

# THE GAVEL

**Newsletter of**

**The Nebraska Women of Today**

March 2025

[www.newomenoftoday.org](http://www.newomenoftoday.org) [www.uswomenoftoday.org](http://www.uswomenoftoday.org)

A green hat with a buckle and clovers

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Fellow Members,

As I sit here to write my last article for the Gavel as your president, I am having a hard time of what to write.

Looking through my articles I had asked each member, chapter president and state board members to set a Plan of Action for the year and dream so that they could achieve them.

Every member who has ever had a plan or a dream can find the courage to make a personal commitment to fulfill her promise. Members who become actively engaged in the creation of their own lives will find that others will eagerly follow them.

Contemporary members have learned to swing and sway with the changing times.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein has said that what is missing in “making a better world” is the “we” component. Wasserstein believes that it is essential for women not only to fulfill their own potential, but to ensure that others can pursue theirs, too. I believe the ideas capture us and make members want to construct a better society to be there to hold on to.

What we need is more articulate leaders who have good values in life, caring, and preserving. Leaders first have those ideals and then have the power to express them in a way that will enlarge the lives of everyone.

Through our state board leadership I am hoping that women of our organization can look at the generation of women just preceding them and observe how they used their imaginations their skills, and their intelligence to crystallize their own visions. They have before them role models who confronted problems, worked out strategies, and acted on them—women who took responsibility for the consequence of their choice. These successful women inspire younger women to do the same, to believe that they can control their surroundings and effect change. Seasoned members need to remind them, encourage them to tolerate and survive adversity and continue to move onward.

They pulled hard against the grain; their accomplishments brilliant, their numbers few. They had the ability to cope with failure and frustration, and believed they could succeed. They attributed their accomplishments to luck, courage, perseverance, and changes in our organization that opened new opportunities. I wish for similar success for every member this coming year—success measured by the involvement of their whole being in the exploration of their diverse talents, success characterized by the flowering of their intelligence—and most importantly—the fulfillment of their dreams.

*Cherish Our Dreams*

Maxine Turner, President

‘Cherish Our Dreams’ [Maxine.turner.3@outlook.com](mailto:Maxine.turner.3@outlook.com)

Membership

Hello Nebraska Women of Today!

As I mentioned in my last article we had several members who did not renew in 2nd Trimester. However we did have one new member join us. Please welcome Tanner Wachter who is a member of the Nebraska City chapter! It’s always exciting to have a new face! 😊

I recently sent out via email “Putting Together a Perspective List” that gives you ideas of people to recruit. I hope this will help! Please make sure to hold a Membership Event in March, we still have time to sign some new members by April 1 st ! Don’t forget to “advertise” your event on your Facebook page.

If you haven’t checked out the new Nebraska Women of Today website please do! You can find my 3rd Trimester Fast Start on the Membership officer page and I also sent it out with the 3 rd Trimesters Dues Billing. If you complete the Fast Start you will get a reward at Annual Convention.

Speaking of Dues Billing………don’t forget you must send me the completed Dues Billing sheet via email or postal mail. The dues check must be mailed to Maxine Turner. Our addresses are on the Dues Billing sheet you received from me and the deadline is April 1st. However, if you get your dues in by March 15th you will get the Early Bird Incentive at convention. If you have any questions, please contact me.

This is my last Gavel article as Nebraska Membership VP which I have really enjoyed! I would like to thank all of you for what you do to help your communities.

Let’s finish the year strong Making A Difference!

Kim Hermann, Membership Vice President

‘Join Us in Making A Difference!’

[mvpstep@newomenoftoday.org](mailto:mvpstep@newomenoftoday.org)

***Chaplain’s Thought***

***“Seek to do good and you will find that happiness will run after you..”***

------ James Freeman Clarke

Programming

Hands holding a heart

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Hello members,

This will be my last article as my year is ending as your programming Vice President. Thank you for all you have done. I have met many goals this year and you will hear those successes at the Year end convention. Keep on sending your community Connections Reports. Love seeing chapters doing lots of community work through out their communities.

Now for the third trimester I have a few deadlines. Outstanding Women is due March 1st.

