

TODAY'S LEADER



Jane Hanson
United States
Women of Today
President 2024-2025



USWT MISSION STATEMENT
“Our mission is to provide opportunities in the areas of community service, leadership training, personal growth and work in partnership with multiple charities.”

Welcome to US Women of Today's 40th anniversary year! I am excited to be leading our organization during this upcoming year.

One of my priorities, is to bring you the information and training that is most needed to you and your members.

New items that we hope will help you have a “Colorful Year”:

- ◇ Monthly Conversation Zoom Meeting
 - Each month will be a 30-40 minute conversation on different topics. We will set up the schedule at our July retreat.
 - First Conversation Zoom meeting topic will be “Retention”.
 - Meeting will be Monday, July 15th at 6:30pm CST.
 - This is open to ALL members – please join us for a conversation on retention!
- ◇ Follow the FB pages
 - Did you know there are 3 main Facebook pages; USWT Administration, USWT Programming, USWT Membership Page. In addition, there is a United States Women of Today page.
 - Make sure you are following all our pages.
 - We will begin posting on a regular basis on the USWT Administration page. The posts will be target to non-members!
 - It is my hope that you will share these posts on your chapter or state FB pages and add a comment to personalize to your chapter. Maybe add your meeting information or other info.
 - These posts will cover a wide variety of subjects to help educate non-members on what Women of Today is.
- ◇ This is YOUR Today's Leader.
 - Please use this document to see what is being promoted in each of areas. We have worked hard to bring you new information and new ideas!
 - Let me know your thoughts – what do you want to see in future Today's Leaders?
- ◇ President Challenge for STEP
 - My mother was diagnosed with a breast cancer that is heredity and passed from mother to daughter. Breast cancer education is always has been a priority for me.
 - The president challenge for STEP will be: fundraise or educate on the following web site: breastcancer.org
 - This is not a research organization,; but rather a website that gives support and information to those experiencing breast cancer.
 - Please check out the site and share it with your chapter, friends and anyone that breast cancer is a part of their family's life
- ◇ Golden Star Award
 - This award recognizes any non-Women of Today individuals or organizations for their participation and help they have given to your chapter.
 - The form will be on the website soon and in this Today's Leader.
- ◇ Staff Highlights
 - See the next page for the highlights from staff. Check out what they are featuring in their articles!
- ◇ Calendar of Events
 - We have added a calendar of events to help you get all this information in one place

I look forward to meeting everyone – I hope to make it to all the states. I hope that you will be able to attend your state meetings and we can celebrate together. Please reach out to me, introduce yourself and let me know what is going well and what you can use our help with.

In WT Friendship, *Jane Hanson*

Here is your 2024-25 Staff; Ready to serve you



Calendar of Events:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| July 14 | Zoom State President Meeting 6:30pm CST |
| July 15 | Monthly Zoom Conversation on Retention 6:30pm CST
All Members welcome |
| July 18 | Purple Thursday |
| August 1 | Membership Zoom Meeting 7:00pm CST |
| August 4 | Friendship Day |
| August 15 | Fast Starts Due - All Areas |
| August 15 | Purple Thursday |
| August 20 | Submissions to Secretary for Sep/Oct Today's Leader due |
| September 1 | Community Connection Reports Due |
| September 1 | Project Library Submissions Due |
| September 1 | Writing Competition Due Date |
| September 7 | Mid-Year Convention Registration Due Date |
| September 12 | Zoom Finance Meeting 7:00pm CST |
| September 19 | Purple Thursday |
| September 22- 28 | Women of Today Week |
| September 24 | Last day to make room reservations for Mid-Year Convention |
| October 1 | Impromptu Sign Up |
| October 15 | 990N Due Date |

Staff Highlights

If you click on the page number you should be taken to the item described.

Chairman of the Board:

- USWT Mid-Year Contention Registration – Page 6

Parliamentarian:

- How to Make a Motion – Page 7

Treasurer:

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Extensions:

- New Mission, Vision and Benefit Statements – Page 17

Public Relations:

- Make a Difference Day – Page 19

Programming:

- 1st Trimester Challenge – Page 20

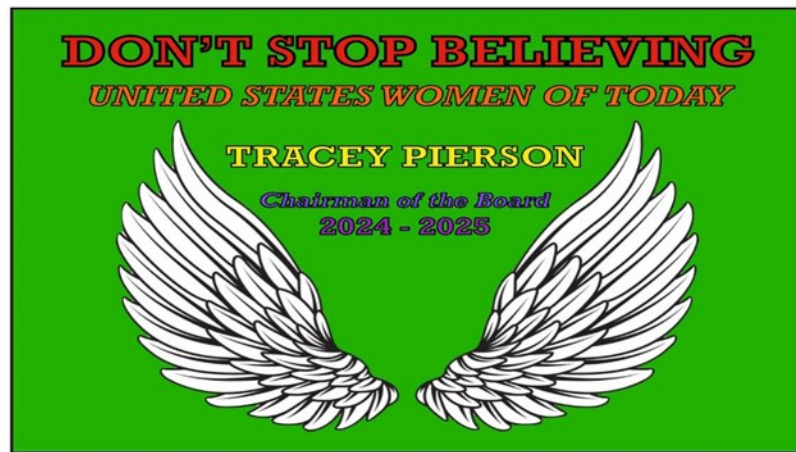
DVA Program Manager:

- Purple Thursday – Page 21

WPD Program Manager:

- New WPD Certification Form Information – Page 23
- Help with Certifying – Learn a New Recipe – Page 23
- Writing Competition Topic – Page 23

CHALLENGE: Please send secretary@uswomenoftoday.org comments on how you like/used this new format to be entered into a drawing at Mid-Year Convention



Hello to the United States Women Today Members:

THANK YOU for a very memorable year, from my state visits to our celebration at year end in Des Moines, IA. Thank you for everything from your kind words to the gifts I received. You can achieve anything as long as you “Believe in Yourself.”

