

MNWT Chapter Mailing

October 2023 Issue 3



Staff & SPM News
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I have hidden four red 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!

Dear Minnesota Women of Today,

It is the beginning of September, and we are in the middle of some of the hottest days of the year right now. I know it won't last long and quite honestly; I prefer this weather. Very soon we will be complaining about that white stuff and the cold that goes with it. We learn to adjust as we get the seasonal changes. Just like the weather our chapters go through seasonal changes, and we must adjust to allow us to keep ourselves moving forward. Are you making the adjustments you need to?

By the time you are reading this, we will have met for Fall State convention, having celebrated our many first trimester successes and celebrated Women of Today Week. We had a lot to celebrate and have much more to look forward to as we near the midyear point of our year. How are you doing on your goals? It is good to pull them out and see where we are at and adjust as we need to. Are your goals attainable? Have you already met them? If so, now would be a good time to set new ones. If you feel they are not attainable, adjust to be more realistic. Just be sure to work towards attaining them. Pull them out each month and see where you are at.

As you are working towards meeting your goals, what are you doing to ensure that your chapter is doing all that your members want and can do? Membership is important and most think of Recruitment, but we need to work on Orientation, Activation and Retention just as much to ensure we are meeting our members' needs. I hope you will use the Vision Packet on the Membership Week to have something fun and informational or a project to celebrate that week. It is a great way to engage your members and let them know you are glad they are part of your chapter! Who doesn't want to celebrate International Beer and Pizza Day? I am looking forward to hearing all about what you have done!

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. That is what I am here for. Thank you for all you do as part of the Minnesota Women of Today team this year!

In friendship,

Amy Pumper



I had a “Sparkling” good time at Fall State Convention, and I hope you did too.



If you are interested and/or thinking about being a District Director in 2023-24, 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!

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. You can email me: avp@mnwt.org.

“Leave A Little Sparkle Wherever You Go”

Shirley Viesselman, AVP

SMILE * SPARKLE * SHINE



Chapters, are you excited for Trimester 2? You did a great job in Trimester 1. Thank you for all your hard work. I hope you had a lot of fun.

Your Membership Team (consisting of the Membership Vice President, Chapter Membership Vice President and the Extensions Director) has been working hard to come up with ideas to help and support you.

Please see the Vision Packet that was emailed by President Amy to chapters earlier this trimester. It has ideas for M Events or Socials for you to use at any time. But hopefully you will find some time to do something during Membership Week (October 8 - October 14). The theme is Beer and Pizza. Let’s have fun together! Fun is contagious. We work hard on our projects but have fun and enjoy each other too.

We have ideas at each convention to share with members. Be sure to visit the Membership Roundtables at each convention. It is not just for your Membership Vice Presidents. Membership Roundtables are for everyone. Consider sending at least one representative from your chapter to each roundtable for ideas and support.

Look for more information in the CIPS...Membership Vice President CIP, the Chapter Management CIP and the Extensions Director’s CIP. Look for the challenges. These are designed to help you with your membership goals, not just a chance at a prize. Try out a Webinar. Webinars have a lot of information for you and a chance for you to ask questions. The MNWT website has ideas for you. Look under Membership Vice President for an easy link. Go to District Meetings so you can share ideas with other chapters and get new ideas for your chapter. We can all help each other.

Remember to have a lot of fun while doing these activities. If you are having fun, others around you will too. Fun attracts new members and keeps your current members!

“Believe in Your Vision”

Glorie Balfanz, MVP

Happy October! Here we are approaching the mid-point of our year and it's a great time to take inventory of where you are and adjust your goals if you need to do so...*either readjusting your expectations or raising the bar higher!*



As Chapter Management VP, I am here to support your needs in membership and chapter operations. If you are finding that your chapter needs support or fresh ideas, the Membership Team is here to help & would love to attend a meeting or talk with you to see how to strengthen your chapter for Success! Consider attending the **Webinar on October 25th** for ideas on Programming Projects and a roundtable discussion on Membership. For now, here are some ideas adapted from Val Kvale.

BUILDING A STRONG CHAPTER

Have you ever remodeled or rebuilt a home? Was it a challenging situation as you worked with a significant other, contractor, builders, plumbers, etc.? Making your Women of Today chapter a successful one can be just as challenging. Here are six “rules” that seem to apply to both and can help you to achieve your dream chapter.

BE FLEXIBLE. A craftsman considers many things – blueprints, available funds, other’s preferences, etc. Our chapters need that too. Be open to the ideas of others, look at things objectively, and give people & ideas a chance to develop. There is room for all in a strong chapter.

WATCH FOR UNDETECTED PROBLEMS. A craftsman worries about many things – poor materials, missing parts, weather conditions, labor issues. We also have our ‘gotchas’ such as miscommunication, gossip, micromanagers, as well as lack of attention to detail. Something to remember though is if a builder has a problem with the plumbing, he doesn’t tell the electrician. Instead, he goes to the person who can fix it. Or if he makes a mistake in his own planning, he owns it, learns from the mistakes made and moves on.

BE A DO-IT-YOURSELFER. A craftsman thinks over each step of the plan, considers, learns and tries small things first, gaining skills and confidence as they go. We also encourage do-it-yourself, though not do-it-alone 😊 Encourage people to try something new, learn a new skill, or step outside of their comfort zone with more responsibility. Encourage them with recognition and incentives when they make the effort. We also teach our members it is OK to try things and fall short; we are here for each other to support them to try again.

CALL IN AN EXPERT WHEN NEEDED. A craftsman cannot always do everything. You probably would not dig your own basement, nor would you ask your plumber to do the wiring of your home. MNWT has an abundance of experience for membership to call on – District, MNWT, USWT past officers and many resources. Use what’s available for you and consider the CMVP your general contractor in helping you if you are not sure where to go.

MAINTENANCE HEADS OFF PROBLEMS. When a roof has a leak, we won’t wait for the whole thing to cave in, we fix it! When we are hanging a picture and we miss the nail and put a hole in the wall, do we hang the picture anyway and hope no one notices the hole? Our chapters also need love, care and maintenance. We cannot expect things to last forever and remain the same if we do not take care of them. We need to evaluate, plan, try new things, support, nurture and focus on the positives. We cannot please all the people in our chapter, but we need to make sure they feel loved, treasured and cared for and to do that we need to pay attention.

MAKE IT A HOME...NOT JUST A HOUSE. With little touches, we turn a house into a home – we add our own special touches and make it work for us. Women of Today offers a chance to make our chapter ours. Each year, we have themes, colors, logos, and different leaders who bring new special touches to our chapters and remind us *“there is no place like home.”*

“Building for Success”
Tevyan Sorensen, CMVP



Extensions is more than starting new chapters, it's also the fellowship between members not only in a single chapter, but across multiple chapters and districts. An important part of an extension is the support they receive from other chapters and members from across the state, not just the Extensions Director or state staff. Each chapter is unique in its own way and extending fellowship and making connections through our organization is a great way to support your chapter in success.

Please email me at extensions@mnwt.org to let me know what your chapter is doing to connect and "extend the hand of fellowship" beyond your chapter.

I would love to share your experiences on the Membership Facebook Page and hopefully give a chapter a new idea or open the communication lines for chapters further.

