

# MNWT Chapter Mailing

**December 2023/  
January 2024  
Issue 5**



**Staff & SPM News  
Foundation News  
Committee News  
Tech Pages  
Exec Council Minutes**

I have hidden four blue w's (this one doesn't count) in this issue of the Chapter Mailing. Find all four and email me at [secretary@mnwt.org](mailto:secretary@mnwt.org) with where you found them, and you will be entered into a drawing for a magical prize at Winter State!

Dear Minnesota Women of Today,

When I think of this time of the year, I think of all the celebrations of different holidays. I think of the children excited for Santa to come, the family get-togethers and traditions, and gatherings with friends. Then I think about the traditions your chapters have to help others and celebrate as a group.

I have heard of Adopt-A-Family events, Sharing Trees, Festival of Trees, serving meals, bingo, shopping events and so much more. What a fun time to share with others, making their holidays something that might not be without your help. I personally love decorating a tree for the Hiawatha Homes Foundation each year as I know it is helping to raise funds for homes for individuals with challenges. No matter what your chapter does, know that you are making an impact in your community.

I also think of the fun ways members get together to celebrate – potlucks, dinners out, fancy parties, fun meetings and more. It is a great way to get to know each other better and celebrate the many holidays our members observe. I hope you take time to learn about the different holidays to understand what others celebrate.

No matter what you celebrate, celebrate you and your chapter and the wonderful opportunities you make available to others and take time to share that with others. Women of Today is such an awesome organization, and we should be sharing it wherever we are. Spread the joy and celebrate!

Have a wonderful holiday season!

In friendship,

Amy Pumper



## *Leave A Little Sparkle Wherever You Go....* **Be a DISTRICT DIRECTOR in 2024-25**



The role of District Director is a very important link in our organization. Our districts need to have someone overseeing and leading them each year. This leader role is vital in the success of our local chapters and district activities!

Being a district director can be a rewarding experience full of personal growth, leadership training and an increase in your self-confidence. Strong commitment, a willingness to learn, and the belief in yourself and in the organization will help you fulfill the duties and enjoy the position of District Director.

### **What does a District Director do?**

**Excite** your district members:

- ❖ Offer challenges for them to achieve
- ❖ Share new ideas for projects, recruitment, chapter management
- ❖ Plan fun, motivational visits with your chapters
- ❖ Promote membership nights, recruitment and retention ideas
- ❖ Promote attendance at conventions and district meetings

**Inform** them:

- ❖ Keeping them informed about deadlines and due dates of all state meetings and events
- ❖ Work with your chapters in getting renewals in on time
- ❖ Promote state and national programming
- ❖ About everything MNWT and USWT

**Assist** and support chapters and members:

- ❖ Trimester board meetings (if applicable)
- ❖ Help presidents with problem solving
- ❖ Be the voice for your chapters on Executive Council
- ❖ Identify problems in your chapters and initiate action resolve (there are many resources to help you out!)

### **Why now?**

As the District calendar has shifted with the first meeting being held in June, the earlier your district has a director in place, the smoother the transition will go. Election of the director position will take place at your district meeting in March/April or can take place at Annual Convention (May) if the position is not filled by then.

Making the decision early is helpful, as you will receive information from the AVP and current DD to help you get started and prepare for your new year. There are many rewards to holding this position, including improving your speaking, writing, communication, organizational, motivational and leadership skills. Plus, it is so much FUN!

### **Who can be a DD?**

To be elected as District Director, you must be a member of MNWT for at least 2 years and in good standing. You will need the backing of your chapter and you shall have served as a local officer for at least one year.

If you have any questions on this information, or are interested in getting additional information, contact Shirley Viesselman, Administrative Vice President at [avp@mnwt.org](mailto:avp@mnwt.org) or 320-298-5162.

***“Leave A Little Sparkle Wherever You Go”***  
**Shirley Viesselman, AVP**



Hello, To All MVPs!

Did you know you can earn cash and prizes from the Foundation and the MNWT Membership Vice President (MVP)?

**Here are MVP Challenges:** Do any of these- email [mvp@mnwt.org](mailto:mvp@mnwt.org) with a short description of what you did. (One sentence is fine) to be entered into the MVP Challenge - the chance of winning a Prize at Winter State!

1. Review the 5 Traits of a Health Chapter with your chapter or board.
2. Hold a Renewal Ceremony in Trimester 2 (include members that renewed in Trimester One if you did not do it.) Make your members feel special.
3. Hold an orientation. No new members in Tri 2? No Problem! We always have something to learn about Women of Today. Share "One Thing I Bet You Didn't Know About Women of Today" at a meeting or Newsletter or whatever.
4. Hold an M Event. You know how to do this! If not, ask me! I am full of ideas! You know how to get a hold of me.