This year I am serving as your Chairman of the Board and with that position I’m in I will be chairing Future Directions Committee along with the Elections Committee. If you are interested on being on the elections committee please reach out to me.

If you are serving as chair of the board you should have received your State Information Packet, if you haven’t please reach out to me at cob@uswomenoftoday.org

Tracey Pierson

USWT President 2023-2024

Here are some of my last visits that didn’t get in the Today’s Leader







UNITED STATES WOMEN OF TODAY

2024 National Mid-Year Convention

October 11-12, 2024

Bushels of Fun

Comfort Inn • 10729 J Street • Omaha Nebraska • 402-339-8111

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Fax _____

___ Women of Today ___ Guest ___ First Timer Home Chapter _____

Arrival: Date: _____ Means of Transportation: _____

If by air: Airline _____ Flight # _____ E.T.A. _____

Sunday Departure Time: _____

(We can make arrangements to pick you up.)

ROOMS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!! CONVENTION RATE UNTIL 09/24/24

Comfort Inn: \$89.00 Thursday - Sunday per night plus tax – 1-4 people per room

Mention that you are with the Women of Today meeting when making reservations.

Ask for the front desk don't go to the Comfort Inn corporate site. 402-339-8111

Registration



Advance

Late

FULL _____ \$100.00 _____ \$115.00

Includes all meetings, forums and meals (add the Friday lunch if you want it - this is optional)

In addition to full registration, we will offer a Friday noon meal _____ \$10.00

Friday Night Party _____ \$25.00 _____ \$30.00

Saturday Forums / Meetings _____ \$25.00 _____ \$25.00

Saturday Luncheon _____ \$25.00 _____ \$30.00

Saturday Banquet _____ \$25.00 _____ \$30.00

Total _____ Total _____

SATURDAY ONLY _____ \$75.00 _____ \$88.00

List any dietary restrictions: _____

ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE – POSTMARKED BY September 7, 2024

Make check payable to
Fremont Area Women of Today
Send registration form and check to:
Maxine Turner
2446 E 19th
Fremont NE 68025



Any questions please contact:
Maxine Turner 402-719-8332
maxine.turner.3@outlook.com

Terri Sherman 402-525-6008
terrisherman99@gmail.com



Michelle McGowan

CONTACT: parli@uswomenoftoday.org

Happy Summer Women of Today Members!

I know this summer has not started the way we all hoped, the rain and flooding has been devastating for some of our members and chapters. My wish is that the rain holds off so the flood waters will recede, and people can get back to their regular routines.

As USWT Parliamentarian this year, I will be here to help answer your questions and hopefully teach you some new information. I want you to be the best parliamentarian you can be. In my June SIP you will find how best to help the state/district/chapter president run a successful meeting as the parliamentarian. Today, let's learn about the rules of a motion.

- Any member in good standing can make and discuss a motion. Non-official members or guest are not able to make a formal motion. Refer to the United States Women of Today by-laws for clear definition of what a member in good standing is.
- A motion begins with the words "I move".
- All motions should be kept in the positive. Motions should be made for items that will result in a positive action being taken.
- Only one subject should be discussed at a time. The topic of the motion should be what members are voting on. If the motion needs to be amended, you will need a new motion to amend the original motion. The amendment will need to be voted on before the original motion.
- The person presiding over the meeting will read the motion back to the members stating, "We have a motion and a second on the floor that reads..." After reading the motion, the chair will ask if there is any discussion.
- Motions should be discussed. When a second is made it does not mean that you agree with the motion being made, just that there is a request for discussion.
- Only one person may speak at a time. Members should take turns speaking for or against the motion being discussed. The member making the motions is the first to speak once the person presiding over the meeting calls for discussion.
- After the discussion seems to be done, the person presiding over the meeting will ask one time "Is there any more discussion?"
- When a call to vote, in favor, "vote yes", if opposed "vote no". is made by the person presiding over the meeting, the majority will determine if the motion will be approved or denied.



*Shine a Light
on Finances*

July 2024

Bonnie Waller
USWT Treasurer
treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org
Website: www.uswomenoftoday.org

Howdy Chapter and State Treasurers,

My name is Bonnie Waller. I have been a member of the Anoka, Minnesota chapter for 30 years. I served in most of the chapter leadership positions, was District Director and held the positions of State Program Manager for Ways and Means, Treasurer and Parliamentarian on Minnesota Executive Council. I also served the US Women of Today as Parliamentarian and Treasurer. I retired after working 33 years as a financial analyst for a large defense contractor.

Treasurer Fast Start – For State and Chapter Treasurers



Due to me by **August 15, 2024**

All you need to do is:

- Send a separate email to me introducing yourself. Share your name, position, and contact info (address, email, phone and if I can text you)
- Share one of your goals for the year.
- Promote at least one of the National Treasurer goals/promotions for 1st trimester to your chapter or state.

I am hoping that I will receive Fast Starts from every state!

Email: treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org

Zoom Finance Meeting: I will be holding our first Zoom committee meeting on September 12th at 7pm (Central time). This meeting will be informal. I would like have feedback from all states regarding a few items:

- Ideas for fundraisers – New and old fundraiser ideas are welcome.
- National Budget – Review and understand what is on the current budget. What should our priorities be to maintain a strong budget? Is there anything that we should add or change?
- National Store – What we currently have and what new ideas I have for the store.

REMINDER: 990N is due to IRS by October 15

Shine a light on Ways and Means Donations. There are many ways to keep the USWT budget balanced, the most important is to make sure we have income to cover expenses. I am asking for cash donations of \$10, \$25 or more from members/chapters/states.



My goal is to raise at least \$1,000 through donations. Each donation of \$25 or more will be entered into a drawing for prizes to be awarded at Midyear and Yearend Conventions. The more times you donate, the more chances you will have to win! This promotion will run for the entire year.



