

TODAY'S LEADER



Tracey Pierson
United States
Women of Today
2023-2024 President

Greetings to all my Women of Today Friends:

Happy New Year to the United States Women of Today!

They always say your year goes fast, boy, are they right! We are in the last trimester. Have you accomplished everything you said you would? How are your goals, your plan of action, have you done everything you said you were going to do? You have the 3rd trimester to work and get them accomplished and then you can say: I have succeeded in getting my goals done!!

Have you completed your certifications yet? Wellness and Personal Development, STEP'S, Community Connections, Project Library, Fellowship Builders, Shout Out with Public Relations, sent in the transmittal for DVA, donated to the National Store, sent your bylaws for Mary to review, sent your newsletters to Sue, know some friends that might want to start a chapter, have you had a speaker/forum on diabetes or thoughts about being on the National Staff next year?? Please reach out to the staff and we are here to help you.

I had a busy October with mid-year, November visiting Pennsylvania and North Dakota, December was a month for family, and then I will start up in January visiting Iowa and Minnesota along with winter staff retreat. April is Missouri and Nebraska and May is Massachusetts. June we will be in Des Moines, Iowa for our year-end convention, celebrating our successes! Thank you for letting me come into your states and see what you are all about. Everyone does things just a little different and it's great to see. I have been taking things I see and learn back to my local chapter.

The last month to order my T-shirts will be February, look for the link that will be posted on February 1. Remember we need 12 items and I know there were a few that didn't get theirs ordered in November.

Happy New Year!!

In Friendship,
Tracey Pierson,
President



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Membership News
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LAURA MORRIS - CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

CONTACT: cob@uswomenoftoday.org

“Keep Inspiring”



WANTED:

We still need a place to hold Midyear 2024! Please consider hosting as a state or chapter. While we are at it, we also need someone to host Annual 2025. The contracts and Convention bid forms are available on the website

USWomenofToday.org under Awards & Resources, Forms & Manuals, just scroll down to the Chairman of the Board section. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at cob@uswomenoftoday.org.

I have committees getting started with working on reviewing the Book of Forms, with reviewing the Annual and Midyear Contracts and policies, as well as reviewing manuals for Membership, Public Relations and Extensions. If anyone is interested in working on any of these, please drop me an email. I would love to have more help and input. We will start setting up meetings after the holidays.

How would you like to have the opportunity to INSPIRE members from across the nation? I am looking for INSPIRATIONAL individuals who would love to serve on the National Staff. This is your moment to shine and BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. Please reach out to me, and only me if you are interested.

Next year will be our 40th year as an organization! That is incredible! Just think of all the members whose lives have been enriched and how many people in our communities whom we have helped and had a positive impact on, over 40 years! Just imagine what we can do over the next 40 years. KEEP INSPIRING, you never know whose life you have touched.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions. cob@uswomenoftoday.org

In Friendship,
Laura Morris, COB

Mary Hanson
 USWT Parliamentarian
 Parli@uswomenoftoday.org



Hello fellow Women of Today Members and fellow Parli's

I sincerely hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I don't know why it always amazes me how quickly time flies. One minute we are starting a new year and the next we seem to be wrapping it up.

Thank you to all those who completed the 2nd Trimester Parli Challenge. Your responses were very much appreciated.

My 3rd Trimester Challenge is to "Hold a Bylaw and Policy review once during the 2023-2024 year". Email me the date and time of your meeting and share any updates or new information you learned. You can complete this challenge even if you held your review earlier this year. Deadline for this challenge will be April 15th, 2024.

Mary Hansen – USWT Parliamentarian

Bylaws and Policies Basics

Bylaws are the legally binding document of your chapter. They provide the basic framework of your unit and how it functions. Policies pertain to the details, while the bylaws are high-level. Bylaws take precedent over policies, and policies must be in harmony (not conflict) with the bylaws.

- ❖ Bylaws may include a statement on how the board is formed; when and how future board members will be elected; an outline of the board's powers and duties; or the process for setting up committees and their powers.
 - Bylaws are not public documents but making them readily available increases your accountability and transparency and encourages your members to pay closer attention to them.