"Arrrgh You Ready To Talk About Women of Today"

Andrea Schue, Extensions Director

It was great to see so many friendly faces at Fall State. The SPMs and I had a great time at the Programming Roundtable. Thank you to everyone that shared project ideas in each of the programming areas. During the 2nd Trimester Webinar on October 25th, we will be doing a "Programming Pick Me Up" session.



The deadline for submitting Outstanding Young Adult, Person with Determination, and Women Who Impact nominations is November 1st. Let's honor our future community leaders, a person who has overcome challenges to contribute to their community, and current women leaders impacting their communities at the Winter State banquet. Reach out to Community Connections, Youth of Today, Women's Wellness SPMs or me with any questions. Nominations should be sent to fdc-awards@mnwt.org

Keep on "Living, Giving & Sharing"

Mary Kaminski, PVP



October focus for Community Connections is taking those FREINDSHIPS from Fall State and turn them into RELATIONSHIPS! Let's work those relationships to nominate someone in your chapter or someone we see is deserving of receiving the "Person with Determination Award" to be honored at Winter State. Nominations are due by November 1, 2023.

How about taking those new Relationships and creating a new project or improving an existing project and submitting a "Project of the Trimester"? Anyone who submits a nomination for "Person with Determination Award" or nominates a project for "Project of 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 to help you work the event!

"Keep Building Those Ships!"

Sandy Greninger, Community Connections



THANK YOU! A BIG “Thank you” to all the chapter members who submitted their MNWT L&L and USWT WPD Certifications for 1st Trimester! I received 28 Total, and 2 chapters completed a Personal Enrichment Program (PEP) Course. I sincerely hope more chapters will attempt to hold a PEP Course in Trimester 2! It could be a great way to recruit new members looking for “something different” in their lives.

Did you know mental health plays a huge role in your overall health and wellbeing? It affects how you think, feel and act, and helps determine how you make healthy choices and cope with stress. One of the 5 ways to boost or prioritize your mental health every day is to Express Gratitude. (Imagine that?) Take 5 minutes daily to write down 3 (or more) things you are grateful for. Because mental health is an important part of our “wellness,” focusing on maintaining or improving it is important. That is why I added writing down 3 things you are grateful for as my 2nd SPM Requirement on the MNWT Living & Learning Certification!

“Live Simply, BEE Grateful”

Pat Undersander, Living and Learning

Hello, my Priority Area friends! Tri 2 is going to be exciting when it comes to volunteering for Crescent Cove. We have the Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser on Oct 14th in White Bear Lake. We will also be doing the Holiday Drive-Through again on December 3rd. Keep an eye on your emails and read your CIP for more information about these opportunities. I will also be posting on our programming Facebook Page other ways we can help Crescent Cove.



Last but not least, THANK YOU for all that you have done so far for Crescent Cove. You're all making ripples and making a difference. Keep up the great work! See you all soon!

“Make a Ripple Change the World”

Sara Rocksted, Priority Area (Crescent Cove)



Thank you to everyone who attended Fall State and visited the Women’s Wellness table at the project fair. I had fun meeting you and sharing some valuable information. The Enrichment Session on “Hands Only CPR” on Saturday afternoon was well received. Thank you to all who participated in the session and learned how to respond in an emergency. A special thank you to Cindy Sanders LPN, AHA CPR Instructor, MNWT President 2011 – 2012, USWT President 2019 – 2020, who taught the CPR session!

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.

Now is the time to begin writing your nominations for the Lois M. Christensen Women Who Impact Award. The nominations should be emailed by November 1st. 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 following is borrowed from the DVA USWT August SIP 2023:

In an effort to bring awareness to all aspects of domestic violence, there has been a nationwide effort to expose the abusers and give support to the victims. The National Resource Center for Domestic Violence has several campaign ideas on how we can raise awareness and to support Domestic Violence Awareness. The campaign that we are most familiar with is the Purple Ribbon and promotion of October as the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Please use the following ideas or create your own and promote Domestic Violence Awareness. For every event (educational or fundraising) that your chapter participates in, complete the DVA Transmittal form and send it along to me. The form can be completed online @ <https://www.emailform.com/builder/form/yJob00cqs67bxK631bb> or attach a copy of the form and email it to me at dva@uswomenoftoday.org. For those of you who have trouble accessing the form, please feel free to send me an email with all of that same information at dva@uswomenoftoday.org.

Don't forget Purple Thursday on October 19th – take a photo of yourself or your chapter and post it to the Programming Facebook page. If you don't have any purple attire --- feel free to improvise with accessories > scarf, jewelry, nail polish ~ get creative. *End borrowed article*

In the same train of thought, I have challenged the LPM's and Chapter Presidents to ask their chapter members to wear purple to the chapter meeting in October and send me a photo of everyone in purple. The chapters who participate will be entered into a drawing for a prize. Chapters can also collect hygiene items for donation to a local shelter in October and November. Send me a picture at ww@mnwt.org

"The Beat Goes On"

Sharon Bergquist, Women's Wellness

I was so amazed at the wonderful projects that were done under Youth of Today during 1st trimester. The projects all deserve recognition! Much work that came from the heart showed deep commitment to our youth - the voice of our future! With this same commitment, support, and enthusiasm during 2nd trimester, let's keep up our projects and support for homeless youth! I especially would like to see nominees for the Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship Award. This is a unique time for a chapter to get to know a young adult who shows great leadership and is passionate about helping families and community. During October, chapters will need to get their nominations completed and emailed to the nominating committee. This can be a process but will be very rewarding. It's important to get started now!! The OYA Scholarship rules and application are on the MNWT website. Contact me if you need help finding it. All nominations must be emailed by NOV. 1st, which is the final date nominees can be accepted. Success Points for 2nd trimester will be given to chapters who submit an OYA nomination!!



To keep awarding scholarships, we must monetarily support this program. Chapters also receive Success Points for a \$25 donation to the OYA scholarship fund. Send checks to the Chapter Service Center with OYA Scholarship Fund in the memo. Remember to send me an email that you sent in a donation. Keep up your great work with identifying, volunteering your time, and giving donations to homeless youth shelters. It is so needed especially with winter months coming on!

"Youth Building Their Future"

Sandy Trossen, Youth of Today



Congratulations to all the chapter and district treasurers who completed their Treasurer Fast Starts. Thank you to the Chapters who donated to Ways & Means last trimester and received success points. You still have time to make your donation of \$50 or more to get on our Visionopoly board. Prime real estate is still available!

Raffle Time! All tickets have been distributed so now is the time to sell. If your chapter did not get any, check within your District to purchase from others. Great Hotel prizes and cash.

Did you shop at the State Store? Using branded merchandise is a great way to thank members, encourage new members, and get our name out there. Check out clothing options through Warroad Threads.

How do you raise money for your chapter expenses or projects? Share a photo on the Finance Facebook page to get entered in a fabulous drawing at Winter State. I can't wait for you to Show Me the Money!

“Show Me the Money”
Jane Holmberg, FVP



Over many years we have had a beautiful logo for our organization, but times have changed for us to update our logo. We need your opinion on the logo as the Marketing Committee Meeting in December will be voting on the logo to bring to Future Directions to be approved as the new Logo for the Minnesota Women of Today. Please look at your chapter emails and share with your chapter members. You may vote as a chapter or vote individually. Please give feedback on the logos and be honest. I appreciate all your input and dedication to the organization. Reach out with any questions or concerns.

