



THE GAVEL

Newsletter of The Nebraska Women of Today



May 2024

www.newwomenoftoday.org

www.uswomenoftoday.org

This month I have asked Chapter Presidents, Chapters and State Board Members to complete a Plan of Action for 2024-2025 year. Remember these are not set in stone, you can always add something or change something to help you accomplish your goals.

I have asked each chapter president to send me their plan of action and their chapter plan of action. As, I would like to help your chapter president and chapters to achieve their goals.

My state officers have sent me their Plan of Action and we as the state board will be helping our fellow board members to accomplish their goals.

As of May 3, 2024, your state officers have their Article, Fast Start and Plan of Actions up on the website.

Now you ask, what is a Plan of Action and how can we implement it. An action plan is a specific list of tasks to achieve a particular goal. It can be regarded as a proposed strategy to execute a specific project to achieve a specific or general goal effectively and efficiently. It outlines steps to take and helps stay focused and organized, whether it's personal or work-related. Breaking down the goal into smaller, manageable steps, makes it easier to stay motivated and track progress.

It's an essential part of the [strategic planning process](#) and helps with improving teamwork planning. Not only in project management, but action plans can be used by individuals to prepare a strategy to achieve their own personal goals as well.

When a Chapter President or State Board write their Plan of Action, they will use components of an action plan include: 1) A well-defined description of the goal to be achieved; 2) Tasks/steps that need to be carried out to reach the goal; 3) People who will oversee carrying out each task; 4) When will these tasks be completed (deadlines and milestones); 5) Resources needed to complete the tasks; and 6) Measures to evaluate progress.

Now, when a chapter does a Plan of Action, they usually take each month and enter the projects that they will be doing, adding Emphasis Months (state and national on website), socials, etc.

Not everything that is faced can be changed.

But nothing can be changed until it is faced.

James Baldwin



Maxine Turner, President

'Cherish Our Dreams'

Maxine.turner.3@outlook.com

Cherish Our Dreams

Membership

Hello Nebraska Women of Today!

My name is Kim Hermann, I served as Nebraska Membership VP last year and will be serving again for 2024-25.



We had a great year last year, achieving +3 growth. I would love to improve on that this year. My main goal is Base +1 for each chapter. Growth is so important, however it's important to retain our members also. Our S.T.E.P. program can help with that. You can find information on the USWT website or contact me with any questions.

My theme this year is: **Join Us in Making a Difference!** Please check out our Nebraska Women of Today website for my Plan of Action and the 1st Trimester Fast Start. The Fast Start was also in the chapter packets given out at annual convention in April.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: 402.499.2279 or

kahermann61@gmail.com

Let's work on getting more individuals to **Join Us in Making a Difference!**

Kim Hermann, Membership Vice President

'Join Us in Making A Difference!'

mvpstep@newwomenoftoday.org

Chaplain/Personal Enrichment

Nebraska Women of Today:

It is my pleasure to be serving you this year as your Chaplain/Personal Development Program Manager.



I will be attending the USWT Annual Convention in June and will be sure and let you know about the changes to the Personal Development area.

I look forward to encouraging everyone to participate in completing certification forms, Effective Speaking and Writing and Chaplain activities.

I chose the theme "Choosing Joy" to help us all remember to choose the things in our lives that will bring us joy. I think sometimes we forget how important we are and that we need to take care of ourselves.

Check out my web page for my Fast Start. If anyone has any questions at any time, please let me know.

Joyce Harpster, Chaplain / Personal Development

'Choosing Joy!'

chaplain@NEwomenoftoday.org

Treasurer / Domestic Violence

I am excited to begin another year as your state treasurer. I will also promote Domestic Violence.



By now, I hope each chapter has completed their new **budget** for 2024-2025. After you have your proposed budget completed, your chapter will need to approve it at a meeting. Remember if it's in your budget you don't need to pass a motion at a meeting to spend the money so add routine projects that you know you will be doing and then have a line that is for new projects that you might add during the year.

Chapter Affiliation fee of \$15 is due by July 1st.

