



# Minnesota Women of Today Winter State CIP "Finding Your Piece"

Jenise Teske  
612-735-0053  
[cob@mnwt.org](mailto:cob@mnwt.org)  
[www.mnwt.org](http://www.mnwt.org)



## Welcome

Hello Past Presidents.

Thank you to the wonderful members who participated in my 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester Past President Challenge. As we enter the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester, it is a time for celebrations and new beginnings—celebrations of your current Chapter President and a new chapter board. Show your appreciation and thanks to current board members for what they have accomplished. Don't compare. Just show support. It is our unique skills and abilities that make us great!

From my heart to yours,

*Jenise*

## Past President Challenge

### The Challenge:

Send me a quick email to share the following:

- 1) How do you feel your year as Past President went?
- 2) Did it get easier as the year progressed?
- 3) Were there new ideas your Chapter President accomplished that impressed you?
- 4) Did you personally grow this year?

(Participating gets you a chance to win a gift from me at Annual.) What we learn when we step back and allow others to take charge may surprise us. You can find me at [cob@mnwt.org](mailto:cob@mnwt.org). I am excited to hear from you.

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### MNWT Calendar

#### **February**

- 10<sup>th</sup>—March planning recommendations due
- 28<sup>th</sup>—MNWT Webinar

#### **March**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>—March Planning
- 16<sup>th</sup>—Statewide Committees
- 23<sup>rd</sup>—Region I meeting

#### **April**

- 6<sup>th</sup>—Region II meeting

#### **May**

- 4<sup>th</sup>—LOTS
- 17-19<sup>th</sup>—Annual Convention

#### **June**

- 7,8<sup>th</sup>—USWT Year-End convention, Des Moines, IA

*"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of your life is to give it away" .... Pablo Picasso*

# SUCCESSION PLANNING PART III

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The mission statement of the Minnesota Women of Today is:

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:

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

Note that leadership is highlighted twice in our organization's mission. While not everyone joins the organization to become a leader, all members should be offered the opportunity and encouraged to develop those skills. One way we do this is through succession planning when you take the time to look at your members and realize that everyone is capable of growth and leadership opportunities. If you work with them to help support their path, we all benefit.

If you are struggling to fill positions on your board and, in general, in your chapter, there are three things to consider: First, can a position be simplified with a different position, or eliminated? And in doing that, would the support given to your local community change? Second, what are you doing to support leadership within your chapter? Does your chapter have a succession plan? What is preventing members from taking on President, Treasurer, Secretary positions? How can you better train and support members in feeling self-confident and empowered within a new position? Third, Do you have a succession plan? If your answer is no, create one. Part One and Two of the Succession Planning information is a great place to start.

## Responding to a Toxic Member

We all have the potential for "that" toxic member without even knowing we are. Grace and kindness should always be extended, even when it is not returned. Why?

When we offer support without publicly shaming someone, we give them the opportunity to reflect and reconnect without unnecessary baggage, guilt, and humiliation.

**At a chapter meeting:** Sit by this member. If they go off topic, gently refocus them.

**An email:** Take it offline. Either do not respond or respond to only them. Do not make it personal. Focus on facts and events.

**A phone call:** It is okay to say "I do not appreciate the way you are talking to me. We need to end this conversation and regroup when everyone is a little calmer."

As Chairman of the Board, you do not govern your chapter. You support your President. Do not make assumptions or take over a situation. Talk with your President, offer to help, and follow her lead.

## SUPPORTING YOUR PRESIDENT

### FAQ

#### **Q: When might conflict arise?**

Conflicts may occur when the person or professional interests of a member are potentially at odds with the chapter's best interests. Conflicts responded to poorly, often result in loss of the other members' confidence in the chapter to support its general members and may damage the chapter's reputation.

#### **Q: How do I handle conflict in the chapter?**

- Talk with the other person.
- Focus on behavior and events, not on personalities.
- Listen carefully.
- Identify points of agreement and disagreement.
- Prioritize the areas of conflict.
- Develop a plan to work on each conflict.
- Follow through on your plans.
- Build on your success.

## STATEWIDE COMMITTEES



### Regional Meetings!!

Our Regional meetings are coming up soon. Please plan on joining your District Directors for:

- President Amy speaking
- An interactive membership training
- A fun activity planned by your DDs
- Food and mingling
- A 2024-2025 President Caucus
- And more...