Lets get Famous



MN Ducks



Want to have some fun with your friends at a convention? Well, I have an opportunity for you! I will be selling Ducks at the Vendor Fair and throughout Fall Convention for you to Duck your friends at convention. The cost of the ducks is \$2 for a non-staff member of the MNWT and \$4 for a staff member! The proceeds of the ducks will go to the copyright of our new logo and branding of our organization. If you would like to pre-order ducks, please reach out to me @ mkvp@mnwt.org and I will send you pictures of the ducks to choose from.



I am looking for members to help me out with subcommittees on the Marketing Committee. Anyone interested or has a passion in making our organization better please reach out to me @ mkvp@mnwt.org. We can talk about the different subcommittees and choose the best option for you!

“Lets Get Famous MN Ducks”
Allie Staley, MKVP

Hello Minnesota Women of Today Members,



Thank you to the four-chapter parliamentarians that sent in their Fast Start. I would also like to thank the four chapters that sent their bylaws and policies in for review. You ladies are all amazing. Let's make second trimester submissions even larger.

The state Bylaw and Policy review is scheduled for October 21st. There will be a zoom available. Please send me your email if you would like the link.

Thank You!

"Succeed with Bob and Coffee"
Tawn Hanson, Parliamentarian

The State Plan of Action is completed and has been distributed. I am excited to say that the generous donations we received from chapters, individuals, and other areas of the organization we were able to completely cover the costs of printing. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this possible.



A lot of you found the four little Kittens hidden in last month's Chapter Mailing. Your names were entered into a drawing at Fall State. I hope you found the articles interesting and useful. This month I am changing it up a little. You will now be looking for four little red **a**'s. 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.

"The Magic of Minutes"
Candi Frick, Secretary

Chapter Presidents and Exec Council Members:

Now is the time to start working on your scrapbook page! You won't want to miss out on the fun of putting together a snapshot of your year for President Amy. If you did not receive a blank 12 X 12 scrapbook page, let me know or you can purchase one (#RMW-5).

Make
Magic
Happen!



Chapters and districts are asked to contribute \$10-\$20 toward a special year-end gift for President Amy. Send these donations to the Chapter Service Center with a notation to go to "Pres YE Gift".

For the third trimester, there will be a special incentive drawing at Annual and Success points earned for those that donate for Amy's year end gift and submit a scrapbook page by April 1, 2024.

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. You can also send me copies of newspaper clippings or other memorabilia of your chapter in action.

"Make Magic Happen"
Cat Shuman, PA

Hi past Chapter Presidents and MNWT members!



Thank you, thank you, thank you! To all those who helped me at my ONTO table to distribute pre-orders of t-shirts and to sell ONTO t-shirts for sale at convention. I so appreciate your time and willingness to help. And thank you to the 14 members who pre-ordered t-shirts. Make sure to check out my CIP and the Chapter Mailing for information if you are considering pursuing a position on Executive

Council (District Director, State Program Manager or Staff).

“Finding Your Piece”

Jenise Teske, COB



Consider an Executive Council Position for 2024-2025!

When considering a position as district director, state program manager, staff, or even state president, you will want to make an informed decision. Talk to others who have held these positions. Gather information, reflect on your passion and commitment, and determine where your future path might take you. And, in addition, you can always contact me. I will be glad to answer any questions and visit with you as you consider taking the step to be a member of the MNWT Executive Council. The following information is intended to help guide you in your decision-making process:

District Director

Administrative Vice President Shirley Viesselman and your current district director can provide insight and information to help guide your decision and desire to serve as DD. By filling this vital role and communication link between the state organization and the local chapters, we can ensure districts and chapters are off to a successful start in the new year and remain well informed while on their journey to success. Most districts elect their DD at their spring district meeting. Make your decision early to allow plenty of time for planning as you prepare for becoming a DD.

State Program Manager

Contact Programming Vice President Mary Kaminski and the current SPM in the area(s) for which you might be interested. Ask, seek, and gather information from them to help you decide on bidding for an SPM position. They can assist you with the paperwork as you prepare your bid for Winter State Convention. If you are not ready to take on an SPM position, you might want to consider applying for one of the Programming Assistant positions (PR assistant or NEWSLET editor). Contact me at cob@mnwt.org for more information on these positions.

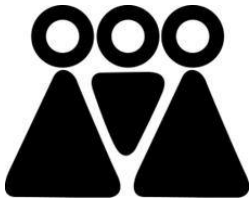
Staff

Step right up! I can answer your questions and help guide you through the process of deciding whether a staff position is right for you. Staff positions are selected by the presidential candidate (s) and their staff selection process has many facets (i.e., experience, location, interest in position). By filing for staff and indicating your interest, you are placing your name in the forefront for consideration. Confidentiality is important should you decide to seek a staff position and your intent should only be shared with the Chair of the Elections committee (aka Chairman of the Board) at this time. *December 1, 2023, is the earliest date that you may file your intent with the Chairman of the Board.*

If you have questions or are interested in a DD position, contact avp@mnwt.org.

If you have questions or are interested in a SPM position, contact pvp@mnwt.org.

If you have questions or are interested in a STAFF position, contact cob@mnwt.org.



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 **December 1** to the Chapter Service

Center. For more information, please contact Chapter Grants Chair, Laura Gaylord or contact me

at foundation@mnwt.org

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.

Nicky Anderson, MNWT Foundation Chairperson

FUTURE DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

What is the Future Directions Committee?

The Future Directions Committee shall advise and make recommendations to the Executive Council on the organization's structure, administration, and programming, shall develop long range planning objectives and methods to obtain them, shall consider changes proposed by members and reporting committees and shall supervise the timely implementation of such changes. Future Directions Committee shall have the authority to make decisions on all matters except for the state bylaws and policies.

Updates on Subcommittees and Task Forces:

****We are always looking for members to chair and be on subcommittees and task forces.**

- Manual Review (Cat S, Chair) – busy working on manuals. Let Cat know if you are willing to help.
- Looking for a chair for Online Training that would oversee and promote Webinars.
- Winter State Awards (Jenise, Chair) overseeing Outstanding Awards for Winter State.
- Project Library Task Force (Cindy U, Chair) looking at ways to upload programming and membership ideas.
- Forms Review (Cat S, Chair) reviewing forms and working on updating fast starts.
- Convention Task Force (Wendy H, Chair) looking at March Planning recommendations to conventions.
- Success Task Force (Cat S/Cindy S, Chairs) working on updating success form. Approved a new form that is on the web site and looking at additional updates.
- Restructuring (Nicky A, Chair) brought suggested changes to State POA which will be implemented with 2024 POA.

Who can Attend a Future Directions Committee Meeting?

Voting members of FD are Administrative VP, Programming VP, the COB, the Executive Director, the State President, the State Parliamentarian, Marketing VP, Membership Management Chair, MNWT Foundation Chair, reporting subcommittee chairs, past Future Directions chair, Financial VP and one (1) general member from each area and up to four (4) general members from any area.

Anyone can attend meetings and be a part of the brainstorming and make suggestions. I hope you will consider attending a FD meeting this year!

Online Training Webinar – October 25th

Topics:

- ✓ Extending a New Chapter
- ✓ Programming Pick Me Up with new ideas for programming
- ✓ ROAR Roundtable, sharing what is working

To register for the above webinar, email Tanya at csc@mnwt.org or watch for a google link on the web site.