**MNWT Foundation Rebates:** Given out at Winter State.

1. For each Step 1 and or Step 2 completed in Trimester 2 by a member who has joined within the 2023 calendar year, the **chapter will receive a \$5 State Store Gift Card.**
2. Chapters that achieve Growth + 3 or 4 will receive a **\$30 rebate.**
3. Chapters that achieve Growth +5 or more will receive a **\$50 rebate.**

**2nd Tri Membership Success Points:**

1. New Member Adds- 25 points each.
2. Help extend a chapter- 50 points each.
3. Pay renewals by Early Bird- 25 points.
4. Trimester Retention 75% plus- 25 points- 100%- 100 points.
5. Trimester Growth - 50 points.
6. Do a local membership orientation(existing or new members)- 25 points.
7. 10 points for each member completing STEP 1-4 certifications.

So many ways to get rewarded for what you do all the time for your chapter!

***"Believe in Your Vision"***  
***Glorie Balfanz, MVP***

## ***Are you looking for ways to raise the roof on your chapter participation?***

Chapter member participation is one of the most important factors in attracting new members and retaining existing members. So here are few tips for fun and engaging chapter meetings.



- Start on time. This shows respect for all who are in attendance and came on time.
- Have an organized agenda. Provide copies for guests at a minimum.
- Have the words for the MNWT and USWT pledges on the agenda or available in the room so everyone can participate.
- Use nametags. Encourage members to wear their nametag by rewarding with a piece of candy or some other small token.
- Use an icebreaker. Have members say their name and answer a quick icebreaker to get to know something about your membership.
- Move discussion along. Table committee work & don't be afraid to refocus the meeting if it is drifting off course.
- Have multiple presenters. Allow for chapter members to report on either recaps or upcoming activities. If you attended something with several members, ask one of the others to give a recap rather than you as the President or VP. Be sure to let them know you are going to ask them to tell about the event.
- Recognize your members for their efforts.
- Bring the positivity! Energy attracts more energy.
- End on time. Again this shows respect for all who are in attendance and came on time.
- Offer attendance incentives. This could be a door prize, snacks, or other recognition for bringing another member or guest. Be creative.

Make plans to attend these upcoming opportunities to enhance your membership knowledge.

- **Membership Roundtable** at Winter State Convention. We will be discussing Engagement and how you can use the STEP program to encourage participation.
- The **Regional Meetings** will have membership training on Orientation, Activation and Retention.

### ***“Building for Success” Tevyan Sorensen, CMVP***



Annual Extensions basket themes have been decided, this year we will have an “Outdoor Fun” basket with games and accessories to enjoy fun in the sun or a night around the campfire! In addition, there will be a “Treasure Chest of Goodies” that will hold refreshments and fun for whoever wins it!

If you'd like to donate to make these baskets a success, please reach out to your Extensions Director, Andrea Schue at [extensions@mnwt.org](mailto:extensions@mnwt.org). You will be entered into a drawing at annual for any donation I receive.

### ***“Arrrgh You Ready To Talk About Women of Today” Andrea Schue, Extensions Director***



December/January focus for Community Connections is taking those FREINDSHIPS from October and the RELATIONSHIPS we built during November and turning them into PARTNERSHIPS! Let's take these new partnerships and use them to create new projects that we can submit for "Project of the Trimester."

My Goal for December and January is I would like chapters to nominate their chapter for "Civic or Environmental Project Award," "Impact Award," or turn in a nomination for "Joint Ventures Award." Please submit these with a cover sheet before April 15, 2024.

Chapters who submit a nomination for "Project of the Trimester," "Civic or Environmental Award," "Impact Award," or "Joint Ventures Award" will go in a drawing for a Basket.

If you need help or ideas for projects, please give me a call at 763.464.3678. I am also available to help if you have questions while filling out your nomination awards.

***"Keep Building Those Ships!"***  
***Sandy Greninger, Community Connections***



Thank you to the 5 chapters who submitted OYA nominations!! The awards committee will be evaluating the nominations, and the scholarships will be awarded at Winter State Convention. Good luck to all the nominees.



Our Minnesota winter is upon us with daylight getting shorter, temperatures colder, and youth homelessness increasing. Shelters are experiencing greater shortages in staffing, volunteers, and resources. That is why I have challenged chapters to do a YT project to volunteer their time, meals, money, or items to youth shelters in their area. But we have an even greater challenge at this time of year. The Holidays can be a lonely time for youths who are already experiencing loss and loneliness. Many chapters are adopting holiday families or giving to families during the Holidays. My challenge to chapters is to check homeless shelters and agencies for their holiday wish lists. Giving to this cause is much needed. Chapters should email me of any special giving to homeless youth programs during holidays, or any YT project they have done. Recognition and incentives will be given at Winter State Convention.

I am always looking for nominations for Project of the Trimester and Outstanding Program Manager

***"Youth Building Their Future"***  
***Sandy Trossen, Youth of Today***

Hello Friends!