1st Trimester CHALLENGE: Shine a Light on Fundraising Ideas

Fundraising is important and it can sometimes be perplexing to find a successful project to raise those funds. So, I thought let's help each other out and share information on successful projects from your chapter or state.

Email me a description of a fundraiser you have done .Include: preparation (i.e., budget, venue, supplies, workers needed, advertising etc.) execution (the how to) and wrap up. Enough information to help a chapter through the project. A couple of paragraphs will do.

Please include chapter name, state, person submitting and contact email. These fundraising ideas will be compiled and sent out to our contacts. At Midyear convention, I will recognize all who submit ideas. And yes, you can submit more than one project idea. Due to me by **September 1, 2024**.



SUPPORT PRESIDENT JANE

Order your Shirt Today



Tie Dye Shirt
S-XL \$19
2XL – 4XL \$22



Long Sleeve
T-Shirt
S-XL \$19
2XL-6XL \$24



Sweatshirt
S-XL \$23
2XL-5XL \$30



Hooded
Sweatshirt
S-XL \$33
2XL-4XL \$40

Here is the link for ordering shirts: companycasuals.com/USWOT

When checking out, it shows to “check out with PayPal” but credit and debit cards can be used.

Order and pay for your shirts on line with the above link. Shirts will be delivered to MN Fall State or USWT Mid-Year (or delivered by President Jane on a visitation). If you want them shipped to you, additional shipping charges will be added. Shirts will be delivered unless you indicate that you want them shipped and Jane will ship to you.

This is also a National Fund Raiser; a portion of the profits will benefit Ways and Means.

If you have any questions or issues, please contact President Jane at president@uswomenoftoday.org



Mary Hansen – USWT Secretary
2024-2025
secretary@uswomenoftoday.org

Hello to everyone!

I am looking forward to another new learning experience for the 2024-2025 USWT year. I have enjoyed my last two years on USWT staff and wanted to try my hand at keeping you informed this year.

I have been a member of WT since January 2014 with the St. Cloud, MN, chapter. I work something between full time, part time and wanting to retire. I live by myself so not sure retirement is the best thing for me right now. I need to stay active and my current semi-full time employer is flexible, so this allows me the opportunities to travel when I desire.

Please make sure to contact me at the above email if you have any comments, questions or concerns about this or any edition of the Today's Leader.

I hope to have the USWT Directory and History done some time in late July or early August. If you don't receive a copy and desire one they will be available for a minimal fee.

A special incentive will be given to those secretaries/newsletter editors who accomplish this Fast Start by August 15th

- **Completed forms can be emailed to secretary@uswomenoftoday.org.**
- **Send a letter of introduction telling me about yourself and including your theme and logo for the year.**
- **Send me your goals and a short statement on how you plan to achieve each of them.**
- **Submit a copy of the minutes that you recorded at one of your state meetings. (If no meeting is held before August 15th, let me know which meeting minutes you will be submitting.**

Communicate with your local chapter secretaries. Let them know that I would like to receive a copy of their minutes any time during the year. Please provide a copy of the email or letter that you sent out to local secretaries.

If you also serve as your state Newsletter Editor, please let me know so I can add you to my list of newsletter contacts. (If someone else in your state is the

How to be the Best Secretary...

Role of the Secretary

The basic function of the Secretary is to keep the records of the organization (apart from financial records) and to deal with correspondence.

This includes:

- Keeping records of members including on the Committee in order to show who is entitled to vote and to receive votes
- Calling and giving notice of meetings as required by the Constitution
- Ensuring that any papers required are prepared and circulated prior to the meeting
- Taking responsibilities for seeing that letters are written and replied to and that correspondence is available for inspection.
- Preparing agendas if required. This is sometimes a function carried out by the Chairperson and Secretary.
- Ensuring that adequate written records and written or oral reports are available for the incoming secretary so that they can maintain proper continuity.

A **GOOD NEWSLETTER** has good content that meets the needs and expectations of the reader. On the design and page layout side, a good newsletter design creates interest and maintains readability through consistency, conservation, and contrast. Use these basic guidelines to help construct your publications.

- ❖ *Be consistent in your newsletter design*
- ❖ *Be conservative in your newsletter design*
- ❖ *Use contrast in your newsletter design*
- ❖ *What to include:*
 - Include a calendar of events and important dates
 - Article from the chapter, district, or state leader
 - Meeting minutes - or let members know where they can be found
 - Reports from board members
 - Reports from programming managers
 - Spotlights on members
 - Upcoming events and activities – who to contact
 - Personals from and to members – a way to let each other know they are appreciated
 - Add some fun items, maybe a contest to draw interest to the newsletter
 - Some editors include upcoming meeting agenda or financial information



United States Women of Today 2024-2025 Golden Star Award

As we strive to make a difference in our communities, there are many individuals who offer their continued support to our organization. This year, I would like to recognize those individuals who help us achieve our goals and encourage our members and chapters. These individuals could be a spouse, relative, or a local business that has been especially helpful to your chapter or our organization. The recognition can be for any type of project - local, state, or national.

This award is for non-members only.

Fill in the information below explaining why you feel this person, company, or organization deserves this award.

Name of Person Nominating: _____

Chapter/State: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to nominate: _____

who is _____ for the "Golden Star" award because:

(relationship to chapter/state/national)

(Use the back of this form if you need more room)

Send or email form to: Jane Hanson
31078 790th Avenue
Madelia MN 56062
president@uswomenoftoday.org
uswt2425presjane@gmail.com



Shellie Matthes
Membership Vice President
mvp@uswomenoftoday.org

My name is Shellie Matthes, and I am excited to be serving as your United States Women of Today Membership Vice President. I belong to the Minnesota Women of Today and my local chapter is White Bear Lake Women of Today. I have been a member for 13 years. I have served on the local chapter as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership VP and State Delegate. On the District level I have served as Secretary and District Director. On the State level I have served as the first Marketing Vice President and Membership Vice President. On the National level I just completed my year as the PR Director.