- ❖ A policy is any written statement approved by the membership that:
 - Articulates and defines important objectives, principles, or values.
 - Limits or prescribes what kind of action will be taken in different situations.
 - Defines roles, responsibilities, and authority.



Jane Hanson – USWT TREASURER

CONTACT: treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org

Dear Treasurers

As we begin this new year, my wish for you are Rainbow Skies and Starry Nights, along with nothing but success and happiness in the New Year. I hope you are surrounded by family, friends, and good health.

Please reach out to me if there is anything that I can do to help out. Hope to see many of you in Des Moines for yearend.

SHOUT OUT TO NEBRASKA PAST PRESIDENTS:

- ❖ Several past presidents from Nebraska hosted our mid-year convention in Omaha in October as a US fund raiser. It was so much fun, a great venue and a job well done.
- ❖ They had a profit of \$2,824.84 and donated that entire profit to US Women of Today!
- ❖ Thanks so much for your work in hosting this convention!

FILL UP MY GREEN POT WITH “GOLD”: \$1,259 Raised so far!

- ❖ **NEW CHALLENGE**: For any donation received in January or February, you will be put into the drawing 2 extra times to win \$50 in cash at the annual convention.
- ❖ Donations can be sent using Venmo...@jane-hanson-26 (5699 last 4 of phone number) or by check. The finance committee has approved use of my personal Venmo account for payments.



FUNDRAISER FOR YEAR END:

We will be selling Walnut Grove Mercantile fudge and caramels. We have sold this in MN for years; the fudge is always great, but the caramels sold in a box are fabulous.

Fudge and Caramels will need to be pre-ordered and paid for. I will bring a few extra boxes to sell, but please pre-order so that you get what you want. Please share this with your members.

They recommend not to refrigerate the fudge, but it freezes really well. So, you could bring back orders for your chapter or friends and freeze until you see them!



Watch for order forms coming in January in my SIP, on the website and FB. Pre-orders will be taken and will need paid for when you order. My goal is to sell at least 100 boxes which would be a profit of \$400.

Jane Hanson

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY
new year
2024



SUE BEATTIE

SECRETARY

CONTACT: secretary@uswomenoftoday.org

I hope you all were able to relax and enjoy your friends and family during the holiday season. I know all chapters were busy doing wonderful projects to help their community. I hope everyone knows that you are all making an impact across the United States.

Now, it's time to get back into the Women of Today swing. Review your goals to evaluate where you are and what you have accomplished already. We can achieve so much in our 3rd trimester. Let's finish strong!

Secretaries – Have you completed your challenge for 2nd trimester? Send me 2 tips that have helped you in your position this year.

Newsletter Editors – Has your state or chapter submitted a copy of your newsletter to me? Be sure to send me your next issue!

Sue Beattie

USWT Secretary

Valentine's Day, holiday (February 14) when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century.

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love.

Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

From: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Valentines-Day>



CATHY SNYDER
MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT
 CONTACT: mvp@uswomenoftoday.org

Happy New Year Women of Today. As the new year is upon us, we ask ourselves what it is that we want to change. Do we want to sign a new member to join your chapter? Do you want to have more socials? Do I want to attend the year end convention? Whatever you decide to do makes you happy. But I can tell you one thing being a Women of Today member in your chapter can be rewarding, why you ask, because you are doing something to benefit your community. Just like a butterfly it goes through many changes and so do we.

I want to say thank you if you renewed this trimester, and to the many new members we gained. Thank you for taking the time to be a member of the Women of Today and I hope you enjoy what you're doing and the reasons why you joined and enjoy yourself. Make sure to check out my 3rd trimester SIP when it comes out, I will have a few challenges for the 3rd trimester.

“Be the Change you want to see in the World.”

