

# THE GAVEL

**Newsletter of**

**The Nebraska Women of Today**

January 2024

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

Fellow Members,

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a “Happy New Year”. How many of you have made Resolutions for the 2025 year including some for Women of Today?

As I thought about my article for this newsletter, I got thinking about our support and the longevity of our organization. Our organization was started in 1954 with a few name changes (Mrs. Jaycees; Jaycee Women; Jayceettes and Women of Today) in these past years. I have also watched our membership numbers dwindle through the years. I have seen our programming area change, but one thing that has not changed was our support in our communities.

As leaders and members, let us take a moment to focus on several ways to help manage and support the life and longevity of our great organization.

Yes, we are experiencing challenging moments within our local chapters and our state levels. However, we can strengthen the life and longevity of our organization being committed to sharing one’s time and talents, leading by example, volunteering, encouraging one another, promoting togetherness, promoting positivity, showing respect, sharing ideas and suggestions, sharing our Women of Today history, passing on chapter/state/national information, following protocol, studying, and knowing the bylaws, setting goals, training and diversity.

**ACTIONS THAT CAN HELP PRESERVE OUR ORGANIZATION**

**1. Being Committed…**

When we joined Women of Today, we wanted to learn about Leadership, Personal Enrichment and serving in our communities.

**2. Sharing One’s Time and Talent…**

As a member, we need to offer our time and talents for the betterment of mankind. As a member we give rather than receive and expect no ‘bouquets’ for our charitable deeds while better our community.

**3. Leading by Example…**

What better way to lead by example than through one’s actions.

**4. Volunteering…**

Investigate an area in the community to see where your time and talents can be a benefit to others. Ask Women of Today and family members to join.

**5. Encouraging One Another…**

If members are contributing to the organization for the good of the chapter/state, let them know it by saying thank you.

**6. Promoting Togetherness…**

If a member misses two meetings, reach out to see if the member is okay. Ask why they have not attended meetings. Bring the members up to date on the magnificent work members are doing in support of their local chapter and community. Sharing with them they can make a difference, and their thoughts and ideas are welcome.

**7. Promoting Positivity…**

Be positive in your tone when things are not going well. As one would say, do not add fuel to the fire.

**8. Being Respectful…**

Remember when speaking to others, it is not what you say but how you say it.

**9. Sharing Ideas and Suggestions…**

Do not be afraid to share ideas or make suggestions.

**10. Sharing WOMEN OF TODAY History…**

Anytime there is an opportunity, share the WOT story. We have all heard that WOT is a well-kept secret.

**11. Passig on State and National Information…**

It is imperative that state and national information is passed on to all members. How many times have you heard, oh, I did not get that information.

**12. Following Protocol…**

We often hear the word protocol. Remember, protocol is especially important when it comes to WOT. We all must follow the chain command. The guidelines have been put in place for a reason.

**13. Bylaws**

What better way to familiarize oneself than through reading and studying? Take time to read your chapter Bylaws and the state Bylaws. State Bylaws can be found on the State Website.

**14. Setting Goals…**

This is the form of planning for the future. When setting goals, make sure they are clear, precise, and measurable. When goals are clear in one’s mind, they will give an improved understanding. If challenging goals are chosen, make sure they are attainable.

**15. Training vs. criticizing…**

If a member is assigned a task, and it does not meet one’s standard, share in completing the task and offer training for the next task.

**16. Diversity…**

When it comes to diversity, all members can bring something to the table. It could be knowledge or experience, or it could be both. Take into consideration the various personalities, cultures, and ages.

There is no better time than now to start sowing the seeds to ensure the life and longevity of our organization. As leaders and members, our dedication, wisdom, love, and teamwork will forever keep the life of our organization moving in a positive direction.

Now, I ask that each of you to look at taking a position on your chapter board, state board or even the national board. We have so many members that would be good leaders on all three levels of this organization.

