

Minnesota Women of Today

Business Meeting Minutes– May 16th, 2015

Annual State –Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria, MN

- President Laura Gaylord called the Annual State Business Meeting to order at 8:46 a.m.
- Living and Learning LPM Alyce Collins of St. James delivered the invocation.
- Records and Recognition SPM Sharon Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- District 9 Director, Kim Seaman led the MN Women of Today Creed.
- Several special women are in the room and will be introduced at the luncheon this afternoon.
- Co-chairs of the convention- Tawn Hanson and Kellee Potter-welcomed everyone to Annual State Convention.
- Parliamentarian Shelah Heien gave Orders of the Day.
- Minutes of the Winter State Business meeting on January 24th, 2015 stand approved as printed.

Secretary, Melissa Baxter-Lesniak

- △ Thank you to the 19 matched PALS chapters who took part in a multitude of activities and had a great time growing and learning together. I have PALS applications available this weekend for any chapters interested in signing up for next year.

Administrative Vice President, Dawn Scouton

- △ There were 5 District Directors and 4 State Delegates that submitted their year-end evaluations. A big thank you for leaving a legacy for your successor!
- △ Congratulations to the following District Directors who have been elected for 2015-16: District 3 – Jesse McShane, District 5 – Illena Miller, District 6 – Terri Miller, District 7 – Kellee Potter, District 9 - Deena Ries. .
- △ Members from the following districts will need to stay after the Elections meeting: District 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, and 11. A member of state staff will meet with each district to come up with a district director or district rep or a plan for leadership of your district, including a contact person. Please make sure you remain in the room if you are from one of these districts.
- △ Thank you to all of the amazing state delegates that attended roundtables and led their chapters this year!! You are all truly amazing women!! Also a big THANK YOU to all of the district directors that shared their Passion with their districts this year!! You have made a difference in the lives of your members!!!
- △ Judges are watching for district excitement. Who will be the most excited this weekend?

Membership Vice President, Terri Dahlberg

- △ Welcome aboard to 87 new members this trimester. They join the 396 members who renewed their membership. We had 14 chapters and 2 districts with growth. 19 chapters had 75% retention or higher and 16 chapters had 100% retention. We celebrated 5 in-chapter extensions
- △ Year-end membership numbers will be announced later today.
- △ 20 chapters qualified for the 3rd Trimester membership challenge of getting Early Bird Renewals in by March 15th and are in the drawing for the Ultimate Movie Night Party Pack! The winner is New Hope. 5 chapters qualified for the 3rd tri member challenge of completing an in-chapter extension and are in the drawing for the Ultimate M-Night Party Pack! The winner is Benson.
- △ Eleven chapters qualified for Foundation Rebates third trimester for a total of \$295; these checks will be given out later today. The MNWT Foundation Membership Rebate program has been a huge success this year – THANK YOU to the Foundation for supporting Membership growth within the Minnesota Women of Today.

Chapter Management Vice President, Debbi Benke

- △ LOTS was held in Rice on May 2nd and we had a great time! 59 members participated in LOTS! Past Presidents Kayla Herman, Jen Kinzer, and Nikki Anderson presented the board training! They even came in as geese!!!! We talked about “Bird Splats!” Mark your calendar when the calendar comes out for next year because not only do you learn at LOTS, you have fun and meet new people!!
- △ We also had rebates at LOTS! The \$50 drawing for the chapter that attended for the first time in three years went to Greenbush! \$50 drawing for the district that had 75% of their total chapters in their district attend LOTS was District 7 and the \$100 drawing for the chapter that had the most attendees represented was: Eden Prairie!!! Congratulations! Thank you all for coming it was an awesome time!
- △ This past trimester we had 4 chapters on TLC. The Woodbury chapter came off of TLC - whoo hoo! Thank you to the Eden Prairie members for helping with the Woodbury chapter. I know that they appreciated all your assistance!
- △ If your chapter is strong and striving, I encourage you to take a step out and be a mentor to one of the TLC chapters for first trimester.

- △ Chapters on TLC for 2nd Trimester: Eagan, Nisswa, and St. James
- △ Chapters on TLC for the 1st Trimester: Balaton, Brooklyn Park, Detroit Lakes, Elk River, Fairmont, Foley, Melrose, and Mora (East Central)

Extensions Director, Colleen Todd

- △ Extensions in progress-Kenyon-Wanamingo, Coon Rapids, Owatonna, and Silver Creek/Maple Lake. One two and under chapter –Staples Motley
- △ Staples-Motley will be graduating at the luncheon this afternoon!
- △ There will also be a Lucky Buck Auction for 2 baskets with proceeds going to the extension team at the luncheon this afternoon.