Cathy Snyder
 Membership Vice President
 2023-2024

JOANN MILLER
EXTENSIONS DIRECTOR
 CONTACT: extensions@uswomenoftoday.org



Using Public Relations for an Extension

Before you start an extension, you will want to get the word out about Women of Today. You may want to do a preliminary publicity blitz in several communities before you select a site. By getting acquainted with a community, you may be able to get an idea of how receptive they will be to Women of Today. You will also continue to utilize public relations during an extension, so you can publicize and attract potential members. Part of your public relations plan should identify media sources and samples that could be used. Please contact our USWT Public Relations Director Shellie Matthes, for help with social media or articles to put in the local papers. Her email address is: prdirector@uswomenoftoday.org.

JoAnn

Spread the Word



SHELLIE MATTHES - PR DIRECTOR

“Spread the Word”

CONTACT: pr@uswomenoftoday.org

Happy 2024 everyone!

What is your chapter doing to share the wonderful work that USWT is doing in your community? Do you need help with writing a press release and/or article for the local paper? Are you using the wonderful PR flyer that was introduced last year? Please reach out to me with any requests, I am happy to help.

I had a request sent to me to set up a QR code for the USWT and this has been completed. The code is shown below and when you scan the code it will bring you directly to the USWT website. The QR code will be posted to the PR Director's page on the USWT website or if you are unable to locate on the website, just send me an email and I will send it to you. If you need help in setting up a QR code for your chapter or state, please reach out and I will walk you through the steps. The process is free and takes about 20 minutes to complete. Please use this QR code on your community flyers, Facebook page, Websites, or promotional materials.



The following chapter submitted the new Shout Out with Pride form for Tri 1 but was missed in my recognition in the last Today's leader – my apologies:

Springfield, IL

Make sure you turn in the Shout Out with Public Relations form again for Tri 3 to be recognized with a larger certificate. The form should reflect any activities for Volunteer Week/Random Act of Kindness Day and should be submitted to me by May 5, 2024. I might even add a special gift for those that complete Tri 3. The updated form has been added to the PR Director's page on the USWT website. The email form still needs to be updated; however, you can still use it to submit your chapter's activities.

The organization that the Iowa WT chapter selected for the Buckets of Sunshine for 2024 was announced at Mid-Year. The organization is Children & Families of Iowa. More information will be posted to the USWT Facebook pages after the beginning of the year. Please watch for these posts and then follow the USWT Year-End 2024 Facebook for the latest updates, challenges and if you answer the questions posted you have the potential to have your convention registration fees returned!



CONTACT

@ pvp@uswomenoftoday.org

641-229-0022

Google USWT

New Hampton, Iowa



Challenge for you:

Submit a Project Library to me by end of 3rd trimester and be entered into a drawing at annual.

PROGRAMMING VICE PRESIDENT
LAURA BENTLEY

I am hoping that your holidays were as amazing as you are, it was such a fast trimester I can hardly believe it. What was your favorite part of second trimester? What are some things that maybe you want to get better at? Email me, lets chat.

As we dive into our last trimester for the year, I would like to continue getting you to think about submitting your most favorite project into the project report program in our organization. This will allow other chapters to gather ideas for chapter events in their area and it would serve as a template for them to get started. Please see the attached form to submit yours today!

Community connections have been coming in. Please submit those via online or snail mail for our yearend total to be announced at end year. I love getting them and reading them to find out what is going on in our chapters.

Enjoy the third trimester by getting involved in your chapter by jumping into a new adventure. Chair or co-chair, be on a committee. Enjoy the reward of giving and seeing smiles and warmth from the community members you serve.

Be sure to see DVA and Wellness and Personal development as both PMs have been working hard to get you vital information to serve your chapters and state.

Wear Purple Thursday's! Learn how to change your tire or history of the American flag to meet requirements of personal growth.

I encourage you to submit your project library. This will aide in other chapters in obtaining ideas to get fundraising or M-Event ideas. Encourage and strengthen your WT mate.

You can find us on Facebook as USWT Programming Page.

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



Are you in a relationship? Is it healthy? Are you afraid of your partner, feel like you must walk on eggshells & watch everything you do or say to avoid a confrontation? Does he or she yell at you, put you down or humiliate you – never acknowledges your opinions & controls your actions, thoughts and often threatens to get his/her way?

