond, to help start their own SNAP/EBT acceptance programs. The MFMC has also hosted a couple of trainings on creating cultures of inclusivity at farmers markets, so that more diverse clientele and folks of all socioeconomic statuses feel welcomed. I helped to coordinate as well as attended these events. My administrative experience in a small nonprofit environment, the skills I have developed helping to run the MFMC, as well as my commitment to empowering my generation through food are all resources and expertise I believe I could contribute as a member of the MFC's Board of Directors.

I've been a member of the Milwaukee Food Council since moving back to Wisconsin in the fall of 2015. I look forward to the opportunity to deepen my role with MFC as we work together towards cultivating a resilient and accessible local food system through an intersectional approach. I am very committed to the work of the MFC and am available for all full member and Board meetings for the next two years.



To whom it may concern:

I'm writing, because I would like to nominate myself for consideration to join the Milwaukee Food Council Board to head the Strategy committee to advance all six strategic goals of the organization. I believe my professional experience and current position, leading the transition of Growing Power to Wisconsin Green Veterans will be of great service to the purposes and mission of the MFC.

My background includes:

**Director of Operations at Sublime Soil Inc.**

A 501c3 formed for the purpose of research and education in the field of agriculture, environmentalism, recycling, vermiculture, aquaculture and aquaponics. Sublime Soils mission is to develop and implement low cost and sustainable systems for the recycling and reuse of all waste produced by the food service industry.

**Co-Founder and Chairman of Green Veterans**

Green Veterans are dedicated to helping our Nation's heroes learn about sustainable building and green living, while helping ease the hardship of military-to-civilian transition. By empowering Veterans to become volunteer leaders in their communities, we nurture opportunities for continuing education, networking, societal integration, employment, corporate engagement and green entrepreneurship.

**Director of Operations at Growing Power**

I managed every aspect of Growing Power in the last year and continue to lead its transition into a model for city-wide cooperation and coalition building. With the new intermodal system, Green Veterans has four core pillars that guide our program; Reintegration, Sustainability Training, Green Veterans Service Projects, and Trauma Resolution. With our current network, we can protect by growing more farmers and develop our food security by continuing Will Allen's Urban Farm School, and help to heal and resolve trauma in both veterans and civilians, by teaching them how to grow and resolve their trauma thru farming or arts. Moreover, we will bring together the urban farmers in Milwaukee under one collective body, with the purchasing and distribution power to make local agriculture a vehicle for economic development for civilians and veterans alike.

Green Veterans has chapters in Florida, Puerto Rico, Michigan, Wisconsin and very soon in Illinois. In the short time we have been active here; I have gained the direct support of local politicians such as Representative Evan Goyke, Senator Lena Taylor, Senator Tammy Baldwin, and Congresswoman Gwen Moore. I have also played an integral role in the passing of the Wisconsin Veterans Farm Bill, and am in position to craft the further implementation strategy of this legislation.

My past experiences and future goals align with the MFC ideas of having a collective impact, influencing policy change, equity and justice, influencing our current food culture, and building a food system that is both ecologically and economically viable.

I believe my mission of bringing sustainability and green living to both the veteran community and inner city youth is a brilliant model and will be a great asset to the initiatives of the Milwaukee Food Council. By empowering Veterans to use natural leadership skills to become volunteer leaders in our communities, we nurture opportunities for continuing education, networking, employment, corporate engagement and green entrepreneurship. I look forward fostering more collaboration and further building our community of local food producers while serving as board member for MFC.

Please consider the passion, experience, and energy I have given to the cause of developing sustainable food systems across the country. Together we can accomplish great things in Milwaukee and together we are still "Growing Power!"

Thank you,

Brian J. Sales  
Cofounder and Chair – Green Veterans Group  
(414) 416-7769 | [brian.sales1@gmail.com](mailto:brian.sales1@gmail.com)  
"Follow me, and I will lead the way!"

