

Annual Convention Business Meeting Minutes

Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, MN

Saturday, May 18th, 2019 at 8:30am

Brenda Sather called the 2019 Annual Convention Business Meeting to order at 8:31am. Invocation was given by Melissa Redzuan, LL SPM. Jenise Teske, Wishes and More SPM led the Pledge of Allegiance with District Director, Tawn Hanson leading the USWT Creed. President Brenda introduced the Annual Convention Hosts from District 2 - Andrea Schue from Warroad and Barb Monsrud from Greenbush. Parliamentarian, Barb Zeroth gave the orders of the day. Quorum was established - 31 chapters of 53 chapters in attendance. Minutes from the Winter State Business Meeting on January 25th, 2019 were approved as presented.

Staff Reports:

Secretary, Debbi Benke (secretary@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to those who participated in the book discussion - How to Get Unstuck - Breaking Free From Barriers to Your Productivity, by Matt Perman. The recipient of the Personal Growth Year-End gift basket is Jenise Teske!!
- Thank you to the seven chapter secretaries that attended LOTS Training! Steph Kuehn from Rice, Mary Kay Ficks from new hope, Audrey Spengler from Melrose, Judy Moldenhauer from Sauk Rapids, Julie Spiers from Monticello, Jennifer Wolff from Anoka and Vicky Petrovich from Duluth!
- Thank you to all the chapters that sent in your minutes in 3rd trimester for review. The winner of the drawing is Sharon Scholl from the Monticello chapter. Congratulations!
- I also want to note that I had a goal of 45% of chapters to send in their chapter meeting minutes for review. I didn't reach that goal. However, thanks to all the chapters and districts that did submit their chapter meeting minutes more than one time, I did receive more than 45% of Chapter Meeting Minutes, so thank you! A special Thank You goes out to Sharon Scholl from the Monticello chapter. She sent in every month's minutes (except April and October) for review. Thank you! Please come up and grab your basket!

AVP, Cindy Umland (avp@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the 3 state delegates who completed their year-end entries. The winner for submitting is Mary Sobzack of the Burnsville chapter.
- Thanks to the 10 District Directors that led this year; D1, Ginny Avenson; D2, Liz Weigel, D3, JoJo Larson; D4, Shellie Lemmerman; D5, Michelle Kocak Jones; D7, Tawn Hanson; D8, Mary Kaminski; D10, Alyce Collins, D11, Sheila Geir
- Congratulations to the 4 District Directors for completing their year-end entries.
- 2019-20 District Directors - D1 Contact - Kelly Porter; D2 - Barb Monsrud; D3 - Shanna Pratt; D4 - Sally Koltes; D5 - Mary Hansen; D6 Contact - Melanie Chenoweth; D7 - Jennifer Agur; D8 - Cheryl Watson; D9 - still looking; D10 - Triefecta with Jane, Brenda and Sue and D11 - contacts in place.
- Thank you to everyone who gave me an opportunity to be on state staff for eight years. All of you have left a handprint on my heart and changed my life for the good.

MVP, Anna Nichols (mvp@mnwt.org)

