

TODAY'S FOCUS

Illinois Women of Today Newsletter

September - October

President - Aimee Kaiser

President@illinoiswot.org



Happy Back to School All!! Fall is just around the corner, however we are having a major heat wave right now throughout the midwest. Hope you are all doing what you can to stay cool.

For those of you that were not at the August All State, it was such an honor to be presented (for the second time!!) my Ambassador Award. It is truly an honor to join such an outstanding group of women, and quite a few of my Illinois ladies are part of this elite group!

The Illinois Board of Directors hosted our August All State in Springfield on August 23rd and 24th. We had a wonderful dinner and social time on Friday evening at the Old Lux in Springfield. Then we had 15 members and 4 National Staff join us for the meeting. We were so honored to have

UWST President Jane Hanson and her staff Dawn Nissen, Cindy Golbuff, and Mary Hansen with us for the weekend.

We focused on Domestic Violence Awareness at this meeting with a theme of "Love Shouldn't Hurt". We had a speaker, Reilly Tebrugge, from Sojourn Shelter and Services here in Springfield. We collected wish list items for Sojourn and gifted them along with a check from IWT. Thank you to everyone who brought donation items or monetary gifts.

I gave out a challenge at the All State of "50 Acts of Kindness" by the April All State. Here is the story....I turn 50 in January so I am asking that anyone who is a member do random acts of kindness...big or small...when you do send me a text with the words "kindness" or "kind" and I will keep a record of these acts. If we reach 50 before the April All state I will donate \$50 to the White Rose Scholarship. For every act of kindness beyond that I will give an additional \$1 to that scholarship. Together we can make our world a better place just by showing kindness to anyone we come across each day. You can find my number in the directory from last year or Joy will have the 2024-2025 directory out very soon!

Remember that Kindness Lights

Kindness Lights the Way,

Aimee Kaiser



Congratulations to all of our Award Winners!



Daniel Kaiser - Membership Vice-President

membershipvp@illinoiswot.org



Membership has been booming with the addition of 4 new members in the 1st Trimester. Let's keep up this great momentum going into the 2nd Trimester. I would love to see us hit over 80 members by the end of the 2024-2025 year as we move into the 40th Anniversary of Women of Today.

Let's make Illinois stronger than ever!

2nd Trimester Membership Incentives

1. Any member that signs a new member during the 2nd Trimester will receive a special gift and that new member will also receive a gift.
2. Any chapter that signs 2 new members during the 2nd Trimester will also receive a special gift.
3. Any member who brings a non-member Guest to the November All-State will receive a gift.

Julie Peart - Programming Vice-President

programmingvp@illinoiswot.org



Now that summer is winding down, it's time to concentrate on different community projects, plus take care of our wellness & personal development needs for the next trimester, and to complete the challenges from USWT Programming VP, Lisa Hahn, USWT Wellness & Personal Development Program Manager, Shellie Haun, and Dawn Nissen, USWT DVA Program Manager, which can be found on the USWT website, www.uswomenoftoday.org.

To receive recognition at the October Mid-year meeting, the Wellness & Personal Development Certifications, Community Connections forms, DVA transmittals and Project Report forms should be submitted by September 15. Please remember to send me a copy of the confirmation, and if you have any problems submitting the forms, don't hesitate to let me know. FYI - photocopies of the forms attached in an email will gladly be accepted. The emails are pvp@uswomenoftoday.org, wpd@uswomenoftoday.org, and dva@uswomenoftoday.org.

Remember to "Trust Your Purpose" and keep on doing those good deeds.



Greetings!

We are excited to announce we have a new Facebook Page & a redesigned website. I have included the links to both pages for your convenience. Please encourage everyone you know who would like to learn more about Illinois Women of Today to visit our new designed website and like our FaceBook page.