Project Folders are Due to me by March 15th, and I am hoping to see at least 6 project folders. I know we can do it.

Remember to send your reports to the national for a project report and you will be recognized at the Year End National Convention in Duluth Minnesota

Also, if you haven’t done already, Please look over the outstanding Achievement in Programming and looking forward to see many of you participate in this area. This report can be done on the National website under the programming area.

Don’t forget to send those Road Runner Miles in . I can’t wait to see who will receive the top Road Runner Award.

Also its not too late to certify in Governmental Affairs. Just send me an email letting me know who has certified in this area, I don’t need to see the certification form.

I want to thank all the chapters who have sent in their Community Connections Report. I will have a report at Year End with all the service hours and donations that we have done.

Don’t forget to look over my fast start for third trimester, I know many could fill it the paperwork out

Thank you for a great year and looking forward to seeing many of you at State Convention in April and we will celebrate many successes.

Cindy Urlacher, Programming Vice President

[PVP@NEwomenoftoday.org](mailto:PVP@NEwomenoftoday.org)

‘Making a Difference in Programming’

Chaplain/Personal Enrichment

Hello friends!

April 1st is the date to remember! All certifications are due to me at that time: Wellness and Personal Development, Chaplain, Effective Speaking and Effective Writing, Personal Enrichment Programs (PEP) and Women in General.

You can complete your PD entries on the USWT website. I get notified of those entries and it is super easy to do. God In My Life essays are due on April 1 st as well as Effective Speaking/Writing entries. The theme for ES/EW is “What I Cherish Most”. Remember competition entries are $5 each. Please check out the website for details.

My 3rd Trimester Challenge is also due April 1st .

Please check this out. It is available on my page of the website! Please let me know if you have any questions.

I have certainly enjoyed serving as your State Chaplain/PDPM this year.

Joyce Harpster, Chaplain / Personal Development

*‘Choosing Joy!’*

[chaplain@NEwomenoftoday.org](mailto:chaplain@NEwomenoftoday.org)

Treasurer / Domestic Violence

[](javascript:%20void(0))**Domestic violence** was our February promotion. I hope each chapter was able to do something to bring this to your members attention.

Year end is fast approaching with deadlines of April 1st coming up quick. If you have donations for Aid To Foster Children please send the check made to Nebraska Women of Today and the form and send to Maxine so they can be deposited. And if you have done an educational for Aid to foster children or Domestic Violence Awareness please submit your forms for credit.

My Third Trimester fast start is up on the web. I hope all you treasurer’s take a look and let me know if you get them all.

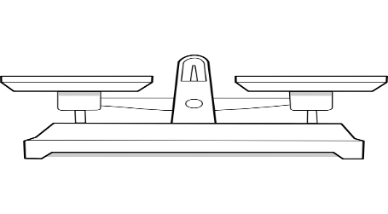
A green hat and gold coins

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Terri Sherman, Treasurer

‘As Good as Gold’

[Treasurer@NEwomenoftoday.org](mailto:Treasurer@NEwomenoftoday.org)

Parliamentarian

It is hard to believe that my year of serving as your state parliamentarian is coming to an end. I have had a busy and fulfilling year. My last article is going to cover calling the question.

Recently I attended a board meeting for my local chapter. Twice during that meeting we called the question. After studying this topic and researching, I am saddened to say that we did not follow the correct protocol for this procedure. I thought that sharing the correct way to call the question would be appropriate.

To call the question according to Robert’s Rules of Order appropriately, board members need to be clear on the five steps required for [presenting a motion](https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/training/course-tools/president/english/roberts-rules-of-order-basics), as they apply motions to call for a question.