Crescent Cove's drive through event is coming up fast! Thank you to all the chapters who have donated this far! We have plenty of items to give away. Keep an eye for photos on Facebook and Email. We are going to start shifting our focus to the Gala in January. To make things easier we are going to combine donations into one basket. Please make checks out to MNWT and in the area where you can make a note write Gala Basket. Also, a couple of chapters have requested to do a basket on their own. That is 100% ok too! Just make sure you let me know so I can get you entered into a drawing for a basket at Winter State. It's going to be a good one! Also don't forget to nominate your Project of the Trimester for Priority Area. I can't wait to see what you all have been up to! Keep up the great work and enjoy the holidays!!!



***“Make a Ripple Change the World”***  
***Sara Rocksted, Priority Area (Crescent Cove)***



Ladies, Our Red Dress Campaign will continue through Winter State. The campaign is a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Donate as little as \$2.00 in exchange for a Red Dress Pin. Donations larger than the minimum \$2.00 have been received and all donations are welcome! Watch for my table at Connect on Friday evening at Winter State, January 26, 2024. It is my goal to have one hundred (100) members wearing a red dress pin by February.

Our recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness continues until December 31, the end of the trimester. If you have not done so already, please wear purple to your chapter meeting, have a picture taken, and send it to me at [ww@mnwt.org](mailto:ww@mnwt.org). In addition, you may collect hygiene products to be donated to a local shelter. Send me a report about your collection – dollar value and picture to [ww@mnwt.org](mailto:ww@mnwt.org)

At the time that I am writing this, the deadline to receive nominations for the Lois M. Christensen Women Who Impact Award has been extended to November 15th. I am hoping to receive a few nominations!!

Looking forward to Tri III, we will be talking about nutrition again. Of course, we hope that everyone is eating healthily already. However, the new year usually means reassessing our habits. I am encouraging you to take a look at your individual diets and where you can improve your own heart health through what you eat.

My own chapter is starting something where we write down what we eat, and why we ate it – was I hungry, bored, stressed? We eat for very different reasons often without realizing it. Some are joining in the activity hoping to lose weight, some are just trying to eat healthier, and personally I am hoping to achieve both. I am not promoting any certain diet but better nutrition. My goal is to have a more colorful plate!

That said, with the holidays ahead, please do not deprive yourselves of the holiday meal! Thanksgiving and Christmas come once a year so let yourself enjoy the holiday meals including pies and cookies. When the day has come and gone you can resume watching your calories.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

***“The Beat Goes On”***  
***Sharon Bergquist, Women's Wellness***



We are nearing the end of Trimester 2, and I want to “Thank” all of you who have sent in their MNWT Living & Learning Certifications. I sure hope you and/or your chapter has kept a copy of them. The reason I state that is, I have received a handful which are lacking the correct number of items to complete the Certification. This is a reminder to all of you to double check yours and resend them to me. If they need correcting, the Tri 2 deadline is Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks!

As promised, I am now switching to the first portion of my theme, “Live Simply & BEE Grateful.” A quote from Mother Theresa states, “Live simply so others may simply live.” Doesn’t that pack a powerful punch? In other words, doesn’t it make you think about how you could simplify your life just a bit, not waste so much, and even share with others more of what you have been graced with? A good article I found online (which I will be including in my next CIP) doesn’t really focus on material items as much as it attempts to encourage us to think about our values and the aspects of our life WE find important, In the Author’s opinion, living a simple life means living a life most fulfilling to you because you are investing your time and energy into things that matter the most. – Stay tuned!

**“Live Simply, BEE Grateful”**  
**Pat Undersander, Living and Learning**



Do you want to be involved in the state organization? Are you a Duck that loves to be on committees that meet 3 times a year? If you answered yes to either of those questions, please email Allie Staley @ [mkvp@mnwt.org](mailto:mkvp@mnwt.org) for more information on the committees. We are a great group of duckies that have fun and want to help make our organization the best that it can be!

Lets get Famous



MN Ducks



Looking for Duckies that would like to help with telling their why for joining the Minnesota Women of Today. Please check your chapter emails for the sign-up sheet to come out in January. I will be recording testimonials at Winter State convention. The testimonials will be used on our website and Facebook to help showcase our organization to possible new members.



Need some help with advertising on Facebook, newspaper, or other platforms? Email your Marketing VP @ [mkvp@mnwt.org](mailto:mkvp@mnwt.org) to get some help. I am here to help everyone! Also, if you would like your event published on the website email it to [csc@mnwt.org](mailto:csc@mnwt.org) and she will have our web team put it on the website. We want to see all the different events going on throughout the state.

**“Lets Get Famous MN Ducks”**  
**Allie Staley, MKVP**



## RENEWALS 101!

Early Bird due November 15 (postmarked November 15)

Final Renewals due December 15 (postmarked December 15)

**Important!** Send in your Dues Billing even if you have no one renewing by Deadline. The Chapter Service Center needs that information.