- Welcome the **77** new members this trimester. They join the **327** members who renewed their membership. We had **43** chapters with 75% retention or higher, and **6** chapters with an in-chapter extension, plus **31** chapters sent in renewal information by the early bird deadline. It's time for my serious moment. As a state we hit **82%** retention for 3rd trimester. That is an increase of **3%** from last trimester. We added **77** New Members, another increase from last trimester.
- Let's all welcome Nicky Anderson, the current president of the MNWT Foundation to help with the next presentation. The Mission of the MNWT Foundation is to support the programs of the Minnesota Women of Today by developing financial and non-financial resources. I am honored to have them help present the Membership Retention and Growth Incentives they generously sponsored third trimester. The following chapters earned \$10 State Store Certificates for their efforts in recruitment 3rd trimester; **Duluth and New Hope**. Thirty-one chapters earned \$10 State Store Certificates for their efforts in retention 3rd trimester; **Aitkin, Anoka, Avon, Benson, Big Lake, Brooklyn Park, Byron, Fairmont, Fridley, Glenville, Greenbush, Hanska, Hawley, Longville, Madelia, Maple Grove, Melrose Area, Montevideo, Monticello, Morris Area, New Ulm, Red Lake Falls, Rice, Sauk Rapids, Slayton, St James, Straight River, Thief River Falls, Virginia, White Bear Lake, and Windom**. Four outstanding chapters earned a \$20 State Store Certificate for their efforts in recruitment and retention 3rd trimester; **Burnsville, Eastern Carver County, Staples-Motley Area and Willmar**. Congratulations to all of our chapters earning this special recognition 3rd trimester and Thank you to the Foundation for making it possible.
- We have so many awards to give out this weekend. Congratulations to Duluth for completing my 3rd trimester challenge. **11** chapter(s) sent me photos of their 3rd trimester Membership Monday events, Thank you. The winner of the Membership Fun Box is **Champlin**.
- Every 10th New Member Sent into the Chapter Service Center this trimester received a coffee gift card. Starting where we left off at Winter State Congratulations to Elizabeth F from Longville our 20th member, Sadie H. from Duluth our 30th member, Krisandra D. from Montevideo our 40th member, Kathryn S. from Fairmont our 50th member, Danna B. from St Cloud our 60th member, and Heidi C from Easter Carver County our 70th member. For every 25th member signed there was a drawing for a chapter membership box. Congratulations to the St. Cloud, Burnsville, and Aitkin chapters.
- As an organization we did some amazing things this trimester in membership. All of you in this room contributed to our success. I only have one number left to report for 3rd trimester. We had trimester growth. Please join me in a little chant I have created especially for this third trimester result. "Growth plus 5, Growth plus 5, Growth plus 5."

CMVP, Illeana Miller (cmvp@mnwt.org) given by MVP, Anna Nichols

- Currently there is One (1) chapter on TLC. Thank you to all the hard work of the chapters to recruit members, share on Facebook, and telling friends about Women of Today. It really does make a difference!!!
- Save the Date for a fun-filled day of training and fellowship! The President/State Delegate Retreat will take place on Saturday, August 3 in Monticello. Please keep an eye out for the CMVP chapter information packet from MNJOTS which will have your registration forms (and online www.mnwt.org).

Extensions, Heidi Westerlund (extensions@mnwt.org)

- Congrats to the Membership Team for a fantastic year! One TLC chapter - Whoo hoo!
- There is six (6) solid members for the St. Joseph extension. Help the extensions team find more members. Please recognize Lisa Hahn and Cathy Snyder for all their hard work.
- Get your dollars out for Lucky Buck at the luncheon! The proceeds go to the Extension fund for future chapters for the Minnesota Women of Today!

Internal Vice President, Stephanie Putzier (ivp@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the one (1) District Program Vice President and eight (8) Chapter Program Vice Presidents who submitted a trimester report.
- I received nine (9) USWT STEP I, four (4) USWT STEP II, four (4) USWT STEP III, and nine (9) USWT STEP IV certifications.
- I received three (3) Outstanding Achievement in Programming forms.
- I received zero (0) All-American Chapter certifications.
- Thank you to the following for completing my 3rd Trimester Challenge: Leslie Goble - District 3 Programming VP and Lisa Hahn - District 5 Living & Learning District Program Manager.
- Unfortunately, we did not have anyone bid for an Internal SPM position yesterday. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the 2019-2020 Programming Vice President.

Living and Learning, Melissa Redzuan (ll@mnwt.org)

- For my L&L Challenge "We Live and We Learn" -Spiritual, Family, Friends and Traditions. I challenge chapter members to go out and get to know their neighbors or attend neighborhood gathering and learn about their culture and traditions and complete their certifications.
- I have received 76 L&L Certifications and 93 PEP course chapter certifications, 117 HW Certifications and 3 PD Certifications this trimester.
- My goal is to received 3 entries each of the Effective Speaking and Effective Writing competitions. Unfortunately, I did not receive enough entries for either competition.
- A at the book club discussion "The Life Lists" by Lori Nelson Spielman, Lori Nelson Spielman herself attended the book club discussion and personally autographed a book for President Brenda Sather.