#### Region I (Areas 1 & 2) (Districts 2,3,4,5)

- ✓ Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Bemidji (see flyer)

#### Region II (Areas 3 & 4) (Districts 6,7,8,9)

- ✓ Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, Mankato (see flyer)

### MNWT Committees are for Everyone!

Join me at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Statewide Committee meetings on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration starts at 9:30am and the meetings start at 10am. The meetings will be held at Star Bank in Eden Prairie (250 Eden Prairie Center Dr 55344). You can RSVP to COB, a committee chair, or just show up. There is a requested free will donation to cover costs of lunch. The Membership meeting starts at 10am, the Marketing meeting starts at 11am, followed by lunch and the Future Directions meeting starts at 1pm.

The best way to participate in Statewide Committee meetings is in person. Zoom links will be available by request for those who cannot attend in person. However, there is limited participations. Unfortunately, due to the size and style of meeting, you may not always hear everything shared.

### March Planning 411

#### Q: What is March Planning?

March Planning is the yearly meeting where members come together to start the process of implementing organizational changes for the next year and beyond. The meeting is open to all members of MNWT. All suggestions received through March Planning requests are considered at this time. Items discussed here are prioritized and moved to the appropriate statewide committees to begin the implementation process. If you are passionate about progress, make time for this meeting.

#### Q: Who can submit March Planning Recommendations?

All members of MNWT can submit a recommendation. Often times in groups, we discuss how things could be streamlined or updated. We become frustrated that our discussions lead down the wrong path. March Planning Recommendations is the right Path. If you see a need, please submit a recommendation. All recommendations are due no later than February 1, 2024.

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/jfCf2uiM5fWb6x09cZawm>

#### Q: Where/When/How Much is March Planning?

March Planning will be held at the Boy Scout office in Sartell (1191 Scout Drive, Sartell 56377) on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Registration will start at 9:30am and the meeting will begin at 10:00am. A soup and salad lunch will be provided. Early registration is due February 21 for \$8; late registration is \$15 and is due by February 29. Registration at the door is \$20

**“Create the highest, grandest vision possible for your life, because you become what you believe.”  
.....Oprah Winfrey**

# ONTO National

## USWT Year-End Convention

**Date:** Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, 2024

**Location:** Des Moines, Iowa

**Cost:** \$100 early registration (May 1), \$115

**Rooms:** \$114 + tax per night

### **How to Register:**

<https://sites.google.com/view/uswt/News-Events/USWT-Conventions>

**What to Expect:** Year-End is a celebration of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimesters, PLUS 23-24 year-end recognition. Events start Friday afternoon and run through late Saturday evening. Those attending will have an opportunity to see the 23-24 President give her final speech and participate in the election of the new 24-25 USWT President.

## USWT Bucket of Sunshine (BOS)

At each USWT Convention, President Amy will present a donation for the current USWT BOS project.

As a state we collect items for the USWT Year-End BOS Project at Annual.

The service project for the Year-End meeting will be collecting items from the Wish list for Children & Families of Iowa. This organization has touched lives across Iowa since 1888, with 99 counties reached, 4617 children put in safe homes thanks to foster care and family support services, and 37794 individuals served in 2022-23.

Items needed include baby formula, diapers & wipes, full-size toiletry items, new personal care items, bedding items, paper goods, disposable dinnerware, and cleaning products. [See enclosed flyer for more details.]

**Thank you for All You Do!**

**In the journey of self-discovery, the missing piece is often what leads to our true purpose in life.**

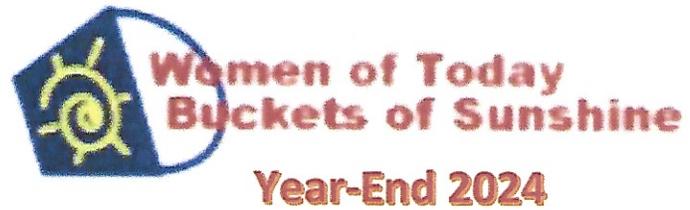
## **2023-2024 ONTO Shirts**

A limited number of President Amy's ONTO shirts are available and will be for sale at the ONTO table at Annual Convention this May. These fabulous shirts have President Amy's logo on them and wearing them is a fun way to remember and celebrate this outstanding year as Minnesota Women of Today members.

