

Executive Council Meeting Minutes January 24, 2014
Winter State – Doubletree Hotel, St. Louis Park

- President Vicki Rockwell called the Winter State Executive Council meeting to order at 130 p.m. Living & Learning State Program Manager Mary Ann Johnson read an invocation. Extensions Director, Lisa Hahn led the Pledge of Allegiance. Womens Wellness SPM, Jessica Bjerk led the United States Women of Today Creed.
- Co-chairs of the convention, Dawn Scouton and Mary Pramann, welcomed Exec Council to Winter State Convention.
- Parliamentarian Cindy JoAnn Miller gave Orders of the Day.
- Minutes of the Fall State Exec Council meeting held on September 20th, 2013, stand approved as printed.
- Minutes of the MNJOTS Exec Council meeting held on June 8th, 2013, as printed in the chapter mailing.
- Vicki introduced Brenda Schramm, 2004-2005 State President, whose theme was “Dance to the Song of Life.” Brenda presented training on “Finishing Strong.”

Secretary – Wendy Homyak

- △ Chapter Mailing Highlights for March are due to me February 10th and April/May ones are due to me March 10th.
- △ Area meeting staff reports are due to me March 10th.
- △ Donations still needed to pay for the State Plan of Action. I will have a drawing for a wine and chocolate basket at Annual for anyone who donates \$25 or more.

Administrative Vice President – Cathy Shuman

- △ Thank you to the 8 District Directors that submitted their mid-year evaluations. Congratulations on your accomplishment.
- △ Thank you to the 9 Exec Council members that met my challenge of submitting three names of possible district directors for the upcoming year.. The winner of the wine a basket is Erin Carney.
- △ Judges are looking for district excitement, including parties, door décor, participation, theme-related activities and especially enthusiasm. The district excitement award will be given at the luncheon.

Membership Vice President – Jean Skroch

- △ Welcome to the 85 new members. They join the 292 that renewed their membership 2nd trimester We had 20 chapters show growth 2nd trimester along with 17 chapters that had 75% retention and 22 chapters that showed 100% retention. We had 3 chapters that had In-Chapter Extensions.
- △ We had 20 chapters receive the \$15.00 rebate and 2 chapters receive the \$30.00 rebates for 2nd trimester. Third trimester rebates are sign 1 member and have 80% retention and receive \$20.00 or sign 4 members and have 100% retention and receive \$45.00.
- △ We had 56 chapters earn “Membership Money” 2nd trimester. A total of \$2086.00 earned. I will be offering “Membership Money” again third trimester. The _____ chapter is the winner of the drawing for holding an M-Event during “Color Week” and signing a member.
- △ Third trimester “Color Week” will be April 24th-30th. Contact me with your event and if you signed any members. Your chapters name will go into a drawing at convention. Please see my CIP for other challenges.
- △ The drawing for special seating and staff service at the luncheon is the _____chapter. Please see me after the business meeting.
- △ Congrats to the 4 DD’s that are invited to the Pizza Party for showing growth 2nd trimester.

- △ I will be announcing a challenge for president Vicki’s birthday at the business meeting.

Chapter Management Vice President –Heidi Westerlund

- △ Lots is May 3rd at Rasmussen College in Blaine. (a cheer was taught for use at business meeting)
- △ President/State Delegate Retreat was attended by 14 presidents and 13 state delegates.
- △ Gold Team members are needed.

Extensions Director – Lisa Hahn

- △ There are 4 current extensions. 1) Kenyan/Wanamingo 2) Silver Creek/ Maple Lake 3) Askov (our newest one) and Owatonna (on hold at this time)
- △ I am collecting donations for 3 Lucky Buck baskets. They are A Year of Holidays, Tea Time, And Purple Passion.

Internal Vice President – Joanne Larson

- △ Guess how many STEP certifications I received from Exec Council?_0 Please take the time to complete the appropriate STEP certification for your years of service. Also please help me reach my goal of 25 Outstanding Achievement in Programming. Encourage your chapters to complete their certifications. All certifications are due on April 30th. I will extend my drawing for STEP submissions to Annual for those who have turned their certifications in.
- △ State Program Manager bids will be heard during Exec Council today. Please see Leslie or myself if you are interested in bidding at Annual Convention. We can get you all set up for a successful 2014-2015 year.
- △ Please ensure that you are training your successors. Encourage them to attend LOTS or MNJOTS.

Living & Learning SPM, Mary Ann Johnson

- ★ Effective speaking competition due April 30th. Encourage everyone to enter. The theme is “My Special Angel” Its also a USWT Theme which is due May 1st. Check website for more info.
- ★ Please send in your certifications. Exec board challenge.