NEWSLET, Stephanie Putzier "Nancy" (newsletter@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the one (1) district and seven (7) chapters that submitted a Trimester Report.
- Thank you to the one (1) district and eight (8) chapters that submitted a newsletter. It was great reading all the great things happening in our chapters!
- Thank you to the seven (7) selfies I received from Winter State. President Brenda loved them all! And the winner is: Pizza Party - Greenbush. Please come forward for your gift.
- Thank you to the eight (8) chapters that submitted an article for our newsletter. The winner is the New Hope chapter.
- Celebrate the accomplishments of last year with some final "Lead the Way" Personals! You can find these throughout convention. If you need more, please contact Stephanie Putzier.
- A HUGE Thank You to Amy Pumper for stepping up to be our 3rd Trimester NEWSLET Editor.
- Thank you to Ginny Avenson for taking convention pictures this weekend.
- The NEWSLET SPM position has been removed, so if you are interested in the Newsletter Editor, please contact the Programming Vice President.

Public Relations, Stephanie Putzier "Paula" (pr@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the one (1) district and fourteen (14) chapters that submitted a Trimester Report.
- Thank you to the three (3) chapters that submitted USWT Buckets of Sunshine.
- Thank you to the one (1) chapter that submitted four (4) USWT Project Reports!
- SAVE THE DATE: Our next Day at the Diamond will be **Saturday, September 7th** against the Cleveland Indians.
- The Public Records SPM position has been removed, so if you are interested in the Public Relations Assistant, please contact the Programming Vice President.

Records and Recognition, Stephanie Putzier "Rachel" (rr@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the one (1) district and four (4) chapters that submitted a Trimester Report.
- Thank you to the four (4) Staff, four (4) District Directors, three (3) State Program Managers, seven (7) Chapter Presidents, and four (4) State Delegates who completed a year-end evaluation. Evaluations were given to your District Directors. A HUGE thank you to all of my judges! - Nancy Dvorcek, Christine Harkess Shortridge, Terri Dahlberg, Jane Hanson, Brenda Tomanek, Jen Kinzer, Jodie Meyer, Amy Pumper, and JoAnn Miller. BONUS: I held a drawing for each group that submits and the winners are: Staff - Cindy Golbuff, District Directors- Tawn Hanson (DD7), SPMs Kathy Hansen (Community Connections SPM), Chapter Presidents - Maggie Holmberg, St. Cloud and State Delegate - Tawn Hanson (New Hope).
- Thank you to the fifteen (15) chapters who submitted SUCCESS Third Trimester. The winner of my drawing is: Sauk Rapids.
- The Records & Recognition SPM position has been removed, so if you are interested in the Success System Coordinator, please contact the Programming Vice President.

External Vice President, Cindy Golbuff (evp@mnwt.org)

- We had one bid for the 2019-2020 SPM position yesterday at our Exec council meeting. Please welcome 2019-2020 Youth of Today SPM - Michelle Kocak Jones. We are still looking for a Community Connections and Priority Area SPM for the 2019-2020 year. Please let me know if you are interested or someone that is interested.
- Thank you so much to the 28 chapters and districts that submitted 85 programming reports completed this year. This was instrumental in meeting our 2018-2019 goals for the MNWT year. The total hours and dollar amounts will be announced at today's luncheon and it will be exciting!
- Make sure to check out the Programming mini CIP. It has a wrap up of this year's SPMs and their goals. In addition it also introduces you to your incoming SPMs. This will help you get your year jump started in programming!
- Many Thanks to you the MNWT membership who made this a successful programming year. It would not be possible without you the members. I am so proud of my External Amazing, All Star SPMs and all the hard work and dedication they have put forth in their programming areas despite difficulties and challenges throughout the year!

Community Connections SPM, Kathy Hansen (cc@mnwt.org)

- My challenge for 3rd Trimester was for the chapters to donate to my programming area. Unfortunately, I did not receive a donation.
- I received 14 different nominations: 5 Joint Venture Awards, 5 Community Impact Awards and 4 Civic or Environmental Project Awards. The Winner of the Joint Ventures Basket Award goes to Coon Rapids chapter - Jeny Ohr, The Winner of the Community Impact Award goes to Fridley chapter - Kathy Matson and the Winner of the Civic or Environmental Award Basket goes to the Monticello chapter - Mercedes Turner.
- Service hours: 2,524 ; Incoming Dollars:\$15,729.01; Incoming IN-Kind Donations- \$3,225; Outgoing Dollars:\$6,854.53; Outgoing In-Kind Donations \$3,425.61 for Third Trimester.

