

MNWT Chapter Mailing

November 2023
Issue 4



Dear Minnesota Women of Today,

“Team spirit is knowing and living the belief that what a group of people can accomplish together is much larger, far greater, and will exceed that which an individual can accomplish alone.” —Diane Arias

Your team spirit amazes me, and I am so grateful to all of you and how much you have done and will continue to do to ensure a strong future for your chapter and our organization. I believe in you and feel that if we continue to work together and build strong ties amongst our members, within our communities, state, and nation, we will thrive in so many ways! We can do so much as a team and will exceed all expectations because of our commitment and dedication to a common goal – making this world a better place to live!

We are at the half-point of our year and have accomplished so much yet have much to do to ensure we meet our goals. Has your chapter taken time to do a mid-year review to see where you are at and what your members want for the remainder of the year? Now is the time to do so. A sample was included in my Fall State Chapter Information Packet – you can create your own too. The key is to check with your members on what they want and how you are meeting their needs and make changes if necessary. If you would like help, please let me know.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want you to know how thankful I am to be working with and getting to know so many of you, our members. I may not be there at your event but I sure love reading about things via Facebook, reports and other avenues. Keep doing the wonderful things you are doing because you truly are creating Visions of Success this year!

In friendship,

Amy Pumper

Staff & SPM News
Foundation News
Committee News
Tech Pages

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



If you are interested and/or thinking about being a District Director in 2024-2025, please reach out to me, I'd love to visit with you. This position is a great way to get to know more members in your district and learn more about the Women of Today organization.



Have you noticed the “Sparkling” going on? The District Directors and State Delegates have really been “Sparkling” across the state!

Each of your District Directors and Representatives have really been “sparkling”. They have been working very hard to use the updated District Meeting guidelines that were actually put in place 3 years ago. At that time, a task force was formed, a survey sent out to you and a lot of discussion to form the new guidelines. The District Directors have met many challenges with these guideline changes. The district meetings are not meant to be a review of convention, but to focus on strengthening the chapters through networking, training, enrichment and focusing on the chapters’ needs. Along with meeting other members and just having fun. So, with that being said, you are going to find less District Board members, meetings less than 2 hours and more project and growth sessions. If you have questions or comments about any of these guidelines, please be sure to reach out. I'd be happy to visit with you.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. Email me at aup@mnwt.org.

“Leave A Little Sparkle Wherever You Go”

Shirley Viesselman, AVP



The Membership Team has tools for you to use to be the best chapter you can be. Your best chapter will be exciting for new members to join and for existing members to stay.

How do you become the best chapter you can be? The answers and tools are in the MVP CIP (Membership Vice President Chapter Information Packet), on the MNWT Website under Membership Vice President (MVP), at the Membership Roundtables during conventions and webinars to name a few. Please seek the information out.

Try doing SUCCESS. SUCCESS is meant to help a chapter be the best it can be. If you have trouble finding the information, email mvp@mnwt.org

Did you use the Vision Packet for Membership Week? It has a lot of fun ideas for chapters to use for Socials or M Events. Vision Packets can be used anytime, not only for Membership Week.

The Membership Challenges in the MVP CIP are meant to help with your journey to make your chapter the best it can be and to help you plan M Events and Socials. Look for those challenges and email mvp@mnwt.org with what you did to be entered into the challenge.

The MNWT Foundation Rebates this trimester encourage growth and activation. There is a cash rebate for chapters that grow by 3 or more members and a State Store gift certificate for chapters that have new members complete STEP 1 or STEP 2. See the MVP CIP for more details.

The Dues billing for Trimester 2 have been sent out. The Early Bird deadline is November 15. Even if you do not have all the renewals collected yet, just send in what you have. The deadline for all renewals is December 15. Email mvp@mnwt.org if you did not get your Dues Billings in your official chapter email. Reach out to the Chapter Service Center at csc@mnwt.org or 320-845-2250 for email help.

