



## *Today's Focus*

*Illinois Women of Today Newsletter - April 2024*

*Kindness  
Lights the Way*



Aimee Kaiser  
IWT President  
2023-2024



### **President - Aimee Kaiser**

Greetings Illinois Women of Today,

Hope this newsletter finds you all doing well and enjoying some Spring like weather or if you haven't seen pleasant weather yet, here is hoping it shows up soon in your area! We are just about a month away from our April All State in Springfield and I am getting so excited to see everyone. We are also only about 3 months away from USWT Year End in Des Moines, IA and hope many of you are joining us there. I also wanted to thank all of my IWT friends for your kindness and love sent during the recent loss of my sweet momma, Sandi Hill, who was a charter member of Pawnee Women of Today. We felt all the prayers, love, kindness and thoughts that were sent our way. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I have a third trimester challenge for all of my IWT members in honor of my mom who spent her last few months at a care facility. **Please bring crossword puzzle books, word**

searches, sudoku, etc. for us to take to so many who live their lives in care facilities. We would also like to get bottles of lotion, fuzzy/fun socks, soft blankets, anything that you think might lift the spirits of someone living in a care facility. Thank you for supporting this challenge and anyone who brings donations will receive a nice little gift from me!!! If you are interested in a IWT Board Position for next year please reach out to Teri Hebda, COB as soon as possible. Have a great end to March and as we fly into April may you enjoy more sunshine than rain!!! Hugs to all!

**Aimee Kaiser**  
**Illinois Women of Today President**

## **Joy Hutchcraft - Secretary**

[Secretary@illinoiswot.org](mailto:Secretary@illinoiswot.org)

Spring has sprung and some of the trees have already begun to blossom. In just a few weeks, we will be finishing our 2023-2024 year together. I look forward to seeing you at the IWT All State on April 26 and 27, 2024 in Springfield. Julie Peart and I are co-chairing the All State. We are planning to have dinner out on Friday night at the Chesapeake Seafood House beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday will be busy with the Business Meeting, fabulous homemade lunch, an easy craft project for Operation Christmas Child, State Elections, and year end awards. There will be goody bags for everyone in attendance along with basket raffles! A registration form and a list of needs for our designated charity (Operation Christmas Child) at the All State is included in this newsletter. Hope you can join us!

## **Debbie Funsch - Membership Vice-President**

[membershipvp@illinoiswot.org](mailto:membershipvp@illinoiswot.org)

*It's soooo important to get dues paid on time. Please send me your dues billing sheets and checks by April 10th.*

*Also, remember to fill out your Step Paperwork and send it to me so we can get it submitted to National.*

*Step I- Can be completed in the first 120 days of being a member.*

*Step II- Can be filled out within the 1st year of membership*

*Step III- Can be done yearly, 1-5 years May 1st-April 30th*

*Step IV- Can be done yearly, 6+ years, May 1st-April 30th*

*Let's see how many Steps we can get turned in the 3rd trimester!!!  
Hope to see you at the Spring All-State!*

**Shari Chakoian - Programming Vice-President**

[programmingvp@illinoiswot.org](mailto:programmingvp@illinoiswot.org)

*Greetings Illinois Women of Today!*

*Spring is a good time to renew and set personal goals and plans for the coming seasons. The Health/Wellness/Personal Development form is a tool useful for personal planning! It's not too late to certify this year so do it right now and then email me to let me know you DID IT! (Or you can bring a paper copy to the All-State. The certification forms are available on the USWT website [www.uswomenoftoday.org](http://www.uswomenoftoday.org)*

**ALSO:**

*Project Report Library - is on the USWT web page to share project ideas with each other. These include community education, membership drives, fundraisers, socials & fun activities. You can submit it at any time.*

*<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/NFWRVy8fO8dD6KT Llc j17>*

**AND:**

*Community Connections forms need to be filled out each trimester. The purpose is to track how many volunteer hours and donations are contributed by our members. USWT can use these to help promote Women of Today in our communities and nation. We are small but we are mighty in what we can accomplish together.*

*<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/d5eidGpBVfad95oDs>*

*If you fill out these forms directly on the USWT website be sure to notify me or send me copies.*

**Chellie Funsch - Treasurer**  
treasurer@illinoiswot.org

**Hello Illinois Women of Today Members!**

Spring is almost here - I know the calendar said it is here, but it sure doesn't feel like it. I'm so ready to sit on my screen-in porch in the mornings on the weekends with my coffee and Lola, my cat. We definitely cherish those days.

Can you believe this year is almost over? It seems like yesterday when I changed the emails in the godaddy account for the state board. Getting things ready for the new year and BAM the year is almost over. There are a few things that you need to do to finalize out your year - once all bills have been paid, please remember to have the books audited. **VERY IMPORTANT** - not just for the outgoing but the incoming treasurer as well. If you have questions or need help, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thanks for another great year, Illinois!  
Chellie  
IWT Treasurer

**\*\*SPRING ALL-STATE MEETING  
APRIL 27TH IN SPRINGFIELD**

*Here is a list of items that can be sent out for people to bring to All-State for Operation Christmas Child.*

- 1. Coloring Books**
- 2. Crayons**
- 3. Colored Pencils**
- 4. Pens/Pencils**
- 4. Hair Accessories**
- 5. Socks (any size)**
- 6. Bandanas**
- 7. Small Toys (like yo-yos, super balls, matchbox cars, small stuffed animals, small puzzles)**

**No WAR Items!**

*Remember everything has to fit into a shoebox!*

*Cheryl Pearson*  
*Operation Christmas Child*

## **Terri Hebda - COB**

One of my duties as COB is to fill the 2024/2025 IWT Board, are you interested in helping Illinois grow? Are you good at numbers? How about Programming? Something to think about. If you're interested in holding a board position call or email me anytime. I would love to let you know what each position entails.