Terri Sherman, Treasurer

'As Good as Gold'

Treasurer@NEwomenoftoday.org

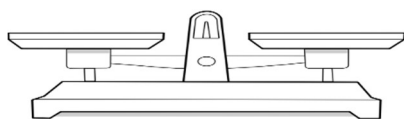
Chaplain's Thought

The most important opinion is the one you have of yourself, and the most significant things you say all day are those things you say to yourself.

--- Zig Ziglar

Parliamentarian

Hi Members,
It is a great honor to serve as your State Parliamentarian this year! Let me start by introducing myself to



you since we have so many new members to Nebraska Women of Today. My name is Hillari Zweibohmer. I am a member of the Heartland chapter in Omaha. I am married to Brian and have one biological child, Jack (Reilly). I stress biological child because I have a bonus child living with me, Archer. Archer and Jack recently joined the Heartland chapter at the urging of their mom. I have 3 dogs; Bodhi, Shark, and Dexter, and a lizard named Chicken. It is safe to say my life is a zoo.

I have held many offices in all levels of Women of Today, so if you have any questions about anything feel free to ask me. I would love to come and visit your chapter. Let me know where and when you meet, and I will try to make to at least one of your meetings this year!

I will have an article up on the website with a parliamentarian challenge. I encourage you to read my article and participate in the challenge. I want to give out parliamentarian awards at annual convention next spring!!!

My logo is a scale in black and white and my theme is **“Balancing Procedures of Life”**. The duties of a parliamentarian are to help keep order and make sure every voice is heard. This office helps to keep structure and provide stability. The logo being in black and white signifies rules and documentation, the written word. Motions and amendments need to be written out and procedures followed for them to be enacted. Then the changes to the rules need to be made and written out so everyone has an equal (scales balancing, again) access to them. The parliamentarian’s job is extremely important!

Reach out to me at PARLI.NEwomenoftoday@gmail.com for any questions, comments, or anything you may need to make this next year successful!

Regards,

Hillari Zweibohmer, Programming Vice President

PVP@NEwomenoftoday.org

‘Balancing Procedures of Life’

Programming

Hello Nebraska Women of today,



For some of you who don’t know me. My name is Cindy Urlacher and I have been a long-time member and am excited to be serving as your State Programming Vice President. So, are you talking about programming in your chapters? My fast Start is on the website, and I am hoping I get a lot of participation. I asked members what you would like to see in programming this year. I am all for innovative ideas. Looking at our Programming area it needs to have a refresh. I would like to set up a committee for this and whoever is interested please reach out to me. It was great to see you all at the convention. The one program that has not been utilized for a while is the outstanding Women Program. The chapter packet that was given out at State Convention was given to all the chapters and I hope the Presidents share with the members in your chapter. Included is all about the Program and I am hoping chapters look and see who would be deserving in your chapter and or your community. Please let me know if you have any questions. Also, another area is Road Runner. The information is on the web. Also, this year I will be promoting Emphasis month.

Please reach out to me anytime through phone calls, texts, or email

Cindy Urlacher, Programming Vice President

PVP@NEwomenoftoday.org

‘Making a Difference in Programming’

Chairman of the Board

Welcome everyone to the new year of Nebraska Women of Today! I’m Shellie Haun, Chairman of the Board. A bit about me: I’ve been a member for 22 years. I’ve served locally as President, Membership, Programming, Treasurer and Chaplain. At the State level, I’ve served as President, Membership, Programming and Chaplain. This is my first time as Chairman of the Board, and I look forward to learning more about this position and its duties.



I have three children and a husband of almost 32 years. My oldest daughter is 26 and teaches special needs students and coaches Unified sports at Millard North

Middle School. My second daughter is 23, and works as a Marketing Project Manager for a San Diego based work-from-home company. My son, the youngest, is finishing his junior year of college at Northern Illinois University in the College of Business. I have worked for Lincoln Public Schools for 21 years as Technology Support for the Nutrition Services Dept. I support all computers, printers and POS systems as well as do all Facebook/X social media.