“Believe in Your Vision”

Glorie Balfanz, MVP

Happy November! We have been adding so many members to Minnesota Women of Today chapters! YEAH!! But now comes the time to make sure those members are getting engaged and know how your chapter and the organization operate. There are a few ways to do this and it looks different for every chapter. However your chapter chooses to orientate and activate your members, the important part is that you *JUST DO IT!* Below are a few ideas and resources. If you need additional information, please reach out to cmvp@mnwt.org.



- 1. NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION.** Whether you do this as a group activity or a one-on-one over coffee, each new member should be provided an overview of the organization & your chapter, Things to touch on are the roles & responsibilities of the board and/or members, what certain meetings & events are and what happens at them, and how communications happen. Let them know when and how to find out about activities and how to sign up for things.
- 2. CHAPTER BUDDY.** Your chapter may have a formal buddy program or Big Sis/Little Sis or it may be something more ad-hoc. The intention is to make sure that the new member has a person they can connect with when they have questions and that someone is checking in on the new member to make sure they are getting information and getting engaged. Maybe they check in and invite them to go with them to events in the first few months.
- 3. STEP IT UP.** The US Women of Today has the Success Through Enthusiastic Participation (STEP) certification to recognize and encourage engagement. **STEP I** is for a member to complete in their first 120 days of membership. They complete 3 required steps (introduce themselves at a meeting, attend an orientation or a chapter meeting, and attend a social or project) and 2 of 6 optional activities. Super easy and gets them familiar with the chapter! **STEP II** is to complete during the first 12 months as a member, Again there are 4 required steps and 4 of 10 optional steps need to be completed. All forms are linked to the CMVP page on mnwt.org or found under Membership Resources on the USWT website.

In Tri 2, all chapters who have members complete and submit a STEP I or STEP II certification will receive a \$5 State Store gift certificate for each certification. And as always, STEP certifications qualify for Success points!!

“Building for Success”
Tevyan Sorensen, CMVP



Hello All! I hope you were able to attend the Webinar on the 25th as I presented on how to extend a chapter and shared the 12-week plan that has been developed. If you were unable to attend I challenge you to visit the Extension page on the website and look through the plan, send me an email at extensions@mnwt.org telling me what week 7 of the plan has scheduled.

In addition, a reminder that if you charter a new chapter by the end of November the Foundation is offering a \$300 incentive to help your new chapter get started.

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



BIDDING FOR A 2024-2025 SPM POSITION

It might seem a bit early to be thinking about being a SPM for 2024-2025, but bidding for a position at Winter State Convention will allow you extra time to plan.

Start Here: Contact PVP Mary Kaminski at pvp@mnwt.org with your interest to bid, ask for advice or ask any questions. Also, contact the current State Program Manager for advice, recommendations, or suggestions.

Next: In November or December, you will need a **letter of support from your chapter**. At a general meeting a motion will need to be made that states “I move that we support (your name) in the event they bid for an SPM position at Winter State. Once the motion has passed, a representative from your chapter needs to write a chapter letter of support. **A copy of the final letter should be emailed to you and the Programming Vice-President (pvp@mnwt.org)**. Keep it with your records.

Next steps to completing the information needed for bidding at Winter State are as follows:

- **Complete the SPM Bid Form**, -Find the form on the mnwt.org website under Forms & Publications; State: Bidding. The form can be completed online or by using the word document.
- **Brainstorm and create your SPM goals and how you will implement your goals**.
- **Complete a draft Plan of Action (POA)**, -Your POA is where you list your goals and implementation steps that you brainstormed above. This can be emailed (pvp@mnwt.org) after the Bid form but should be complete by **January 2nd**. Contact the PVP if you need help. The current SPM may also be a good resource.
- **Update Plan of Action (POA) for your Bid** - Your POA will be reviewed and returned to you by **January 15th**. Suggestions will be given on things like wording, goal amounts, grammar, and other things that may lead to a more successful bidding process and year. Make any changes you feel are necessary and send a final copy to the PVP by the Monday before convention (**January 22nd**).
- Present your bid at the Executive Council meeting at Winter State the afternoon of January 26th.