Internal Vice President, Christine Sibilleau

- △ Thank you! I received 9 USWT Outstanding Achievement in Programming certifications – I did not meet my goal of 25. 8 Executive Council members completed a STEP certification this year.
- △ Drawing for Executive Council Challenges! Winner of USWT Outstanding Achievement in Programming certification appreciation basket is Sue Ellen Toppings. The winner of the STEP certification appreciation basket is Katie Castro.
- △ ISO 1 Internal SPM for 2015-16 – the Records and Recognition area is still open!

Living and Learning, Tevyan Sorensen-given by IVP Christine Sibilleau

- ★ I am sorry I cannot be here with you all this weekend and want to thank you for all of the support this year. A special thank you goes out to all of the amazing women who are providing readings in my place this weekend.
- ★ 3rd Trimester Challenge: 13 chapters submitted at least 10 certifications across Living & Learning, Health & Wellness and Personal Development. The winner of the 1st prize pack is New Hope. I also received pictures from __3_ chapters and _1_ districts growing through Living & Learning. The winner of the 2nd prize pack is Brainerd Lakes.
- ★ 83 Living & Learning, 99 Personal Development, and 116 Health & Wellness certifications were submitted in Tri 3. 9 chapters completed PEP course certifications this trimester. This brings the year-end totals to 156 Living & Learning, 158 Personal Development, and 213 Health & Wellness certifications and 17 chapters completed PEP course certifications.
- ★ The Leadership Book Discussion was held last night to discuss, “My Beloved World” by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Thank you to all who attended the Book Discussions or used the materials in the chapters this year.
- ★ The Effective Speaking Competition will be held last night. There were 2 competitors. Thank you for coming out to support these amazing ladies. The winners will be announced at the banquet tonight.
- ★ The Outstanding LPM for Tri 3 is Mary Hanson of St. Cloud.

NEWSLET, Jenn Baarson

- ★ Thank you to the 15 chapters and 1 district who submitted their newsletters in the third trimester. Please encourage the chapters in your districts who have not submitted or created a newsletter to send me a copy for review.
- ★ Be sure to submit an article for this fall edition. What an easy way to let the rest of the state know how active your chapter was over the summer and what wonderful things you are doing for your community while earning Success points!
- ★ I am accepting personal messages through this weekend (so come and find me! I have forms!) and articles are due to me no later than this Sunday May 31st.

Public Relations, Mary Ann Johnson

- ★ There have been 100 likes on the PR web page!
- ★ Shop at AmazonSmile.com, click on “supporting” and find Minnesota Women of Today Foundation. A percent of your purchases will go to the Foundation.
- ★ The Rice chapter is the winners of the basket for most visits to the MNWT webpage.
- ★ SAVE THE DATE--AUG.30TH, 2015 at 1 pm at TARGET FIELD "DAY AT THE DIAMOND". TWINS going against the HOUSTON ASTROS.
- ★ Outstanding LPM for 3rd Tri is Terri Burkstand of New Hope.

Records and Recognition, Sharon Erickson

- ★ Thank you to the 25 chapters that submitted SUCCESS this year. The winner for submitting 3rd trimester SUCCESS is Anoka.
- ★ The winner for submitting SUCCESS for all three trimester is Anoka.
- ★ Thank you to all who submitted their Year-end evaluations. There were 5 Staff, 1 SPM, 4 District Directors, 7 Presidents and 4 State

Delegates who submitted Year-end evaluations. The winner of Year-end evaluations drawing is Julie Marchand.

- ★ The winner of the President/State Delegate Challenge is Monticello.
- ★ The winner for submitting a Mid-year and Year-end evaluation is Katie Castro.
- ★ The winner for submitting a USWT Project Recognition is Rice.
- ★ The Outstanding LPM is Jayne Flaa of New Hope.

Ways and Means, OPEN

- ★ Please pick up your coffee, scone and pancake/waffle mix orders at the State Store – Thank you to everyone who either promoted this promotional or purchased from it. I hope you enjoy your coffee as much as I have.

External Vice President, JoAnn Miller

- △ We will report on the total dollars and service hours reported later today. The numbers are fantastic!!
- △ At Exec Council meeting, the following were accepted as 2015-2016 External SPMs: Mary Ann Johnson-Community Connections.
- △ We still have the following External SPM positions open: Women's Wellness and Community Connections.
- △ Thank you for your support of all our programming areas and me this year!