I will be seeking officers for the 2024-2025 year as this year progresses. If you are interested in a position, please watch the current officer on what they do in their areas, and feel free to ask them or myself any questions. I also am in charge of Future Directions so if you have anything to put on the agenda, please reach out to me. We should all have input on the future of our organization!

If we haven't met yet, I look forward to meeting you, hopefully at a meeting or chapter visit. Thank you for all you do!

We are Better Together!

Shellie Haun, Chairman of the Board

'Better together' COB@NEwomenoftoday.org

Secretary

Greetings Nebraska Women of Today members!

My name is Nicolette Amundson and I am thrilled to again be serving as Secretary for Nebraska Women of Today. I wish to extend my appreciation to last year's Board for their exceptional service to our organization. I look forward to building on my experience of the last year as State Secretary and working with the incoming slate of officers! I have been in Women of Today organization since March 2013. I previously served as President, Secretary, Programming Chair and Treasurer for my local chapter. In addition to Secretary I have also served as State Chaplain/ Development Program Manager for Nebraska Women of Today. My theme is "Communication Link" which is a repeat of last year. Communication helps us build relationships by allowing us to share our experiences, and needs, and helps us connect to others. It is essential to the success of an organization. I have identified goals that I would like to accomplish this year

- Foster effective communication between members, local chapters and state

- Keep membership informed of all proceedings of the Nebraska Chapter
- Encourage local secretary accuracy in recording their chapters meetings
- Promote Founder's Day, Make a Difference Day and Volunteer Week
- Build and main tain a positive public image of Nebraska Women of Today
- Meet all deadlines in a timely fashion
- Promote Nebraska Women of Today through public relations activities

Buckets of Sunshine is an annual philanthropic commitment of Nebraska Women of Today. As the Annual Convention host, Heartland chose Heartland Hope Mission as the recipient this year.

Our generous members donated a total of \$230.00 – THANK YOU!! Donations break down:

Kearney Chapter	\$20.00
Fremont Chapter	\$25.00
Heartland Chapter	\$25.00
Lincoln Chapter	\$50.00
Nicolette	\$25.00
Laura Wachter	\$10.00
Nebraska Women of Today	\$75.00

We also collected non-perishable food donations with a dollar value of \$53.51 and weight of 23 pounds. Food was contributed by Joyce Harpster and Nicolette. THANKS! Donations included coffee, soup, juice, peanut butter, and popcorn. Donations were dropped off on April 26, 2024. TOTAL DONATION VALUE: \$283.51!! WOW!!

Minutes from the General Membership/Business meeting held at the Annual Convention will be posted on the Nebraska Women of Today website under the tab Events/Convention Forms. Please review so you can be up to date with what is happening at Nebraska Women of Today!

Chapter Presidents: Be on the lookout for an email from me containing Chapter packets from State officers. It should be arriving in your inbox around May 10. Please distribute to local officers as appropriate. I encourage Chapter secretaries to participate in the Fast Start that is posted on the NWT website (also included in packet). Please submit completed form to me by August 1, 2024 (the start of second trimester). Submissions will be recognized at Fall Conference.

Let's kick off this year by a full out effort at Public Relations development. In the Secretary Fast Start, I ask

secretaries to send me a connection to their website or Facebook as the NWT and National emphasis for the month of May is website. I encourage chapters to review their websites and Facebook page. Look critically at the product. Does it accomplish what your Chapter intended it for? Does it reach the audience that you are looking for? Does it communicate whom you are, what you do and how to contact the chapter to gain more information? The challenge for this trimester is for chapters to submit a reply with the evaluation of your chapter website and ideas for improvement.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Nicolette Amundson, Secretary
'Communication'
secretary@NEwomenoftoday.org

State Program - Sex Trafficking Awareness

Be sure to look at the website, as I have my Article, Plan of Action and Fast Start for first trimester up.

ENOUGH is ENOUGH



I also sent information for Chapter Packet that will be emailed out to Chapter Presidents around May 10th. Be sure to read the information in that packet. It had Nebraska statistics and signage that you can make copies of and deliver to motels/hotels. All you need to do is drop it off, it has a phone number that managers can call for training for their employees.