Logo and Theme: You have an opportunity to create a logo and theme for your year. This can be as simple or creative as you like. It’s a good idea to have a jpg version of your finished product.

Remember that throughout this process you are not alone. Reach out to the PVP and SPMs for assistance because we are here to support you!

Check out the State Program Manager Trimester 2 Incentives. Details are in their CIPs on mnwt.org.

CC: Outstanding Award nomination, OYA Fund donation, Submit Trimester Programming Report

LL: Complete a PEP course, 3 or more participate in a L&L project & submit a report, L&L Certification SPM steps

Priority: Donate to Crescent Cove, Fundraise or Promote for Crescent Cove and notify SPM

WW: Present at chapter or Have chapter wear purple for DVA, Talk about a local shelter & collect hygiene items

YT: Volunteer at a youth homeless shelter, Donate in support of a holiday wish list at a youth homeless shelter



November focus for Community Connections is taking those FRIENDSHIPS from Fall State and the RELATIONSHIPS we are building and turning them into PARTNERSHIPS! Let's work those partnerships to creating a **new project** or improving an existing project and making it worthy of the "Project of the Trimester."

These are my two goals for November and any chapter who submits a nomination for "Project of the Trimester" will go in a drawing for a Pamper Basket.

If you need help or ideas for projects, please give me a call at 763.464.3678. I love to create new projects and I might even come and help you work the event!

"Keep Building Those Ships!"

Sandy Greninger, Community Connections



Hello my Priority Area Friends! I hope everyone is staying well and enjoying the fall colors! Continue to watch Facebook for updates on Crescent Cove and ways you can help. If you haven't done so already, please give the MNWT Programming Facebook Page a like/follow. That's where you will see all kinds of great information, not just from me but also from our other State Program managers. I will be collecting items for a basket for the Gala in January so stay tuned! Also, in December we will be doing the Christmas Drive through December 3rd 4:30-7PM. I cannot wait! Don't forget My challenges this Trimester:



1. Donate \$25 or more to Crescent Cove and get a chance in a drawing at Winter State. This can be an individual, Chapter or District. If you would like to donate send me an email and I will send you the address of where to send the donation.
2. Email me at Priority-Area@mnwt.org with ways you are fundraising for Crescent Cove. Pictures are welcome! You will be entered in the drawing.
3. Let me know how you have promoted Crescent Cove, if you have toured or volunteered at Crescent Cove, held an information session, guest speaker, etc., and your name will be in the drawing.

Thank you for all that you are doing thus far! I appreciate all of you and your efforts.

"Make a Ripple Change the World"

Sara Rocksted, Priority Area (Crescent Cove)

How to Stop Complaining and Live Gratefully

"When you complain, you make yourself a victim. Leave the situation, change the situation, or accept it. All else is madness."

— Eckhart Tolle



Today we will learn how to stop complaining and make the choice of being grateful instead.

Let's begin by understanding why we complain. According to Dr. Guy Winch, writer of 'The Squeaky Wheel: Complaining the Right Way to Get Results, Improve Your Relationships, and Enhance Self-Esteem', **"We complain when we feel there is a significant gap between an expectation and reality."** The root of complaining is wanting the truth to be something different. That is not wrong by any means. When there is a need for change in policies, in behaviors, in relationships, in the status quo, we must speak up and take action. This is imperative for our society. However, when we complain, there is rarely any action. It's just a waste of energy.