I have asked my board this year to look outside of the box and now I am asking each member to take that step outside of their comfort zone and run for an elected positum. This is one of my New Years resolutions for Women of Today.

“Ability is what you are capable of doing,

*Cherish Our Dreams*

Motivation determines what you do.

Attitude determines how well you do it.”

- Winston Porter

Maxine Turner, President

‘Cherish Our Dreams’

[Maxine.turner.3@outlook.com](mailto:Maxine.turner.3@outlook.com)

***Chaplain’s Thought***

***“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”***

------ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Chairman of the Board

Happy new year everyone!

As we start third trimester, I want to remind everyone that I will be looking to fill a new Nebraska Women of Today State board for the 25-26 year. If you have any interest in a position, please reach out to me. I can get you whatever information you might need to help you make a decision. I would love to have all seats filled by the deadline. But if not, just know, I may be contacting you. Please give this your serious consideration. Moving up to state board is a great way to learn more about how our organization works at many levels, and you get to meet so many members throughout the state. Training is provided!

If you already happen to know a position you’d like to run for, please complete the NWOT Elections and Credentials Filing Form found here <https://newomenoftoday.org/chairman-of-the-board>. Also know that filing is confidential until annual convention, unless there is a contested position. Again I am available for any questions you may have.

I look forward to hearing from you!

A close-up of hands making a finger bump

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We are Better Together!

# Shellie Haun, Chairman of the Board

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

Membership

Hello Nebraska Women of Today!

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a great holiday season.

Unfortunately we did not have a good 2nd Trimester for Membership. We lost several members. Let’s all make a resolution to promote our group. Membership is so important and it would be great to get some new members this last trimester but it’s also important to retain the ones we have. Reach out to those members who aren’t as active and see if you can get them more involved.

Also, please make sure to hold a Membership Event sometime soon and advertise on Facebook.

I have information I received called “Putting together a perspective list” that may help you think of people to recruit. The list is long so it’s easier to email it rather than including here in this article. I hope this will help! I will send it to Presidents/Membership contacts, please be sure to use this at an upcoming meeting.

Also, don’t forget to check out the new Nebraska Women of Today website. My 3 rd Trimester Fast Start is there.

Every month has different topics of Emphasis. For January we have Wellness &amp; Personal Development (National) and Effective Speaking, Effective Writing (Nebraska). Looking ahead to February we have Domestic Violence Awareness and Extensions (National) and Hall of Fame (Nebraska). Don’t forget to put these on your meeting agendas to discuss and plan.

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)

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.

Chaplain/Personal Enrichment

Nebraska Women of Today:

I hope that you all had a wonderful Holiday season. Now that we are in the final trimester of this year – there are just a few things to remember.

My 3 rd Trimester Fast Start is on the website. Be sure and check it out – it is due April 1 st .

Family Week was in November. If your chapter participated in Family Week please be sure and send me that form now. It is not due til April 1 st but I am encouraging you to do it now so you don’t forget.

The Wellness/PD form is available on the US Women of Today website or just send the form to me and I will be sure and get it to the right place.

The theme for ES/EW for Annual convention is “What I Cherish Most”. See my web page for more details.

The deadline for the “God in my Life” essay is also April 1 st .

The Nebraska Women of Today prayer chain is available. If you have a prayer chain request – please let me know.

There will be a Goal Setting ZOOM on January 15 th .

Til next time, keep chosing joy!

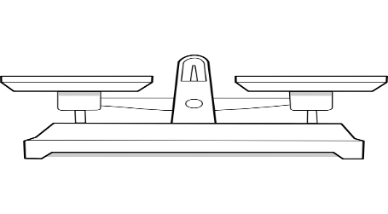
Joyce Harpster, Chaplain / Personal Development

*‘Choosing Joy!’*

chaplain@NEwomenoftoday.org

Parliamentarian

**Meeting Protocols and Rules of Order**

Effective meetings are fundamental to the smooth operation of any organization, and ensuring that each member has an opportunity to contribute is a hallmark of good parliamentary practice. Adhering to the rules of the day helps minimize distractions, ensures equitable participation, upholds quorum requirements, and allows for orderly progress.