My theme this year is The Colors of Membership and with the help of my team we will be growing with Jenise Teske as our Extensions Director. So, if you would like to start a chapter, please reach out. We are here to help! Cindy, our busy bee will be promoting Public Relations by putting articles in chapters city papers along with Facebook posts.

We all like to party, so why not CELEBRATE with growth this year! There will be various challenges throughout this year and those members completing the challenges will be placed into a drawing at Mid-Year and Annual Convention. The challenges might be in the Today's Leader, SIP'S and/or the Membership Facebook Page.

I will be emailing out to the State Presidents and Membership Contacts a monthly newsletter called the "Membership Minute" that you can share with all members in their state/chapters.

Our team will be working on a Membership Newsletter that will focus on all areas of Membership, Extensions and Public Relations. This will be sent out each Trimester.

This first trimester we will be "Tell Me Something Good Tuesday." What is something good you have seen someone else do or what is something good someone has done for you? Be sure to share on the Membership Facebook page.

Friendship Day is August 4th this year and we want to recognize the importance of fellowship in our chapters. There is an incentive given each year at mid-year to chapters who celebrate Friendship Day anytime in the month of August. Why not have a picnic/dinner/movie/ice cream/game night think outside the box! Below is the link to the Friendship Day form.

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/eV878zf0S3Lkf41aFM>

Don't forget Thursday, August 1 at 7pm CST via Zoom will be the next membership meeting. Watch for the zoom link.

I appreciate your support and encouragement. Thank you for all you do!

STEP Certifications – Emphasis June

What STEP do I need to complete and when?

Step 1:

STEP I Certification is designed to promote the orientation and activation of the new member. All steps of the program must be completed during the member's first 120 days (date from when dues are paid). By participating in the required activities, the new member becomes familiar with all levels of the organization.

To certify in STEP I the individual must complete all the mandatory requirements and two (2) of the optional requirements. The certification form should be sent within 30 days of the completion of the program. This is only completed once.

Here is the link to the online form:

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/42e4n20e0c1q2rv>

Step 2:

STEP II is designed for the member who has been a member for 12 months or less. By participating in this program the member will become activated on all levels of the organization.

To certify in STEP II, the member must complete all of the mandatory requirements and four (4) of the optional requirements within 30 days of the completion of the program. (It is not necessary to complete STEP I to complete STEP II.) This is only completed once.

Here is the link to the online form:

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/yg0Axe5XOzUw9kfji9b8>

Step 3:

STEP III is designed for the member who has been a member for one (1) to five (5) years, and for any past member in good standing that leaves the organization for any length of time and then rejoins the organization at a later date. This program is for continual activation of those members in all areas of the organization. {It is not necessary to have completed the earlier STEP certifications.}

To certify in STEP III, the member must complete all the mandatory requirements and eight (8) of the optional requirements. This can only be completed once per year in years 1-5, and within 30 days of the completion of the program. From May 1 – April 30.

Here is the link to the online form:

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/8cGed8Jcap24o4BF0Vy>

Step 4:

STEP IV is designed for the member who has been a member for six (6) years or more, and for any past member in good standing that leaves the organization for any length of time and then rejoins the organization at a later date. This program is for continual activation of those members in all areas of the organization.

To certify in STEP IV, the member must complete all of the mandatory requirements and eight (8) of the optional requirements. This can be completed once per year within 30 days of the completion of the program. This can be completed yearly, from May 1 – April 30.

Here is the link to the online form:

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/f97i5W20Ph6cM58nfTLNu3As8>



Jenise Teske
Extensions Director
extensions@uswomenoftoday.org

It's a new year for Women of Today and I am excited to work with all of you to REACH OUT to new communities (and new states) as your 2024-2025 USWT Extensions Director. My name is Jenise Teske and I am a member of the St. Joseph chapter in Minnesota, which chartered in 2019. I joined Women of Today in 2013 as part of the Champlin WT chapter. I have served on local, district and state levels of service to the organization—including chapter President and District Director, as well as Program Manager twice, Extensions Director, Chapter Management VP, Membership VP and President at the State level. This is my first year on National Staff and I am looking forward to “Making a Colorful Difference.”

When I was MNWT Extensions Director, we completed two extensions and I look forward to getting new chapters to grow our organization. New chapters in new communities and new states increase our visibility and our ability to REACH OUT a hand of friendship to women everywhere.

Why do an Extension?

- It is fun! You can do an extension because it is fun to share with others what you value and enjoy
- The lives of the women who join the new chapter will be enriched just as your life has been enriched. Their community will benefit as well from their service to local needs.
- Your chapter will benefit – as you recruit and orient new members, many times this rejuvenates your chapter.
- Assure the future of our organization – USWT strength comes from strong chapters with enthusiastic members. We need to build our chapter base, both by helping existing chapters to grow strong and by establishing new, healthy chapters.

The US Women of Today, we Adopted New Mission, Vision and Benefit Statements at Annual Convention. We can use these new statements as a guide to identifying and starting new chapters!

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to provide opportunities in the areas of community service, leadership training, personal growth and work in partnership with multiple charities.”

Vision Statement

“We are passionate people of action... Empowering individuals to make a difference in their lives and communities.”

Benefit Statement rather than Belief

Benefits from participating in Women of Today:

- Unite our vision to make a difference through service and community involvement
- Enrich and empower individuals in our communities
- Foster a welcoming and inclusive social experience
- Gain confidence to lead
- Create supportive connections as we develop lifelong friendships

I plan to contact each State President and Membership VP or Extensions Director by the end of July to find out what is going on in your individual states and offer help, if needed, to work on new extensions. Together, we can do this!

Jenise



FOUNDER'S DAY GATHERING FOR MN BRIDGE LIGHTING CEREMONY



Cindy Golbuff – PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

“B the Buzz PR”

CONTACT: prdirector@uswomenoftoday.org

My name is Cindy Golbuff, and I am honored to serve as the 2024-2025 Public Relations Director.