The steps include:

1. **The board chair must recognize anyone presenting a motion.** Before anyone can present a motion, they must first be recognized by the meeting facilitator and have the floor. A board member can accomplish this by simply raising a hand and receiving acknowledgment from the chair.
2. **The board member who has the floor presents the motion.** Phrases such as “I move that we…,” “I make a motion to…,” etc., are typical phrases used to move motions forward.
3. **Another board member seconds the motion.** Another member states, “I second” or “I second the motion.” This action doesn’t always mean a board member supports a motion. It just means they want to discuss the motion. In the case of calling the question, the board member making a second also wishes to bring the debate to a close and ensue a vote.
4. **Board members discuss the question.** This is an exception to a call for a question, as discussing the question is not debatable under Robert’s Rules.
5. **The board chair calls for a vote.** In the case of calling for a vote, the board chair would immediately end the discussion and ask for a vote on whether [**board members want to vote**](https://www.boardeffect.com/blog/roberts-rules-of-order-for-adjournment/)on the previous question.

**KEY POINTS TO KNOW ABOUT “CALL THE QUESTION”**

* A member must have the floor in order to make this motion. Raise your hand and wait until the chair gives you the nod – “recognizes you” – before speaking.
* When you make this motion, you are only suggesting that YOU would like to stop debate and vote. It is an expression of your wish, not a hammer to bludgeon your colleagues.
* This motion requires a second. There have to be at least two people in the room who want to cut off debate before it can be considered.
* This motion cannot be discussed or debated. As soon as the chair hears a second, they immediately take the vote.
* It takes TWO-THIRDS of the voting members in favor to cut off debate. Therefore, the chair should take the vote by show of hands, and not by voice.
* If indeed two-thirds of the group want to stop debate and vote, then the chair immediately takes the vote on the pending motion – the motion that the group is considering at this time. No further discussion is allowed.
* It is also possible to call the question on ALL the pending motions, in which case the chair will take the vote on each motion that is before the group, one after another.
* Robert’s Rules of Order does not allow this motion to be made in committee meetings.

**SAMPLE SCRIPT FOR “CALL THE QUESTION”**

*Member A: I* *call the question.*

*Member B (without being recognized): Second!*

*Chair: It has been moved and seconded that we stop* *debate and* *vote on the pending question, which is [state the motion being discussed]. All those in favor of stopping debate and voting now, raise your right hand. [Members in favor raise hand.]*

*Chair: Thank you, hands down. All those opposed, raise your right hand. [Members opposed raise hand.]*

*Chair: Thank you, hands down. [If the* *ayes have it:] There are two-thirds in favor, and we will vote immediately. [Take vote] [If the noes have It:] There are not two-thirds in favor and debate will continue. Next speaker please…*

I hope this article will help you assist your chapter president during meetings should the need to “call the question” ever arise.

Hillari Zweibohmer, Programming Vice President

[PARLI@NEwomenoftoday.org](mailto:PARLI@NEwomenoftoday.org)

Executive Director

Nebraska Members,

The last couple of years we have had sufficient funds and have not requested donations to the Buy an Outstanding Individual Award (Buy-A-Plaque), but this year we are once again asking for your support. We need you and your chapter members to find individuals or businesses to sponsor these awards presented to individual competition winners at the Annual Convention. The name of any individual or business making the donation will appear on the banquet program and in our Gavel (state newsletter).

Please request from me a letter for you to use when contacting individuals or businesses. The cost of sponsorship for an Outstanding Individual Award is $20.00. Send the name of individual or business with address, with check payable to Nebraska Women of Today to Executive Director no later than March 31, 2025. I will send a thank you letter to all who

sponsor a donation.

Annual Banquet is where we celebrate the successes for this year and honor those members who have excelled in each area of our organization. Without these donations our budget cannot continue to support the presentations. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions or concerns about this program, please call, text or e-mail me, and I will be happy to assist you.

Thank you again for your support.

Maxine Turner, President

A green clovers with a white background

AI-generated content may be incorrect.CHANGE IN REGISTRAR FOR ANNUAL

Registration for Annual Convention should be sent to Maxine Turner instead of Terri Sherman. Terri will be out of the state when these will be coming in so Maxine has agreed to receive them.

Secretary

# link.jpegGreetings to my fellow Nebraska Women of Today members:

# “Where flowers bloom so does hope.”

*– Lady Bird Johnson*

Nebraska Women of Today is hoping for a spectacular turnout for the State Annual Convention in Omaha

this April. Our National Staff will be attending and it would be great to show the spirit of Nebraska

Women of Today members.