Our next Future Directions Committee meeting will be on December 2, 2023, at the Monticello Resurrection Church at 1pm. There will be a zoom link (limited involvement in discussion), please contact me at fdc@mnwt.org if you would like the link. I would love to have you join us!

Jane Hanson, Future Directions Committee Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Activation and Retention

Activation of members means getting them involved. Whether it is activation of new members or reactivating seasoned members, it is vital for your chapter to have involved members. This is part of what makes your chapter healthy. With enthusiastic, activated members, your chapter will be able to run a variety of projects, create lasting friendships and increase retention. Having active members in your chapter sets a good example for new members to join and become active themselves. New members join because they want to be active, so be sure to give them the resources they need to succeed.

Retention is a VITAL part of the four elements of membership. All your efforts in recruitment, orientation and activation lead to retention. Your chapter needs to retain members who can share their experience and help your chapter thrive. Here are some ideas for aiding in retention:

Identify which members need extra attention.

- Get the members involved in your chapter's activities. Think about which of your projects interests each member.
- Ask every member to renew. Do not ever assume a member is not going to renew and fail to contact her
- Let members know that all activity levels are welcome.
- Plan a special retention project such as a Member Appreciation Event to involve inactive members as well as provide a fun event for the whole chapter.

JoAnn Miller, Membership Management Committee Chairperson



What is a Hashtag and how to use it.

The definition of Hashtag from the Oxford Language Dictionary is

hash·tag /'haSH,tæg/

Noun: a word or phrase preceded by a hash sign (#), used on social media sites and applications, especially Twitter, to identify digital content on a specific topic.

Depending on your generation, you may recognize the hash tag symbol as a pound symbol. It is in the simplest form a character used in front of a word or phrase used in social media to search and identify post. The best way to understand the power of a hashtag is hands on.

On either your phone or computer...

- Open Facebook, Instagram or even your website browser. Any of these will work. In the search bar type in #MNWT. What do you see? Most of these posts are Minnesota Women of Today specific.
- Now type in #FallState. What do you see? This is a commonly used phrase, and many individuals and businesses use it.
- Now type in #MNWT and #FallState. How did this change the results?
- We use specific Hashtags like #MNWT to find common interest posts within our organization. We use general hashtags like #FallState to promote and share with others outside of our organization who have similar interests. We use hashtags in combination to search for specific events. And activities.
- Publicly share a photo of a chapter event or activity on Facebook or Instagram. Include in your text/description #MNWT #VisionsOfSuccess and your chapter hashtag if you have one. Encourage all your members to post something. Wait a few weeks and search for those hashtags. What comes up?

If your goal is to promote and share what your chapter is doing, one of the easiest ways to create an online identity is through hashtags. If you do not have a chapter specific hashtag, it is time to decide on one. Use it across all social media platforms and remember to include a second or third general hashtag to increase visibility.

An example would be the New Hope chapter has been using #NHWT since 2015. Along with that they have hashtags to reflect their president's theme. They also use #MNWT when at state activities. Consistency over the years increases their visibility and awareness outside of their chapter. There are other chapters in Women of Today with the NH initials that have begun using #NHWT in the last few years. More chapters using #NHWT does not take away from the chapter, but it does require second and third general hashtags to be included to better identify specific events. When deciding your chapter hashtag, search for it on social media. How popular is it? Do other chapters/organizations use it? Does it reflect your chapter? Is it easy to remember?

Hashtag FAQ

Who can use a hashtag? Anyone can use and search for hashtags. Suggest members use you chapter hashtag when posting Women of Today Events on their personal pages.

Are hashtags case sensitive? No, #MNWT #mnwt and #MnWt are all the same thing when it comes to searching hashtags. People may change the letter case to emphasize a word or idea.

Can I have spaces in hashtags? No, a space ends the searchable hashtag. If you want to post a photo about the fall carnival in 2023 you could use #FallCarnival2023 or #2023fallcarnival, but if you use #Fall Carnival 2023, only the Fall will be searchable.

How do I get my post to move to the top of the hashtag search results? Increase the frequency you post. Along with that, posts with more views and interactions such as likes, comments, and shares will more likely be at the top of the search results.

The meeting was called to order by President Amy Pumper at 1:35 p.m.
The invocation was given by Living and Learning SPM Pat Undersander.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Administrative Vice President Shirley Viesselman.
The United States of Today Creed was led by District 5 Director Sue Lemke.
Orders of the Day were given by Parliamentarian Tawn Hanson. A quorum has been established.
The minutes of the Annual Executive Council meeting held on May 19, 2023, and the minutes of the Special Executive Council meeting held on May 21, 2023, were approved as printed.

Secretary, Candi Frick (*secretary@mnwt.org*)

- Chapter Mailing Highlights for November are due by October 10th.
- Staff Reports for Mid-Year Exec. are due by November 1st.
- DD Bags are ready for pick-up. Please take the contents but leave the bag.
- The State POA is finished and is being distributed this weekend. The many donations received have totally paid for the printing costs. Thanks to everyone for your help in getting this done. Special thanks to Tanya, Amy and JoAnn Miller.

Administrative Vice President, Shirley Viesselman (*avp@mnwt.org*)

- Thank you to all Exec. Council members who attended a District event or meeting in 1st Trimester. Each of your district directors and representatives have been “sparkling”. They have been working hard to use the updated District Meeting guidelines that were put in place. They met many challenges with these guideline changes as well as redistricting. A zoom chat was held after all Tri 1 District Meetings. The question asked was “if you were a member that attended your district meeting, what did you take away from it?” I continue to challenge them with this question as they plan their Tri 2 meetings. We encourage the chapters and members to participate in their district meeting this year.
- Welcome these amazing women as they introduce themselves and share their biggest success, what they learned, and what they look forward to first trimester.
 - **Christine Sibilleau, DD2:** I love that district members are always ready to pitch in and share support. This is cultured at district meetings, socials and projects. I like surveys, and value what we learn from the responses. Looking forward to District 2 members/chapters identifying crucial pinch points in their membership, building up what they have to work with.
 - **Linda Nindorf, DD3:** Big success was 3 of the 5 chapter presidents turned in their Plan of Action and their Fast Start. I learned it is a very long drive to Leader MN as we attended a district social. Looking forward to this trimester hearing all the wonderful things going on in my chapters.
 - **Open, DD4:** Leading Benson, Hawley, Montevideo, Morris Area
 - **Sue Lemke, DD5:** Biggest accomplishment is I visited each one of my chapters and had 6 chapters represented at district meeting. I have 35 members attending convention. I have learned more about my chapters and what wonderful projects and relationships they have with their community. Looking forward to my district having fun together and all their great projects.
 - **Connie Fink, DD6:** Biggest success is that I visited all the chapters in my district. Learned to step out of my comfort zone and reach out to chapters and members and to challenge myself to try new things. Looking forward to attending more events and district meeting in October.
 - **Jennifer Wulff, DD7:** Biggest success was our district meeting. It was wonderful to see so many ladies come together. I learned that chapters are very welcoming to each other with the new districting. Also somewhat set in their ways. Looking forward to getting out and visiting more.
 - **Michelle Cloutier, DD8 Tri 1 Rep::** Tri 1 was fun. Being a rep is a little different. Was excited about our district meeting with attendance from 5 of the 6 chapters. Great interaction and connections and Snackleboxes. Learned that everything passes and works out as it should in the end. Looking forward to is seeing Kenya do an amazing job as Tri 2 Rep.
 - **Laura Gaylord, DD9 Tri 1 Rep::** Success 5 of 8 chapters present at district meeting. Struggle for our district is membership and will be brainstorming and sharing ideas. Looking forward to sharing and seeing the development of our next leaders in the district.