I live in rural Albert Lea, MN and have been a WT member for many years. I have been married to my sweetie, Scott for 38 years. We are blessed with 3 adult kids, 2 darling daughters in laws, 2 grandkids and our fur babies. I enjoy spending time camping, reading, lake time but most of all time with our family. Summer flies by quickly with summer activities, boating and gardening.



PR and social media

The aim of public relations is to inform the public (i.e., prospective members), and ultimately persuade them to maintain a favorable view about the chapter, its leadership and services (or join).

One of my goals this year, is to have chapters participate in holding a Founders Day Celebration and complete the form. Why? We want to encourage you to promote any/all of your activities within your community. By submitting press releases, posting photos on social media, you are spreading the word about your chapter and USWT.

A portion of our USWT creed notes we are dedicated to serving our community and nation. **How do we share with our communities what we are doing?**

Here are some suggestions: * Form a social media committee; members that like technology, are creative, are well-connected & enthusiastic.

*Develop a plan: What is your goal? More members? Increased event participation?

*Choose a platform: FB, twitter, other social media.

*Create a social media calendar: Special WT weeks; Social events; Share chapter's mission & vision; Introduce new members.

*Plan on being visual: Pictures can be the whole post.

*Celebrate Successes! Post if you reach a milestone number of followers.

*As you market/promote your chapter think of who you are trying to reach.

Send/email photos of your events to: prdirector@uswomenoftoday.org; tag us on your fb posting so we can share your news. Photos really show the face of our organization.

Have you seen the “Shout Out with Public Relations” form?

The form can be used once a Trimester to celebrate your chapter's Public Relations activities.

Tri 1 will be focusing on “Founder's Day”

Tri 2 will be focusing on “Women of Today Week/Make a Difference Day”

Tri 3 will be focusing on “Volunteer Week/Random Act of Kindness Day”

Chapters that submit a form in Tri 1 will receive a certificate. Turn in another form for Tri 2 and earn a large certificate. Turn in a form for Tri 3 and your chapter will receive recognition in Today's Leader and other USWT social media as a “Shout out with Pride” Super Promoter!!

Click below to fill out the form:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:479ac625-854b-471b-ae4b-add78af640b5>

Incentive

Both Fast Starts and “Shout Out with Public Relations” completed forms will be entered into drawings.

Participate in
Make a Difference Day

This Year Known as

Make a "Colorful" Difference Day

October 26, 2024

What is Make a Difference Day?

Make a Difference Day is a National Day of Community service. Millions of volunteers all over the United States participate in activities that help improve the lives of others in their communities.

If you have ever wondered if your actions can make a difference, the answer is yes. We come together to volunteer, raise funds, offer support, and learn about the most urgent needs of our society.

History of Make a Difference Day

It was created in 1992 by USA WEEKEND magazine in order to rally volunteers and organizations, as well as raise awareness about the significance of volunteer service in our communities.

What: President Jane is asking chapters to hold a volunteer activity

- You could make it a Halloween event and collect donations
- Volunteer at a local park, nursing home, animal shelter, library, school, serve meals at Ronald McDonald House or shelter
- Sponsor a volunteer event in your community

When: Saturday, October 26, 2024

Who: Your chapter - could collaborate with other groups

Why: When you hold your event, email PVP Lisa Hahn at pvp@uswomenoftoday.org and let her know what your chapter did for a colorful surprise given by the State President!

PR: Don't forget to post pictures on FB for good PR in your community! Tag Public Relations Program Manager, Cindy in your pictures with [#uswtmakeadifferenceday](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/uswtmakeadifferenceday)



Greetings Women of Today and welcome to the 2024-2025 year.

My name is Lisa Hahn, and I am very excited to be serving as your 2024-2025 Programming Vice President. Dennis and I have been married 38 years. We have 1 daughter, 3 sons, 3 granddaughters and 1 grandson born this past May. I have worked with my husband for the past 29 years and just recently retired from that position and will start watching the youngest 2 grandchildren 4 days a week starting in August. I'm thinking this might be a bit more challenging than working with my husband.

I have been a member of the Women of Today for just over 34 years. I have been in the Sauk Rapids Chapter for the past 30 years. I have served on the local, district, state and national WT boards.

Congratulations on signing up as **Programming Vice President**. So glad you did. I am looking forward to getting to know you better. I sure hope to see many of you at Mid-Year in October.

Project Library Submissions: I am so excited to have already received a submission. All States and Chapters can submit these. Each time you enter a project submission you will be entered into a drawing for a huge "Mixing it up Basket" at Mid-Year. This is a great way to let others see what you do in your states and chapters. Please send these by September 1st.

1st Trimester PVP Challenge

This first trimester challenge is easy to complete.

- 1. Complete your Fast Start by August 15th.**
- 2. Send in a Community Connections Report. Please include all monetary, in-kind and service hours by September 1st.**

That's it. Can't wait to read all your names and have you receive an incentive at Mid-Year. I would love to have 100% participation.

Online Resources

The website is a great place to start if you are looking for forms, awards, SIPs, manuals, contact names, and so much more. Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any of the staff if you have a question on something. We are here to support you and we want to make this year your best year yet!

JUNE EMPHASIS MONTH:

- 1. WELLNESS & PERSONALL DEVELOPMENT**
There is a new form for WPD. Your USWT WPD Manager Shellie Haun has included this form in this Today's Leader.
- 2. PUBLIC RELATIONS**
- 3. STEP**

JULY EMPHASIS MONTH:

- 1. EXTENSIONS**
- 2. MEMBERSHIP**

AUGUST EMPHASIS MONTH:

- PUBLIC RELATIONS**
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS**



Dawn Nissen
USWT DVA Program
Manager

dva@uswomenoftoday.org

Hello, My name is Dawn Nissen and I am the 2024-2025 Domestic Violence Awareness (DVA) Program Manager. I am from the Spencer Iowa Chapter. I have been a member of the Iowa Women of Today since 2016. I have served as External Vice President, Treasurer and currently the President of the Spencer Iowa Chapter. I have also served as the Programming Vice President and currently the Treasurer of the Iowa Chapter.