An exciting new development this year is that the Nebraska State Chapter will be celebrating Chapter

successes with a “Chapter Showcase” at Annual. The State Board is inviting Chapters to create a table

display showcasing their activities and projects throughout the year. Photos and other items

demonstrating Chapter work can be incorporated. Displays will be set up at Registration in the Hotel

Lobby. This will give local Chapters an opportunity to boast about their community service and activities

to the public as well as WT members. Convention attendees will be able to vote on the best display. Gold,

silver and bronze ribbons will be awarded to first, second and third place. The resulting display can then

be used to promote Chapter at other events. “Chapter Showcase” flyer with a description of requirements

is included in the Gavel.

Has your Chapter experienced any success in their Public Relations effort this trimester? Effective PR is a

key element to successful fundraising and member recruitment. I would appreciate hearing about the

public relation efforts that your Chapter executes. And PLEASE send me a copy of any press releases.

Thanks to all those local Chapters who have sent me their Chapter newsletters. The Outstanding

Newsletter will be recognized at Annual Convention. I also appreciate notifications when your Chapter

posts activities on the Chapter Facebook Page or Chapter website.

Have you taken a look at the Shout out with Public Relations form on the US Women of Today website? It

is easy to complete and submit when your chapter accomplishes a public relations activity that complies

with the requirements. The third trimester affords national the opportunity to recognize your chapter’s

public relation activity during Volunteer Week and Random Act of Kindness Day.

**National Volunteer Week** will be from April 20-April 26, 2025. National Volunteer Week is an opportunity

to recognize the impact of volunteers to transform the world. I challenge each Chapter to celebrate

National Volunteer Week by recognizing and thanking volunteers who lend their time, talent and voice to

making a difference in their communities.

**Random Acts of Kindness Day** (February 17, 2025) is a day to celebrate and encourage random acts of

kindness. It&#39;s a celebration of all the ways we can become a positive influence in each other&#39;s lives. Even one small act of kindness can mean a great deal to somebody.

A Fast Start for Secretaries for the third trimester has been posted on the Nebraska Women of Today

website. Please complete the Fast Start for third trimester and submit to me by April 1 for recognition at

Annual.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

# Nicolette Amundson, Secretary

# *‘Communication’* [secretary@NEwomenoftoday.org](mailto:secretary@NEwomenoftoday.org)

State Program –

Sex Trafficking Awareness

Yours,

We can’t believe this is our last article for this year. We have enjoyed sponsoring the Chapter Priority program again.

In our hearts, we believe that this is a very important program, as we all have learned that we need to EDUCATE, EDUCATE, and EDUCATE the public.

Our chapter is excited to hear that Set Me Free is going to be our state’s Buckets of Sunshine year end project since it was our chapter priority program again this year.

We pulled the following of the Omaha Share website:

The Set Me Free Project began after learning about the lack of Human Trafficking prevention education in our communities. Our services include training youth, parents, and community members to recognize human trafficking efforts and occurrences in our communities and online, and how to respond in safe and healthy ways to prevent the spread of Human Trafficking. We provide trafficking prevention presentations and curriculums, training in over 400 elementary, middle, and high schools, hotels and motels, church, industry and community groups so far. We strive to do good through our work every day. Volunteer to train staff in hotels and motels or adopt a school and provide curriculum for the school of your choice!

Please keep educating the public about Sex Trafficking Awareness, our chapter goes out every three months with flyers to the motels here in Fremont. We need to have these managers train their employees in this. The flyers list the phone number of Set Me Free, so that they can set up training for their employees.

Just keep EDUCATING those in your community.

Maxine Turner, Program Manager

# *‘Enough is Enough’*

Chairman of the Board

A close-up of hands making a finger bump

Description automatically generatedHappy March! Spring is in the air, we’re getting closer and closer to nicer weather and the end of the year. I’m working hard to fill a new board for the 25-26 NWT year. I appreciate all who have responded to me! If you’re interested in a position there’s a couple left to choose from. I can answer any questions you may have, feel free to reach out to me.  
  