Priority Area-Wishes and More SPM, Jenise Teske (priority-area@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to everyone who made it to the Area Meetings, it was nice to be at all four of them.
- Winner of Trimester 3 challenge - wine & chocolate basket is Cindy Golbuff.
- Trimester 3 fundraiser campaign raised \$102.
- 3rd Trimester: 11 chapters, 2 districts reported 58 hrs, \$215 in-kind donations, \$2,461.07 cash donations to Wishes and More

Women's Wellness SPM, Cindy Golbuff "Wilma" (ww@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to members/chapters/districts who allowed me to visit and promote Women's Wellness. I hope you were encouraged to be more involved with your health and well being.
- Emotional mental health in words and kindness - Winner of Trimester 3 challenge - wine & chocolate basket is Melanie Chenoweth
- Thank you to the 4 districts and 10 chapters that submitted a Trimester Report.
- \$2,557.25 raised for Trimester 3 fundraiser campaign
- 3rd Trimester:10 chapters, 4 districts reported 572 hours, \$135 in-kind donations, \$1,789.25 cash donations to Women's Wellness
- \$1,200 was raised with the Book Drive.

Youth of Today SPM, Sharla Kilen (yt@mnwt.org) given by Cindy Golbuff, EVP

- Thank you to the chapters who have expressed interest in bringing GIRLS LEAD to your community! Even with my Youth of Today year closing, I will continue to work with any chapters interested in this program. Email me at sharlakk@gmail.com for more information, and I can get you in touch with the program facilitator. If you would like a link to the recorded Zoom informational meeting on Girls Lead from April, please email me!
- Chapters start your planning too for your Kids Week activities coming up in August!

Interim Financial Co-Chair, Mary Hansen (fvp@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to 12 chapters and members for participating in Bakeless Bake Sale, funds raised were \$555.00. The winner of the basket is Windom WT chapter.
- Finance members will be selling tickets for a 50/50 raffle at the banquet tonight. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.
- Thank you to all chapters and members for supporting Ways & Means. Winter State Raffle raised \$1,085.00, Massages - \$300.00 and Fudge Sales - \$314 for a total of \$1,699.00.
- We are always looking for new members.
- The next Finance meeting is Friday May 24th, 6:00pm at Monticello – Resurrection Church, everyone is welcome.
- Huge Thank You to State Store Manager, Jane Holmberg, who has done a great job this year and will continue this position for another year! Thank you!
- Brenda - please buy a clear mug, I want to be the first President to sell out of the mugs!

Parliamentarian, Barb Zeroth (parli@mnwt.org)

- **31 out of 53 chapters are present - a quorum was established.**
- Thank you to the six (6) chapters and one (1) districts who submitted their Policies and Bylaws for review.
- The winner for submitting their Policies and Bylaws for review 3rd Trimester is Carrie Atkinson of New Hope.
- The winner for answering questions on the parli Facebook page throughout the year is Lisa Hahn.
- We had a lot of policies and bylaw changes and we will have a couple more later. *Thank you from Brenda*

Chairman of the Board, Shelli Struzyk (cob@mnwt.org)