I became your Domestic Violence Awareness Program Manager because I want to be more involved in raising money and promoting awareness and education to provide safety and stability for women and children.

Fast Start

Complete the following requirements postmarked or emailed to me by August 15, 2024. Each individual completing this Fast Start will be recognized at Mid-year convention.

1. Send me a letter of introduction and your plan of action.
2. Begin to implement one of your goals; include a description of what you have done to implement this goal.
3. Send a copy of at least one of the materials you have prepared for promotion of your area within your state. This may be a mailing, article in your newsletter, information shared to your chapters in your state, outline for a forum you are doing etc.
4. Make an “official” contact with a foundation or organization with whom you will be working. If no foundation, please reach out to your national contact (me).

Send verification to me at dva@uswomenoftoday.org

I am continuing to promote **Purple Thursday**. The 3rd Thursday each month wear purple and post your photos on the USWT Programming Facebook page or email me with your name, chapter and state to dva@uswomenoftoday.org. Each time you post your picture, your name will go into a drawing for Mid Year.

Domestic Abuse in Later Life

Abuse in later life comprises financial, physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, abandonment, and neglect. Perpetrators are people with whom the victim has an expectation of trust, particularly spouses, intimate partners, adult children, grandchildren, other family members, and non-related caregivers. Perpetrators typically, but not exclusively, abuse older adults in their places of residence.

Did you know?

** Every year, approximately **4 million older Americans** are victims of physical, psychological, and/or other forms of abuse and neglect.

** Older adults who require assistance with daily life activities are at increased risk of being emotionally abused or financially exploited.

** Approximately **50%** of older adults with dementia are mistreated or abused.

** **76.1%** of physical abuse towards older adults is perpetrated by a family member.

** Only **1** out of every **24** cases of elder abuse is reported.

Why It Matters

Abuse in later life has a devastating impact on victims and can result in the loss of independence, security, life savings, health, and dignity, and can be deadly. Research indicates that older adult victims of abuse have shorter lifespans than their peers who do not experience violence. Abuse in later life can cause both physical and psychological harm. Psychological harms associated with abuse in later life include depression, stress, helplessness, alienation, guilt, shame, fear, and anxiety

What Can I Do About Abuse in Later Life?

Now that you are more familiar with abuse in later life, here are three concrete steps toward change you can take today:

- If someone tells you they are a victim of abuse, believe him or her! Encourage her/him to reach out to
- Talk to the people in your life — whether or not they are aged 60 and over — to raise awareness and start conversations about abuse in later life.
- Connect with an organization like the [National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life](#) and the [National Council on Aging Care](#) to learn how you can get involved by volunteering, donating, or simply signing up to receive email newsletters.



Hello Women of Today Members,

I am honored to be serving as the USWT Wellness & Personal Development Program Manager. My experience includes many local and state positions, including State President for the first time last year. I'm excited to be stepping into WPD, and my first National position. I look forward to meeting you!

The Wellness & Personal Development Certification Form

has been updated with new items to make it easier to certify annually. The new form will be uploaded to the website, and was included in my SIP to all contacts. Because this may take some time, all WPD forms will be accepted. Please be sure to share this with your members.

All certifications will receive a gift!

1st Trimester SIP

State Information Packets have been emailed to all state contacts. If you did not receive this, please let me know. It is also available on the USWT website. The packet includes the 1st Trimester Fast Start and Challenges. Please take a look & share with your chapters.

Let's have some fun!

WPD CERTIFICATION TOPIC

To help with certifications, a topic is included in each newsletter. Today's topic: **"Learn A New Recipe"** This recipe is one of my husband's favorites. It's low carb, but extremely delicious. Everyone I've shared it with in the past, still makes it today. Try this recipe, and you can mark it on your certification form!

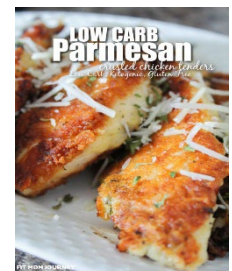
Low-Carb Parmesan Crusted Fried Chicken Strips

Ingredients:

- 6-10 raw chicken strips (purchase chicken already in strips, or slice whole chicken breasts)
- 2 cups Shredded Parmesan Cheese
- 1 egg slightly beaten
- Olive Oil

Directions:

In frying pan, pour olive oil to about ¼" depth. Turn heat to LOW (so chicken cooks slowly, not to burn the cheese). Take each chicken strip and dip in egg, then roll in parmesan cheese to coat. Place in pre-heated frying pan. Complete for all strips. Cook chicken about 6-8 minutes on each side (or until all chicken appears white). Remove from pan and allow to drain on a paper towel.



Participants
will receive a
gift!

Writing Competition

This Year's Subject is: **"A Moment That Made You Proud of Yourself"**

It is held at the USWT Mid-Year Meeting in October and costs \$5 to register

Essays should be 600-800 words, and must be emailed to WPD@uswomenoftoday.org

Please mail registration form and fee by September 1, 2024

Make checks payable to USWT, with "writing competition" in the memo line, and mail to:

Shellie Haun, 841 Sage Circle, Lincoln, NE 68520

Looking forward to a fun, great year! **Shellie Haun**



**Arizona
Women of Today**

Arizona is chugging along with Heart in the southwest trying to survive the heat which is hotter this year than in many years past. We had a great time at the National Convention in Des Moines and looking forward to sharing our awards and information with our members at the first state meeting and training on August 4th in Tempe, AZ. Both chapter presidents attended the first membership Zoom this month.

Wild West chapter has been meeting and planning the year with President Dr. Sammi Mongold and her full staff.

Looking forward to "Growing Together".



Valley of the Sun is being led by Alyce Collins this year and she started the year off attending the Membership Zoom call led by Shellie Matthes gathering ideas for membership drives and retention.