Community Connections, Tari Seiler

- ★ Thank you to all the chapter who submitted a Community Connections Award. The winner's will be announced later today.
- ★ Thank you to the chapters and districts that donated to either Salvation Army or Camp Friendship during the year.

Isaac's Journey, Barb Zeroth

- ★ Thank you for the opportunity to support Isaac's Hope Fund as the SPM and your donations and time to the priority area, even though it seemed tough to keep the momentum with their announcement of closing the foundation.
- ★ The 3rd trimester challenge was for chapters to hold Fabulous February Fundraisers and a special gift will be given to the chapter who participated.
- ★ I will be announcing the chapter donations and time totals later.

Women's Wellness, Becky Lysen

- ★ Thank you to everyone who volunteered donated and shared the Isaac's Journey story this year.
- ★ The chapters who participated in my Fabulous February Fundraiser challenge received a special gift from me, which was included in your DD bag.

Youth of Today, Shelli Struzyk

- ★ Thank you so much to the 7LPMs and 1 DPM that submitted trimester reports with a total of 1,096.75 service hours reported!
- ★ I received 71 transmittals with a total of \$24,065.71 raised and/or donated with in kind donations for 3rd Trimester. The outstanding total amount raised for the year will be revealed at the luncheon.
- ★ Thank you to the chapters that completed my 3rd Trimester Challenges. The Winner of the basket for donating to the OYA Scholarship Fund is Rice. The Winner of the gift for raising the most money for YIPA is Rice for raising \$1,925.00.
- ★ The Outstanding LPM for 3rd Trimester is Heidi Benson from Fridley.

Treasurer, Shirley Halgrimson

- △ Thank you to the 24 chapters that submitted a total of 223 transmittals totaling \$58,330.20 during the third trimester. Overall, for the 2014 – 2015 MNWT year we had 35 chapters who submitted transmittals.
- △ Thank you to the 9 chapters that have made Ways & Means donations this year.
- △ The 3rd trimester promotional was Stone House Coffee. Thank you to everyone who participated
- △ Our next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Friday May 22nd at Davanni's in Brooklyn Center. The budget meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. with the finance meeting following at 6:00 p.m.

Parliamentarian, Shelah Heien

- △ Thank you to the 6 chapters that submitted their bylaws and policies for review third trimester. There were a total of 17 chapters and one district that submitted this year. Winner of the party pack is: Champlin.
- △ There are 37 of 65 chapters present; a quorum has been established.
- △ The following bylaw motions were made, seconded and passed:
 - ✓ I move that in Bylaw Article XVII. Section 2, replace "Winter State Convention" with "January 1st." It will then read: "Minnesota members seeking National positions must seek state support no earlier than January 1st by stating their intent to the Chairman of the Board."
 - ✓ I move that the MNWT change bylaw Article IV. Finance Section 1. "Member chapters shall pay annual dues in the amount of \$45.00, of which \$40.00 is state dues and \$5.00 is national dues, for each

chapter member in good standing." to read: "Member chapters shall pay annual dues in the amount of \$50.00, of which \$45.00 is state dues and \$5.00 is national dues, for each chapter member in good standing."

Chairman of the Board, Vicki Rockwell

- △ 25 members attended March Planning to help plan the future of the Minnesota Women of Today.
- △ Thank you to everyone who attended the area meetings.
- △ Year End National Convention will be June 11-14 in Fargo, ND. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, contact me at cob@mnwt.org.
- △ ONTO shirts are available this weekend for \$12. Just a few left, so get them while you can.
- △ Elections for a new State Treasurer and State President will be held after the business meeting.