Annual Convention is right around the corner. Let’s fill the room with members! Convention isn’t just for the Board, in fact it’s actually for members, as it’s YOU who we’re honoring! Come be part of the celebration and join us for awards, meetings, training and great food and friends. Registration form is available in the gavel.  
  
Also, mark June 12-15 on your calendar for a wonderful trip to Duluth, MN for US Women of Today National Annual Convention. They have some great activities planned, and the area is quite beautiful. My husband is coming with me, and we’re staying after to make a vacation out of it. We’ve never been up that way, so it’s all new to us. Registration is available in the gavel, would love to see lots of Nebraska faces there.  
  
Let’s finish strong! Thank you for all you do!

# Shellie Haun, Chairman of the Board

# *‘Better together’* [COB@NEwomenoftoday.org](mailto:COB@NEwomenoftoday.org)

CHAPTER CHATTER

**Fremont**

Our chapter has been busy creating Valentine, Shamrock cards for the ninety (90) residents at the Dunklau Nursing Home. Month of February we took nominations for officers for 2025-2026. We also approved our Budget and Plan of Action for 2025-2026. The last three months of the year are slow for our chapter. We are gearing up for our Annual Brunch for the volunteers at Fremont Area Art Association, we normally serve forty (40) to fifty (50) volunteers the first weekend in April.

**Heartland**

In January, Heartland members Kelley, Linda and Nicolette performed a service project at the Food Bank for the Heartland on the morning of Saturday, January 18, 2025. We placed labels on plastic bags that will be used for the weekend meals for children participating in the back pack program. In February our Chapter held their annual membership retreat. Kelley generously opened her home for the all day event. It was a very productive day. In addition to regular business, we held a session to review and pass many changes to our Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules. We reviewed and passed both our budget and our plan of action for the coming year. We took nominations for officers for the elections for our Board to be held at our March meeting. Maxine is chairing our Winter Social with a Valentine’s Day theme at Chili’s Restaurant on February 28. Angela is chairing our March M Night and we will be playing putt-putt golf. What FUN! At the end of March, we will celebrate a successful year with our annual banquet at Lazlo’s restaurant in Omaha. We will recognize Key Woman, Outstanding Woman and install officers for the next year at the year- end celebration.

Nicolette Amundson, For Julie Fogelman

Heartland Chapter President

**Lincoln**

Hello from Lincoln! January is our slowest month. We held our monthly meeting and discussed future projects. In February we held our monthly meeting. We reviewed Girls State candidates and voted for our selection. We made Valentines and a treat basket for Havelock Manor which is an assisted living facility. We also had a Girl’s Night Out at Bob &amp; Willie’s Wonderbowl. March and April will be busier, stay tuned!

**NEBRASKA WOMEN OF TODAY**

**“Chapter Showcase”**

**ANNUAL CONVENTION 2024-2025**

# GOALS

* To recognize and celebrate local chapter successes
* To share innovative ideas among Chapter
* To promote membership by creating a recruiting tool that can be displayed at events within Chapters communities
* To build interest attending the Annual Convention among members

# METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

* Create a format
  + Table Display-Photos, graphics, etc. to explain Chapter’s activities
* Invite Chapters to participate-RSVP to Board by March 15.
  + RSVP to include brief description of display
* Participating Chapters must have at least one member register for Convention
* Chapters shall create display and transport materials to Convention
* Attending Chapter member shall work table answering questions during meet and greet/social hour

# COMMUNICATION

* Nebraska Women of Today Website
* Nebraska Women of Today Facebook
* Letter of Invitation to Chapter Presidents
* Create and Email Flyer to Members along with registration

# JUDGING COMPETITION

* Convention attendees will judge each participating Chapters display
* Each attendee will have one vote
* Judging criteria
  + Creativity
  + Visual Appeal
  + Clarity
  + Recruitment value-appeal to prospective members

# AWARD

* First, second and third prize

# PUBLIC RELATIONS

* Photos of each display-write up in Gavel
* Write up on State Website and Facebook and individual Chapter Facebook
* Traveling display created to promote Chapter