In this article, I thought I would put some history in about Human trafficking in Nebraska refers to the illegal trade of humans for forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Let me provide you with some relevant information:

1. **Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (NHTTF):**
 - o The **Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force** was established in 2015 to coordinate the state's response to human trafficking within Nebraska. It involves collaboration among law enforcement, prosecutors, service providers, advocates, and community partners.
 - o The NHTTF's mission is to **end human trafficking in Nebraska**. To achieve this, it focuses on three main goals:

- **FIND:** Identifying instances of human trafficking within the state.
 - **STOP:** Taking action against traffickers.
 - **RECOGNIZE:** Providing support and assistance to victims.
 - o [The task force operates through various committees and regional teams, conducting proactive operations, investigating tips, and working to make Nebraska a safer place¹.](#)
2. **Statistics:**
 - o Since 2007, Nebraska has recorded **479 cases** of human trafficking through the National Human Trafficking Hotline. These cases have affected approximately **1,034 victims**.
 - o [In 2021 alone, Nebraska received 57 cases reported from 240 tips, involving 107 victims, survivors, and well-wishers².](#)
 3. **Legal Framework:**
 - o Nebraska passed a law in 2006 that criminalizes human trafficking. However, there are limitations in the law that make enforcement and prosecution challenging.
 - o [Addressing human trafficking is crucial because it causes immense injustice to those who become victims of this heinous crime³](#)

In **Nebraska**, seven new criminal human trafficking cases were filed in federal courts in 2021. Four defendants were convicted. 100 percent (10) of new defendants were charged with sex trafficking, and zero percent (0) were charged with forced labor.

Maxine Turner, Program Manager
'Enough is Enough'

THANK YOU

I would like to thank each of our fifty-seven (57) members for a great year! I am so impressed with our 2023-2024 year. We should ALL be proud of what we have accomplished. We had growth, new project ideas, and lots and lots of community involvement. Together we are Better Together!
Thank you to the State Board and Heartland Chapter for the end of year gifts! I love and appreciate it all.

**Your chairman of the Board
Shellie Haun**

CHAPTER CHATTER

Lincoln

We held our year end banquet in April and installed officers. Kim Hermann will be serving as plocal president for the coming year.



We put together our annual Mothers Day bags for the People's City Mission. We filled 50 bags this year which is the most we have done in several years. They bags held items such as: razors, hairs bands, snacks, nail polish, shampoo, socks. Thanks Judy for doing most of the shopping for this project.

Fremont

Our membership held their first meeting of the year by zoom. This is one way all our members can attend. We elected the following officers: President – Maxine Turner; Vice President – Mariah Swanson; Secretary/Treasurer Cindy Urlacher and appointed as Chaplain – Joyce Harpster.

We approved our Plan of Action and Budget for 2024-2025.

On April 27th we held our first project of the year. Mariah chaired the project as we recognized twenty (20) volunteers at Fremont Area Art Association with a Pulled Pork/Salad Luncheon.

Heartland

The Heartland Chapter celebrated **March Madness-M Night** at Blondo Bingo on March 20, 2024. There was great fun shared by all even though we did not have any winners!! We had a great turnout with five members from Heartland, Linda, Kelley, Madeline, Cindy and myself taking part in the activities. Our President Julie even took time from her busy schedule and stopped by for an appearance. The Lincoln Chapter also participated in our merrymaking with five members, Shellie, Terri, Amy, Gayle and Anita (a new member –

hurrah!) making the trip. Unfortunately Shellie had car trouble and did not make it into the Bingo Hall.

For volunteer week, Heartland recognized the volunteers at Florence Home and Nebraska Medicine by delivering cookies with a thank you card in appreciation of their dedication and service to the community. For Mother's Day Heartland members put together Mother's Day Baskets containing much needed toiletries and Mother's Day cards for homeless mothers living at Open Door Mission Lydia House.