Membership Vice President, Glorie Balfanz (mvp@mnwt.org)

- Membership Round Table and MVP Challenges are for all members. You do not need the title of MVP to participate in any membership activities. Encourage every chapter to send at least one member to any membership activity.
- Membership Week is October 8-14, 2023. This is a great opportunity to be visible with your district or chapters around the state. A vision Packet is included in the MVP CIP with ideas to use.
- Membership Team is planning ways to support chapters with membership. We have opportunities this weekend at the project fair and the Membership Roundtable. In October, membership will have a roundtable discussion during the webinar as well. We will have more opportunities at Winter State for membership management training. If you hear of anyone looking for support, please come see myself or anyone on the membership team. We are here to help.
- CIP Challenges and Foundation Rebates are all designed to help chapters with membership and become healthy chapters. The healthier we are the more appealing we will be to others. Please encourage chapters to try at least one of these and to participate in the Webinars.

Chapter Management Vice President, Tevyan Sorensen (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.
- Jackson opted to fold this trimester. We have two chapters currently on TLC, Hawley (2nd trimester) and New Ulm (1st trimester). The membership team has been meeting with individual DDs this weekend to discuss these chapters and others to talk about how to support growth and strength across all chapters.
- The Buddy System will continue with staff members responsible for contacting a chapter president or representative for a check-in mid tri. This is different from the check-in that they receive at Closeout.
- We had 19 chapters submit Success this trimester and we had two chapters that haven't submitted in a while. For every DD who can get at least one additional chapter in their district to submit Success for Tri 2, we will have a gift for you at Winter State.
- I have a few requests to make as leaders in helping to grow our chapters as well as develop leaders within our chapters. Attend trainings, bring a friend along, pass along content or training ideas to Amy or staff, pass along challenges you are hearing about. You can make a difference as we continue to build for the future success of this organization.

Extensions Director, Andrea Shue (extensions@mnwt.org) (absent)

- Working on Extensions in Red Wing and Hibbing/Chisholm areas. If the District Directors want to be involved in those areas let me know. I will be doing a meet & greet in both areas in Tri 2.

Programming Vice President, Mary Kaminski (ivp@mnwt.org)

- Sandy Greninger of STMA was appointed by President Amy on September 1st.
- Winner of 1st Trimester Executive Council Challenge is Sue Lemke District 5
- 2nd Trimester Challenge is for DDs to encourage chapters to submit Programming Trimester Report, Project of Trimester, and Outstanding Program Manager nominations.
- Please like and share posts from the MNWT Programming Page.

Community Connections, Sandy Greninger (cc@mnwt.org)

- ✓ Plan of action

Living and Learning, Pat Undersander (ll@mnwt.org)

- ✓ Giving "Gratitude" handouts and small journals at Project Fair

Priority Area (Crescent Cove), Sara Rocksted (priority-area@mnwt.org)

- ✓ Will reach out to Crescent Cove and will find out what they need help with the most.

Women's Wellness, Sharon Bergquist (ww@mnwt.org)

- ✓ Red Dress Campaign is Kicking Off tonight at Project Fair. My goal is to have 100 pins sold by Winter State.

Youth of Today, Sandy Trossen (yt@mnwt.org)

- ✓ Project Fair: Spin the wheel for prizes. Pick a Duck for a funny prize. Each game is \$2.00 Also caps for \$5.00, proceeds go to OYA scholarship. Information on homeless youth.
- ✓ Speakers at enrichment session: Crisis Nursery, Pathways for Youth and 180 Degrees. They will talk about youth homelessness frequency and how the community can help.

Marketing Vice President, Allie Staley (mkvp@mnwt.org)(*absent*)

- I am working with a few individuals on creating our own TikTok Account. After our Exec Council Meeting, I would like to create a fun video for introducing our organization to TikTok.
- Take a moment to pass around the potential new MNWT Logos. I would like you to star the one you like the best as this will be voted on in December at the Marketing Committee meeting to finalize our new Logo.
- Wanna step out of your comfort zone? I'm looking for individuals to make time with me at Winter State to do video testimonials to be used as a marketing tool on our website and on Facebook. Email me and I will set up a time with you at Winter State to record your testimonial.

M/S/P (Marketing/CMVP) I move on behalf of the marketing committee to vote in our area reps as follows:

Area 1: Liz Weigel; Area 2

Cindy Umland; Area 3: Connie Fink; Area 4 Sue Bay

Financial Vice President, Jane Holmberg (fvp@mnwt.org) (*absent*)

- State Store has new items. President Amy's mugs, limited edition Butterfly Coaster, new tote, and pens. Also remember the finger mitts, flashlights and umbrellas.
- 1st Trimester fundraiser was Fudge, Fudge Caramels. Orders can be picked up near the store at the Project Fair. There is a limited supply available for sale. Thank you to Mary Hansen for chairing this delicious fundraiser.
- 2nd Trimester means Raffle Time. Get your tickets from Jane Hanson or at the State Store from Jane Holmberg. Each Chapter that sells 2 books of tickets will receive success points. Tickets are \$5.00 each with a chance to win one of the hotel stays or cash prize.
- Nest finance Committee meeting will be January 6 at 9 am via zoom. Midyear budget review will be the night before. Would you like to be a part of this committee? Receive a Get Out of Jail Free Card.

M/S/P (Secretary/CMVP) I move to approve Tevyan Sorensen and Jeny Ohr to a 2-year term on the finance committee.

Parliamentarian, Tawn Hanson (parli@mnwt.org)

- Please help to encourage your chapter parlis to participate in my 2nd trimester challenge. See my CIP for details.
- The state's Bylaw and policy review will be Oct 21, 2023. A zoom link will be sent out.
- I had 4 chapters participate in sending in their bylaws challenge. I would like to ask President Amy to draw the winner of my 1st trimester challenge.

Chairman of the Board, Jenise Teske (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 1st. Remember that you CANNOT share with others that you are interested in filing for a position until it is approved and officially announced per our Bylaws and Policies. If you talk to me about what is involved in a position, it does not commit you to do it. Contact me today for more information. For those interested in SPM positions, contact Mary. If interested in being a DD contact Shirley.
- Upcoming meetings are as follows – SAVE THE DATE. Our 2nd Trimester Statewide Committee meetings will be held on Saturday, December 2nd at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Monticello, starting at 10 am. 3rd Trimester Committee meetings will be held March 16 in Staples, location TBD. March Planning will be held on March 2nd at the Boy Scout Center in Sartell. Regional meetings will be held on March 23rd and April 6th. Everyone on Executive Council should plan on attending at least one of the Regional meetings.

At Regional meetings the appropriate attire is your suit. At Committee meetings and March planning, you should wear your red polo.

M/S/P (COB/CMVP) I move to approve Char Ostenberg as Elections rep for Area 1, Lisa Hahn as Elections rep for Area 2, Deb

Froemming as Elections rep for Area 3, and Robyn Farm as Elections rep for Area 4.