Domestic Violence does not always involve physical abuse, but often involves emotional abuse which can be invisible to the eyes of friends and family. Emotional Abuse is often denied or ignored by the victim who can little by little lose their self-worth & independence – feeling the fear that there is no way out of the relationship. It comes down to emotional blackmail by the abuser to hold you hostage in a relationship that he or she can control.

“Emotional abuse includes verbal abuse such as yelling, name-calling, blaming, and shaming. Isolation, intimidation, and controlling behavior also fall under emotional abuse. Additionally, abusers who use emotional or psychological abuse often throw in threats of physical violence or other repercussions if you don’t do what they want.

You may think that physical abuse is far worse than emotional abuse since physical violence can send you to the hospital and leave you with scars. The scars of emotional abuse are very real, though, and they run deep. In fact, emotional abuse can be just as damaging as physical abuse—sometimes even more so.”
(helpguide.org)

In bringing awareness to the violence in our teen’s dating environment, February has been declared **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**. A nationwide movement was created to raise awareness about the abuse that our teens and 20-somethings are facing in relationships. A vital part of the mission included education to help promote awareness for all those involved. Dating violence is more common than many people think. One in three teens will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by someone they are in a relationship with before adulthood.

Dating Violence 10 WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checks your cell phone or email without your permission Constantly puts you down Extreme jealousy or insecurity Explosive temper Isolating you from family or friends | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes false accusations • Mood swings • Physically hurts you in any way • Possessive • Tells you what to do |
|---|---|

SOURCE: Love is Respect

Help spread awareness and stop dating abuse before it starts!

We're excited to announce the 2024 theme for TDVAM is "**Love Like That.**" Selected by the love is respect Youth Council, "**Love Like That,**" illuminates what "that" means regarding healthy and unhealthy relationships. We know that love is more than a feeling; no matter how you define it, it's essential to ensure you're on the same page with your partner about the definitions and boundaries of your relationship. Teens and young adults express their love for one another in many ways, which differ from person to person or community. All expressions of love are valid. However, the essential aspect of "Love Like That" calls on us all to create a world of positive actions to express and show healthy love in various ways.



To request 2024 materials or for any other questions about TDVAM reach out to TDVAM@thehotline.org.

By promoting awareness and sharing on social medial sites, supporting local awareness programs in your community & schools --- you may be able to foster healthy relationships for our teens. Promoting Teen Dating Violence Awareness and providing information for those teens who might be in an abusive relationship on ways to reach out for help – just might save a life. As Women of Today, we can create a statement of support for those suffering from Domestic Violence in any form.

Please share your articles, projects and photos along with the enclosed DVA Transmittal Form. The Transmittal is also available on the USWT Website in a fillable form @ <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/yJob00cqs67bxK631bb>. You may also fill in the printed transmittal form and email or mail the paper form to me. I just want to hear from you and how you support DVA. I thank you in advance for all your support and dedication in helping to stop the violence.

Julie Hutchinson
USWT DVA Program Manager

Love Shouldn't Hurt



I am challenging all Women of Today members to wear orange on Thursday, Feb. 15th (our scheduled Purple Thursday) in support of Teen Dating Violence Awareness. For all of you that share a photo of yourself wearing orange (please include your name, chapter & state), - - - I will recognize you with an incentive at our annual meeting.



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 1st.**

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

I want to start off by wishing you all a Happy New Year. 2023 was a great year but it is behind us. So, what are your plans for the upcoming year? Have you thought about taking a position on the National Staff? It's fun, you meet many women, and you also get to promote certifications and it's easy. If you would like to learn more, contact me.

Just a few reminders, January is Emphasis for Wellness and Personal Development, so please fill up my box with certifications. If you certify in January, your name will go into a drawing for a basket. It's never too early to start thinking about competing in my speaking competition at year end.

The topic is "What did you learn about yourself during the pandemic."

It must be between 600-800 words and the cost is \$5.00. You may use your written speech from midyear. Make sure to check out my 3rd trimester SIP for the form.

Happy New Year to the United States Women of Today!