A few places you can wear your shirt:

- At National Convention, in June
- The beach
- While shopping
- As pajamas
- When you go out for lunch or drinks with Amy
- A chapter meeting
- Anywhere at any time!





Children & Families of Iowa (CFI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families throughout Iowa. Headquartered in Des Moines with offices in Ankeny, Fort Dodge, Osceola and Ottumwa, CFI provides services, such as: domestic violence prevention and intervention, teen programs, family support, early childhood development, mental health and substance abuse.

As part of their Domestic Violence Services, they sponsor **SAFE SHELTER**, Iowa's largest domestic violence shelter and the only one in Polk County (where Des Moines, the site of the USWT 2024 Year-End is), offering a safe place to heal and begin building a life free from violence.

Janice Lane Schroeder, CEO, LMSW, for CFI has noted they are excited about the opportunity to have **SAFE SHELTER** serve as our **USWT BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE** recipient for 2024 (as we also worked with them in 2021!)

Between now and the convention, June 7-8, 2024, ALL USWT members are encouraged to collect items from their WISH LIST - and bring to year-end. Janice and/or a representative has been invited to our Saturday luncheon to tell us about their organization, especially the shelter, and collect all the donations.

NOTE: You may also make a monetary donation: Send check made out to *United States Women of Today* and note in memo line: *2024 Buckets donation*. All monetary donations should be sent to USWT Treasurer Jane Hanson. She will note the total monetary donation and send a check for that amount to the shelter. [For further information, check out their web-site: [cfiowa.org](http://cfiowa.org), click on "programs-Domestic Violence Services"; or contact: Michele Thompson, USWT 2024 Year-End, chair, [kentsmom@yahoo.com](mailto:kentsmom@yahoo.com)]

### **SAFE SHELTER, Domestic Violence Shelter WISH LIST**

#### **\*\*Personal Care items including**

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Deodorant
- bath wash
- Toothpaste
- Lotion
- haircare products
- make up
- masks.

#### **\*\*Child Care items:**

- diapers-all sizes
- Wipes
- Formula

#### **\*\*Bedding/linens**

- Twin Sheet sets bedding
- Twin comforters or Blankets
- Standard Pillows
- Bath towels.
- Wash cloths

#### **\*\*Misc**

- Paper goods
- disposable dinnerware
- cleaning products



# REGION 1 MEETING

For Districts 2, 3, 4 and 5 - All MNWT members welcome

Meet 2023-24 President Candidates and Prospective Staff . Training . Lucky Bucks . Chips & Dips Lunch



Saturday,  
March 23  
2024



**Bemidji, Fusion**  
2405 Hannah Ave NW,  
Bemidji



Registration  
9:30AM  
Meeting 10AM

**Scan QR code to RSVP**

or go to <https://forms.gle/67Fe7aFPXTAfUdPs9>

**\$10 - Lunch and Meeting / OR / \$1 - Meeting only**

Payment due at meeting, payable to District 2 Women of Today.

**RSVP by March 15th for a chance to win Early-Bird Gift Basket!**

*Members responsible to pay for RSVPs not cancelled by March 15th.*



**Questions? Email: [dd02@mnwt.org](mailto:dd02@mnwt.org) or [dd03@mnwt.org](mailto:dd03@mnwt.org)**



[www.mnwt.org/fellowship/events.php](http://www.mnwt.org/fellowship/events.php)

# Even the Moon can't block the FUN in Region 2!

Region 2 meeting

April 6, 2024

Crossroads Campus Ministry  
331 Dillon Avenue  
Mankato, MN 56001

9:30 am - registration & light breakfast

10:00 am - Meeting

Cost: \$7

Lunch will be sloppy joes, Sun Chips, pasta salad and Cesar salad.  
Please let us know of any food allergies/dietary restrictions

Registration due by March 15 to Connie Fink - [dd06@mnwt.org](mailto:dd06@mnwt.org)  
checks payable and sent to:  
Connie Fink  
9311 Golden Pond Lane  
Monticello, MN 55362

Contact Jane Hanson with any questions  
507-317-0951 or [packerjane55@gmail.com](mailto:packerjane55@gmail.com)

We will be collecting donations for the Campus Cupboard food shelf. Needed items are:

- Cooking Oil
- Tuna/Salmon
- Chicken Packets
- Diced Tomatoes
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Jelly/Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruit
- Flour/Sugar
- Paper Towels/Toilet Paper
- Personal Care items