

TODAY'S LEADER



Greetings to ALL,



Tracey Pierson
United States
Women of Today
2023-2024 President

I am truly honored to be serving as your United States Women of Today President for the upcoming year. I joined the Spencer Women of Today in 2004. I have served on the National Staff as a Health and Wellness Program Manager, Presidential Assistant, Programming Vice President, Membership Vice President, the Iowa State President twice and I graduated from Coon Rapids Jr. & Sr. High School in Coon Rapids, IA. I attended Spencer School of Business in Spencer, IA and where I received my degree in accounting. I have been married to Brad for 14 years this August and have two children, Jennifer who is married to Nick Yetmar and they have one daughter, Adalynn, and dog Spanky. They live in Ames, IA. Mark Malm is married to Alexis, and they have three children, daughter Huxley, sons Milan & Harlan and dog Wrigley. They live on an acreage near Clare, IA.

I have always liked Angels and the color green, and I feel you have to “Believe in Yourself” to achieve anything. Believe in Yourself - it’s the better choice, believing in you is one of the first steps to success. If you don’t have confidence in yourself, it will be difficult to succeed.

We were so close to growth last year; we had new members but lost the retention. So, what can we do to retain our members? Are we interacting with them when they come to a meeting or events and not just interacting with members within our own familiar groups?

We will also be looking at the logo to see what options are out there. If interested in helping, please contact me. I also want to continue to keep communication going from the National Staff down to the local members, so everyone knows what is going on in the organization.

Thank you for your support and confidence in me.

Believe in Yourself,

Tracey Pierson

In this issue:

President’s Letter
National Staff Updates
State of the States

Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine.

~Unknown



LAURA MORRIS - CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD CONTACT: cob@uswomenoftoday.org

I wanted to thank everyone for an Inspiring year last year and for a blast of an Annual Convention. Our visit to Arizona was full of adventure, fun, laughter, and tears. One of the highlights was on our bus trip to Sedona on June 8, which happened to be my birthday, everyone sang Happy Birthday to me. That was a first for me in my lifetime. Thank you, Carmella and Pat for hosting, and all the Arizona people who helped them out. We had the privilege of congratulating two members with an Ambassador Award. It really is so much fun to see the expressions on their faces as they realize Amy was talking about them. We gave out lots of certificates, incentives, and awards.

Please join me in congratulating the big award winners for the year:

Outstanding State Presidents: Cindy Hilbert (PA), Joey Hedstrom (AZ), and Jenise Teske (MN).

Outstanding National Staff: Laura Bentley, Public Relations Director (IA)

Outstanding National Officers: Mary Hansen, Treasurer (MN) & Tracey Pierson, MVP (IA)

These ladies were truly inspirations this year to all of us. They worked extremely hard in their positions to improve what we do for our members and our communities.

I have worked on my new goals this coming year. My two big goals are to finish updating the Book of Forms that is available on the website and to review and update the Mid-Year and Annual Convention Contracts and Policies. If any of you have hosted a National meeting in the past and would like to be on the committee to help get our Meeting contracts and policies to match up and to make improvement recommendations, I could really use some help. Please reach out to me before July 15th to be added to this important committee. We will work via monthly Zoom meetings to go through these and have recommendations to the Future Directions committee by March.

I look forward to another awesome year with President Tracey at the helm. I know she will be an amazing President. I will work to "Keep Inspiring" all of you to grow in the organization and to continue the wonderful work you do for your communities. Again, thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I am honored and feel very fortunate to have been a part of this last year. We are a family and you have inspired me!

In Friendship,
Laura Morris, COB



Can you solve the clues? Throughout this issue of the Today's Leader, you will find clues giving you the identity of a person, place, or thing.

- 1. Birthday is in July but could technically fall in August.*

MARY HANSEN - PARLIAMENTARIANCONTACT: parli@uswomenoftoday.org

Hello Women of Today Members,

As we start our new 2023-2024 Women of Today year, I am reminded of the section of our creed that emphasizes “Growth”. My goal for “Growth” this year is accepting the appointment to be your National Parliamentarian. I will be the first to admit that this is not an area I have experience in. My hope is to explore this area and reach out to you as well as be available for you to reach out to me. It may well be a learning experience for both of us.

Sincerely, Mary Hansen

Parliamentarian 1st Trimester Challenge – Open to all parliamentarians on all levels

Complete your Fast Start by August 15th.

1. Email me a letter of introduction and share a bit about you (parli@uswomenoftoday.org).
2. Include your theme & logo (if you have one).
3. Add your goals and hit send. It's that easy!

What is a Parliamentarian?

The job of a parliamentarian is to be proactive, and to raise awareness of how parliamentary procedure is a reliable way to run meetings. This includes understanding the five basic “rules of the game”:

- Order – One business item at a time.
- Equal Opportunity – Allows everyone to participate.
- Justice/Fairness – Gives everyone the opportunity to understand.
- Right of Minority – Everyone has a chance to be heard.
- Right of Majority – Allows the majority to make decisions.

Jane Hanson - TREASURERCONTACT: treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org

Dear Treasurer,

My name is Jane Hanson. I have been a member for many years of the Madelia, Minnesota chapter. I live in rural Madelia with my husband, Keith and our grown son, Kyle lives near Hudson, WI.

I have served several times as treasurer on local and state levels. After I retired a year ago, I work as a bookkeeper for many other organizations including my church and some small businesses.



FILL UP MY GREEN POT WITH “GOLD”: As you know, dues don't cover the entire budget and so additional fund raising is necessary. A major focus of mine will be to encourage ways and means donations from individual members, chapters, districts/regions, and states. **I am encouraging donations of at least \$10 each trimester or a one-time donation of at least \$25.** For each donation, you will be put into a drawing for prizes at both mid-year and year-end. This will be an entire year promotion. When I was treasurer 5 years ago, we raised over \$1,000 in donations and I hope that we can exceed that.