NEWSLET SPM, Christine Sibilleau

Post-Fall State Convention issue of the NEWSLET is out. I hope you’ve had a chance to read it. I also hope you like the updated look! There are extra issues that I will be distributing today to everyone on exec council. Please share them with prospective members or leave them at local businesses as reading materials. Ask if you need more copies.
“Planting Seeds of DREAMS” personal messages for next month’s issue of the NEWSLET due. Come find me this weekend! They are \$2/message and an easy way to thank a fellow member or encourage them on a job well done.
Wow! I asked members how and what they wanted in their NEWSLET and now I know! I am still expecting some surveys to be turned in so I’m not ready to share the results yet. It is clear from the surveys received to date that members want to hear from more chapters!

Public Relations SPM, Jen Eckstien

- ★ Keep sharing and connecting with people and each other on facebook! Several chapters including my own have been trying to gain new members from Facebook.
- ★ Third trimester’s challenge is the “Chapter Challenge.” Simply send your chapter’s event listing to me via email or send it to me.
- ★ Let’s get PR out here for a big year end Hurrah! Submit a press release congratulating your current board and leaders and any chapter award winners of this

convention. How about a press release for your incoming PR LPM to congratulate them.

- ★ Send your chapter and district photos, newsletters, event listing clippings to me for the PR scrapbook for the year.
- ★ M/S/P (IVP/DD11) I move that the Chapter Brochure contest proceeds go to Ways and Means.

Records and Recognition SPM, Stephanie Putzier

- ★ Year-end Evaluations are due postmarked by April 30th. Your mid-year evaluations were placed at your seats. Let me know if you have any questions. The mid-year evaluation is a great beginning for your year-end evaluation! The first group that turned in 100% of their mid-year evaluations was the Staff. Unfortunately, my goal has not been met for 100% of all required Exec Council turning in their evaluations. Please help me reach my goal for year-end!
- ★ M/S/P (RR SPM/AVP) I move that the Chapter Banner contest proceeds to Way and Means.

Ways and Means SPM, Sharon Erickson

- ★ Third trimester fundraiser is Coffee City Gourmet Coffee. Due date is April 16.
- ★ New clothing items available at the state store. We have a great pocket knife! You gotta have one.
- ★ Opportunity to donate- Give a Gift, Be a Light 1.00 donation.
- ★ There will be a drawing at Annual convention for those chapters/districts with 75.00 or more in promotional sales.

External Vice President – Leslie Goble

- △ Please continue to send in your transmittals. The more the better!! Its not to late to send for projects from 1st and 2nd trimester. Hours, added up, turns into dollars, too! Make sure that LPM reports include total service hours for all projects. I can't wait to see the totals at Annual Convention!
- △ Please consider taking one of the open SPM positions for the 2014-15 year. Se IVP Joanne or myself for bid forms or more information.
- △ Now is the time to start thinking about filling out your USWT Outstanding Achievement in Programming form. This is a way that we can let the USWT know about all the great things that we are doing in Minnesota. For more information, or a copy of the form, see my CIP.

Community Connections SPM, Sue Lemke

- ★ I am emphasizing the Pageant of Hope being held on March 29th. It's a life changing experience. Please participate if you can. With that I am also looking for donations to put towards sponsorship of a princess.
- ★ I am looking forward to the Strike Out Violence Bowl-A-Thon being held February 1st. See Wendy Lindberg with any questions.
- ★ A drawing will be held for all chapters donating items for True Friends (new name for Friendship Ventures) tomorrow at the business meeting.
- ★ I was a little disappointed by the Random Acts of Kindness that were reported. Please encourage your chapters and districts to report a total. A gift bag will be presented at Annual Convention.

Isaac's Journey Foundation SPM, Anna Nichols

- ★ At the end of the 2nd trimester the Wings of Hope Recognition Board as 2 districts at the \$500 level and 2 at the \$1000 level. There are 4 chapters at the \$250 level, 4 at the \$500, and a couple of those are close to being at \$1000.

- ★ The 7th Annual Chili Feed will be on March 29, 2014 at Elmerz Restaurant and Event Centre in Sauk Centre. Let me know if you have items for their silent auction or can volunteer.
- ★ Today is kick off day for February Fundraiser Month and the Isaacs Journey Tastefully Simple Fundraiser where 25% of all sales will be donated. More ambitious chapters and districts can create their own Isaac's Journey Feb Fundraiser.

Women's Wellness SPM, Jess Bjerk

- ★ Third trimester emphasis is body work. We are going to refurbish your exterior, to get that curb appeal you have always wanted. Check out my CIP for tips.
- ★ Fad diet results were reported
- ★ Thank you to everyone who participated in the First Aid Fundraiser. If you ordered kits please see me.
- ★ Womens Wellness Challenge: You pick a habit you want to change. It may be a bad habit you want to quit or a good habit you want to start. The challenge runs from Feb 1st – May 1st. See my CIP for details.