**Rules of the Day**

1. **Electronic Devices**  
   Please ensure that all electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) are either turned off or set to silent/vibrate during meetings.
2. **Courtesy and Respect for Speakers**  
   For the sake of decorum, do not enter or exit the meeting room while someone has the floor.
3. **Addressing the Chair**  
   To address the chair, members must stand and state their name and chapter affiliation before speaking.
4. **Speaking Time and Order**
   * Each speaker is allotted one minute to comment on a motion.
   * A second opportunity to speak may be granted only after all other members wishing to speak have done so.
   * Discussion will alternate between proponents and opponents of the motion.
5. **Time Limits on Discussion**
   * Discussion on any motion will be limited to 10 minutes.
   * The chair may exercise discretion to extend this limit if necessary.
6. **Motions Documentation**
   * Three copies of each motion must be prepared in advance and provided immediately to the President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.
7. **Voting Procedures**  
   Voting may take place by voice, standing, or roll call, depending on the motion.
8. **Amendments**
   * An amendment to an amendment is not permitted.
   * A maximum of two amendments to the original motion will be allowed.
9. **Quorum**  
   A quorum shall be defined as the presence of representatives from a majority of member chapters.
10. **Voting 'No'**  
    If you disagree with a motion, please feel free to vote "No." Your input is valued.
11. **Seconding Motions**  
    Be prepared to second motions when appropriate to help expedite business. Seconding a motion simply indicates your desire to discuss it.

These rules are designed to facilitate smooth, fair, and efficient meetings. They may be modified as necessary to suit the specific needs of your chapter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to assisting you in fostering a well-balanced and orderly environment through effective parliamentary procedures.

Hillari Zweibohmer, Programming Vice President

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

Treasurer / Domestic Violence

[](javascript:%20void(0))**Domestic violence** is the February

Emphasis Month. Please add this to your next agenda and try to have an educational event or do something for a shelter in your city. I have information on the web for you to use at your meeting.

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.

Terri Sherman, Treasurer

‘As Good as Gold’

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

Programming

Hello members,

I cannot believe that we are on our last semester of our 2024-2025 year. If you have not sent your community connections in, please send to me and if you have sent into national, please let me know so I can get a tally of what our chapters are doing in our state. Thank you to those that have been sending in. I will be giving a total at our year end convention of what we have done for the year of 2024-2025 year.

I just wanted to go over some deadlines for third trimester. Project folders are due to me by March 15 th so I can get them judged in a timely manner and please do not forget the project library that National has. If you would like me to forward to Lisa, please let me know.

Outstanding Women is Due to me by March! St. I am hoping to have participation and if have any questions on this program please reach out to me.

Please send your other certifications By April 1 st . such as governmental Affairs. Road Runner Miles and etc.

Also, my National counterpart Programming Vice President has challenged each state to see if they can send in more than 10 Outstanding Achievement in Programming. This is for all members, members who receive this certification are well rounded with your local, state and National Level. Please let me know you have sent in. Let us rock this challenge.

Also, Lisa Hahn from National has a third trimester challenge for all states for a food drive. Many of you have been supporting your local food banks. Please let me know what you did for a food drive. Cannot wait to see what each chapter does.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me and I would be happy to help.

Cindy Urlacher, Programming Vice President

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

‘Making a Difference in Programming’

Executive Director

I can’t believe that we have only three months left of this year. I am writing this article for four reasons.

First, as your Executive Director, I would like to get our state history and songs together. We need past president histories and songs from several people. I will be contacting the past state presidents about histories and songs.

Second, I would also like to start keeping a chapter past history, I will be emailing a form for each chapter president to complete at the end of their year. I will be bringing this form to the Annual Convention Future Directions for approval, as we no longer do a Directory that we use to keep for our yearly records.