Both Chapters are celebrating with a social for Founders Day.

More to come from AZ! Looking forward to working and learning from the Awesome National Staff led by President Jane and her staff! Stay cool and safe!

Pat Saulina

President of AZ Women of Today 2024-2025

Chugging along with Heart



**UNITED STATES
WOMEN OF TODAY**
2024 National Year-End Convention
June 7-8, 2024

Come UP UP & AWAY
With Iowa Women of Today

▲ Baymont Inn & Suites
Des Moines Airport Hotel & Conference Center
6221 Willow Creek Avenue, Des Moines IA 50321

On behalf of the Iowa WT, I want to say a heart-felt . . . **THANK YOU** . . . to all our US Women of Today friends for making the USWT Year-End 2024 convention such a FUN, SUCCESSFUL weekend!

We are thrilled to report there were:

**89 USWT members, representing **10 of our 12 member states (*SD and NJ WERE missed – hopefully will see them at USWT Year-End 2025!*)

**10 First timers

**25 Past USWT Presidents (including our very first President, Vicki Fisher-IA!)

Among the MANY highlights of the weekend were:

**Surpassing the \$200 ransom demand (The Past Presidents kidnapped Pres Tracey at the end of the Opening Ceremonies- but thanks to all those present – we raised \$364 to get her back in time for the Friday Night Party activities! NOTE: This money was added into the rest of the DVA contributions – all donated to Safe Shelter)

**Announcement by PVP Laura Bentley that reported monetary/in-kind donations and calculating the reported service hours into dollars: we raised over \$14 million dollars during the 2023/24 year!!

**Recognition of our newest Ambassador: Aimee Kaiser, IL!!

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY . . .

Election/installation of the slate of officers that are leading us into our 40th year as an organization.

CONGRATS TO

President Jane Hanson-MN: *Make a Colorful Difference*

Secretary Mary Hansen-MN: *Nesting Notes*

Treasurer Bonnie Waller-MN: *Shine a Light on Finances*

Membership VP Shellie Matthes-MN: *The Color of Membership*

Programming VP Lisa Hahn-MN: *Mixing it with Programming*

Parliamentarian Michelle McGowan-MN

Chair of the Board Tracey Pierson-IA

Wellness & Personal Development PM Shellie Haun-NE: *Dimensions of Wellness*

Domestic Violence Awareness PM Dawn Nissen-IA: *Break the Silence*

Public Relations Director Cindy Golbuff-MN: *Be the Buzz*

Extensions Director Jenise Teske-MN: *Reaching Out*

Presidential Assistants Nicky Anderson-MN/PP and JoAnn Miller-MN

THANK YOU again for those who took our invite to **COME UP UP & AWAY** with us! We look forward to seeing all of you – plus hopefully SO MANY MORE at both:

++USWT Mid-Year 2024 (Oct 11-12, 2024; *Bushel of Fun*, in Omaha NE- hosted by Lincoln & Fremont WT)

++USWT Year-End 2025 (June 13-14, 2025: *CELEBRATE* – our 40th anniversary – hosted by Duluth MN WT)

Michele Thompson

Iowa Women of Today

USWT Year-End 2024, chair



Greetings from Massachusetts!

I first would like to thank the Iowa Women of Today for hosting the annual USWT Convention this past June and making sure we all had an enjoyable time.

Since coming back home, we have been connecting with the chapters and attending year end banquets and socials to present their awards that were given out at annual convention. The majority of our chapters take a break over the summer months and enjoy some social time to come back refreshed and ready to go in September.

I look forward to serving as the State President this year and we will be MOOving to New Heights as the members grow and fellowship is formed. Our next state meeting will be held the weekend after the USWT Mid-Year Meeting in October with the actual date and location to be determined.

In Friendship

Julie Hutchinson

MAWT President



Howdy from Minnesota my US Women of Today friends!

It's truly an honor to be serving as the 75th President of the Minnesota Women of Today. My name is Tevyan Sorensen and I have been a member of the Burnsville chapter for 14 years this month. I am a full-time volunteer and stay-at-home mom after retiring from a career as an IT Management Consultant and dabbling in life coaching. My husband and I live in Lakeville, MN, with our 9-year old, autistic son Aden and our soon to be 8-year old adventurous son Kieran. They keep us very busy and Women of Today is a great source of self-care for me.

We are coming into this year riding the wave of growth by 5 to 924 members and it is our goal to add two additional chapters and grow by at least 10 members. This year, my focus is on connecting with women across the state, spreading our message of unity with the theme "We Go Together." I'm excited for this year and to see our organization come alive with renewed energy and positivity.

Our state staff and I are hitting the ground running. We're reaching out to chapters, assisting officers to kickstart their year, and collaborating with our eight district directors on summer meetings. We started the year with a fun and successful birthday challenge to add 22 new members by my birthday on June 22. Our attention is now turning to our President & State Delegate Retreat on August 4 where we invite chapter leaders from all across the state to a one-day training event and opportunity to connect in a deeper way with each other.

In September, we will be hosting the USWT President and staff at our Fall State Convention in Brainerd. This is a great time to focus on each area of our programming, including kicking off a new three-year Priority Area partnership with REACH, a school-based program focused on supporting at-risk students. We will also be celebrating our membership and recognizing member milestone anniversaries.

It is looking up to be an amazing 75th year of Service, Growth, and Fellowship in Minnesota this year. We hope you will all join us in Duluth in June 2025 to CELEBRATE the USWT 40th anniversary alongside our very own President Jane Hanson at USWT Year-End Convention. Until then, I look forward to connecting to you all to learn and share and together we can grow forward for another 40 years.

In friendship,

Tevyan Sorensen
MNWT State President 2024-2025
president@mnwt.org
mnwt.org





Hello from the state of Missouri!