What Matters Most Is The... Author: Eisie Perera

It isn't the size of your house as such
That matters so much at all.
It's the gentle hand and its loving touch,
That make it great or small.
The friends who come and the hour they
Who out of your house depart,
Will judge it not by the style you show,
But rather by the size of your heart.
It isn't the size of your head so much,
It isn't the wealth you found.
That will make you happy -- it's how you
touch
The lives that are all around.
For making money is not hard --
To live life well is an art:
How people love you, how they regard,
Is all in the size of your heart.

JOURNEY TO 2024: USWT Year-End 2024: June 7-8, 2024

We are in the last legs of our "Journey to USWT Year-End 2024"

We ended the first half of our trip on the east coast (New Jersey & Massachusetts) and are now headed back to the mid-west. We start the year (2024) over Wisconsin. Originally we were scheduled to enter Minnesota air space on February 1st, however, the MN WT Winter State convention is scheduled for Jan 26-27, 2024, and so we are arriving in the state a few days earlier, to help our MNWT members share in their "Fun with Games", along with USWT President Tracey and most of her staff!!!. Please keep sending in the answers to the state trivia questions (and remember you can go back and submit answers from previous state visits as well) – to win a chance to have your Year-End 2024 registration "rebated" come June!! Meanwhile, hope everyone has a HAPPY NEW YEAR . . . see you in June 2024!! (email; answers to kentmom86@yahoo.com)



WISCONSIN (Jan)

- *Official State Motto
- *State Nickname
- *The first ever ice cream sundae was served in which Wisconsin city? (extra point-what year)
- *" World Famous "Barbie" hails from which Wisconsin town:

BONUS POINTS: Although our smallest state-with only ONE Chapter, Wisconsin has given us ONE National President and hosted two conventions. For Nine extra points: Name the President, her year and theme and the conventions: date-place-theme

MINNESOTA (Feb)

- *Official Motto
- *State Nickname
- *Minnesota is home of the largest "indoor shopping experience": what is the name of this area? (Bonus Points: In what city/when was it opened?)
- *This water sport was invented in Minnesota-in 1922.

BONUS POINTS: Of the 38 USWT Presidents, how many have been from Minnesota?



**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.

<u>Registration</u>	<u>Advance</u>	<u>Late</u>
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

Hello from Iowa Women of Today,

The holiday season is here, and this year has gone by so fast. Iowa Women of Today is gearing up for their next meeting in New Hampton next month with some special guests from U.S. Women of Today staff. All three of the Iowa Chapters have been busy with helping the communities get ready for Christmas by holding Santa Workshops, Santa Letters and even having fun get togethers celebrating the holiday season. We are looking forward to what the new year brings and hosting US Women of Today Year End in Des Moines in June. We hope to see you all there to celebrate, see old friends and to make new friends while you are in our state. I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and have a great New Year!



Jennifer Lantz

Iowa Women of Today President

Happy New Year!



Our six chapters had a record year of donating their time and funds raised to many worthwhile causes.

Holiday parties are over. We all ate too much, had fun Yankee swaps, and toasted the New Year.

All the Santa letters were sent, festive trees were sold, hot chocolate was shared, and Santa made his annual visits to kid's homes.

Now 2024 is here and Massachusetts Women of Today – is jumping in with enthusiasm.

Plans are underway for a few Comedy nights and to bring in speakers to continue to take time for us. Of course, Valentine's Day will be a time of bringing cheer to others.

Chapters are signing new members and recruiting on social media and events.

Looking forward to a wonderful year,

Kathy Griffin

MAWT State President

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples.”



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

United States Women of Today Friends,

Let's talk Membership and events. On the state level we are promoting three membership weeks – one each trimester. The first trimester was around National Pajama Day, 2nd trimester was around International Beer and Pizza Day and 3rd trimester will be around Learn About Butterflies Day. We created Vision packs around the days and offered additional ideas to help chapters have a social, membership event or a project around the theme during the week or around that time and then they were to share pictures with our Membership Vice President. It has been fun to see what chapters come up with. Chapters have been busy promoting themselves and holding a variety of activities to encourage retention and new members. I must shout out the Hutchinson Area chapter as they worked really hard to get their name out – they started a Random Acts of Kindness project at each meeting where the members put together different items and donate to different causes in their community – one example is their Thanksgiving treat bags that they donated to the residents at Cedar Crest Estate. Through their efforts, they recruited 9 new members in November.