This might not be in your budget but think of ways to make a donation to USWT; pass around a change jar at your meetings, bring a small basket and do a lucky buck at your meeting or encourage members to make an individual donation.

REMINDER: 990N is due by October 15th!

Treasurer Fast Start – For State and Chapter Treasurers

QUICK START

Due to me by August 15, 2023

All you need to do is describe your role and the date(s) you participated. You can email your reply to me.

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

I am hoping that I will receive many Fast Starts from all over the country!

Email: treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org

Mail: 31078 790th Avenue, Madelia MN 56062

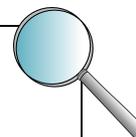
Treasurer Manual

You can find the Treasurer Manual at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dNLaxx47UaYLk3qpeiFCoK8lw3c0Ppyz/edit>

Or you can go to the US Women of Today website and click on Awards and Resources, then click on Forms and Manuals.

2. *Is famous for its words.*



Support President Tracey



T-Shirts are available in Men's and Women's Sizes in Green or Grey!

Men's Long Sleeve Shirt and Hoodie Available in Green or Grey!

Order shirts online and have them shipped to you (shipping charge will apply) or mark them as pick up and President Tracey will pick up and bring to Mid-Year convention in Omaha!

Click on this hyperlink or copy into your address window:

<https://swot-2324.itemorder.com/>

Orders will be processed once every 2-week period; processing dates are the 1st and 15th!

Costs: \$22 (all sizes) - T-Shirts
 \$25 (all sizes) - Long-Sleeved Shirts
 \$30 (all sizes) - Hoodies

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

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

TiC TaC**Totally in Control Therese & Connie**

Well, at least we like to think that we are! We, Connie Lundbeck and Therese Trojahn, are the Presidential Assistants of President Tracey. We are both long time members of the Spencer, Iowa chapter. We are here to help and support Tracey in any way that we can. We will be mostly working behind the scenes but know that we are here if you need anything.

**Preacher's Wife**

A couple were going on a vacation together, but the wife had an emergency at work. So, they agreed the husband would go as planned and his wife would meet him at the hotel the next day.

When the husband got to his hotel and had checked in, he thought he should send his wife a quick email letting her know he'd got there ok.

As he typed in her email address, he made a typo, and his email was sent to an elderly preacher's wife whose instead. It just so happened that her husband had sadly died just the day before.

When the grieving old preacher's wife checked her emails, she read the one from the holiday maker, let out an awful, loud, piercing scream, and fainted on the floor.

At the sound of her falling, her family rushed into the room. They tended to her and then looked at her computer and saw this email on her screen:

Dearest Wife,

Just checked in to my room. Everything is prepared for your arrival tomorrow.

P.S. It sure is hot down here.

From laffgaff.com



CATHY SNYDER - MEMBERSHIP VP

CONTACT: mvp@uswomenoftoday.org

Hello,

My name is Cathy Snyder and I will be serving as the 2023-2024 Membership Vice President. I am very happy to be taking on this position again this year. I hope you will join me when I hold Zoom meetings, and some fun things this coming year. I would like to hear from you if you are a Membership VP, either in your State or on the Local level. There is fun to be had by all!

I have a wonderful team this year and can't wait to work with them and share ideas with you.

JOANN MILLER - EXTENSIONS DIRECTORCONTACT: extensions@uswomenoftoday.org

It's a new Women of Today (WT) year, and I am excited that my bid for USWT Extensions Director was accepted. My name is JoAnn Miller, and I am a member of the Byron, Minnesota, Women of Today chapter. I have served in almost all board positions on the local level and in many district positions. I've served on Minnesota's executive council for eight years as District Director, StateProgram Manager for recordsand recognition and StateSecretary (three times), Parliamentarian, External Programming Vice President, and Chapter Management Vice President. I have served on the national staff four previous years as Secretary (three times, once was appointed) and as Programming Vice President.

Extensions is a new role for me, but I'm excited to jump in and try to get some new chapters and new states chartered as Women of Today. We need additional chapters to continue to grow as an organization. As we grow, our name will become better recognized which will help us grow even more.

I will be contacting each State President or Membership VP before the end of July. I want to learn more about your state and if you have any ideas of an area where we should look at extending a new chapter. I will need YOUR help to grow Women of Today!

JoAnn

A wise man once faced a group of people who were complaining about the same issues over and over again. One day, instead of listening to the complaints, he told them a joke, and everyone cracked up laughing.

Then, the man repeated the joke. A few people smiled.

Finally, the man repeated the joke a third time—but no one reacted.

The man smiled and said, "You won't laugh at the same joke more than once. So, what are you getting from continuing to complain about the same problem?"

The Moral:

You're not going to get anywhere if you keep complaining about the same problem but do nothing to fix it.

Don't waste your time complaining, expecting other people to continue to react to your complaints. Instead, take action to make a change.

Spread the Word



SHELLIE MATTHES - PR DIRECTOR
CONTACT: pr@uswomenoftoday.org

My name is Shellie Matthes, and I am honored to serve as the 2023-2024 Public Relations Director.

I call White Bear Lake, Minnesota my home and have been a member of my White Bear Lake Chapter for 12 years. I am employed outside the home working for MJ Marketing for the past 22 years, partnering with several retailers with a concentration on their business at Target and UNFI (formerly known as SuperValu). I have been married to my husband, Steve, for the past 35 years and have 1 grown daughter Amanda (30) who works at 3M as a Global Marketing Analyst. I am an avid reader and love Jane Austen. I have recently taken up golf and have learned that I have muscles I didn't know about. I am pretty good at chipping and putting, but my drive is still a skill in progress.