M/S/P (COB/CMVP) I move to approve Liz Weigel as Area 1 rep for the MMC Committee, Cindy Umland as Area 2 rep for the MMC,

Connie Fink as Area 3 rep for the MMC Committee, and Michelle McGowan as Area 4 rep for the MMC Committee

M/S/P (COB/AVP) I move to approve Michelle Cloutier, Jeny Ohr, and Wendy Homyak as general members for the MMC Committee.

Future Directions Committee Chair, Jane Hanson (fdc@mnwt.org)

M/S/P (COB/PA) I move to approve these changes to policies.

Replace S 1 with..The State Plan of Action shall be completed and distributed at the President/State Delegate Retreat and to the remaining chapters at Fall State. Once the Plan of Action is complete, the secretary will email a link to all chapters. The booklet shall include roster of the state officers and any other information at the discretion of the State President.

Delete S 2a. Extra copies shall be available for purchase at the state store for \$10.

Membership Management Committee Chair, JoAnn Miller (mmc@mnwt.org)

- Next MMC meeting is December 2nd at Resurrection Church in Monticello at 10:00. I'd love to see you all there.

Executive Director, Tanya Rothstein (csc@mnwt.org)

- Mid-Year Executive Council is scheduled for November 11th at Monticello. You have information at your place, and I will send a Google registration form.
- Winter State 2023-2024 will be held January 26-27 at the Crowne Plaza Mpls West in Plymouth with the theme Fun with Games. Registration has been put by your place and is in the CIPs.
- I am seeking hosts for Annual 2024 at Arrowwood Alexandria and Fall State 2024 at Arrowwood Brainerd. Please see me for further information.
- Be sure to clean up your official email boxes. You should check your blacklist and make sure you do not have any official mnwt.org emails blocked.
- Reminder that the very best way to communicate with me is via email; that way I have any requests in front of me in written form when I am sitting at my desk.

Presidential Assistant, Cat Shuman (pa@mnwt.org)

- Have you thought about your quilt square yet? Reminder that Judy Moldenhauer has offered to make quilt squares for you. The cost is \$25. You can register with me this weekend and I will forward your check and logo to her so she can start working on those. Quilt squares are due to me by or before winter State 2024.
- Scrapbook pages have been handed out to each exec council member and committee chair. Each of you should create a memory of your year on the front and back sides. Completed pages should be given to me no later than April 1 or at regional meetings.
- While out and about this year, please take pictures of your activities and events and send me an electronic copy of those photos. 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.
- Secret Sis gifts handed out at break.

MNWT Foundation, Nicky Anderson (foundation@mnwt.org) Given by COB Jenise Teske

- Our Annual Lucky Buck Auction to Benefit Chapter Grants will be held tomorrow at the luncheon. Bring your dollars. Stop at the foundation table tonight at the project fair and see the baskets.

President, Amy Pumper (president@mnwt.org)

- Inclusivity activity
- Staff Medallions.

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

The Minnesota Women of Today Creed was led by Youth of Today SPM Sandy Trossen.

The 2023 Fall State Executive Council Meeting of the Minnesota Women of Today was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. by Amy Pumper.

Respectfully Submitted,

Candi Frick, Secretary MNWT

**Minnesota Women of Today
Fall State –St. Cloud, MN**

**Business Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President Amy Pumper at 9:05 a.m.

The invocation was given by Living and Learning SPM Pat Undersander.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Financial Vice President Jane Holmberg.

The United States of Today Creed was led by District 3 Director Linda Nindorf.

Orders of the Day were given by Parliamentarian Tawn Hanson. A quorum has been established.

The minutes of the Annual Business meeting held on May 20, 2023 were approved as printed.

Secretary, Candi Frick (secretary@mnwt.org)

- Keep reading your Chapter Mailings and looking for the icons. The winner of the drawing is Michelle Cloutier from Burnsville
- Thank you to those who made donations for the State Plan of Action. The winner of the drawing basket is New Hope.
- Congratulations to the 15 chapter and 1 district secretaries who completed their Fast Starts. Incentives were placed in DD bags. The basket winner was Denise Kociemba from Melrose Area.
- 2nd Trimester challenge is to send me your minutes for review, and you will be in a drawing for a basket at Winter State.

Administrative Vice President, Shirley Viesselman (avp@mnwt.org)

- I'm excited to have received 19 Chapter State Delegate Fast Starts. Incentives were given out.
- Thank you to each of the 15 State Delegates who completed the 1st Trimester State Delegate Report. The drawing winner is Karen Peterson Brainerd Lakes Area. Had State Delegates stand and be recognized.
- Each District Director has been working hard to use the updated District Meeting guidelines. They have met many challenges but are focusing on strengthening the chapters through networking, training enrichment and chapter's needs.
- I hope you had fun playing Jeopardy with the District Directors last night at the Project Fair. The winner of our drawing is Carolyn Fortier from Warroad.
- Welcome these amazing women as they introduce themselves and share their biggest success, what they learned, and what they look forward to first trimester.
 - **DD 2: Christine Sibilleau** - leading Greenbush, Lake of the Woods, Red Lake Falls, Roseau and Warroad Area
 - **DD 3: Linda Nindorf** - leading Aitkin, Brainerd Lakes Area, Duluth, Longville, and Staples-Motley Area
 - **DD 4: Open** – leading Benson, Hawley, Montevideo, and Morris Area

- **DD 5: Sue Lemke** – leading Albany, Avon, Melrose Area, Rice, Sauk Rapids, St. Cloud, and St. Joseph
- **DD 6: Connie Fink** – leading Big Lake, Elk River Area, Hutchinson Area, Monticello, Rogers-Otsego-Dayton, and St. Michael-Albertville
- **DD 7: Jennifer Wulff** – leading Anoka, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Maple Grove, and White Bear Lake
- **DD 8, Tri 1 Rep.: Michelle Cloutier** – leading Blooming Prairie, Burnsville, Byron, Eastern Carver County, Glenville and New Hope
- **DD 9, Tri 1 Reo.: Laura Gaylord** – leading Fairmont, Hanska, Madelis, New Ulm, Slayton, St. James, and Windom

Membership Vice President, Glorie Balfanz (mvp@mnwt.org)

- Each member is an MVP. We are all responsible for membership.
- Thank you to: Melrose, Aitkin, Coon Rapids, St. Joseph, Byron, New Hope, Monticello, St. Cloud, Maple Grove, Brainerd Lakes, Avon, and Burnsville for participating in the MVP Tri 1 Challenge. The winner of the Challenge is Maple Grove.
- MVP Challenge Trimester 2: Review the 5 Traits of a Healthy Chapter, hold a Renewal Ceremony, hold an orientation, hold an M-Event. Email me when completed to be entered into a prize drawing at Winter State.
- Reward your Chapter with membership incentives. Have members complete the STEP certifications.
- Early bird renewals are due by Nov. 15th. Submit 75% of your ultimate renewals for the trimester and be recognized at Winter State. Chapters who hold a membership event during Membership Week October 8-14 will also be recognized.
- Let's have a big Beer and Pizza Party! MNWT would like to celebrate Membership Week with the theme of Beer and Pizza. A Vision Packet with ideas for Socials and M Events will be sent to your chapter.