[cob@illinoiswot.org](mailto:cob@illinoiswot.org) or [terann1130@sbcglobal.net](mailto:terann1130@sbcglobal.net)

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**Newsletter articles are due to Shari Chakoian by June 15th  
([newsletter@iwot.org](mailto:newsletter@iwot.org)) or ([schakoian@gmail.com](mailto:schakoian@gmail.com))**



**News from the Chapters**



## **Pawnee Women of Today**

Hello All,

Pawnee Women of Today has been busy with meetings, social events, and service projects. We may be small in number these days but we are still going strong supporting our communities. PWT has donated paper products to the Pawnee Food Pantry, took Valentine treats to Regency Care Center, made Cardz for Kids, donated gift cards to PHS After Prom, donated Easter Eggs to PHS Interact Club for their fundraiser, put an ad in the PHS Yearbook, and made dinner for our local volunteer fire/ems department. We are planning an outing in April to play bingo and we are doing birthday bags for the food pantry in May. Hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to Spring/Summer!

Buzzing out of here,

Aimee Kaiser  
Pawnee Women of Today, President

## **Springfield Women of Today**

**Happy Spring everyone!!!** Springfield Women of Today is very happy to be hosting the April 26th & 27<sup>th</sup> All State meeting at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Springfield. We have been receiving registrations, so please keep them coming! The sooner the better we always say! It's been a busy Spring with member's birthdays with four in February and two in March! We celebrated by meeting at Olive Garden and our server was very generous and gave each birthday gal a free dessert!! Happy Birthday friends!!!

SWT is keeping busy with the normal activities such as meeting at the Koke Mill Christian Church on the first Thursday of the month to make crafts for Operation Christmas Child. Our very own Cheryl Pearson was selected to accompany a group to Peru to see firsthand the impact on how Operation Christmas Child reaches children across the world. We are so proud of your work Cheryl and thank you for being a part of Springfield Women of Today and sharing your passion with us!!

We also meet monthly on the third Thursday of the month for “Bead Buddies”! A big thank you to Karen Eberhart for always providing us with dinner and a place to craft for Operation Christmas Child Bead Buddy crafts! You always go above and beyond, and we appreciate you so very much!

Other events our amazing members take part in include making cards for the Illinois Presbyterian home. Thank you, Barb, Karen and Julie for delivering almost a hundred cards to the home! They were also able to drop off pop tabs and plastic containers collected by SWT members to the Ronald McDonald House and St. John’s Breadline. Great job ladies!

A very exciting event is coming up! Please keep on the lookout for information regarding a Texas Roadhouse fundraiser coming up in late April. More information will be forthcoming at the April All State Meeting.

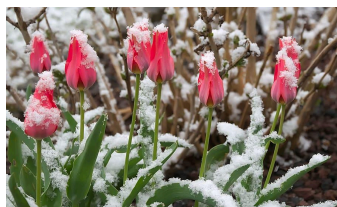
Thank you for all you do and remember.....**In a world where you can be anything, be kind!**

Sincerely,  
Mary Werries, President Springfield Women of Today

### ***Crystal Lake Women of Today***

***The ground is covered in snow this morning, but the tulips are poking through and the daffodils are blooming. I wish you all a Spring of hope and renewal. We completed a second “Cardz for Kidz” donation and are now in the process of planning for the Kids Bike Parade set for Saturday, July 6th. See you at the All-State!***

***Shari Chakoian***





**Spring 2024 All-State Meeting**  
**April 26 & 27, 2024**  
**Springfield WT invites you to Root for Each Other!!!**

**The Comfort Inn & Suites**  
 3675 S. Sixth Street  
 Springfield, IL 62703  
 Meeting, April 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-2:00pm  
*Group Dinner on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>*  
*at member expense – Place: TBD*

For questions, please contact Linda Akers at 217-725-7454 or Mary Werries at 217-415-8565

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Members Attending	Members Attending

**A BLOCK OF HOTEL ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE AND BOOKING IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. PLEASE INDICATE THAT YOU ARE WITH THE “WOMEN OF TODAY” FOR THE DISCOUNTED RATE of \$99 plus tax. PLEASE CALL / TEXT ROSE HOEHN DIRECTLY AT 217-685-1756 TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NO LATER THAN **APRIL 15, 2024** for THIS RATE.**

**The Comfort Inn & Suites - Room rate will be \$99 plus tax**  
 3675 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield, IL 62703 – 217-685-1756

**Registration Fee: \$25.00 per person** (Includes lunch provided by the Springfield Women of Today, materials, craft supplies)

**Please make checks payable to: Springfield Women of Today % Linda Akers 1842 Lee St. Springfield, IL 62703**