PR and social media

One of my objectives this year, is to promote utilizing new technology and Social Media Applications.

I will be looking at hosting a Webinar that will focus on explaining the different social media applications, outline the differences and uses for each, the different social media platforms and promoting use of USWT hashtags. Watch my SIP and Today's Leader for future details.

I will be introducing a new (to some members) application called "Great Nonprofits". It is like Facebook, however, offers many different options. Please watch my SIP for steps on how to set up and use this tool.

I would like to gather from members "WHY" they joined our organization. This will allow us to understand the motivation of "why" a member sign up and for those seasoned members "why" they continue to renew. The "Why" statements are like "reviews" of our organization, allowing potential members to read and inspire them to join us! Watch for more information regarding this initiative.

My "Why" statement is: I wanted to join an organization that focused on community service while at the same time offering programs to help expand and grow the member personally. The reason I stay is because I see the potential this organization has, to make a real difference in our communities, lives of women everywhere all while making many new friends!

Would your chapter like to have a website? There are several free website applications that you can use, and I will be sharing those through my SIP and Today's Leader.

I am here to help you with your social media needs and will work with you to accomplish your social media goals. I'm just an email away!



Have you heard?

We have a shiny, updated, new "Shout Out with Pride" 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!!



The first 5 "Shout Out with Pride" forms I receive will win an incentive at Mid-Year Convention in Nebraska!

LAURA BENTLEY - PROGRAMMING VICE PRESIDENT

“Don’t worry about tomorrow”

CONTACT: *pvp@uswomenoftoday.org*



Welcome to Programming

My name is Laura Bentley; I am from New Hampton, Iowa and serve as the Chair of Board on the local chapter. I serve my state WT as the COB as well. I have served on the national level a handful of times including the PVP position. I am looking forward in seeing the differences that the organization has made since I last served in that position. I am married to Nicholas whom a lot of you know personally as he is also a chapter member and has assisted on all three levels as I navigate myself on the boards. I have 4 children; Dakota who is 23, Ethan who is 12, Eliza who is 3 and Ezra who is 2. The kids keep us very busy. I am a risk advisor at State Farm. My passion is to ensure you are taken care of as a person with the products that meet your needs.

This year I am focusing on meeting the needs of the membership in the organization by working with the program managers to ensure they have the tools they need to succeed and be the best they can be. Please see my State Information Packet for all the great goals that I will be working on.

A few challenges I have for the membership is to join our Facebook page called USWT Programming Page. For any new WT members that come to the group now through Mid-year will go into a drawing for a \$25.00 Amazon gift card.

Fellow Program Managers, please send me your fast starts. At midyear you will get a classic incentive and bragging rights that you have this accomplished and under your belt.

My theme is “Don’t worry about tomorrow”. I whole hearty believe that taking one day at a time is healthy and productive. Be excited for what is in front of you and take it as far as you can, then take a rest and go back at it tomorrow. Sending you all my love and respect for the upcoming year in your Women of Today career.

Laura



3. Had a five-man committee but signed by 56.

JULIE HUTCHINSON - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS PROGRAM MGRCONTACT: dva@uswomenoftoday.org

Greetings United States Women of Today,



My name is Julie Hutchinson and I am looking forward to an exciting year serving as your Domestic Violence Awareness Program Manager. I will be working with the state and chapter DVA contacts to help educate and increase the awareness of domestic violence in an effort to STOP the Violence that many of our friends, family members and neighbors endure.

I will be sharing information through the Today's Leader, All Chapter Mailings, Programming News, Facebook, and other opportunities with you regarding education and awareness campaigns, my incentives, awareness months (Aug., Oct. & Feb.), Purple Thursday and Wear Orange Day. So, check your email for more information or with your chapter's DVA contact to find out how you can help bring an end to the violence.

I have been an active member of the Women of Today for over 30 years. I am a member of the Massachusetts Women of Today and my home chapter is in Bellingham. I have served on the chapter and state boards in almost every capacity and there have been offices that I have held multiple times (President, Membership, Programing & Awards). I truly believe that we belong to a great organization that has given us the opportunity to learn, grow and become better citizens and leaders in our communities.

I look forward to an incredible year where I will continue to learn and grow and share with all of you. With your help, we can all make a difference in someone's life by becoming aware and educating that violence is *not* the answer and *LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT*. I invite you to share with me as well – I look forward to getting to know many new friends in the upcoming year.

Julie Hutchinson

Love Shouldn't Hurt

Success is not final; failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.



United States Women of Today

Domestic Violence Awareness Transmittal Form

Each educational, fundraising, or service project for Domestic Violence Awareness should be submitted on this form. Make three (3) copies of this form. Maintain one copy for your chapter files, send one copy to your State Program Manager or Project Chair, and submit one copy to the United States Women of Today Domestic Violence Awareness Program Manager as each event is completed during the year. Final submissions to be Postmarked no later than May 1 st.

Chapter: _____ State: _____

Name of Project: _____ Chair: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Project: _____

Type of Project: Educational Fundraising Service Project (check all that apply)

Recipient of Donation – Name: _____

Describe: Speaker Shelter DV Agency Other

Amount Raised: _____ Estimated Total Amount of Items Donated: _____

Total Service Hours for this Project: _____ Project/Donation Date: _____

Brief Description of this Project:



**DEB MCDONALD - WELLNESS & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM MANAGER**

CONTACT: pvp@uswomenoftoday.org

My name is Deb McDonald. I am a member of Trumanland, Missouri. I live in Lee's Summit, a suburb of Kansas City. I have been widowed since 2015 and have 2 children Steve with wife Noel they have 3 children Crimson, Jacob & Brooke. My other son is David with wife Danielle and 2 girls Kayley & Harper.