**Early Bird!** Did you know that you should send in any renewals you have by November 15, even if you think you will have more members renewing?

**Why?** Because Early Bird is based on the number of all the Renewals you send in total. Not the number of members who are due to renew. So chances are you will qualify for Early Bird if you just send what you have by November 15!

**Dues Billings and Chapter Rosters** are always sent to your official MNWT Chapter Email. Look for them after each Convention. Usually the second month of the Trimester.

## SIMPLY SALES TAX

Sales tax is a tax on gross receipts from the retail sale, lease or rental of taxable personal property and the providing of taxable services in Minnesota. The general sales tax rate is 6.875 percent. (Check local city or county requirements-usually listed on the Minnesota Tax website [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us))

NOTE: For more information about Minnesota sales tax, contact the Minnesota Department of Revenue- Sales and Use Tax Division at 651-296-6181 or 800-657-3777, or online at [www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us).

1. Sales tax returns are required to be filed according to the amount you would normally average in sales tax per month.
2. Most chapters file annually; some may be required to file quarterly.
3. Filing is done online or by phone.
4. You are responsible for filing by the deadline or may be subject to a penalty; **you must file a return even if you owe no sales tax.**
5. Local chapters are responsible for collecting and paying sales tax associated with ways and means projects including State Ways & Means promotions.
6. Must report taxable and nontaxable sales for the filing period (total gross receipts and taxable gross receipts).
7. Sales tax is paid on the selling price (taxable gross receipts), not the profit.





Happy New Year Treasurers and Financial Friends!

The new year is just beginning but the Women of Today year is half over. How are your goals looking? Are you accomplishing what you had hoped for? Is your budget on track? Have you reviewed it and made adjustments? Keep plugging along and end strong!

Donations to the State Ways & Means keep coming in and for this, we are truly grateful! Fundraising is hard work and we appreciate every dollar given to help the State stay on track. Remember it only takes \$50 to get a property on the Visionopoly Board!

Speaking of fundraisers...Hopefully, all those raffle tickets have sold by now but if you are struggling, please let me know so we can sell them elsewhere. Drawing will be at Winter State Convention.

Keep plugging along and think \$\$\$ thoughts!

***“Show Me the Money”***  
***Jane Holmberg, FVP***

A lot of you found the four little gold **a**'s hidden in last month's Chapter Mailing. Your names are entered into a drawing at Winter State. I hope you found the articles interesting and useful. This month you will now be looking for four little blue **w**'s. (not this one) Everyone who finds them and emails me with their location will be entered into a drawing at Winter State Convention for a magical basket.



My second Trimester Challenge is to send me your chapter minutes for review, and you will be placed in a drawing for another magical basket.

### **Tips For Zoom/Remote Minute Taking**

Zoom and remote meetings have become a normal occurrence. With that in mind, you will need a few additional skills to call upon for minute taking. Here are some simple tips:

- **Work With the Meeting Chair**  
You will need the chair to help make your life easier so catch up with them before the start of the meeting if possible. You can suggest that they recap the main talking points and action items at the end of each item, that they ensure only one attendee speaks at once and, if it is a telephone meeting, that they ask each participant to state their name before they speak.
- **Keep on Top of Attendance**  
On a video call it is easier to keep track of attendance than during a telephone meeting. In the event of the latter, go through the names of those who confirmed they would be there to ensure that they are in fact on the call.
- **Interrupt if You Need To**  
We have all been on a video call that glitches or on a phone call that loses signal. In order that you don't miss important details, you should interrupt the meeting in these circumstances to ask the speaker to repeat themselves.

***“The Magic of Minutes”***  
***Candi Frick, Secretary***

SCRAPBOOK PAGES: These are due to me by April 1<sup>st</sup> or bring to your Regional Meeting. Chapter Presidents and Exec Council Members – you don't want to miss out on the fun of putting together a snapshot of your year for President Amy. Please decorate both sides of your scrapbook page with pictures, memorabilia, or other fun stuff to go with your theme or area.

Make  
Magic  
Happen!



YEAR END DONATION: Chapters and districts are asked to contribute \$10 to \$20 toward a special year-end gift(s) for President Amy which will be presented at Annual convention. These donations should be sent to the Chapter Service Center with a notation to go to “Pres YE Gift”.

For third trimester, chapters can earn Success points if you donate for Amy's year end gift and submit a scrapbook page by April 1, 2024. Everyone that turns in a scrapbook page will be put into a drawing for a “wonderama” basket at Annual convention.

What kind of exciting activities and projects is your chapter doing? Please take a few pictures and send them to me at [PA@mnwt.org](mailto:PA@mnwt.org). You can also send me copies of newspaper clippings or other memorabilia of your chapter in action. These will be put into a special scrapbook of memories for Amy.