Third, I will be completing a slide show for Shellie’s year (2023-204), so please send me four-to-six-chapter pictures from your year. I will also be completing a slide show for Maxine’s year (2024-2025), here again please send me four-to-six-chapter pictures. I am asking for Shellie pictures deadline March 1 st and Maxine’s year deadline April 1 st .

Fourth, your chapter will be receiving a letter for our Yearly donation for our outstanding Year End program incentives. We have gone to beautiful red tumblers, so donations will be $20.00 again this year. For your contribution, your name will be posted on the banquet tables and be listed in the May Gavel edition.

Maxine Turner, President

Secretary

Greetings to my fellow Nebraska Women of Today members:



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Wishing you good health, lots of happiness and a great year!**

I am looking forward to the coming year with all its promise!!

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.

I hope Chapters are working on developing a Public Relations effort to promote a positive image of Nebraska Women of Today in the community. These efforts are essential for future member recruitment as well as successful fundraising. Please let me know of any public relation efforts that your Chapter executes. And PLEASE send me a copy of any press releases.

National Volunteer Week in 2025 will be from April 20-April 26, 2025. National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society’s greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. Each year, Women of Today members shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve. I encourage 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. If your chapter participated, please submit your Chapter name and photos with a description of how your chapter celebrated Volunteer Week to my email address.

Random Acts of Kindness Day is a day to celebrate and encourage random acts of kindness. It's a celebration of all the ways we can become a positive influence in each other's lives. Even one small act of kindness can mean a great deal to somebody. Please let me know what your chapter does to recognize this event.

I urge Chapter members to review the Shout out with Pride form on the US Women of Today website and submit it when your chapter accomplishes a public relations activity that complies with the requirements. The third trimester affords national the opportunity to recognize chapter public relation activity during Volunteer Week () as well Random Act of Kindness Day (February 17, 2025). The editable pdf form can be found under Membership Resources/Public Relations Director on the US Women of Today Website. Chapters should complete the form online or email to USWT Public Relations Director, no later than 5th of the month following the end of each trimester (May 5 for the third trimester). I would appreciate if you copy me on these submissions.

Make A Difference Day was on the fourth Saturday of October. If your chapter participated, please submit photos with a description of how your chapter celebrated Make a Difference Day! (Though this is part of third trimester Fast Start there will additional recognition for Chapter efforts at Annual.)

Please continue to ask your newsletter editors to send me their Chapter newsletters. I would also appreciate notifications when your Chapter posts activities on the Chapter Facebook Page. This contact helps keep me informed about the activities of individual chapters. The Outstanding Newsletter will be recognized at Annual Convention.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

# Nicolette Amundson, Secretary

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

State Program –

Sex Trafficking Awareness

My fellow members,

Please look for my Fast Start and letter on the website for this trimester.

In 2010 President Barack Obama designated January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. It was established with the intention of re-dedicating us to preventing and ending human trafficking.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is recognized each year on January 11th. In recognition of this important day, Blue Campaign hosts a social media campaign called #WearBlueDay. To raise awareness of human trafficking, they ask people to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media, along with our #WearBlueDay hashtag. So, I hope each chapter will take their chapter photo wearing blue and post it on their Facebook page as well as hash tag. Please send me a picture.

I will have a BONUS for any chapter that donates to SET ME FREE PROJECT, please send your check to Maxine our state president payable to Nebraska Women of Today for your donation. We will be writing one check from our organization. If you would like more information, please visit their website: [www.setmefreeproject.net](http://www.setmefreeproject.net)

ABOUT

The Set Me Free Project® is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to stop human trafficking before it starts by providing prevention education to all ages.

Their curriculum is informative, interactive, and flexible, reaching students (K-12th grade), educators, parents and leaders in every facet of our communities.

The Set Me Free Project® is unique in their use of engaging, age appropriate curriculum in every presentation. They focus on defining human trafficking and helping students identify why and how they could be at risk. They provide a foundation for all students to recognize the intrinsic value in every human being.