I have been a member since 2000. I have held all chapter offices and all Missouri offices except treasurer. I have been on the USWT staff as Public Relations, Wellness and Personal Development, Domestic Violence Awareness, Presidential Assistant and now Wellness and Personal Development again. I look forward to being on Tracey's staff. I am hoping you use your roots to grow and your wings to fly.

***Wellness and Personal Development
Challenge 1st Trimester***

*Everyone who certifies in wellness & personal development in 1st trimester
Will be entered in a drawing for October convention.*

Writing Competition

***"Write about "What did you learn about yourself during the pandemic?"
How it affected your job, family and life in general.
600-800 words***

Deadline to Register: September 15, 2023

Email Entry to WPD@uswomenoftoday.org

Registration Fee: \$5.00

Mail and Registration form and fee
(made out to USWT and writing competition on memo line)

To Deb McDonald

2709 NE Lyndon CT

Lee's Summit, Missouri 64086

Every participant will get an incentive!

I am also reminding you about impromptus for October MidYear

True happiness consists not
In the multitude of friends,
But in the worth and choice.
Samuel Johnson

SUE BEATTIE - SECRETARY
 CONTACT: secretary@uswomenoftoday.org



My name is Sue Beattie from the Bellingham Women of Today in Massachusetts. Since joining, I have been an active member on all levels of this wonderful organization. My husband and son have enthusiastically gone on this journey with me.

Included in this newsletter is the Fast Start for state secretaries. This entails five requirements. For completing this form, you will be recognized at the National Mid-Year meeting. I know you can do it!

Please add me to your distribution list for your newsletters. I would love to hear about all the happenings going on in your state.

I am looking forward to this coming year as your national secretary. If you have any questions or if I can help you in any way, please email me. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us this coming year!

Sue

SECRETARY FAST START

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 the above email address.

- 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 newsletter editor, please send me her/his name and contact information.)



4. A Pennsylvania newspaper was the first to publish the news.



**UNITED STATES
WOMEN OF TODAY**
2023 National Mid-Year Convention
October 6-7, 2023

Midway Fun at the County Fair

Comfort Inn ● 10729 J Street ● Omaha Nebraska ● 402-695-7680

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Fax _____

_____ Women of Today _____ Guest _____ First Timer

Arrival: Date: _____ Means of Transportation: _____

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

Sunday Departure Time: _____

ROOMS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!! CONVENTION RATE UNTIL 09/23/23.

Comfort Inn: **\$88.20** Thursday per night plus tax – 1-4 people per room

\$99.90 Friday & Saturday per night plus tax – 1-4 people per room

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

<u>Registration</u>	<u>Advance</u>	<u>Late</u>
FULL	_____ \$100.00	_____ \$115.00
Includes all meetings, forums and meals (except Friday noon lunch – that is optional)		
INDIVIDUAL EVENTS		
Friday Noon lunch (in addition to full regi)	_____ \$5.00	_____ \$5.00
Friday Forums / Meetings	_____ \$5.00	_____ 5.00
Friday Night Party	_____ \$25.00	_____ 30.00
Saturday Forums / Meetings	_____ \$10.00	_____ \$10.00
Saturday Luncheon	_____ \$30.00	_____ \$35.00
Saturday Banquet	_____ \$30.00	_____ \$35.00
	Total _____	Total _____
SATURDAY ONLY	_____ \$70.00	_____ \$80.00

ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE – POSTMARKED BY September 7, 2023

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
terrisherman@windstream.net



**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

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: afternoon _____

NOTE: There is airport shuttle service to the hotel (from Des Moines airport, @2 mi away)

ROOMS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!! CONVENTION RATE UNTIL 5/1/2024

\$114+tax per night – 1-4 people per room: **515-285-0654**

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

Registration

Advance

Late

FULL
Includes all meetings, forums and meals

_____ \$100

_____ \$115

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Friday Night Party _____ \$25.00

_____ \$30.00

Saturday Forums / Meetings _____ \$30.00

_____ \$30.00

Saturday Luncheon _____ \$20.00

_____ \$25.00

Saturday Banquet _____ \$25.00

_____ \$30.00

Total _____

Total _____

SATURDAY ONLY _____ \$75.00

\$85.00



ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE - POSTMARKED BY May 1, 2024

Make check payable to [Iowa Women of Today 2024](#) Any questions please contact
Send registration form and check to:

Michele Thompson
6908 Wentworth Ave
Richfield MN 55423

Michele Thompson , Chair
New Hampton IA WT
kentsmom86@yahoo.com
612-869-6320

Laura Bentley, co-chair
New Hampton IA WT
laurabentleywt@gmail.com
641-229-0022

While visiting the “Wild West” 2023 Year-End convention in Arizona, the Iowa WT were excited to have our bid accepted to host USWT Year-End 2024!! We are inviting everyone to “COME UP UP & AWAY with IAWT” – and help us celebrate the 2023/24 USWT successes, under the guidance of our own IA WT Tracey Pierson-newly-elected 2023/24 USWT President!

Registration form will be out in near future: on USWT website and in an up-coming issue of *Today's Leader*; But until then, some important information: Full registration: \$100 (due by 5/1/24); Rooms: \$114+tax/nite.