I am Nancy Asher, and I am serving as Missouri's state president. For those of you who do not know me, I work as the Registrar at Truman State University. While this is only my 6th year in the Registrar role, I am working on my 38th year at Truman. I am looking forward to working with the four Missouri chapters and the national board this year. We are still planning our year and will hold our first state meeting in the Kansas City area in the fall.

Did you know????

Missouri

- Nickname: The Show Me State.
- Statehood: 1821; 24th state.
- Population (as of July 2016): 6,093,000.
- Capital: Jefferson City.
- Biggest City: Kansas City.
- State bird: bluebird.
- State flower: white hawthorn.
- Original state capital: St. Charles.
- Admission to the Union: August 10, 1821 (24th state)
- Area: 68,727 square miles (18th in U.S.)
- Population: 6,154,913.
- Highest point: Taum Sauk Mountain (1,772 ft)





Cherish Our Dreams

Maxine Turner
Nebraska State President

I will be serving as Nebraska's state president this year. My name is Maxine Turner, I have been a member of this great organization since 1977. Through the years I have searched other organizations to become involved in their membership always come back to Women of Today. I have found that I have become a better individual because of the involvement in community projects and the personal development that our state offers.

This year I am very fortunate to have the members that are serving on our state board. I look forward to year end as our chapters and state will celebrate the dreams that we have developed through our Plan of Actions,

We have three state projects that we are promoting. They are Aid to Foster Children, which consists of two programs in one (Foster Care Closet of Nebraska and Families Camp Catch-Up); Sex Trafficking Awareness and two Food Banks (Omaha and Lincoln).

Since US Annual Convention I have been stressing that we need to Communicate, Communicate, Communicate. Currently, we are adding lots of posts to our Facebook and recreating our website since it crashed in May.

We hope to see many of our members across the states in Omaha at US Women of Today Mid-year this October. I know the Fremont Area and Lincoln chapters will do a great job of hosting this event.

I want to leave with a thought:

A flawed diamond is more
valuable than a perfect brick.





Pat Fern

North Dakota State President

patfern@hotmail.com

North Dakota key women added two new members Holly and Ellie. And we presented Sarah Smith with her ambassador award. Along with those we had US women today pins Going to Sherrí and Ellie and a medallion to present To Juanita. We had Anneliese receiving outstanding contact for DVA. Along with the NDWT key woman program I also resurrected the NDWT presidential pin which was presented to Juanita and to Lenore.

We also added a new member that night and welcomed Maren to our membership. All in all it was a fantastic night, but I am glad it's over!!

We had a good year last year and we are looking forward to another successful year. This year we will be living and learning in the sunshine using sunflowers again. I have to do sunflowers because I have so many in my house right now. I have to get rid of some of them!

We hope that you all had a happy Fourth of July. We invite you all to come and visit. Just let us know when and we'll work it out!

Pat Fern, president Stanley and NDWT





Greetings from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,



It is my honor to be serving as Pennsylvania's State President. Just a little bit about myself. I've been a member since 1981 and have served in various positions over the past 43 years including US Women of Today President in 2006-2007. I'm retired and loving every stress-free minute. I enjoy quilting, cooking and camping. Larry and I have been married for 43 years and have three married children and 7 grandsons.

This year, I will be using the theme "Spreading Seeds of Kindness" with a logo of a sunflower. Just like the majestic Sunflower, each of us must stand tall, be proud of our strengths and beauty and share our seeds with those around us. Together, we will make a beautiful difference in our communities and world.

Pennsylvania's 4 chapters have been busy over the past few months.

The Dover chapter honored 2 deserving young ladies with Scholarships. They hosted our April state meeting, held their annual I and A, had a white elephant sale at their last meeting and have been busy with their monthly bingo night at a local senior center. Upcoming projects include A Meat and Seafood Bingo as well as several chapter socials.

The Lititz chapter held monthly meetings, honored a local student with a scholarship and are planning their annual chapter Anniversary event.

The Northeastern chapter continues to collect food and supplies for a local animal shelter, books for a free library and school supplies. Upcoming events include celebrating Founder's Day, Friendship Day and their annual chapter picnic.

The Womelsdorf chapter is in full swing. They held a Father's Day car show, helped with a kid's fishing derby and just finished up with their annual 4-day Community Carnival. Their upcoming projects include the dedication of "Davie's Splash pad", a vender show and as well as hosting our next state meeting on August 17th.



Cindy

"Spreading Seeds of Kindness"

HAPPY Women of Today FOUNDER'S DAY

Today, we celebrate our national organization. July 1 has been designated as United States Women of Today Founder's Day because the national organization was founded on July 1, 1985.

Women of Today is about people.

Women of Today is about community service.

Women of Today is about leadership training and development.

Women of Today is about fostering friendships and developing relationships within your community.

Women of Today is about making a difference, making a friend, and having an impact on your community through community service efforts.

Women of Today may look a little bit different in each community because each community is unique.

The local chapter, Hartford Women of Today, stays busy throughout the year. The group contributes to our community by planting flowers at our city parks, assisting the local vet at the semi-annual pet vaccination clinic, organizes the city-wide rummages and Jamboree Day parade, hosts an annual craft fair, and bakes holiday cookie trays for our donors throughout the year.

Our membership is happy to donate to causes in our community like the local food pantries, the West Central Educational Foundation 49-7 club, service scholarships for graduating seniors, or school groups such as prom, the Marching Trojans, colorguard, or helping with student lunch accounts. Area nonprofits that we have also supported are Handi-Riders, Lifescape, the Compass Center and the Sioux Area Rodeo Club.

"All Work and No Fun" is not our motto. We enjoy building friendships at our monthly meetings and/or projects, but also take time to enjoy one another at our annual Swim Party, Year-End Steak dinners, and our holiday prayer breakfast.

We invite you to join us at a monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of any month at 7:00 at St. George's Parish Hall. Please reach out to us on our Facebook page - Hartford, SD Women of Today - to see the differences being made in our community.

Come make a difference with us! That's what the Women of Today is all about.

Roxanne Whalen, Harford Women of Today, South Dakota

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