- Year End National Convention will be held in Duluth, MN June 13-16, 2019. If you are planning on attending please let me know so we can keep you informed of any important information.
- Thank you so much to the my amazing ONTO committee members for this year! Your support and hard work at conventions was greatly appreciated! If you are interested in being on the 2019-2020 ONTO committee, see incoming Chairman of the Board Brenda.
- Thank you to everyone that came out to support the DDs at Area Meetings. We heard from President Brenda as well as getting to hear from our Presidential Candidate.
- After the business meeting today we will be electing a new State President. There will be a 10 minute break between the business meeting and the elections meeting.
- This year I had a redistricting survey that was sent out in many different ways. Unfortunately, I did not receive enough responses to come with a cohesive report. However, we have 2 districts that only have 3 chapters. District 1 and District 9. Per our policies, a district need to have at least 4 chapters. Please think about any thoughts or recommendations as incoming COB Brenda and the 2019-2020 staff work to address this continuing issue.
- Committee Chairs were approved at Exec Council yesterday: Jen Kinzer - Future Directions, Marketing Chair - Daina Mirsch-Wenner and Heidi Westerlund as Membership Management Chair.
- M/S/P (COB/Byron) "I move that we go into the committee of the whole."
- M/S/P (COB/DD07) "I move that we go out of the committee of the whole."
- "What Is a Friend? Friends are good for each other. Treat others the way we wish to be treated. Tomorrow is always a New Dawn and a New Day."

Executive Director, Katie Castro (csc@mnwt.org)

- Don't forget to complete your chapter officer sheets; the link is on the homepage of the website. Remember to indicate if you wish to receive CIPs and/or the State Plan of Action hard copy or electronically.
- I am looking for a host for Fall State 2019; please see me if you are interested. Also, I did not receive a priority bid for Fall State 2020, so bids are now open to the state and are due to me by Friday, August 23rd. I have received a bid for Annual 2020 from the Burnsville chapter; bid will be heard at Fall State 2019.
- Reminder to file your 990N with the IRS and your Annual Registration with the State of MN Secretary of State's office beginning June 1. These must be filed no later than September 1 to avoid late fees.
- Don't forget to stop by Tech 3 A&B on Sunday morning between 8:30-9:00 for help with your chapter email if needed. The Web Team will be there to assist.
- Thank you for your patience and questions on the insurance this year. Do have printed insurance certificates if you would like that for a paper file.. Electronic copies will be emailed out. Going forward it will run March 1st through March 1st. Finance Committee did vote to cover the organization from January 1st to March 7th rather than charging to chapters.

Presidential Assistant, Christine Sibilleau (pa@mnwt.org) given by Secretary, Debbi Benke

- Last call for items! Please see me after this meeting!
- Open invitation to President Brenda's Open House. Please stop by and see the many things, places and friendly faces from the year - we'd love to see you!

Foundation Chair, Nicky Anderson (foundation@mnwt.org)

- The Foundation is kicking off a Service Auction drawing this weekend. You can buy tickets at the Foundation table or from Foundation members. We are kicking it off this weekend and the drawing will happen at Fall State 2019.
- Would you like the opportunity to win a diamond necklace and bracelet? You can be entered into the drawing for the Diamond Platinum fundraiser with a contribution of \$40 or more. Only 70 spots are available and each spot will cost you only \$40.00. If you would like to double your chances at winning the necklace and bracelet, you may increase your spot to \$70.00. This fundraiser is only available for one year, with the drawing being held at Winter State 2020 in honor of the 70th Anniversary for MNWT. Please see foundation chair Nicky Anderson if you would like to purchase a spot, visit the foundations table this weekend or talk to CMVP Illeana or COB Shelli to purchase your spot.
- The foundation will be sponsoring a Gala Fundraiser in October 2020 in Brainerd. More info will be coming out on this but Mark Your Calendars. This will be a fun night to celebrate all the Foundation has accomplished and raise money for all the Foundation does to support MNWT.
- At today's Luncheon we will be holding three Lucky Bucks baskets for extensions.
- The Cheryl L Anderson Scholarship deadline is July 1st. 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 August 10th, 2019, 10:00 in Rice at the Lion's Building Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Future Directions Chair, Jen Kinzer (fdc@mnwt.org)

- Programming Policy changes were voted on by the Executive Council yesterday, they were all approved. Thanks to the Programming Task Force and to Steph for chairing it and thanks for all the work by a lot of different people. There are three new positions: PR Assistant, The SUCCESS System Coordinator and the Newsletter Editor. If you are interested, please contact Brenda Sather.
- Wednesday Night Webinar will be held June 26th. PR / Marketing: Buckets of Sunshine - 6pm
- The next FDC meeting will be held on Saturday, July 27th FDC: 1pm somewhere in / near White Bear Lake.
- New members/guests are welcome at all FDC meetings. We especially need Task Force and Subcommittee members.
- Programming Task Force has also been working on Outstanding Awards Program, recommendation is to limit the nominations to 11th to 12th graders instead of 9th through 12th. There is an updated nomination form as well. The Women Who Impact Award is being looked at and is recommended to have 3 nominations instead of 3 different areas. There is will be changes to a PDC award, ex.: looking at criteria. Looking at the strategic plan. Looking at current programming structure and listen to the membership.