***“Make Magic Happen”***  
***Cat Shuman, PA***

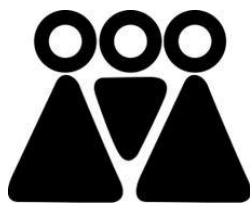
**Hi past Chapter Presidents and MNWT members!**



The holidays are upon us, and I hope you are able to find time for fun activities with friends and family. Pretty soon, Winter State convention will be here – with the Outstanding Awards and an opportunity to send a special message to a MNWT member along with an ONTO flower – the cost is \$2.50 each or 5 for \$10. Check out my web page for the order form. I could also use some help putting the flowers together, as well as last minute sales of flowers and ONTO T-shirts at convention. Reach out to me at [cob@mnwt.org](mailto:cob@mnwt.org). I would love to hear from you.

***“Finding Your Piece”***  
***Jenise Teske, COB***

#### **MNWT FOUNDATION**



**The Art Auction has a brand-new look coming to Winter State!**

We are trying something new this year. The art auction at Winter State will be original **new** jewelry. We welcome anyone that would like to donate **new** jewelry - just contact Wendy Homyak or myself. We are looking for an assortment of bracelets, necklaces, earrings etc. If you have any questions, contact Nicky at [foundation@mnwt.org](mailto:foundation@mnwt.org).

***Nicky Anderson, MNWT Foundation Chairperson***

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Anyone can attend Future Directions meetings and be a part of the brainstorming and suggestions to move MNWT forward. If you would like to join a committee or task force, please email Jane at [fdc@mnwt.org](mailto:fdc@mnwt.org). Our next Webinar is February 28, 2024; watch for the topics and register through the CSC. Watch for updates from the December meeting in my next CIP and staff report at Winter State.

***Jane Hanson, Future Directions Committee Chairperson***

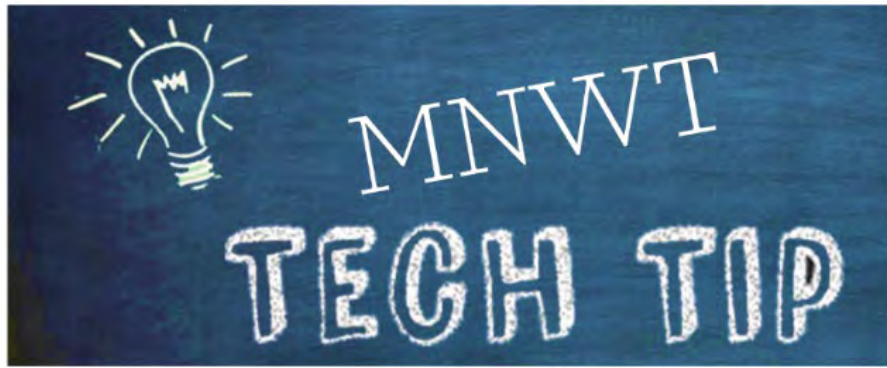
## **MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Membership Management Committee created a task force at the July MMC meeting. The task force needs to define "TLC" and "Watch List", and then create policies to declare the definitions.

Our next MMC meeting will be December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Resurrection Church in Monticello starting at 10:00 am.

***JoAnn Miller, Membership Management Committee Chairperson***

<b>Important Dates</b>			
<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>Chapter Grant Application due to Foundation</b>	<b>Jan 2</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Tri Programming Report due</b>
	<b>Key Women Nominations due</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Tri SUCCESS due</b>
<b>Dec 2</b>	<b>State Committee Meetings – Monticello</b>		<b>NEWSLET articles due</b>
<b>Dec 15</b>	<b>ALL Renewals due to CSC</b>		<b>Presidential Pin Noms due</b>
<b>Dec 28</b>	<b>Membership Closeout</b>	<b>Jan 6</b>	<b>Finance Committee Mtg</b>
<b>Dec 30</b>	<b>State Delegate Reports due to AVP</b>	<b>Jan 13</b>	<b>Foundation Meeting</b>
	<b>New Member Adds due to CSC</b>	<b>Jan 26-27</b>	<b>Winter State Convention - Ply</b>
	<b>Chapter President Monthly Report due</b>	<b>Feb 5</b>	<b>MN St Sales Tax due-Revenue Dept</b>
<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>L&amp;L and US WPD Certifications due</b>	<b>Feb 10</b>	<b>March Planning recommend. due</b>
	<b>US STEP Certifications due</b>	<b>Feb 28</b>	<b>Webinar</b>
	<b>End 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester</b>	<b>Feb 29</b>	<b>Chapter President Report due</b>
<b>Jan 2</b>	<b>Outstanding Pgm Mgr Noms due</b>		<b>New Member Adds due to CSC</b>
	<b>Project of Trimester Noms due</b>	<b>Mar 2</b>	<b>March Planning</b>



## Chapter Blogs where to start!

There are many different social media options chapters can use, Blogs, Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, TikTok, etc. It can be so overwhelming. Where do you start? This tip is all about Blogs.