"BEE Grateful" When we shift our focus from what we want or what could be and choose to appreciate what we have, gratitude walks in smiling. Remember that we wanted many of the things that we have now. --Gratitude Blog

"Live Simply, BEE Grateful"
Pat Undersander, Living and Learning



WW had a good response to the kickoff of the Red Dress Campaign at the Friday night project fair. Most were more than willing to make a \$2 donation to the American Heart Association in exchange for a Red Dress Pin. Some gave a larger donation – all donations are appreciated! The Red Dress Campaign will continue at Winter State. 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. In addition, you may conduct a collection of hygiene products to be donated to a local shelter. Send me a report about your collection – dollar value and picture to ww@mnwt.org.

By the time you are reading this, the due date to receive the nominations for the Lois M. Christensen Women Who Impact Award most likely has passed as they are due on November 1. However, please consider nominating a worthy candidate next year. The Lois M Christiansen Women Who Impact Award received its' name in 2009, but a version of the award has been awarded since the 1990's. It is meant to honor women who have made valuable contributions to their communities. A nominee may be nominated for their work in a Non-Profit, Youth Outreach, or Women's Advocacy. The Outstanding Awards Manual and the Nomination Forms can be found in the Member Resources/Forms & Publications/Recognition:Leadership at MNWT.org.

"The Beat Goes On"
Sharon Bergquist, Women's Wellness

Hello- I am looking forward to seeing how many young adults were nominated for the Outstanding Young Adult Award. I thank all chapters who submitted a nomination!



As we feel the temperature getting colder and see daylight getting shorter, my thoughts are with homeless youth. The colder months see greater needs for the homeless. Support for shelters through your donations of time, food, warm clothing, personal care items, and money is increasingly important, especially during the approaching holiday season. Shelters may have specific items on the wish list to make holidays merrier. A chapter or individual project to support youth homelessness is always greatly needed and appreciated. Try to add them to your Holiday List of giving!! Make sure you send me an email of what you have done to help!! I thank you!

“Youth Building Their Future”
Sandy Trossen, Youth of Today



Happy Fall Y'All!

How is your year going so far? Is your Chapter raising money and staying within budget? What are your favorite fundraisers? Where do you like to share that money? Send me a response to these questions and I will reward you for your efforts at Winter State.

Have you bought or sold a raffle ticket? Great prizes await. Don't miss out on your *Chance to Monopolize* on this opportunity! Fill our *Community Chest* with money and help us keep on budget. And by selling those tickets, you get SUCCESS points! Just remember that tickets may not be sent through the mail, so bring the filled out slips to Winter State for the final draw.

Did you know that every \$50 donation to State Ways & Means gets your Chapter or District a property on the Visionopoly board. We are hoping to fill the board and let President Amy make a game of it.

Keep doing what you are doing...making the World a better place!

“Show Me the Money”
Jane Holmberg, FVP

Important Dates

Nov 3	Foundation Mtg	Dec 31	L&L and US WPD Certifications due
Nov 15	Early Bid Renewals due		US STEP Certifications due
Nov 30	Chapter President Monthly Report due		End 2 nd Trimester
	New Member Adds due to CSC	Jan 2	Outstanding Pgm Mgr Noms due
Dec 1	Chapter Grant Application due to Foundation		Project of Trimester Noms due
	Key Women Nominations due		2 nd Tri Programming Report due
Dec 2	State Committee Meetings – Monticello		Presidential Pin Noms due
Dec 15	ALL Renewals due to CSC		2 nd Tri SUCCESS due
Dec 28	Membership Closeout		NEWSLET articles due
Dec 30	State Delegate Reports due to AVP	Jan 6	Finance Committee Mtg
	New Member Adds due to CSC	Jan 13	Foundation Meeting
	Chapter President Monthly Report due	Jan 26-27	Winter State Convention - Plymouth

Hello Minnesota Women of Today Members,



Virtual Meetings - The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has required many boards to use a virtual meeting format, especially for board meetings. In light of this shift, the National Association of Parliamentarians has released revised guidelines for Robert's Rules of Order to help governing bodies approach electronic meetings successfully.