Remember, we need to EDUCATE, EDUCATE, EDUCATE!

Maxine Turnmer, Program Manager

# *‘Enough is Enough’*

CHAPTER CHATTER

**Fremont**

Our chapter has been busy since the last Gavel. In we held two projects in the month of November. We created ninety (90) Thanksgiving Cards for the residents at Dunklau Garden Nursing home. We completed our Family Week project which consisted of seven (7) days of activities. On Thanksgiving Day, our President’s family delivered six meals to shut in before they sat down for their own Thanksgiving meals. We also were fortunate to give five of these unfortunate recipients a donation of money. The month of December was a very busy month. The first week started with three (3) days of working with the Fremont Police Department “Shop with a Cop” project, many officers thanked our members for the chapter participation. Then we went int our Craft Show mode, as we worked with the Friendship Center by doing the Concession Stand for them. Then our members went into their creative mode to create ninety (90) Christmas Cards for the residents of Dunklau Garden Nursing home. A week before Christmas a member found out that all the angels were not taken off the tree at Life/Trhiftology, so our chapter decided to take a couple of angels and provide clothing and hygiene products. We also took an Angel from a local church tree and bought a senior citizen her wish.

**Heartland**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Linda Lenser chaired the “Make a Difference Day” project in October. She delivered treats to the volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity Restore. Volunteers were very grateful for the recognition.

Cindy Urlacher ran another successful 31 Bag Fundraising event to help our Chapter’s finances.

Linda Lenser organized our Salvation Bell Ringing at Nebraska Furniture Mart on December 2, 2024.

Madeline McCrae chaired our Family Week. The week kicked off with “Friendsgiving” dinner that occurred on Sunday, November 24, where delicious food and fellowship was shared at Angela’s home.

Janet Behrends chaired our annual Open Door Mission project. On the morning of December 21, Kelley, Linda, and Cindy joined Janet and her husband Al in assisting families in shopping for their loved ones for Christmas at the Toys N Joy event.

Heartland wishes all Nebraska Women of Today members a wonderful New Year filled with hope, happiness and love.

Nicolette Amundson,

For Julie Fogelman

Heartland Chapter President

**Lincoln**

I forgot to do a Chapter Chatter in November so our list is longer than normal. We donated supplies for the Soldier Boxes that the Blue Star moms send to troops. We helped put on the National Mid-Year Convention in October. We worked registration for the Safe Quarters fundraiser. Donated 2 buckets of cleaning supplies to new Habitat homeowners. Helped promote the Veterans Day Parade by posting signs/flyers. Gave a donation to Tree of Hope. Volunteered at the Monster Bash. Made Halloween bags for kids at the City Mission. Donated to Brave Be for Make a Difference Day and helped with gift wrapping for Christmas. Packed Thanksgiving Baskets for Stonebridge Financial. We completed our fundraising by working the Husker football games as usual. Adopted a Cedars family for Christmas, also did Santa for Seniors. Finished off 2024 by having a Christmas dinner/party.

**FALL CONFERENCE AWARD LIST**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2024**

**CHERISH YOUR DREAM**

**Maxine Turner**

**State President**

**STATE BOARD FAST START:** Shellie Haun, Terri Sherman, Joyce Harpster, Nicolette Amundson, Kim Hermann, Cindy Urlacher, Hillari Zweibohmer

**CHAPTER FAST START:** Heartland, Lincoln, Fremont Area; Fremont Area

100% Participation (all areas completed) – Fremont Area

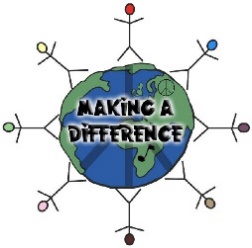
**PRESIDENT FAST START:** Maxine Turner-Fremont Area, Julie Fogleman-Heartland, Kim Hermann-Lincoln