Marketing Chair, Daina Mirsch-Wenner (marketing@mnwt.org)

- Special thanks to all the hard work Shellie Matthes did for [Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies!](#) Our state raised \$4,124.92 in Service Hours and In-Kind donations, and New Hope, Fairmont, Coon Rapids, White Bear Lake, Byron, Burnsville, Avon, Albany, Melrose, District 4, New Ulm, District 6, STMA, Champlin, Easter Carver County, District 7, and District 8 supplied donations and/or freezers to depots across the state.
- Our 2019-2020 Statewide BOS Project is [Sweet Dreams for Kids](#), which will be chaired by Wendy Homyak. Be sure to check out her MNJOTS CIP to get your chapter involved as soon as possible! There are some fun event ideas she will have for your chapters!
- The Marketing Committee will be helping next year's COB with the 2019-2020 MNWT 70th Anniversary Celebration. Look for press release templates, and project ideas on how you can help MNWT celebrate 70 years strong!
- On **Founders Day - July 1st**, you will see a new look, layout and functionality to www.mnwt.org! One thing to note is that the new website is geared to non-members. so the homepage will be more informational than full of announcements. To see the information you are used to seeing as a member, click the Member Home icon at the top of each webpage (next to the search bar). Thank you to those who were our BETA Testers! Your feedback was priceless.
- Please use #mnwtannual2019 when posting pictures to Social Media for this convention.

Membership Management Chair, Tevyan Sorensen (mmc@mnwt.org)

- Welcome to the 10 first timers joining us. Please turn in your books at the luncheon. An overall winner & a spotlight winner will be announced at the luncheon. Perhaps you will be the member to have their next convention paid for like the Winter State First Timer Katelyn Zeroth from the Rice Chapter.
- We welcomed 77 new members in Trimester 3. Each received a new member packet with a \$5 coupon to the State Store mailed to their home. Thank you to the ladies at Closeout South with your help sending these out.
- As you are planning your summer fun with your chapter, I would like to remind you to take advantage of these upcoming occasions you could use for recruiting & retention: National Creativity Day - May 30th, National Iced Tea Month - June, National Handshake Day - June 27th, USWT Founder's Day - July 1st, National Give Something Away Day - July 15th, USWT Friendship Day - August 4th, Kids Week - August 18th-24th, & National Just Because Day - August 27th. Any day is a great day to plan something fun!
- Give committees a try - come to a meeting to check it out! It's super easy. You can make a difference on a committee!

President Brenda reminds us that leadership is not defined by a position. Leadership is instead defined by actions. Brenda challenges us to ask ourselves this question: "What abilities do I have?" Go out and "**Lead the Way.**"

Ongoing Business:

M/S/P (FDC/St. Cloud) "I move to strike "NEWSLET Editor" in Article XV. Section 2. and replace with "Executive Director. This would now read "The Executive Director shall be permitted to enter into a contract for the publication of the NEWSLET in the name of the Minnesota Women of Today with prior approval of the contract by the Finance Committee.""

M/S/P (FDC/St. Cloud) "I move to strike "Internal Vice President" in Article XV. Section 3. and replace with "State Secretary". This would now read "The NEWSLET Editor shall be permitted to enter into a contract agreement in the name of the Minnesota Women of Today with NEWSLET sponsors and advertisers with the approval of the State President, State Secretary, and Accountant."

New Business:

None

Benediction was given by Melissa Redzuan, Living and Learning SPM; and Parliamentarian, Barb Zeroth led the US Women of Today Creed. President Brenda Sather adjourned the 2019 Annual Business Meeting at 10:29 am.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Debbl Benke, 2018/2019 State Secretary