Special Tips & Reminders for Electronic Meetings:

- Revise your bylaws to authorize electronic meetings. Review the specific language in the bylaws to ensure that the rules clearly state what's required to hold an electronic meeting that qualifies as an official meeting, either board or chapter.
- Bylaws authorize absent members to participate electronically; however, the entire meeting cannot be conducted electronically. Note the difference between a fully electronic meeting and permissible electronic participation for what is largely an in-person meeting. The bylaws should state clear rules for allowable locations and quorum requirements. For example, do the bylaws allow the chair to host an electronic meeting with one member in attendance and the remainder of the members attending via electronic means?
- Hold informal electronic meetings without transacting official business. For boards that aren't permitted by their bylaws to hold official electronic meetings, their bylaws may allow them to meet via electronic means informally for discussions. Official decisions would then have to wait to be voted on until the organization could hold an official board meeting.
- Bylaws may authorize boards to transact business without holding a meeting—for example, via telephone or email. Where this is allowed, boards wouldn't have to meet in person. Boards could discuss matters informally and transact official business in the manner described by the bylaws.

***“Succeed with Bob and Coffee”
Tawn Hanson, Parliamentarian***

I have received a few chapters minutes for review. I'm hoping to get a few more. Remember those chapters who submit to me their minutes for review will be placed in a drawing for a magical basket at Winter State Convention.



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

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

Hi past Chapter Presidents and MNWT members!



Welcome to November! October was busy with going to USWT Mid-Year Convention in Omaha, Nebraska on the 6th and 7th. There were 18 MNWT members among 50+ attendees. The theme was “County Fair” so there were carnival games, as well as Singo Bingo, regular Bingo and raffles. Programming held a Jeopardy forum to learn more about Women of Today and Membership held a forum where we played the Game of Life. We did a project Friday evening decorating paper bags and then filling them with treats and toys for Lydia House. A speaker from Open Door Mission was a guest at the Saturday luncheon where a check and the 200 bags were presented. A total of over \$3500 of in-kind donations was achieved for this Buckets of Sunshine project. The USWT staff put on a fashion show and one of our own, Mary Hansen—the USWT Parliamentarian, was crowned the winner with her sheriff costume. Adult beverages were available for a donation to Ways & Means at the Friday night party and Saturday banquet. Several MNWT members won awards and more details to come on that later. It all ended with a party in the COB’s room after the banquet, a great way to celebrate.

And here is a reminder of Statewide Committees in Monticello at Resurrection Lutheran Church on December 2 starting at 10 am with the Membership Management Committee, followed by the Marketing Committee at 11am and the Future Directions Committee starting after lunch (about 1). This is a great way to find out more about how things are run behind the scenes. Hope to see you there!

Also, if you are thinking of bidding for a State Staff position contact me with questions. You can submit your bid after December 1, 2023. See my Fall State CIP for more details.

“Finding Your Piece”
Jenise Teske, COB

Tri 2 Presidential Success Bonus Points

*Submit a nomination for the Outstanding Young Adult, Lois M Christensen Women Who Impact Award, or Outstanding Person with Determination Award by November 1
(50 pts) – Verified by Awards Chair*

Or

*Donation to the Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship Fund \$25 or more by or on behalf of a chapter (25 points) –
Verified by Youth of Today SPM*

Or

*Donation to USWT Ways and Means of \$25 or more by or on behalf of a chapter (25 points) – Verified by USWT
Treasurer Or*

*Submit an article to NEWSLET for post- Winter State issue publication (25 points) – Verified by NEWSLET Editor
Or*

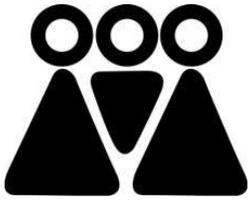
*Submit Program Manager Trimester Report
25 points – verified by PVP*

Or

*Sign a member during Membership Week and submit online or to CSC between Oct 8-14 (25 points) – Verified by MVP
Or*