Many other chapters are doing amazing work in membership, and we are looking at extensions in several communities as well. Our Extensions Director, Andrea had a booth at a Vendor Event in Hibbing and had a lot of interest from Hibbing and Virginia and there is interest in the Red Wing area. We will continue to work in those communities to share our wonderful organization!

Have a Happy New Year!

In friendship,

Amy



Season's Greetings All!

November 4th Nebraska had our State Fall Conference held in Lincoln. We handed out USWT awards from Mid-Year and celebrated our state's chapters 1st trimester accomplishments. We increased attendance by more than double from recent years, 17 members in all, with 4 first timers. During the conference, we were able to tour the Foster Care Closet, which is one of Nebraska's State Philanthropies.

Membership has been moving along - 1st trimester we ended at base, lost a member, but gained a member. Now for 2nd trimester, we ended at base +2. Congratulations to Heartland Chapter on 2 new members!

Many of our chapters have been very busy volunteering for the Holidays. We have rung bells for the Salvation Army, helped set-up lights for city-wide Holiday Light Display, wrapped gifts, adopted families to purchase gifts for, helped with Santa Cop Drive, and many other volunteer activities. This season, there's a plethora of opportunities!

Hope everyone enjoys this Holiday Season and you all find time to not only celebrate with friends and family, but to relax and rejuvenate for the New Year as well!

Shellie Haun

President, Nebraska Women of Today

"Better Together"



"We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential." – *Ellen Goodman*

"New Year's Day. A fresh start. A new chapter waiting to be written." – *Sarah Ban Breathnach*

JANUARY,

The first month of the year,

A perfect time to start all over again,

Changing energies and deserting old moods,

New beginnings, new attitudes.

– Charmaine J. Forde

From: <https://scatteredquotes.com/january-quotes/>



Greetings from Pennsylvania,

Hoping everyone had a safe and wonderful Holiday season. It sure was a busy one, here in Pennsylvania. Our chapters have been so dedicated and very busy making a difference in each of their communities.

The Dover chapter held a very successful Santa workshop. They provided a safe, friendly an inexpensive shopping environment for children to purchase gifts for the Holidays. Other projects completed over the past few months were treats for pole workers, backpacks of blessing for a homeless veteran's shelter, Thanksgiving food drive, monthly bingo for the senior citizens, Christmas gifts for local families in need and their annual Holiday luncheon. Upcoming projects include their annual Winters Blues Blowout.

The Lititz chapter provided Holiday decoration to the residents of a local assistant living center. They held their annual Holiday party with ornaments exchange and provided Christmas gifts and food for a local family.

Members of the Northeastern chapter continue to donate books for a free library as well as pet food and supplies for Speranza Animal Rescue. They organized and sponsored the annual Christmas on the Square project where they also provide cookies and hot chocolate. They collected gifts and personal care items for their local homeless veteran's shelter, provided muffins to the pole workers, held their annual Holiday dinner/party, held craft days at an assisted living center, and donated 30 blankets to the schools Christmas gift drive. Upcoming projects will include their annual fun filled Girls Getaway.

The Womelsdorf chapter held a food drive and provided a complete Thanksgiving dinner for 5 local families. Other projects completed included a chapter night out at a local craft stop, Christmas food collection, Santa on the Firetruck, a sandwich sale and providing a hot meal for a homeless shelter. Upcoming events include an after the holidays get together and Murder mystery dinner.

Our State meeting was in November and we had the honor to have President Tracey and several of her staff members join us. It was a fun filled weekend which included several forums, a business meeting, and plenty of delicious food. We had a speaker for Caitlin's Smile join us to accept the numerous donations collected from our chapters and members. I would estimate we had around \$700 worth of craft supplies. I was soooo proud of the generosity of our members. It warmed my heart!

Until next time, be safe, stay warm and enjoy some time cuddled up in a cozy quit.

Cindy Hilbert
PA State President