Youth of Today SPM, Tari Seiler

- ★ I need your help this last trimester to get the word out about bullying. I still have some bracelets for sale at only \$3.00.
- ★ Mark your calendars for March 8, 2014 as the night of the fundraiser for the Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship. We will be attending the MN Rollergirls Derby.

Treasurer – Peggy Kaufman

- △ Thank you to everyone that car pooled this weekend. Remember to write it down on the sheet being passed around so that you are entered into my wear end drawing.
- △ Due dates for Annual expense vouchers are April 25th from DD's and SPMs to their supervisors and May 3rd for all expense vouchers due to me.
- △ Transmittal summary will be given at the Business Meeting tomorrow. Reminder that the deadline to submit for this trimester is May 3rd 2014.
- △ Mid-year budget review was held on January 3rd. The proposed revised budget can be found in my CIP. We will be voting on it tomorrow at the business meeting. The next Finance Meeting will be March 1st in Albertville.
- △ The raffle drawing will be held tomorrow and the winners will be announced at the luncheon. Remember to turn in your tickets, money and any tickets that were not sold.

Parliamentarian – JoAnn Miller

- △ We will vote on the proposed bylaw changes introduced at Fall State tomorrow at he business meeting.
- △ Please have completed motion slips ready foe any business you wish to transact.
- △ I had seven chapters (Burnsville, Byron, Hibbing, Maple Grove, Monticello, Savage Area, and Woodbury) and three districts (9, 10, and 11) that submitted their bylaws and policies for review this trimester. The winner of the party pack will be announced at the Business Meeting tomorrow.

Chairman of the Board – Nicky Anderson

- △ Shhhhhh... We have a very special award being presented this weekend. Cindy Sanders will receive the Ambassador Award tomorrow night at the banquet. I will hold a reception in my room after the banquet tomorrow night.
- △ Annual Convention will be in Shawanno, Wisconsin June 12th-15th. Look forward to watching the FUNTO Squad at the business meeting tomorrow as they help me promote National Convention.

- △ I would like to thank everyone who purchased an ONTO flower. They will be handed out at the luncheon. You helped me make this a very successful fundraiser for the ONTO committee. We are still yaking orders. If you need some flower tags come find me or stop by the ONTO table tonight.
- △ And did I mention that I have these beautiful purple shirts that you can purchase. For just \$12 dollars, they come with President Vicki's logo on them. I have a limited number of sizes left, so please see me to ensure you get yours.
- △ March Planning is being hosted by the St Cloud Women of Today Chapter on March 8th. March Planning is a one-day opportunity for any member to share recommendations with current and prospective staff. It is an excellent way to learn more about our organization. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. District Directors, please encourage your chapters to attend. Pre-registration is required so we can plan for food and space. Look for the registration form in my Winter CIP and the website. I have given you a form to write down ideas. Start writing them down now!!! Recommendations are due to me Feb 17th.
- △ Area meetings are being planned. The District Directors are working hard to make these a success. This year, their focus is on membership. Come and see what M-Event they will be doing at your meeting. All area meeting flyers can be found in my CIP.
- △ Plans are under way fo setting up next years committees.
- △ M/S/P (COB/EVP) I move that we approve Jean Skroch as Future Directions Chair 2014-2015.

Executive Director – Katie Castro

- △ Dues – Third trimester dues billings have not yet been received, but will hopefully be in and sent out prior to February 15th. Submit corrections immediately.
- △ Insurance – Payments past due on credentials. Policy coverage will be sent to paid chapters with the dues billing. Put form in 2014 permanent VIP papers file.
- △ Convention Bids – A priority bid for Annual 2015 has not been received. Bids are now open to the entire state, and are due to the Chapter Service Center by Friday, April 18th to be presented during the Business Meeting on May 17th at Annual 2014 in Mahnomen. Please contact Katie with questions/for more information.
- △ MNJOTS 2014 – Training session for next year's Executive Council scheduled for June 6-8, 2014, specific location to be determined, but in the Brainerd Lakes Area.
- △ Annual Convention 2014 – Hosted by the Mahnomen Women of Today, weekend of May 16-18 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. Registration forms in CIPs and on website.

Presidential Assistant – Cathy Snyder

- △ A reminder DDs and SPMs to complete your 12x12 scrapbook pages (front and back). DDs remind your chapters to also complete these. They are due to me April 1st.
- △ Please remind your chapters to send pictures onto me. This includes district and chapter meetings and socials. This also includes conventions.
- △ Still looking for donations for president Vicki's year end gift.

MNWT Foundation – Teri Dahlberg

- △ Lucky Buck Auction benefiting Chapter Grants will be held today at the luncheon.
- △ Chapter Grants will be awarded at the luncheon this weekend.