*Sell two (2) books Raffle Tickets (\$100) for the MNWT Ways and Means Fundraiser by Jan 2 (25 points) – Verified by
FVP*

(Maximum 100 points)



MNWT FOUNDATION

Chapter Grants Available – Dec 1st Deadline

Do you have a community project that your chapter would like to fund, but lacks money? Consider applying for a Chapter Grant. Grant applications can be

found on the Foundation page of the website and are due (postmarked) by

December 1 to the Chapter Service Center. For more information, please contact Chapter Grants Chair, Laura Gaylord or contact me at foundation@mnwt.org

Give to the Max Day November 16, 2023

We encourage you to consider donating to the MNWT Foundation on Give to the Max Day. Participate in Give MN (Give to the Max Day) on Thursday November 18 by letting family and friends know more about our organization and give them the opportunity to donate. <https://givemn.org>

- Join in for a fun night of bingo and prizes. And make your Give to the Max donation (online).
- Bingo 7 – 7:45 p.m. email Nicky your address so she can mail you a bingo card. (deadline Nov 10, 2023)

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 Our next meeting is December 2nd at Resurrection Church in Monticello. Please let us know if you need a zoom link.

Jane Hanson, Future Directions Committee Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Membership Management Committee made the following decisions at our last meeting:

- When a member passes away, they will be moved to “at large” to prevent their passing from counting as a loss to the chapter, causing them to miss out on recognition for growth, etc. Therefore, if a chapter loses a member to death, that member is moved to “at large” and the chapter’s base will go down by one (i.e., a chapter of 15 loses a member to death, their base will go down to 14). Then if they get a new member, they will be given credit for growth plus one.
- When a member fails to renew in their renewal trimester but then pay their dues the next trimester, they will be added in as “new” but put in the “transfer/other” column on the SODA. This means the chapter will not receive credit for that member as a new member for incentives.

Our next MMC meeting will be December 2nd at Resurrection Church in Monticello starting at 10:00 am. I hope to see a lot of you there!

JoAnn Miller, Membership Management Committee Chairperson



Social Media for the chapter

Each chapter has different members with unique talents and experiences to share. Take time to utilize those talents within the area of social media. Train others to learn how to utilize and manage social media to benefit your chapter. Some chapters will use Websites, Facebook Pages, Twitter (now X), TikTok, Google Calendar, Instagram, NextDoor, and/or other amazing resources offered in the vast world of Social Media. A positive social media presence will increase your chapter's visibility within your community and increase your ability to serve others within your community.

Whatever your chapter uses, the most important part of social media is to keep your information current and public. Interactive activities and events that are for anyone are great ways to get noticed. Balance service and socials to avoid only attracting a specific audience. New members that only know about the fun your chapter does will be less likely to volunteer for positions and projects vs a member who joins knowing not only the social side but the service side as well. And never assume, include the who, what, where, and why when sharing upcoming events. Below are a few questions you can use to discuss your chapter's social media and evaluate your impact.

Does your chapter have a website? If yes, is it updated monthly? Do you share photos and feel-good articles about projects you have completed? Do you post your chapter newsletter online? Do you have a calendar of events?

Does your chapter have a Facebook Page? Not a group that is private and members need to join, a page that is open to the public. Do you post at least three times a week? Do you share photos? Do you create events for upcoming general meetings and socials?

Does your chapter have Instagram or TikTok? Are the photos, videos and information you share attracting the correct audience? What image are you hoping to portray? Do you have enough content to keep up with the fast-paced content of the newer generation of social media applications?

Your chapter's social media should both inform members and the public. It should be uplifting and inspiring. Use it to increase your visibility within your community and attract new members. At the same time use it to recognize your chapter and members accomplishments. Over the last year there have been articles on how to use many different social media platforms. In the next few months, the Tech Tips Team will be training with even more how to articles. Please utilize these articles for help and feel free to reach out to the Tech Tips Team at any time.

Anna Nichols, Jeny Ohr, and Cathy Shuman