Of course, there will be plenty of good food:

FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY: Cheese & Cracker tray; Veggie Tray

SATURDAY LUNCH: Baymont Classic Club (w/shaved turkey/sliced ham/cheese/bacon/tomatoes-lettuce/mayonnaise on three slices of fresh bread))

SATURDAY DINNER: Hot Roast Beef Sandwich bar (Texas toast topped with mashed potatoes, pot roast, covered with gravy, served with buttered corn, green salad, dressings)

(In addition, there will be free bottled water and sodas in the hospitality room throughout the weekend)

BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE: As we did at year-end 2021, we will be working with Safe Shelter – the largest DVA shelter in Iowa – located just miles from the convention site in Des Moines IA. Later this year we will send out a “Wish List” from the shelter so chapters/states can make in-kind donations – or we will also be taking monetary donations.

Please check out our Facebook event page: **USWT Year-End 2024** – to indicate if you will be attending and keep up to date on developing details. In addition, we hope you will join us on our “Journey to USWT Year-End 2024”: we left Arizona “via hot-air balloon” and will be traveling to USWT Year-End 2024 in Iowa, by flying over all 12 member states – one each month. **Within the first 5 days of each month, we will post 3-4 questions about the state we are flying over that month. Members are encouraged to email Michele Thompson (kentsmom86@yahoo.com) with any or all he answers.** She will keep track of all correct answers throughout the year. The member with the most correct answers during the year will RECEIVE REBATE OF THEIR REGISTRATION FEE!! (Should there be a tie, there will be a drawing, with the winner receiving free registration, and others receiving a special gift).

Meanwhile: here are the four questions about ARIZONA: *What is the official state motto? **What is the state's nickname?; **What is the two-letter postal abbreviation?; **We will be flying over “Four Corners” – the only spot in the US where a person can stand in FOUR states at once—aside from Arizona-what are the other THREE states? [email me the answers—become eligible for a rebate on your Year-End 2024 registration!!]



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

The Wild West survived!

Thank you to all who attended our convention event in Tempe, Arizona. A year ago, we found out we no longer had the support of our state or local chapter in our endeavor to bring the convention to Arizona. We regrouped and chose to do it ourselves. But it always takes a village! Thank you to those of you that helped our fundraising, anonymous donors (you know who you are), attendees who were so very supportive, and members both from our state and the U.S. Women of Today who assisted, donated, worked and supported us. We thank all of you and hope attendees had as much fun attending as the two of us had putting it together. THANK YOU!

Pat Saulina
Carmella Mongold
Co-Hosts 2023 Convention



State of the States



Greetings from Arizona!

My name is Carmella Mongold and I am the 2023-2024 Arizona State President. We have two local chapters: Valley of the Sun and Wild West Women of Today.

I moved here 6 years ago from Missouri, where I was Missouri Women of Today state president twice. Since moving to Arizona, I have extended Valley of the Sun, Arizona, and now Wild West Women of Today (with help, of course.)

I have been married to Rick Mongold for 43 years and we have two daughters (12 years apart – Yikes!) Jennifer, 40, is married to Javier Lopez (yes, she is Jennifer Lopez), they live in Marietta, GA where she coaches youth cheerleading, and they are both extras in movies and television. Samantha, 28, just completed her Doctorate in Psychology and she resides and works in Phoenix.

I am in my second year serving on our HOA Board of Directors (thanks to Women of Today education and training) and am currently the Secretary. Of course, I am the go-to person for by law questions and proposals (I'm sure you are not surprised). I enjoy meeting so many residents and working on improving our community. I look forward to holding TWO state meetings this year. We haven't done that in a few years and we're using these one-day meetings for necessary training, fellowship, and FUN! Our first meeting will be in mid-August in the Phoenix area, but location is not definite at this time.

I wish the very best to our national staff and my fellow state presidents this year. I hope to see you in Omaha for Mid-Year Meeting!

Carmella Mongold
2023-2024 AZWT President

Hello All From the **Illinois** Women of Today,

*Kindness
Lights the Way*



**Aimee Kaiser
IWT President
2023-2024**

My name is Aimee Kaiser and I am the 2023-2024 President of Illinois Women of Today. I am a member and the President of the Pawnee Women of Today Chapter in Pawnee, IL. I joined PWT in 2015 and have proudly served alongside my Busy Bees ever since. We say we are a small but mighty group. I was born and raised in Pawnee until I went to college and graduate school then I lived in Missouri, North Carolina and then back to Illinois where I met my husband Daniel (who is also a member of PWT and IWT and serves as our State Events Coordinator!). I have been married to my best friend, partner in life and truly the love of my life for 20 years and we have two amazing kids...Brice is 19 years old and finishing up his Associate's Degree after completing his certificate to be an Electrical Distribution Lineman. Yes, he will be climbing those really big poles and working many volts of electricity so you will probably see this momma hiding in a corner somewhere losing her mind worrying! Our daughter, Elizabeth is 16 years old and will be a junior in high school next year. She is involved in softball, volleyball and many clubs and groups at school. She plans to attend college and become a CRNA (Nurse Anesthetist) and is currently taking her first college class this summer! My mom, Sandi (who is also a member of PWT) lives with us due to some health issues and we have 3 dogs...Hope an almost 4-year-old Goldendoodle, Stella a 12-year-old toy poodle and Tucker a very old 14-year-old cranky man who came when Nana moved in with us! So needless to say, we have a very full and busy house. As a family, we enjoy going to our lake cabin at the Lake of the Ozarks, boating, fishing, swimming, kayaking, along with baking/cooking and traveling.

I am school social worker at an alternative high school where I have worked for over 15 years and I have been a school social worker for over 20 years. I love working with my students and helping them to be the best citizens they can possibly be.