**Step 1: What is a Blog?** A website or web page that is updated regularly in an informal or conversational style. The page will typically include both written and visual elements published in an easy-to-read, article format so visitors can swiftly browse and find what they're looking for.

**Step 2: Choose a blogging platform.** What does that even mean you might be asking yourself! Where do I find a blogging platform? Are they free or cost money? Here is an article that talks about the best blog platforms in 2023. "Top 10 Best Blog Platforms of 2023." It breaks down the different platforms so your chapter can decide which one would work best for them. Just remember that you don't have to pay for a chapter blog, there are many free ones.

**Step 3: What is your blog's purpose?** It is important for your chapter to decide what your blog's purpose will be. Is it a way to market your chapter events? Are you going to have it be informal, formal, educational? Only your chapter can decide. Once you have your purpose it is easier to keep it focused and updated.

**Step 4: Select a blog name and design your blog.** Make it descriptive and do a little research to make sure that there are no blogs with the same name. Think about something that will pique your audience's attention. Find images that reflect your theme. Again, make sure that the images are not copyrighted.

**Step 5: Brainstorm topics.** One way to keep your blog updated is to start a social media team in your chapter. A team will help with burnout and more ideas are present. Our members have so many different interests and great ideas that you want to make sure everyone can be heard.

**Step 6: Develop a yearly calendar.** If you have a calendar set up with due dates for blog posts it can help keep your blog updated. If members have their ideas ahead of time it gives them more time to write an informative blog post. Also having a calendar helps with readers' block and making sure you are not writing about the same thing over and over again. You could ask each member if they would be willing to write something for your blog. They could pick one of your topics already on the calendar or add an idea that they have.

**Step 7: Write your first post.** Use a catching title. Make the content easy to read. Make sure to write a little bit about your chapter to let people know who you are and the purpose of your blog. Add an image. People are going to read a blog with an image more than one with just words.

**Step 8: Promote your blog.** Use all your social media platforms you have already to promote your new chapter blog. Share your blog article on your chapter website, Facebook page, etc.

The meeting was called to order by President Amy Pumper at 2:16 p.m.  
The invocation was given by Living and Learning SPM Pat Undersander.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Extensions Director Andrea Schue.  
The United States of Today Creed was led by Secretary Candi Frick.  
Orders of the Day were given by Parliamentarian Tawn Hanson. A quorum has not been established.  
The minutes of the Fall State Executive Council meeting held on September 22, 2023, were approved as printed.

**Secretary, Candi Frick ([secretary@mnwt.org](mailto:secretary@mnwt.org))**

- Chapter Mailing Highlights for December/January are due this weekend with a final date of November 18th.
- Staff Reports for Winter State. are due by January 16th.
- A quick training was given on how to write a staff report.
- Thanksgiving Cards were sent to Sister States and will send butterflies to each chapter from our Sister States for December.

**Administrative Vice President, Shirley Viesselman (absent) ([avp@mnwt.org](mailto:avp@mnwt.org))**

- Enrichment at District Meeting
- Welcome these amazing women as they introduce themselves and share what's happening so far during Trimester 2.
  - **Christine Sibilleau, DD2 (absent):**
  - **Linda Nindorf, DD3 (absent):**
  - **Open, DD4:**
  - **Sue Lemke, DD5:** Had a successful District Meeting with a speaker from St. Anna Maries and a fundraiser for products. Also painted rocks. Having a holiday social on Dec. 2 and all chapters are doing a holiday event.
  - **Connie Fink, DD6:** 24 people attended District Meeting hosted by Rogers/Otsego/Dayton with 4 out of 6 chapters participating. District social is on November 17 at Glorie's. Making treat boxes for Crescent Cove.
  - **Jennifer Wulff, DD7 (absent):**
  - **Kenya Czerwinski DD8 Tri 2 Rep:** District meeting was on October 21 in Glenville. 1<sup>st</sup> time we had representation from all chapters. Recognized those who had a "years of service" award. Conducted a "What's my Communication Style" exercise. The district project is "Spreading Some Holiday Cheer". Each chapter has been challenged to spread cheer throughout Tri 2.
  - **Jane Hanson, DD9 Tri 2 Rep (absent):**

**Membership Vice President, Glorie Balfanz ([mvp@mnwt.org](mailto:mvp@mnwt.org))**

- Dues Billings and Chapter Rosters for Trimester 2 have been sent.
- We have 15 New Members so far in Trimester 2.
- We have had 8 prospective members contact us through the MNWT Website and information has been sent out to chapters.
- Close Out is December 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 pm. Will draw for prizes for those chapters that attend the ZOOM meeting.
- The Foundations will be offering rebates of \$30 to chapters that achieve growth +3 and 4, and \$50 for growth +5 or more. \$5 State Store Gift Certificates given to each chapter that achieves 80% retention and growth +2 or more.
- The Membership Team has supported chapters in a number of ways so far this year.