- △ Give to the Max Day was once again a success for the Foundation. Donations totaled 677.00 from 17 people, and our first member of the new Sapphire Endowment Club.
- △ 2015 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Foundation! Stop by the Foundation table this weekend and donate \$30 in honor of the anniversary and your name will be entered into a drawing for a sterling silver bracelet. The Anniversary celebration and the drawing will take place at Winter State 2015. You need not be present to win
- △ The Foundation is pleased to once again support the Outstanding Young Adult program by funding the scholarship program. The outstanding youth will be honored this weekend. Additionally, the foundation will also provide an honorarium to the Women Who Impact Award honoree and donated to the charity of her choice.
- △ The Foundation loves to award scholarships, and we would like remind you that the Straight River Scholarship may be applied for at anytime and is awarded throughout the year. The scholarship of up to \$400 dollars is awarded to assist in the entrance or continuation of an educational program to enhance skills in aiding physically or mentally handicapped individuals.
- △ We are \$800 away from completing our Diamond Endowment Club fund!
- △ The next Foundation meeting will be held , April 12th at Billy's in Anoka, 10:30am.

Future Directions Committee – Wendy Lindberg

- △ Any time of the year is a good time to send in your ideas on how to improve MNWT! Send in you March Planning recommendations to our Chairman of the Board, Nicky Anderson.
- △ How can YOU help future directions? Join a sub-committee today! See my CIP for the names of the chairs and committees available.
- △ If you missed the December meeting, here are a few things to share with you:
 - There are district manuals that need some revision to reflect the 2014-15 schedule changes for next year. Contact Sue EllenToppings to be a part of the committee to review/revise.
 - An online training/videos sub-committee has been established to help with our online webinars and training sessions. If you would like to help with this, have ideas etc, you can contact Daina Mirsch or Bonnie Olmanson.
 - Train the Trainer is looking for a new date for their training session. Contact Dawn Scouton if you would like to help.
 - Conversation took place about a 2013 March Planning recommendation for Exec Council term limits. Data is being compiled by Jen Kinzer and taken to our Leadership sub-committee to examine the effectiveness and possible recommendations in regard to the Exec Council and the total years of service they can have. Contact Stacy Pearson if you are interested.
 - Our next Future Directions meeting is March 15that the Brickyard in Clear Lake.

Membership Management Chair – Cindy Umland

- △ At the Mid Year Exec Council meeting I challenged each of you to bring a first timer from your chapter to convention and contact me prior too.. well we are going to do a redo. Please notify me by May 1st if You have a first timer coming to Annual Convention and your name will go into a drawing.
- △ The next Out and About night is March 14, 2014

△ The Leadership Committee is sponsoring a book club. The book is “Lean In”. Please feel free to stop by and visit this evening.

Marketing Chair – Shannon Malbraaten

- △ Our Buckets of Sunshine Project is Kody’s Closet and we will be presenting items donated to them tomorrow.
- △ The Hands-On Expo on February 15th is all set to go, but more volunteers are welcome.
- △ I’m looking for bids for next year’s Buckets of Sunshine.

President of the Minnesota Women of Today – Vicki Rockwell

Ongoing Business – None

New Business –

- SPM Bids were heard and accepted by:
 - ✓ Living and Learning (LL) by Tevyan Sorenson of Burnsville, with a theme of “Ready..Set..GROW!”
 - ✓ Youth of Today (YT) by Shelli Struzyk of Rice, with a theme of “New Beginnings & Successful Futures”
 - ✓ Women’s Wellness (WW) by Becky Lysen of Benson, with a theme of “Sock It To ‘Em”
- M/S/P (COB/Treasurer) I move that we add item L under Policy J. 11.to read “shall review Bylaw Article III.Section 1. G every (4) years.”
- M/S/P (Treasurer/ District 11) I move that we change Policy G. 1. To read “Each district shall hold a district orientation to be held in June (after MNJOTS) and three (3) other meetings throughout the year, to be held no more than sixty (60) days prior to state meetings. The District Director shall be elected at the spring meeting. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the district. The above meetings do not include District Council or President/State Delegate meetings. Districts may establish their own quorums for
- district meetings.
- M/S/P (CC SPM/EVP) I move that we change Policy J. 13. T. 1) c) to read” Shall promote True Friends for one trimester.
- M/S/P (CC SPM/Treasurer) I move that we change Policy T. 17. C. 4) to read “ The Awards Committee will determine the number to honor at Winter State convention based on the number of entries and each shall receive an award from True Friends.

Announcements – None

- Living & Learning State Program Manager Mary Ann Johnson read a benediction. District 4 Director, Becky Lysen led the Minnesota Women of Today Creed.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Submitted by Wendy M Homyak, Secretary