Chapter Management Vice President, Tevyan Sorensen (cmvp@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the 19 Chapter Presidents who submitted their Fast Starts. Check out my CIP for tips on how you can use what you started to continue your year. The winner of my Fast Start drawing is Carolyn Fortier from Warroad
- A shout out to the 16 Chapter Presidents and 14 State Delegates from 17 chapters who attended the President/State Delegate Retreat on August 5th in Monticello.
- Thank you to the 19 Chapters who submitted Success this trimester. We had 2 chapters Roseau & Warroad Area submit for the first time in at least a year. The Success march will be at the banquet tonight. For Tri 2 we will have a drawing for all chapters who submit Success as well as a 2nd drawing for all chapters submitting Success for the first time in at least a year. Check out the President's or CMVPs CIPs for 2nd Trimester Presidential Success Points.
- An updated Success form was approved at the July Future Directions Committee. Make sure your chapter is using the form dated July 6, 2023. Questions can be sent to success@mnwt.org
- Unfortunately, we said goodbye to the Jackson chapter. We have two chapters on TLC, Hawley (2nd trimester) and New Ulm (1st trimester).
- Today at the luncheon, in addition to our celebration of membership we will be introducing a new annual recognition of years of service milestones. We will recognize at Fall State annually as part of the Membership luncheon those with 20, 30,40, and 50 year anniversaries. We will also be honoring members at milestones and will be sending postcards and honoring with certificates at the 10 year anniversaries.

Extensions Director, Andrea Shue (extensions@mnwt.org) (absent)

- Thank you to everyone that participated in my Tri 1 challenges. My winners are JoAnn Miller, Jeanne Wolbeck, and Duluth Area.
- Be on the lookout for a meet & greet for potential chapters in your area. I will be advertising them on Facebook and in the chapter emails. I would love to have surrounding chapter members attend.
- The MNWT Foundation is generously offering \$500 to any chapter that extends in Tri 2

Programming Vice President, Mary Kaminski (ivp@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the 14 Programming Vice Presidents that submitted their Fast Starts. They will be recognized at the Banquet this evening. Thank you to the 13 chapters submitting their Trimester Programming report.

Across all programming areas: Service Hours were 3,216.50, Monetary & in-kind donations were \$56,837.10. If you did not send a report for 1st Trimester you can combine your reporting for both trimesters by January 2, 2024.

- Drawing for chapters turning in their Trimester report winner was Anoka.
- Thank you to everyone that attended the Visions of Success Project Fair. Winner of the drawing for completing their Vision is Frances Nelson from St. Joseph.
- Looking for new programming ideas or have some great ideas. Make sure you attend the Programming Roundtable.
- Women's Wellness SPM Sharon Bergquist is hosting an enrichment session to learn Hands Only CPR. Youth of Today SPM Sandy Trossen has speakers on Youth Homelessness and how we can help.
- Are you passionate about programming? Do you enjoy recognizing individuals and chapters for accomplishments? Are you ready to move to the next level of Women of Today? Then being a State Program Manager is just what you are looking for. To learn more, attend the SPM Open House this afternoon.
- The 2nd Trimester Webinar will be October 25th. Join the SPMs and me for a "Programming Pick-Up". More information coming.
- The 2nd Trimester PVP challenge is submit the Trimester Programming Report and nominate Outstanding Program Managers and Outstanding Project of the Trimester by January 2nd.

Community Connections, Sandy Greninger (cc@mnwt.org)

- ✓ Thank You to the 7 Program Managers who submitted their Fast Starts. They will be recognized at the banquet this evening.
- ✓ With 13 chapters submitting their Trimester Programming Reports the current service hours were 2106 and cash and in-kind donations total \$26,296.10.
- ✓ Trimester 2 challenges are Person of Determination and \$100 to True Friends and completing project of the trimester.

Living and Learning, Pat Undersander (ll@mnwt.org)

- ✓ Thank you to the 10 program managers or chapters submitting Fast Starts. They will be recognized at the banquet.
- ✓ I received 17 USWT Wellness & Personal Development Certifications 11 MNWT Living & Learning Certifications and 1 chapter with a total of 8 participants completed a Personal Enrichment (PEP) Course.
- ✓ The winner of the 1st Trimester challenge is Nancy Wiskus from Anoka.
- ✓ For 1st Trimester 6 chapters reported spending 203 ½ hours on Living & Learning activities.
- ✓ 2nd Trimester Challenges: Chapter complete a PEP course and notify LL SPM or have 3 or more members complete a LL project and notify me to receive an incentive.
- ✓ Sharpen your Impromptu Speaking skills at the Speaking Competition at 4:30

Priority Area (Crescent Cove), Sara Rocksted (priority-area@mnwt.org)

- ✓ Thank you to the 9 program managers that submitted reports. We will recognize them at the banquet. The winner of my drawing is Denise Wille from Aitkin.
- ✓ Fundraising totals for 1st Trimester were 65 service hours and \$975 in cash and in-kind donations.
- ✓ We will be having a fundraiser at the Pumpkin Patch again and we will also be participating in the Holiday Drive Through for Crescent Cove.
- ✓ Raffle Basket raised \$82 and winner is Kim Lawler from Warroad.

Women's Wellness, Sharon Bergquist (ww@mnwt.org)

- ✓ Thank you to the 12 members who submitted their Fast Starts. Your certificates are in the DD bags.
- ✓ A special thank you to the 4 chapters/LPMs who participated in the Tri 1 LPM Challenge to give a presentation at their chapter meeting on Know Your Numbers. Congratulations to Char Ostenberg from Duluth, winner of the Tri 1 Challenge.
- ✓ Congratulations to Bernie Grading from the Sauk Rapids chapter winner of the Heart Healthy Basket at the Project Fair

- ✓ Focus for Tri 2 in WW will be Domestic Violence, Smoking Cessation and the Lois M. Christensen Women Who Impact Award. Nominations are due by Nov. 1
- ✓ Chapters have reported a total of 182.25 service hours with a value of \$5,795.55.
- ✓ Selling Red Dress pins for \$2 each.

Youth of Today, Sandy Trossen (yt@mnwt.org)

- ✓ Thank you to the 7 chapters and 1 district who submitted their Fast Starts. They will be recognized at the banquet.
- ✓ I am happy to announce that 15 chapters met my Kid's Week Challenge to hold a Kid's Week event during or near Kids Week. Chapters who participated are Monticello, New Hope, Duluth, Brainerd Lakes Area, Albany St. Cloud, Warroad Area, Avon, Sauk Rapids, Aitkin, St. Joseph, Burnsville, Fairmont Anoka and Fridley. These chapters were entered into a drawing for 3 baskets and the winners are Aitkin, Albany, and Avon.
- ✓ 2 chapters donated \$25 to the OYA fund 1st Trimester. These chapters were given a gift card incentive in lieu of a gift card drawing. The chapters were Monticello and Sauk Rapids.
- ✓ I received 3 responses from chapters regarding a potential OYA nomination. For each response a personal care item was donated to the Crisis Nursery Shelter program.
- ✓ I had a challenge to chapters to find local youth homeless shelters or agencies in their areas and email me. I received 5 emails. Chapter incentives are in their chapter bags.
- ✓ I am happy to announce that with 20 chapters reporting that we had 659.75 service hours and \$28,383.00 cash and in-kind donations.
- ✓ 2nd Trimester Challenges: Drawing for chapters submitting OYA nomination. Donate \$25 for OYA scholarship for State Store gift certificate; volunteer at youth homeless shelter; donate holiday wish list items to youth homeless shelter.