**Chapter Management Vice President, Tevyan Sorensen ([cmvp@mnwt.org](mailto:cmvp@mnwt.org))**

- Thank you to all of you who made calls, sent notes, of encouragement, completed visitations and spent time coaching and mentoring your sister leaders across this organization.
- Two chapters are currently on TLC, Hawley (2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester) and New Ulm (1<sup>st</sup> trimester).
- The membership team is available to anyone who is supporting a chapter with membership needs.

- Thank you to staff members who completed their Buddy Calls over the last three weeks.
- Reminder to District Directors about the Success Challenge this trimester. For each DD who can get at least one additional chapter to submit Success for Tri 2 will be given a gift at Winter State. The submissions in Tri 1: District 2-2 chapters, District 3-3 chapters, District 4-0 chapters, District 5-5 chapters, District 6-1 chapter, District 7-5 chapters, District 8-3 chapters, and District 9-0 chapters.

**Extensions Director, Andrea Shue ([extensions@mnwt.org](mailto:extensions@mnwt.org)) (absent)**

- Meet & Greet will be Sat. Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 10-2 at Red Wing Library. A table will be set up at the Hibbing Craft Fair Dec. 1 & 2. Have a phone call scheduled with Lisa Baer for a chapter in Pequot Lakes Area.
- Looking for donations for 2 extension baskets for annual convention. Themes are “Outdoor Fun” and “Treasure Chest of Goodies”
- The Foundation is offering \$500 to any chapter that extends by Nov 30, and \$300 to any chapter that extends by the end of the trimester.

**Programming Vice President, Mary Kaminski ([ivp@mnwt.org](mailto:ivp@mnwt.org))**

- 2024-2025 SPM bidders needed.
- Trimester reports are due January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Project of the Trimester and Outstanding Program Manager nominations due January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Community Connections, Sandy Greninger ([cc@mnwt.org](mailto:cc@mnwt.org))**

- ✓ We have 4 nominations for Person with Determination award.
- ✓ Continuing to seek more entries for Community Connection Awards. Please share CC challenge with DDs and chapters.

**Living and Learning, Pat Undersander ([ll@mnwt.org](mailto:ll@mnwt.org))**

- ✓ Certifications received so far are 19 US Wellness and 4 Living & Learning
- ✓ Switching to 1<sup>st</sup> part of my theme “Live Simply & BEE Grateful” by providing information on simplifying your life, clearing the clutter, and organizing your home.

**Priority Area (Crescent Cove), Sara Rocksted ([priority-area@mnwt.org](mailto:priority-area@mnwt.org))**

- ✓ Chapters did not disappoint, had a car full of donations for the Family Day Booth in September.
- ✓ Currently working on collecting donations for the Christmas Drive Through event on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- ✓ In need of Gala Basket donations. Thinking of a Game Day themed basket.
- ✓ Been advertising various events and fundraiser opportunities via Facebook.

**Women’s Wellness, Sharon Bergquist ([ww@mnwt.org](mailto:ww@mnwt.org))**

- ✓ Red Dress Campaign for the American Heart Association kicked off at Fall State Project Fair. The goal is to have 100 members wearing a Red Dress pin. Raised \$119 at Fall State. A nice start.
- ✓ No nominations received for the Lois M. Christensen Women Who Impact Award.
- ✓ LPM Challenge is to encourage chapter members to wear purple to their meetings and send a picture. So far, 4 chapters have participated.

**Youth of Today, Sandy Trossen ([yt@mnwt.org](mailto:yt@mnwt.org))**

- ✓ So far 3 chapters have submitted an OYA nomination. Possibly receiving 2 more. A drawing will be held at Winter State for chapters who submitted an OYA nomination.
- ✓ I have challenged chapters to do a service project at a youth homeless shelter. Chapter incentives will be given.
- ✓ Another challenge is to request a Holiday Wish list at a youth shelter and donate to the list. Will receive an incentive.
- ✓ In need of submissions for OYA Project of the Trimester and nominations for YT Outstanding Local Program Manager for 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester..

**Marketing Vice President, Allie Staley ([mkvp@mnwt.org](mailto:mkvp@mnwt.org))(absent)**

- We are now on TikTok. Go follow and like videos on our page. Username is MN.Women.of.Today.

- We are making adjustments to the website. This takes time so please be patient as we are doing this to keep things simple until a webmaster is found.
- If you know anyone interested in the Webmaster position please have them email [csc@mnwt.org](mailto:csc@mnwt.org) and [president@mnwt.org](mailto:president@mnwt.org) for more information.
- The logo will be voted on during the Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee meeting in Monticello. Make sure the chapters have voted.
- Looking for individuals to do testimonials during Winter State Convention. Look for the schedule to sign-up in their Chapter emails.