My theme for this year is Kindness Lights the Way. I chose this theme because a huge part of my life is teaching students and adults how to be kind to others that we may not like, understand, or even know but that doesn't mean we can't be kind to each other. I believe that it truly doesn't take much to be kind to others and to show kindness in everything we do. I also believe this would make the world a much better place. I know most people have heard of Random Acts of Kindness days or weeks, but I am going to challenge my state and all of USWT to take my Kindness Lights the Way Challenge for 2023-2024. This challenge is do at least one random act of kindness per week for a stranger or someone you don't know very well AND to do one random act of kindness for someone you know and love just because! This would mean that in a year you will have done over 100 random acts of kindness for both strangers and those close to you! Thank would be amazing and I think really make a difference in your life as well as other people around you. I will be sending out to all IWT chapters cards they can use when they do an act of kindness (if anyone else would like some cards just send me an email and I will gladly share them!). I am also going to be sending a chart that people can complete showing the number of acts of kindness they have done and if they send me a picture of the chart with at least 50 completed they will get a prize from me and anyone who completes the 100 acts by year end will be entered to win a big prize basket full of goodies!

One goal I have for IWT this year is to have growth in several areas...first I want each chapter to challenge themselves to grow by at least +2, secondly, I want to see more projects being done by our members and chapters, and lastly, I would love to see attendance increase at our All-State meetings. IWT members and chapters are already doing great things and working hard in their communities, but I know that we can all do a little more for others.... just part of being kind to all.

Have a great summer and I look forward to serving not only IL Women of Today but also USWT!



**Aimee Kaiser
Illinois Women of Today President**

Hello Women of Today members. I am Jennifer Lantz, **Iowa** Women of Today President from the Nashua Women of Today Chapter. I am excited to start the year by getting to know all the new board members better and having our members Dream, Believe and Shine.



A little about myself to start off. I grew up in New Hampton and havelived in Nashua for 20 years. No, I am not married but I do live with Bob. Bob is my cat, and we live in the house where my children were raisedmost of their lives. I have two children, Samantha, and Tyler. I also have a son-in-law, Austin.

I am the Foster Grandparent Program Director out of Charles City, and I cover four counties which keeps me busy most of the time. I enjoy my job and am happy to helpmy Foster Grandparents succeed and build relationships with the students at the schools and daycares in the area. I am an AmeriCorps Seniors Professional Network At-Large Board member, President of the Aging Services Coalition ofNorth Iowa (until July 1st) and Vice President and Treasurer for Nashua Womenof Today. I have served as Public Relations Director for the U.S. Women of Today under Cindy Umland, Domestic Violence Awareness Program Manager for Iowa Women of Today and Secretary for the Nashua Women of Today. I joined Women of Today in 2018 after my divorce and I am thankful I did.

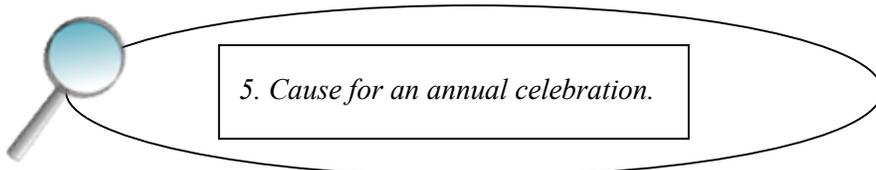
The next couple of years I want our members to DREAM big, BELIEVE you can make your dreams come true and SHINE while living your dreams. Truthfully, I never saw myself on the Iowa or United States Women of Today board. I was quiet, shy, and nervous even going to the first meeting when I joined the Nashua Women of Today Chapter, but with encouragement from members who became my friends, I am glad I took the chance.



I look forward to our August meeting in Spencer and have heard about the convention in Arizona. I was thinking of all of you, and I was so happy you had a great time. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the Mid-Year Convention. Feel free to contact me any time since I am always willing to help when I can or if you just need someone to talk to about life. Let's have a great year and I will see you this fall!

In Friendship,
Jennifer Lantz

jlantziowawtpresident@gmail.com





Greetings from **Massachusetts**-a short summary of me. My name is Kathy Griffin, and I am the state president. I am a 1983 charter member of the Mansfield chapter. I was honored with the Ambassador Award in 1992 along with dear friend Carrie Lutz.

I am retired from working full time but do work part time once or twice a year. I am involved in the retirees' group from previous employer. I have two daughters and five grandchildren ages three and a half to twenty-one. I am thrilled that they live close by. Traveling with friends or on my own is a wonderful joy. My mom always said if you have a book to read you will never be alone, to this day I have a book with me.

My theme is "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples." — Mother Teresa. My logo is a heart made of hands raised. I feel this is who we are. Raise our hand to help others, raise our hand to be the best we can, raise our hand to be a friend to all. Hope to meet you in Des Moines in 2024.

With warm wishes,
Kathy Griffin
MAWT State President

Amy Pumper
MNWT State President 2023-2024
president@mnwt.org
www.mnwt.org



United States Women of Today Friends,

I am excited to be serving as the 74th president of the Minnesota Women of Today this year. My name is Amy Pumper. I am single and work as a Team Coordinator (administrative assistant) for ProMedica Hospice (soon to be Gentiva) and am a member of the Byron Women of Today. I have been a member since August of 1985 and have held many positions on the local, district, state and national organizations. Some of our goals this year include growth plus 3, 80 percent retention, 80 percent of chapters reporting their programming information, completing two or more extensions and having 80 percent of our chapters at 15 or more members. We believe that a chapter can do so much more with a minimum of 15 members and have a healthier base to ensure that they can do the many things they want to do. The theme I chose is "Visions of Success" because I truly believe that we can envision what we want and work towards achieving it to create many Visions of Success!

We had a great June Officer training (MNJOTS) with most of our Executive Council members (staff, state program managers, and district directors) in attendance. There was specific training on their areas as well as tech training to help us be better able to Facebook and be better tech savvy. Our President/State Delegate Retreat is set for August 5-6th with an optional overnight for some fun and getting to know each other better. Our Fall State Convention will be September 22-23^r in St. Cloud.