Marketing Vice President, Allie Staley (mkvp@mnwt.org)(absent)

- Thank you to all the chapters and individuals that submitted pictures for the State Fair Bench. The winner of the Ducky Surprise Basket is Mary Kaminski from New Hope.
- Looking for individuals that would help on our Subcommittees on the Marketing Committee. Looking for chairs for the Expo Committee and Promoting MNWT. If interested contact me.
- Wanna step out of your comfort zone? I'm looking for individuals to make time with me at Winter State to do video testimonials to be used as a marketing tool on our website and on Facebook. Email me and I will set up a time with you.
- All Chapters or Individuals are to vote on their preference for the MNWT Logo. Look in the chapter emails for the link to vote on the Logo. Voting ends November 4th and will be voted on December 2nd by the marketing committee.
- Welcome our Marketing Committee Reps Area 1 Liz Weigel, Area 2: Cindy Umland, Area 3: Connie Fink and Area 4: Sue Bay

Financial Vice President, Jane Holmberg (fvp@mnwt.org) (absent)

- Thank you to the 14 Chapters and 1 District Treasurer who submitted their Fast Start. Chance cards and incentives were placed in the DD bags.
- Thank you to the chapters and individuals who donated to state Ways and Means during Trimester 1. Property Cards were placed in the DD bags. Our donation goal is \$3000. Each Chapter or District that Shows Me the Money of \$50 or more will get a property on the Visionopoly Board. Those Chapters who have already donated \$35 only \$15 more will get you that property. Hats off to Monticello and New Hope for being the first property owners.
- Shop til You Drop at the State Store. Stop by and see our latest items. Spend \$100 or more this year and get one of those special railroad or utilities spots. Volunteer workers are always appreciated at the Store.
- The following were approved for two-year terms on the finance committee at the Executive Council meeting. Tevyan Sorensen and Jeny Ohr.
- Finance Committee is having our yearly raffle. Tickets are available from Jane Hanson or at the State Store. Success points available to chapters selling 2 books of tickets. Tickets are \$5 each with chances to win hotel stays or cash. Drawing will be at Winter State.

- Next Finance Committee meeting will be on Saturday, January 6, 2024, starting at 9 am via zoom. A mid-year budget review will be held Friday night.

M/S/P (FVP/St. Cloud) I move to approve proposed budget for 2023-2024 with income of \$94,270 and expenses of \$92,934.25 with a surplus of \$1,335.75.

Parliamentarian, Tawn Hanson (parli@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the 4-chapter parliamentarians that completed their Fast Start. Your gift is in the DD bag.
- My CIP has a chapter activity to help you educate your members about parliamentary procedure.
- The winner of my first Trimester basket for Bylaw and policy submission is St. Joseph.
- If you haven't already reviewed your Bylaws and Policies, now is the time. Everyone who sends their Bylaws and Policies to me by Nov 15, will be entered into a drawing.
- The State Bylaw and Policy review is October 21st. A zoom link will be available if you would like to attend. Send me your email to receive the link.

Chairman of the Board, Jenise Teske (cob@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the 3 past chapter presidents who participated in my 1st Trimester Challenge Frances Nelson of St. Joseph, Fawn Widmann of Sauk Rapids and Barb Boeck of Monticello.
- Start planning for the 2024-2025 year. Contact me for more information. But remember that if you file for a state position, you should only share with me.
- Do you have recommendations for improvements and/or changes in the process of our organization? You can submit a recommendation any time UNTIL March 10, 2024. The form can be found on the MNWT website. March Planning will be held on March 2, 2024, at the Boy Scouts Center in Sartell. 3rd Trimester Statewide Committee meetings will be held in Staples on March 16, 2024.
- President Amy's ONTO shirts are available for sale for \$15. ONTO flowers are now on sale for \$2.50 each or 5 for \$10. An order form will be available online after convention. You do not need to attend Winter State to give or receive these flowers.
- National Mid-Year Convention is coming up October 6 & 7 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Future Directions Committee Chair, Jane Hanson (fdc@mnwt.org)

- Webinar on Oct. 25th – topics are Extending a New Chapter, Programming Pick Me UP and ROAR Roundtable.
- FD is working updating manuals, created task forces for Project Library and Conventions. Approvals were made to new success form, updated State Plan of Action, and on-line submission for Exec Council expenses reports.
- On-line training chair is needed.
- Next meeting is Dec. 2nd at Resurrection Church in Monticello.

Membership Management Committee Chair, JoAnn Miller (mmc@mnwt.org)

- The New Member Information Sheet task force led by Anna Nichols completed the form and it was approved by MMC and presented to the Future Directions Committee for final approval. Future Directions asked us to define "TLC" and "watch list" and create a policy with those definitions. A task force was set up led by Anna Nichols.
- Next MMC meeting is December 2nd at Resurrection Church in Monticello at 10:00. I'd love to see you all there.

Executive Director, Tanya Rothstein (csc@mnwt.org)

- Winter State 2023-2024 will be held January 26-27 at the Crowne Plaza Mpls West in Plymouth with the theme Fun with Games. Registration is in the CIP and online.
- Fall State CIPs will be available online.
- I am seeking hosts for Annual 2024 at Arrowwood Alexandria and Fall State 2024 at Arrowwood Brainerd. See me for further information.
- Be sure to clean up your official email boxes. Attachments take up a lot of storage, so do not store them in your email. Be sure to clean up your inbox, send folder and trash to free up storage. Contact me if you need help logging in.

- If you have not yet filed your 990s with the IRS be sure to do so before October 1st to avoid next late fee of \$40. If you have trouble or your filing was not accepted, you must contact me in the CSC for assistance. Also be sure that your Annual Renewal has been filed with the MN Secretary of State's office.

Presidential Assistant, Cat Shuman (pa@mnwt.org)

- I'd like to get a scrapbook page from each chapter, which will be put into an album for President Amy. You should have received a 2-sided scrapbook page from your District Director. If you need a scrapbook page, let me know. Completed pages are due to me by April 1 or at regional meetings.
- At Annual convention it is a tradition to give a special gift to our President. We ask each chapter to donate between \$10-\$20 toward the gift. You can send your donation to the Chapter Service Center and earmark it for president's gift. In 3rd trimester, there will be Success points and a special incentive given at Annual for all chapters that donate to the gift and turn in a completed scrapbook page.
- I'm looking for pictures and articles about your chapter, especially highlighting special events or a visit by Amy. You can text or email them to me.

MNWT Foundation, Nicky Anderson (foundation@mnwt.org) Given by COB Jenise Teske

- Chapter Grant applications are due December 1st
- Lucky Buck baskets will be auctioned off at the luncheon.
- Cheryl L Anderson Jewelry Auction will be held at Winter State. Donations are needed. Contact Wendy Homyak or myself.
- If you buy gift cards, then please review my CIP and you can help raise funds for the Foundation by using Raise Right.
- The next foundation meeting will be held by zoom on Nov. 3rd at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to attend let me know and I'll send you the link.
- Give to the Max Day is Nov. 16th. Bingo Night 7:00-7:45. Play games and have fun raising money for the Foundation.

President, Amy Pumper (president@mnwt.org)

New Business: Priority Area Bid – The new 3-year Priority Project is REACH

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

The Minnesota Women of Today Creed was led by Chapter Management Vice President Tevyan Sorensen.

The 2023 Fall State Business Meeting of the Minnesota Women of Today was adjourned at 10:59 a.m. by Amy Pumper.

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