**Financial Vice President, Jane Holmberg ([fvp@mnwt.org](mailto:fvp@mnwt.org)) (absent)**

- Expense vouchers are due to supervisors January 14, 2024. Supervisors and Staff, all expense vouchers are due no later than January 16, 2024, for reimbursement at Winter State Convention. If not claiming expenses, please notify supervisor and FVP.
- The Store Manager has a mini version of the state store available for travel. Reach out to me if you would like it at a District Meeting. Suggestions on new items are appreciated and will be looked into.
- State Ways & Means: Received \$922.08 from Fudge sales at Fall State. All 256 were sold thanks to Mary and Jane. US Treasurer Jane Hanson will be having a US fudge sale. Watch for flyers in January with delivery in June. Finance is sponsoring a raffle for 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester. Raffle tickets have been distributed and the drawing will be at Winter State. Contact your chapter president for purchase. District or chapter donations for Ways & Means: a minimum of \$50 will get you a property on our Visionopoly Board. 2 chapters and 2 individuals have secured their spots. Many others just need an extra \$15 donation.
- US Ways & Means is collecting donations. Fill her green pot with gold. Those chapters, individuals, districts or states making donations to the USWT will be in a drawing for \$50 cash at US Annual convention.
- Mid-Year Finance Committee budget review will be held on Friday evening, January 5, 2024 via zoom. Finance Meeting will be on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 9:00 am via zoom. New members welcome.

**Parliamentarian, Tawn Hanson ([parli@mnwt.org](mailto:parli@mnwt.org))**

- Please help to encourage your chapter parlis to participate in my 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester challenge. See my CIP for details.
- The state's Bylaw and policy review was held on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> with 5 people attending. Will send Bylaw change to Future Directions.

**Chairman of the Board, Jenise Teske ([cob@mnwt.org](mailto:cob@mnwt.org))**

- I will be accepting applications and filings for State President, Staff, Committee Chairs, State Store Manager, NEWSLET Editor and PR Assistant starting December 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact me today for more information. For those interested in SPM positions, contact Mary Kaminski. If interested in being a DD contact Shirley Viesselman.
- Looking for members to join the ONTO committee.
- State Committee meetings will be on Saturday, December 2 at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Monticello starting at 10 am.
- March Planning will be on Saturday March 2 at the Boy Scout Center in Sartell. Staff is encouraged to attend. If you have any ideas, you would like to share you can submit a recommendation. Recommendations are due no later than February 10, 2024.

**Future Directions Committee Chair, Jane Hanson ([fdc@mnwt.org](mailto:fdc@mnwt.org))**

- Next MMC meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Resurrection Church in Monticello

**Membership Management Committee Chair, JoAnn Miller ([mmc@mnwt.org](mailto:mmc@mnwt.org))**

- Next MMC meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Resurrection Church in Monticello

**Executive Director, Tanya Rothstein ([csc@mnwt.org](mailto:csc@mnwt.org))**

- I am looking for a host for Annual 2024 at Arrowwood Alexandria and Fall State 2024 at Arrowwood Brainerd. Please see me for further information. Will be checking out other hotels for Winter State 2025.

- Check out the new look of the website. Until we get a Webmaster Jeny and I will be updating the website as changes are needed. Check out any links you have put in manuals or on instruction pages, they may not work right some of the sites changed to google sites. If you need help let me know. Make sure to keep your email cleaned up.
- Need your CIPs by the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in January. I will need your script information by then also.

**Presidential Assistant, Cat Shuman ([pa@mnwt.org](mailto:pa@mnwt.org))**

- Completed quilt squares are due to me by or before Winter State 2024.
- How are you doing with your scrapbook page? There will be Success points and a special incentive for third trimester for all scrapbook pages that are turned in before the due date.
- Still looking for pictures or copies from chapter activities and events. A special scrapbook will be put together with pictures and mementos for Amy.
- District Directors remind your chapters to send in their donation of \$10 to \$20 toward a special year-end gift for President Amy. Checks should be made to MNWT and sent to the chapter service center. Success points and a special incentive for third trimester for all chapters and districts that donate.
- Secret Sis gifts handed out at break.

**MNWT Foundation, Nicky Anderson ([foundation@mnwt.org](mailto:foundation@mnwt.org)) Given by COB Jenise Teske**

- At Winter State we will be holding a Jewelry Auction in lieu of the Art Auction to benefit the Cheryl L. Anderson Scholarship program. We welcome donations of NEW jewelry. Contact Wendy Homyak or myself. Looking for an assortment of bracelets, necklaces, earrings, etc.

**President, Amy Pumper ([president@mnwt.org](mailto:president@mnwt.org))**

- Staff Medallions given.

**New Business:** Policy motion postponed due to lack of quorum.

The benediction was led by Living and Learning SPM Pat Undersander.

The Minnesota Women of Today Creed was led by Community Connections SPM Sandy Greninger.

The 2023 Mid-Year Executive Council Meeting of the Minnesota Women of Today was adjourned at 4:18 p.m. by Amy Pumper.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Candi Frick, Secretary MNWT**