

Today's Focus

Illinois Women of Today Newsletter - Winter 2023



President - Aimee Kaiser

President@illinoiswot.org

Hello Illinois Women of Today and Friends!

Hope this finds you all staying warm and safe as most of Illinois faces winter storms and bitter temps! It is making me long for spring and summer which also means the April All State where I get to see so many of you. Thank you to Springfield Women of Today for hosting this year! I know it will be a fabulous time for us all to come together to learn, socialize and serve our community. Please plan to attend the April All State as I would love to see as many of you

there as possible! Also don't forget to bring the items from your chapters that we will be presenting to our sister states!! For those of you who don't know what I am talking about, I have asked each chapter to bring a small token that represents their chapter, our state, or something significant to them that we can put together in care packages for our sister states in the USWT. These will either be mailed to those state presidents, or I will take them to year end in Iowa! I have asked each chapter to bring about 15-20 little items (all the same thing!). If you have any questions about this please just reach out to me and I would be happy to answer them. Thank you all for serving your chapters, IWT, and USWT this year and I look forward to seeing what all we accomplish together in the coming months and celebrating that at the April All State in Springfield! As always "Kindness Lights the Way" so remember to always be kind and help one another!

Stay safe, stay warm and stay healthy!

Aimee Kaiser

Illinois Women of Today President

Joy Hutchcraft - Secretary
Secretary@illinoiswot.org

Happy New Year! Hope your holidays were merry and bright. My holidays were made even more special when Lisa Clark was back from Florida in November and Tish Carneghi from Arizona in December. I have missed both of these ladies. The most important benefit for me as a Women of Today are the **friendships** I've made in my 38 years as a charter member. I have been able to travel thousands of miles to places I would probably never have seen if it wasn't for the Women of Today. It reminds me of the Dr. Seuss children's book, "Oh, The Places You'll Go," that encourages and inspires readers to embrace life's adventures and challenges, keep moving forward, and to never give up on your dreams. This organization has trained me to be a better leader, speaker, volunteer, traveler, writer, editor, and most of all friend to others. These are important skills and a direct result of being a member of this wonderful organization. I am truly thankful for all of you!

I look forward to seeing you at the IWT All State on April 26 and 27, 2024 in Springfield. You will find the registration form in this newsletter. Please hold the dates and plan to attend!

Debbie Funsch - Membership Vice-President

membershipvp@illinoiswot.org

Good morning all!

It's stinking cold today, and it's going to get colder this weekend. How many of you must go out somewhere after being on a lock down from weather, or sickness, but just don't want to go anywhere? If you answered "yes" or even "no", talk about Women of Today projects you have planned or would like to plan, yes to a stranger.

They may be as bored as you have been. Winter brings on the bah, drab, droopy feelings.

Get out of your FUNK! Be the one in the Chapter to plan something, invite members, and have members invite others!

How about:



Game Night

Attend a local Bingo Hall

Movie Night

Start a Book Club

Day trip to Antique Shops

Contact your area Food Pantry- ask what needs they may have.

Ask area DV/ homeless shelters to set up tours and or have them come speak, invite the public.

Hold wine tasting- each person bring a bottle

Tea Party- tasting different types of teas

Make dishes to deliver to a member / neighbor / someone you just know- who may just need that boost, and visit them.

*******Make it your Goal to SHARE Women of Today in 2024!*******

Incentives will be given to "person", "chapters" and "board members" if any of the events above are done.

These ideas or others can be done now! Lets see how many members or chapters can win the most incentives.

COMPETITION TIME!

Rules: I have to get an email or card with the event and 1 picture of those present..

****Send in new members information, plus adds or changes in members information MONTHLY.**

3rd trimester dues by April 15th.

Also, send me recipes for a "Membership Cookbook". IWT will put it together for sale to members, family, friends, and strangers who love cookbooks.

**Send to funsch@comcast.net subject - IWT cookbook
DEC/January / favorite soups.**

Hope to have several submissions from all members. Please put your name on the recipe so we know who turned it in.

Thank You, Debbie

Shari Chakoian - Programming Vice-President

programmingpvp@illinoiswot.org

Happy New Year!

These next "indoor" months are good times to catch up on projects and paperwork. Please complete the USWT reports and certificates. Be sure to let me know if members have turned forms in on-line. I want to recognize individuals and chapters at the April All-State for their contributions.

The Health/Wellness/Personal Development form is a tool useful for planning New Year's Resolutions! The certification forms are available on the USWT website www.uswomenoftoday.org

Project Report Library form - 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/NFWRVy8fO8dD6KTLlcj17>

Community Connections forms need to be filled out for each project or for each trimester. The purpose is to track how many volunteer hours and donations are contributed by our members. We are small but we are mighty in what we can accomplish together.

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

Chellie Funsch - Treasurer

treasurer@illinoiswot.or

Happy New Year!

WOW - I'm still reeling from the great time at our November All State. Pawnee - thanks for hosting. Great job as usual.

What fun CRAFT PROJECTS!!! The ornaments and trees turned out so cute and we will definitely have to do it again. Congratulations again to the auction winners. We raised \$271.00 for the White Rose Scholarship. It was a great success and thanks again to everyone who participated.

May your New Year be an AWESOME one and look forward to seeing everyone in April - it will be here before you know it.

Chellie

News from the Chapters

Crystal Lake Women of Today

Crystal Lake has had several days of single digit and below zero temperatures with strong winds, but we're enjoying a heart-warming project on Wednesday of making "Cardz for Kidz". The crafty members of our group (you know that's not me!) have come up with some delightful designs for the cards and we look forward to visiting while we work. Then in February we'll go out to dinner. We've been filling out kindness charts as we work to make the community a kinder place. Stay cozy everybody!

Shari Chakoian - President CLWT

Springfield Women of Today



Happy New Year everyone from the Springfield Chapter! The holidays have been very busy! In November, some of our members attended a fundraiser for Hangers of Hope, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing everyday essentials for free to those in need. We also had a very successful bake sale which happened at a CROSS Fit XLT event in Chatham, IL. Members baked their hearts out. Proceeds will be used to help with future community project needs. A big **THANK YOU** to Becky Goetsch and her daughter, Heidi, for coordinating this event. November is also one of the biggest months of the year when it comes to Operation Christmas Child. Members were able to help build the boxes needed for all the goodies that are sent to the children and members also participated in the packing party which is where all the items are packed in the shoeboxes and prepared to be shipped all over the world. Thank you, Cheryl Pearson for all your leadership with this organization!

The group also had some fun during the holiday season! Our special member and dear friend Lisa Clark came back to Springfield to visit, and we all met at Olive Garden to see her! We miss her dearly! Along with attending a choir concert for our Esther Jorgensen Scholarship winner, we had a movie night and dinner at Karen's to watch Miracle at 34th Street! Karen surprised us with blankets to wrap up with while watching the movie! Thank you, Karen!!!

Plans for this year include continuing to help those in need by spreading love and joy to our friends and our communities! Our continued work with Operation Christmas Child and other wonderful non-profit organizations in the Springfield area will keep us busy for sure!

Mary Werries, President Springfield Women of Today



Newsletter articles are due to Shari Chakoian by March 15th (newsletter@iwot.org) or (schakoian@gmail.com)

******* See the All-State Registration form below!*******



Illinois Women of Today

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 27th 9:00am-2:00pm
*Group Dinner on Friday, April 26th
 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. 6th 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