**SPECIAL THANK YOU’S**: Kelley Rosburg, Angela Moody, Nicolette Amundson, Joyce Harpster, Terri Sherman, Nebraska City, Hillari Zweibohmer

**MEDIALLIONS**: Linda Lenser, Nicolette Amundson, Cindy Urlacher – Heartland; Joyce Harpster, Christine Rice – Nebraska City; Kim Hermann, Terri Sherman – Lincoln; Deb VanMatre - Kearney

**OUTSTANDING STATE BOARD MEMBER:** Joyce Harpster – Chaplain/PD Program Manager

**OUTSTANDING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER:** Nicolette Amundson - Secretary

**Kim Hermann****-Membership Vice President, *Making A Difference***

**Chapter Fast Start**: Cindy Urlacher/Heartland, Shellie Haun/Lincoln

**Early Bird Incentive**: Fremont Area, Heartland, Lincoln, Nebraska City

**100% Retention**: Fremont Area, Heartland, Kearney, Lincoln, Nebraska City

**Top Recruiter**: Eileen Rainey/Kearney

**Welcome Gift for new member**: Melissa McCartney-Cline/Kearney

**Cindy Urlacher-Programming Vice President, Making A Difference in Programming**

Hands holding a heart

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**Governmental Affairs** – Hillari Zweibohmer, Jack Zweibohmer, Archer Pectol – Heartland; Kelley Rosburg - Lincoln

**Road Runner Miles** – Fremont Area, Heartland, Lincoln, Nebraska City

**Fast Starts** – Fremont Area, Heartland, Lincoln

**Today’s Youth** – Assistance Award – Austin Connelly, Ellie Connelly, Ben England, Madelyn Sherman, Ezra Sherman, Sollo Sherman, Jennifer Urlacher

**Joyce Harpster-Chaplain/PDPM, *Choosing Joy!,***

A bouquet of rainbow roses

Description automatically generated**FAST START** – Fremont Area, Heartland

**EFFECTIVE WRITING – Winner** - Shellie Haun – Lincoln

**EW JUDGES** -Cindy Urlacher – Fremont Area/Heartland; Angela Moody – Heartland; Laura Wachter – Nebraska City

**WELLNESS/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT** (will read only – certificates at Annual)

Julie Fogleman, Archer Pectol, Hillari Zweibohmer, Jack Zweibohmer - Heartland; Kelley Rosburg: Lincoln

**PERSONAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS (PEP)** (will read only – certificates at Annual)

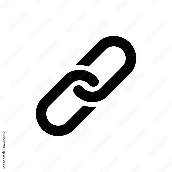
**Fremont Area** - Maxine Turner-1; **Heartland** - Nicolette Amundson – 1, Cindy Urlacher – 1, Hillari Zweibohmer – 1; **Lincoln** - Shellie Haun – 1, Kelley Rosburg – 1; **Nebraska City** - Joyce Harpster – 1,

Laura Wachter - 1

**Fremont Area Women of Today, Sex Trafficking Awareness, *ENOUGH is ENOUGH***

**Fast Start** – Fremont Area

**Nicolette Amundson-Secretary, *Communication***



**FAST STARTS:** Linda Lenser-Heartland; Joyce Harpster-Nebraska City

**INCENTIVE-Newsletters received:** Heartland; Nebraska City; Fremont Area; Kearney; Lincoln

**OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER:** Maxine Turner – Fremont Area

**OUTSTANDING SECRETARY CHAPTER CONTACT**: Joyce Harpster – Nebraska City

A close-up of hands making a fist bump

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**Shellie Haun–Chairman of the Board, *Better Together***

**Fast Start** - Maxine Turner, Fremont Area; Cindy Urlacher, Madeline McCrae, Nicolette Amundson, Kelley Rosburg, Lincoln; Joyce Harpster, Nebraska City

A letter to a person

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A letter of gratitude to a person

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A letter of a bank

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