## THE REASONS WHY I AM APPLYING FOR THE MILWAUKEE FOOD COUNCIL BOARD MEMBER NOMINATION

During the years of 2015-2017, I was voted in to have a place on the board. I will explain why that two year term allowed me to commit to serving as a board member for the Milwaukee Food Council. I will explain why I decided to put a bid in for a



nomination. The first paragraph will share how hospitable I became for the board and other members of the Milwaukee Food Council to engage in business that needed to be done. The second paragraph has to do with my duties that were performed during my term as a board member. Finally, I will explain the reason why I wanted to network with the organization.

The setting began at the first board meeting. Jesse Blom was also a part of the class I was voted in. He asked a question at the beginning of the meeting saying, “Does anyone want to host future board meetings?” I responded with saying that the organization could meet at Summerfield United Methodist Church. From that statement, many activities within the Milwaukee Food Council accepted that hospitality. It allowed meetings on food insecurity, economic development and even the opportunity for the City Ecological and Health Department to discuss with the Board of Directors. I would say the most important event that happened because of the hospitality that I brought to the Milwaukee Food Council, was the ability to sit with the Madison office of the American Heart Association. The representative that they had in Milwaukee connected with me to give me the opportunity to sit down with them. Listening to their vision which focused on Healthy Food to be provided to the low income areas was a historical event. I hope to continue these types of events at Summerfield United Methodist Church. If we are going to make “History”, the setting of these events will be documented.

First, I would like to humbly say that it was an honor by the members of the Milwaukee Food Council to vote for me to be a board member. I wanted to be someone who would participate in those activities to support movements bettering the food system in Milwaukee. I am someone who wants people to survive, eat healthy and to be able to be themselves. I was grateful for the opportunity to be voted in. It has given me the ability to show the people of the organization how dedicated I am to help do things that could better the system within Milwaukee. I even had the privilege of being Vice President during my term. It happened by default, however I worked well with the executive committee and established myself as a leader in the group. That I am grateful for and hope that the bid I put in is seen as something or someone who is willing to be a champion for change in making Milwaukee a city that defeats hunger with people working together.

How I got here? That would be a long story to explain. Yet, I would say it is because Milwaukee needs to be recognized for something great to the world. Back in 2005, when I graduated from Olivet College, my goal was to become someone in a city that would influence ideas. The only community in Milwaukee that I am connected to is the United Methodist Church. I'm at least fourth generations connected to the denomination. A lot of people thought that I would become a minister. I still have the ability to reach that goal when I feel God has that goal set for me. However, my journey took me to the streets where I was able to gain a understanding of the issues within society. From that I helped establish a soup kitchen at Summerfield United Methodist Church to reach people in need. The program is in its sixth year. It has grown into something our Wisconsin Annual Conference can use as an opportunity to do Ministry Outreach. I wanted to work with others within these communities in Milwaukee to better the region. Even though I am a Methodist, I know that the world is full of diverse people and in order for people to co-exist, we have to work together.

In these few paragraphs I hope that I explained the reason bid to be a member of the Milwaukee Food Council Board Of Directors from 2018-2020. I explained some of the hospitality that my bid gave during my term. I was even able to share the responsibilities that I had to take on while on the board. Finally, I shared the fact that my purpose and goal was to work with others to help solve issues in Milwaukee. I love the city and know it has the ability to influence other cities to connect as a compassionate community. I want to be a part of the growth of a great organization. I am a member that wants to help with the change and hope to continue developing my leadership role and skills. Please consider my bid as one which will be important to the food system for this city.

Nya Taryor  
Summerfield United Methodist  
Wiley College, Olivet College Graduate 2005, Garrett Theological Seminary

Previous Board Experience: Summerfield Administrative Council, Interchange Food Pantry and The Milwaukee Food Council

Skills: Community Engagement, Public Relations, Communication, Non-Profit Experience, Networking, Volunteer Coordinating, Member Engagement, Event and Program Planning

End of Candidate Profiles



