

Minnesota Women of Today



New Member Orientation

Mission Statement

The mission of the Minnesota Women of Today is to help women improve their own lives and the lives of the people in the communities around them. This organization shall be a place in which young women are actively encouraged to become involved and hold positions of leadership.

The organization shall provide opportunities for all members:

- ▶ To contribute to their communities by raising funds for worthy causes and by providing services or education to benefit community members.
- ▶ To develop and to foster skills and talents related to becoming successful individuals, interacting well with other people, and becoming capable leaders.
- ▶ To develop friendships and to find personal support within the organization.

Minnesota Women of Today Creed

We, the Women of Today are Service, Growth and Fellowship. We believe that through us great lessons can be learned, worthy deeds performed, and the hand of fellowship extended to millions of women everywhere. May we leave the world a better place because we lived and served within it.

Our History

- ▶ We began as the Mrs. Jaycees organization in 1950 in Minnesota changing our name to Jaycee Women in 1979.
- ▶ We became an independent organization, the Women of Today, in 1985.

United States

Women of Today (USWT)

- ▶ The USWT Creed:

We, The United States Women of Today, are dedicated to our community and nation, committed to strengthening our individual talents, and stand united by our friendship and belief in the future.

- ▶ The national organization has 14 member states.

- ▶ There are two national conventions held each year: Mid-Year and Year-End.

State Organization

- ▶ We maintain a strong support system by providing individual chapters with educational information, fund-raising ideas and membership encouragement.
- ▶ Membership
 - Open to all persons over the age of 18, male or female.
 - Active chapters need a minimum of seven (7) members under the age of 40.
- ▶ State dues are \$40 and National dues are \$5. Some chapters also have chapter dues.
- ▶ The State NEWSLET is sent to all members and subscribers 3-4 times a year.
- ▶ State conventions are held 3 times a year, hosted by different chapters around the state.

Districts

- ▶ Chapters throughout the state are organized into districts to promote communication and mutual support.
- ▶ We currently have 14 districts made up of 4-10 chapters each.
- ▶ District meetings are held a minimum of 3 times a year as scheduled by the individual districts.
- ▶ District meetings are a good way to network with other chapters and share new project ideas.

Chapters

The local board may consist of:

- **President** – plans and runs the meetings.
- **State Delegate** – keeps the chapter informed about district, state and national events.
- **Internal and External Vice President (IVP/EVP)** – supervises programming areas the local chapter chapter supports.

- ▶ **Membership Vice President (MVP)** – provides support for the chapter's membership.
- ▶ **Secretary** – records the minutes of the business meetings and handles correspondence.
- ▶ **Treasurer** – manages chapter finances.
- ▶ **Parliamentarian** – promotes efficient business meetings through Robert's Rules of Order.

Local Program Managers (LPMs)

- ▶ Supervised by the Internal and External Vice President.
- ▶ Each LPM oversees a programming area by passing on information to the chapter. Reports activity to the District and State Program Managers.
- ▶ The programming made available to the local chapters is unique to our organization.
- ▶ Chapter Information Packets (CIPs) provide ideas for new projects or inform your chapter about a new foundation or program.

Internal Programming

Internal areas benefit the local chapter and its members. The following are the internal areas which the state organization supports:

- **Records and Recognition** – maintains the history of the chapter and recognizes the hard work of the membership.
- **Ways and Means** - fundraising done to support the chapter.
- **Living and Learning** - covers the topics of personal enrichment, civic awareness and more.
- **Public Relations** - promoting your chapter in your community.
- **NEWSLET** - your state and chapter newsletter.

External Programming

External areas benefit the community through fund-raising and education activities. The following are the external areas which the state organization supports:

- ▶ **Community Connections** - assists and encourages chapters to become involved in their local communities.
- ▶ **Priority Programming Area** -- this area changes every three years by vote of the general membership. (Currently Can Do Canines – 2009 - 2012)
- ▶ **Women's Wellness** - promoting the health and well-being of women.
- ▶ **Youth of Today** - promotes youth programming and works with youth organizations.

Membership Tips

- ▶ Regular meeting attendance at general meetings is strongly encouraged. Attendance keeps you informed about chapter activities and projects.
- ▶ Whatever your level of involvement, we are glad to have you! Every member is important to the chapter.
- ▶ Explore new avenues of programming or projects that interest you. Get involved - join a committee or try chairing a project.
- ▶ Ask questions. We want to ensure you feel welcomed in the chapter.
- ▶ Spread your wings. Try something new. Challenge yourself.

Membership Tips

- ▶ Use your chapter newsletter. It is a great communication tool! There may be more programming information here that was not shared at the meeting.
- ▶ Bring up new ideas at a meeting in the form of a motion. Begin with "I move that ..." and go on to state your idea. Someone else will need to second your motion before it is brought for a vote by the chapter.
- ▶ Bring a friend to an event or a meeting. They are always welcomed.
- ▶ Reporting at meetings:
 - Be prepared before the meeting and summarize!
 - Write it down for the secretary. She will appreciate the help.
 - Be creative and have fun with your reports! (Use a prop, try a skit!)

Involvement in the Women of Today is a very fulfilling way to achieve service to your community, grow as an individual and gain the friendship of women who share similar interests through the fellowship of the Women of Today.

**Thank you for joining the
Minnesota Women of
Today!**



Minnesota Women of Today Certificate of Completion



New Member Orientation

Name

Chapter

Chapter President signature

date