As you know Heartland hosted the Annual Nebraska Women of Today convention. Thanks to Angela Moody for her hard work, organization and management efforts. The theme was April showers bring May flowers. It was a great success due in large part to 100% participation of the Heartland Chapter. Eight Heartland members attended as well as six members from National, two from Nebraska City, two from Kearney and three from Lincoln. We had a total attendance of 23! Thanks to everyone for their support and participation.

Nicolette Amundson

For Julie Fogelman, Heartland Chapter President



On the road to a new journey



Annual Convention April 20, 2024

Awards List

AWARDS SESSION AM - 2nd Trimester

NICOLETTE – SECRETARY

Fast Start

Linda Lenser - Heartland
Mariah Swanson - Fremont

Minutes Submitted

Heartland
Nebraska City
Lincoln
Kearney

Newsletters Submitted

Heartland
Nebraska City
Lincoln
Kearney

LAURA – PROGRAMMING VP

Fast Start:

Fremont Area

Community Connections:

Fremont Area
Kearney
Lincoln
Heartland
Nebraska City

Governmental Affairs:

Hillari Zweibohmer- Heartland
Kelley Rosburg- Lincoln
Pamela England- Fremont area
Judy Ross- Fremont area
Maxine Turner- Fremont area

KELLEY – CHAPLAIN

Fast Start:

Mariah Swanson- Fremont area

Chaplain Certifications:

Hillari Zweibohmer - Heartland
Kelley Rosburg – Lincoln

Effective Listening:

Heartland - Madeline McCrae
Cindy Urlacher
Nicolette Amundson
Hillari Zweibohmer
Lincoln - Shellie Haun
Kelley Rosburg
Jen Strohmeyer
Terri Sherman
Nebraska City - Joyce Harpster
Laura Wachter

KIM – MEMBERSHIP VP

Early Bird Incentive:

Fremont Area
Heartland
Lincoln
Nebraska City

100% Retention:

Fremont Area
Heartland
Kearney
Lincoln
Nebraska City

Top Recruiter:

Hilari Zweibohmer/Heartland

Gift for new members:

Jack Zweibohmer
Archer Pectol

MAXINE – CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Fast Start

Joyce Harpster

Sex Trafficking Awareness

Fremont Area

SHELLIE – PRESIDENT

Incentive – FB Posts

Kearney
Lincoln

Chapter President Fast Start

Cindy Urlacher – Fremont
Terri Sherman – Lincoln

Officer Fast Start

Maxine Turner – COB

Outstanding Chapter President

Julie Fogleman

Outstanding Chapter

Heartland

Outstanding State Officer

Terri Sherman

LUNCHEON AWARDS – 3rd Trimester

NICOLETTE – SECRETARY

Fast Starts

Linda Lenser - Heartland

Minutes Submitted

Heartland

Lincoln

Kearney

Newsletters Submitted

Heartland

Lincoln

Kearney

TERRY – TREASURER

Fast Start:

Mariah Swanson – Fremont

Shellie Haun – Lincoln

Domestic Violence Awareness

Transmittals:

Fremont – 2 events

Article in newsletter

Donation to The Bridge

Heartland – 2 events

Educational article

Clothing drive for WCA

Kearney – 2 events

Adopted family at Christmas

Donation to SAFE Center

Lincoln – 2 events

Financial Abuse article

DVA awareness presentation

LAURA – PROGRAMMING

Community Connections:

Fremont Area

Kearney

Nebraska City

Project Folder Submissions:

Fremont Area: 4

J.C. Fremont Days Rodeo

concessions stand; Dunklau

Gardens nursing home;

Assistance with Shop with a Cop;

Annual Parks & Rec Craft show

concession stand

Heartland: 4

Make a Difference Day- Ronald

McDonald House; Member

Retreat; Winter Social;

Open Door Mission water drive

Project Folder Judge's thank you

gifts- Joyce Harpster, Christine

Rice and Tanner Wachter

Youth Awards:

Salvation Army Red Kettle

Donation –

Ellie Connelly - Fremont Youth

Power

Madalyn Sherman - Lincoln

Ezra Sherman - Lincoln

Solomon Sherman- Lincoln

Red Kettle Bell Ringing –

Austin Connelly

Ellie Connelly

Dunklau Gardens Easter Cards –

Jennifer Urlacher

Kamryn Hinton

Christmas –

Ellie Connelly

Make a Difference Day –

Austin Connelly

Ellie Connelly

Ben England

Chaplain Certification –

Ellie Connelly

Austin Connelly

Governmental Affairs –

Austin Connelly

Benjamin England

Ellie Connelly

Youth in General –

Benjamin England

KELLEY – CHAPLAIN

Fast Start: Lincoln

Chaplain Certifications:

Nicolette Amundson - Heartland

Terri Sherman - Lincoln

Shellie Haun – Lincoln

Maxine Turner - Fremont Area

Judy Ross - Fremont Area

Effective Speaking Certifications:

Terri Sherman - Lincoln

Kelley Rosburg - Lincoln

Wellness & Personal Development

Certifications submitted to USWT

PVP:

Jen Strohmyer - Lincoln

Anne Regelean - Lincoln

Kelley Rosburg - Lincoln

Shellie Haun - Lincoln

KIM – MEMBERSHIP

Early Bird Incentive:

Beatrice

Fremont Area

Heartland

Lincoln

100% Retention:

Fremont Area

Heartland

Nebraska City

Top Recruiter:

Shellie Haun/Lincoln

Gift for new members:

Bridgett Elo
Heidi Calvert
Anita Calvert
Elizabeth Kagan

**MAXINE – CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD**

Sex Trafficking Awareness
Fremont Area
Lincoln

SHELLIE – PRESIDENT

Challenge – 2 Members
Attending Annual Convention
Kearney
Heartland

Officer Fast Start
Nicolette Amundson –
Secretary
Terri Sherman – Treasurer
Maxine Turner – COB

Outstanding Chapter President
Terri Sherman

Outstanding Chapter
Lincoln

Outstanding State Officer
Kim Hermann

Presidential Pins

Amy Hinton
Gayle Schmidt
Judy Christensen
Anne Regelean
Linda Lendser

Thank You Gifts

MC – Hillari Zweibohmer
Hosts – Heartland Chapter

BANQUET – EOY Outstanding Awards

NICOLETTE – SECRETARY

Outstanding Newsletter

Angela Moody - Heartland

Outstanding Secretary Of The Year

Linda Lenser - Heartland

TERRI – TREASURER

Aid To Foster Children

Donations:

- Fremont Area - \$27.59
- Fremont Youth Power - \$25
- Lincoln - \$75
- Kearney - \$50
- Heartland - _____ and newsletter article

**Total \$'s YTD is _____
(total doubled)**

LAURA – PROGRAMMING

Project Folder Competition

External Community

Involvement:

Heartland: Make a Difference
Day RMDH dinner

Internal- Ways & Means:

Fremont Area- J.C. Fremont
Days Rodeo Concession Stand

Internal- Individual Development:

Heartland- Member Retreat

Individual- Individual:

Heartland- Winter Social

Programming Chapter of the

Year:

Lincoln

KELLEY – WELLNESS & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, CHAPLAIN

Outstanding Local Chaplain:

Annette Schwartz, Kearney

KIM – MEMBERSHIP

Base +:

Heartland +2
Kearney +1
Lincoln +1

100% Retention:

Fremont Area
Heartland
Nebraska City

Top Recruiter (less than 5 members):

Shellie Haun (3 recruits) –
Lincoln

Chapter Growth:

Heartland
Kearney
Lincoln

Membership Chapter of the

Year:

Heartland

SHELLIE – PRESIDENT

Year End Outstanding Chapter President

Julie Fogleman

Year End Outstanding Chapter Heartland

Year End Outstanding Board Member

Kelley Rosburg - Chaplain

Year End Outstanding Executive Board Member

Nicolette Amundson –
Secretary

Presidential Pins

Kelley Rosburg
Laura Wachter
Jennifer Strohmyer
Julie Fogleman
Angela Moody
Hillary Zweibohmer

Thank You Gift

MC – Cindy Umland
USWT President Tracey Pierson