Executive Director, Katie Castro

- △ Chapter Officer sheets are needed immediately. Online submission via the website is preferred. Link to new Google Doc is on the home page.
- △ The District Officer Sheet is also available online and as a Google Doc.
- △ The first trimester dues billing will be sent out as soon as it is received. Early Bird renewals are due postmarked by July 15th, and final postmark deadline is August 15th; a \$10 late fee is assessed if your renewals are not postmarked by this deadline. New member adds are accepted thru the last day of the trimester, and last minute additions can be emailed if necessary.
- △ MNJOTS 2015 is June 5-7, 2015 at Arrowwood Brainerd Lakes; further information will be handed out at the Special Executive Council meeting on Sunday.
- △ The 990-N postcard for fiscal year 2014-2015 must be filed between June 1, 2015 and September 1st, 2015; MNWT now requires chapters to file by September 1st or a \$10 late fee will be charged; if still not filed by October 1st an additional \$40 fee will be charged. Watch the treasurer CIP and Chapter Mailings for further information; a link to the 990-n filing is also now available online on the Executive Director's webpage.
- △ Conventions
- △ Annual 2016 - still looking for hosts; please see me this weekend with any questions.
- △ Fall State 2016 - no priority bid received; bids now open to the entire state and due August 23, 2015.
- △ Fall State 2015 - information and registration form available online, and will be in MNJOTS CIP packets. Hosted by the Aitkin Women of Today, "Oktoberfest" will be held September 18-20, 2015 at Cragun's in Brainerd, MN.
- △ Winter State 2016 - hosted by the state organization January 29-31, 2016 at the Double Tree Park Place.
- △ A huge thank you to our Web Master and Web Assistant for all of the hours that have been spent on the improvements to the website, the new webinar series, and the new Executive Council Online Ops Manual. If you see these incredibly committed women this weekend, please be sure to thank them!
- △ Chapter Email Addresses - new this year we are introducing official chapter email addresses, for example EdenPrairieWT@mnwt.org. Strong, secure passwords have been assigned for each mailbox. Training on these began at LOTS, and will continue as we move into first trimester. This enables staff to communicate electronically with all chapters using an email address that will not change each year. We also created District distribution lists for DDs to use when communicating with their chapters. Our hope is that this will facilitate electronic communication on all levels of the organization.

Presidential Assistant, Michelle Gag

- △ Thank you to everyone who donated towards Laura's year-end gift.

MNWT Foundation, Jen Kinzer

- △ Become a member of the Sapphire Club. There are two levels \$500 and \$100. You have 3 years to complete your pledge. Other donations are being accepted also. Sustaining membership. Outstanding programs, scholarships, grants, etc.
- △ Tomorrow we will be holding a Lucky Buck Auction to benefit the Extensions Fund.
- △ The Foundation Fundraiser, Stevie Ray's Comedy Cabaret, raised \$463.92.
- △ Have any art you would be willing to donate? The MNWT Foundation is seeking donations for their annual Art Auction at Fall State to benefit the Cheryl L Anderson Scholarship.
- △ Amazon Smile benefits the MNWT Foundation with a percentage of sales. If you shop Amazon, please sign up to be a part of Amazon Smile.
- △ Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday evening, April 6, 2015. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Future Directions Committee Chair, Jean Skroch

- △ Thanks to all that attended the Committee Meetings in March.
- △ The Committee Chairs have been busy.

- △ Are you still asking yourself “What can I do next year to make a difference”?

Membership Management Committee Chair, Heidi Westerlund

- △ Out and About for third Trimester was on March 12th.
△ 2020 by 2020 was introduced at the Area Meetings and will soon be on our website.
△ MMC is currently open. If you are interested, please come see me, and I will explain the position to you.

Marketing Committee Chair, Cathy Shuman

- △ Thank you to all members who attended the state committee meetings on March 21st and to the 2014-15 Marketing subcommittee chairs. Subcommittee chairs for 2015-16 approved at Exec Council meeting.
△ Bid was heard for 2015-16 Statewide Buckets of Sunshine project and Ruff Start Rescue was accepted. Watch for information in the MNJOTS CIP.
△ MNWT will be participating in the 2015 Demand Change Project being held at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront in St. Paul from May 28-30th. This will be in conjunction with Breaking Free, our new 3-year programming area. Thanks to the MNWT Foundation for providing funds for us to be a part of this event, where we will serve as hosts of the Hospitality Suite from Thursday through Saturday and sponsor an information booth at the Victory Concert on Saturday night. We will be looking for volunteers for those and for donations for the hospitality suite. Please check out the registration area for more details and to sign up.
△ Statewide Buckets of Sunshine presentation for Emerge Mothers Academy at the business meeting.

President of the Minnesota Women of Today –Laura Gaylord

Ongoing Business –

- Buckets of Sunshine Project, -Emerge Mother’s Academy- was presented with a check for \$2,100.
- Bylaw Vote

New Business – n/a

Announcements –

- Elections will be held at 10:40am following the meeting
- L&L LPM Amy Pumper read a benediction.
- DD8 Sue Ellen Toppings led the USWT Women of Today Creed.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Submitted by Melissa Baxter-Lesniak, Secretary