I joined because I had been in 4-H and missed the community service and other activities and mentioned it to my co-worker and she introduced me in June. I joined in August and have been busy since. I continue to be a member because of all I have gotten out of the organization, from leadership training to personal growth, to the many friendships across the state and nation. This organization has made me a much better person and helped me to be able to help others. I continue to learn and grow through my involvement. It is such a rewarding experience to be involved and I hope to share with others as I lead our state this year!

We will create many "Visions of Success" this year!

Amy

"Team spirit is knowing and living the belief that what a group of people can accomplish together is much larger, far greater, and will exceed that which an individual can accomplish alone." —Diane Arias



Hello! The **Missouri** Women of Today are gearing up for another year of projects, volunteering, fun, and fellowship. The Macon Women of Today hosted our year-end meeting. They had great food, and everyone had a great time. Our slate of officers for the 2023-24 year are: President—Lisa King; VP—Deb McDonald; COB/Secretary—Katie Nelson; Treasurer—Laura Morris. Program managers are: STEP/Wellness and Personal Development—Terri Danner; PR/Foundations—Gerry Shoop; Parliamentarian—Faye Worley; Chaplain Midge DeLisi; Newsletter: Donna Friedman. Missouri has 4 great chapters, and each chapter has very strong leaders and members that will make my year a great one. Come see what Missouri is all about!

Lisa King
MO State President

SOME THINGS MISSOURI IS KNOWN AND FAMOUS FOR

Missouri is a state located in the Midwestern United States. It is bordered by eight other states: Iowa to the north, Illinois and Kentucky to the east, Tennessee and Arkansas to the south, and Kansas and Oklahoma to the west. Missouri is known for a great many things that make it worth visiting.

Barbecue

Missouri is known for having some of the best barbecues in the US. In fact, Kansas City is often considered the barbecue capital of America. The city has more than 100 barbecue restaurants, so you'll definitely be able to find something to your liking.

Pony Express

In the 1800s, the Pony Express was a fast way to get mail from one coast of America to the other and it went right through Missouri. It only operated for 18 months but in that time, it became pretty famous. You can learn all about the Pony Express at St. Joseph's National Historic Site where the riders would change horses and take a quick break. The museum there has lots of fascinating exhibits about the Pony Express and what life was like in Missouri in the 1800s.

St Louis, Missouri

The city of St Louis, known as the "Gateway to the West," is the start of where settlers in the U.S moved towards the west in the 1800s. It is home to the Gateway Arch which was built in the 1960s and stands at 630ft high, more than double the height of the Statue of Liberty. While in St Louis, you can also hop on old paddle-wheeler boats and take to the Mississippi River to see the stunning Gateway Arch from the water. St Louis also features some of the top blues clubs in Missouri and you can find some pretty amazing food there too. They also love sports, with the St. Louis Blues and St. Louis Cardinals.

Branson, Missouri

One reason for its prominence as a vacation destination is the amount of entertainment and activities available. It's especially popular with retirees and families. There are plenty of golf courses, museums and shows to keep visitors entertained. Some of the biggest names in the showbiz have performed in Branson. But it's not just music, there's also comedy, magic, and even acrobatics! The most famous thing in Branson is probably the Titanic Museum where you can learn about the ship and see some replica parts of it. There's also the Dolly Parton's Stampede, which is a dinner show with horses, music, and comedy.

Anheuser-Busch

Missouri is home to one of the largest breweries in the world, Anheuser-Busch. The brewery is located in St. Louis and it's open for tours so you can see how your favorite beer is made. After the tour, you can go to the on-site biergarten where you can try some of the different beers that are made at the brewery. You can also head to the Warm Springs Ranch which is the official Budweiser Clydesdale stable and breeding facility to meet the iconic Budweiser horses.

The Silver Dollar City Theme Park

Missouri is home to the Silver Dollar City theme park which is located in Branson. The park first opened in 1960 and since then, has become one of the most popular attractions in the state. The park is filled with live entertainment, shows, roller coasters, and more.



Hello, my name is Shellie Haun. I'm serving as the Nebraska Women of Today President this year. I have been a member for 21 years in the Lincoln, NE chapter. I have held all local positions except Secretary and have held multiple State positions over the years, including Membership VP, Programming VP and Chaplain. This is my first year as President. While it's a bit overwhelming, I have a wonderful support system and am ready to get going.

I have a wonderful husband of 31 years, with 3 children - all adults. My oldest daughter is a teacher in Omaha, my middle daughter just graduated college and is now working full time as a Project Manager in Des Moines, and my youngest son is going into his junior year in college this Fall in Illinois. So, while we are empty nesters, we still keep quite busy, and are always happy when kids return for a weekend visit.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my years with Women of Today and look forward to helping grow this wonderful organization this year!

Shellie Haun

Nebraska Women of Today President

"Better Together"

GREETINGS FROM NEW JERSEY



My name is Diane Stanaway and I am the NJ President again. I am vowing to be more responsive this year and hopefully we can get back on track since covid.

I have been a registered nurse for almost 50 years. I am an Oncology Nurse Navigator, and it is my dream job. I love interacting with my patients and families. I have been an EMT for over 10 years. I am a Board member for our local first aid squad. I am not currently riding a lot due to a bad shoulder which hopefully will be fixed soon.

I have a son who is 33 and 2 dogs. They all keep me going. My Mom moved up several years ago from Florida due to covid. I was not able to fly down for visits and she decided to move up here. Mom dog sits for me when Sean and I are both working. I have been a widow for 2 years and my new shopping place is Home Depot. I am getting very handy. Of course, I rely on Sean a lot.

I am looking forward to warmer weather so I can do some trips on my wave runner. The water is still cold enough to give me a headache. And hoping my shoulder allows it. I have a house on the water and enjoy it very much. The stairs will definitely keep me limber.

New Jersey has 2 chapters and 27 members. Each member is valued by the organization. A goal will be to increase the chapter's numbers. Jackson chapter operates and supports a Food Pantry in town. The town depends on them to feed many families. They are a staple in the community. Central New Jersey chapter supports local organizations that provide services to their community. Veterans, domestic violence, and cancer support services are some of the recipients of their generosity.

I hope to see old friends and to make new ones this year. Wishing everyone a great year and much happiness.

Hugs,

Diane Stanaway



Welcome to our new Women of Today year.

In North Dakota we are “Growing in the Sunshine” with sunflowers as a logo.

My name is Pat Fern and I will be president of the Stanley /North Dakota Women of Today. This year we will be working on membership, especially looking for younger members. We are an “old” chapter as most of our members are over 65 and some are limited in what they can do.

We are wishing Tracy and her staff a good year and all the states a great year.

Pat Fern

Greetings from **Pennsylvania**,

I am honored to be serving as State President again this year. I been a member since 1981 and have served in various positions over the past 42 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 42 years and we have three married children and 6 grandsons. This year I will be using the theme “One Stitch at a Time” with a logo of a patchwork quilt.



Over the past month I have had the pleasure of attending several meetings and projects. I attended Dover's Mother Daughter tea. It was such a lovely day to spend with so many wonderful members. The past month they presented gifts to the first-born babies on Mother's Day as well as honor 2 young ladies with scholarships. They are currently working on their annual Meat and Seafood Bingo, will be hosting a family picnic, and will be running bingo at a local nursing home.

During their last meeting, the Lititz chapter worked on crafts to share with the residents of the senior living community where they hold their monthly meetings. They do not meet in July but are planning a special social event to be held in August.

The Northeastern chapter has wrapped up their project Linus blanket projects by donating a total of 87 blankets. This year, they will be making Cuddle hearts for the NICU unit for their local hospital. They are collecting books for a free library and craft items for Caitlin Smiles, a local organization that provides craft items to hospitalized children.

Womelsdorf area is busy enough for all of us. In May, I attended their vendors show to support “Splash for Davie.” This past weekend was their annual Father's Day car show. It was a big success with 205 cars attending. July will bring their annual Community carnival and vendor show. This group of women are busy! Oh, I didn't mention they are hosting our August state meeting on August 19th.

From here in PA, we wish that you have a wonderful and safe summer.

Cindy Hilbert

IN MEMORIUM

At Year-end 2022, we “remembered” nearly 30 of our “WT sisters” who had passed away the previous ten years (2012-2022). This year we have lost eight more from our “friendship chain”. At the fellowship service at Year-End 2023 we held a moment of silence for them. Please take note of the following who left “way too soon” – and take a moment or two of silence to remember their contributions to our organization.



JEAN K SCHOTL
4/29/1960 – 5/29/2023 (63 yrs)
Former Sauk Rapids MN WT
(board member)



PATRICIA ANN FINNIGAN
6/5/1945 – 2/4/2023 (77 yrs)
Greater Attleboro MA WT
(former president)



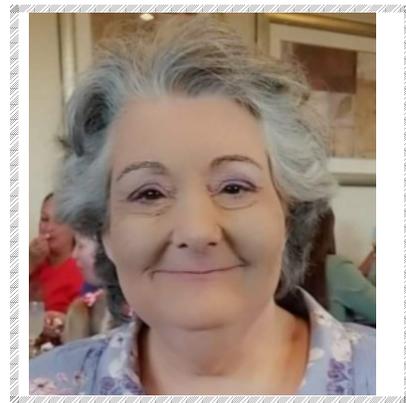
CYNTHIA ANN (Carr) SOBCZAK
6/12/1942 – 1/24/2023 (80 yrs)
Burnsville MN WT



MARLENE ELLIOTT
10/18/1945 – 9/5/2022 (77 yrs)
Greene Cty OH WT (Oct 1995-2008)
OH WT President 2004/05



KAREN L KNEASEL
6/8/1948 – 8/28/2022 (74 yrs)
Annville-Cleona PA WT



SHARON WOIAK-MEISNER
8/22/1960 – 7/8/2022 (61 yrs)
Shawano WI WT



USWT Ambassador (Jan 1985)

CHERYL ANN DAVIS
9/17/1950 – 8/24/2022 (72 yrs)
North Dakota WT

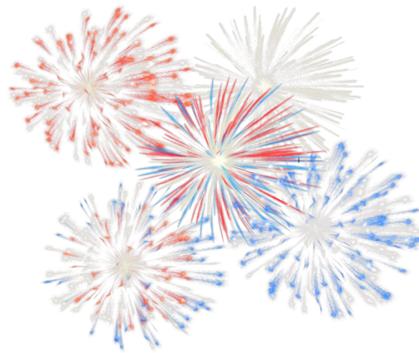


**USWT Ambassador (June 2009)
USWT PRESIDENT 2009-2010**

JANET ESPER
11/26/1947 – 11/19/2022 (74 yrs)
Springfield IL WT

So, would you make a great detective? Did you solve the clues?

1. *Date: It was finalized as a written document on July 4, 1976 – but was not actually signed until August 2, 1976.*
2. *Words: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...” and “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...”*
3. *Committee: Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston.*
4. *Newspaper: The PA Evening Post on July 6, 1976.*
5. *Fireworks: 4th of July*



*What do dentists call their x-rays?
Tooth pics!*

*Why do ducks have feathers?
To cover their butt quacks!*

From: Parade.com