We are planning on being more involved on Facebook in the coming year. Send your suggestions for FB & the Website to webmaster@illinoiswot.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisWOT>

Website: <https://illinoiswot.org/>

The Facebook page should look like this when you visit it:



**Be sure to Like & Follow
IL Women of Today on Facebook**

Joy Hutchcraft - Secretary

secretary@iwot.org

It was so much fun attending the recent IWT All State Meeting in August and spending time with my Women of Today friends. It was especially nice that it was held at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Springfield. We were honored to have four national officers attend -- Jane Hanson, MN (USWT President), Mary Hansen, MN (USWT Secretary), Dawn Nissen, IA (USWT Domestic Violence Awareness Program Manager), and Cindy Golbuff, MN (USWT Public Relations Director). There were a total of 19 members who attended Saturday's Business Meeting.

Congratulations to Lori Akers for receiving the "Rose of Friendship" Award! The "Rose of Friendship" Award is the highest honor awarded by the Illinois Women of Today. This award recognizes commitment and dedication to this organization through demonstrated leadership skills, community service, and participation in the Women of Today organization. It was extra special because Lori first came up with the idea of this award many years ago. It's about time that she received her very own award to cherish with our appreciation for all she's given to the Women of Today organization. I am PROUD of YOU!

Hope to see everyone at the next All State Retreat Meeting in Utica on November 8 and 9.

Chellie Funsch - Treasurer

treasurer@illinoiswot.org

LOOKING FOR



FOR THE STATE STORE!!!!

Hello Illinois Women of Today!

IWT is looking for new items for the State Store!!! Is there something you would like to see? Notepads, bags, etc. The possibilities could be endless if it is in the budget. Putting a challenge out there – if you would like to participate, please put together a proposal – name of company that has the item, item name, color, cost, etc. For the first 5 people who provide this information to me will get an incentive.

Did you attend the August All State? Yes – yahoo and hope you had a great time. If not – may I ask why? Are you scared? Do you think you will be overwhelmed? Do you think it's not for you? Let me tell you, I had all those feelings when I started Women of Today in 1994, but I have made so many friends along the way. Of course, they are no longer friends, they are family. Who couldn't use more friends/family to lean on in your time of need? I have learned so much more about the organization, what other chapters do for their communities and more. Don't feel scared, don't feel overwhelmed and it is definitely for you as a Women of Today member. Come join us at our November All State. If it will be your first All State, come up to me and introduce yourself and I will definitely welcome with you with open arms. WARNING – we all are huggers!!!!

Regarding Ways & Means this year, I would like the following to bring baskets to the respective All State for our raffles.

November baskets will be provided by the current State Board.
April baskets will be provided by the Chapters.

If you won't be attending but would like to contribute, please feel free to make a monetary donation to the treasury. Contact me to find out where to mail your check.

Ways & Means help keep our treasury going so we can donate to the Sunshine Fund (in memory of members who pass away or are sick), Friendship Fund (special requested donations to Women of Today members and or people in need) and Domestic Violence Awareness (our national charity). It also helps with our budgetary items as well.

In lieu of special baskets this year as I have done in the past, I will be donating \$25.00 per the following:

November – Friendship Fund.
April – Sunshine Fund.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the November All State – it's always a great time and lots of fun!!! Remember if it will be your first All State – come and introduce yourself. I'm also always available if you have questions or just need to chat.

Thanks and remember



CHELLIE FUNSCH
TREASURER

Treasurer@illinoiswot.org



STATE EVENTS COORDINATOR: Debbie Funsch
stateeventscordinator@illinoiswot.org

August, 2024! What a great August “ALL STATE” meeting!
The Illinois Women of board hosted the meeting in Springfield. We had 4 “United States Women of Today” staff members attend. Along with getting to know new friends, we were given much needed updated information. USWT staff shared that they are always there to help any Illinois members, anytime.

Since Domestic Violence Awareness was Emphasis Month in August, Illinois did our part. From purple items and purple ribbon decorations to an outstanding speaker from Springfield’s DVA “Sojourn Shelter and Services. What a wonderful day!

We had one first timer attend, WELCOME Peggy Prillaman from the Pawnee Chapter. Hope to see more at the next All State in November.

November is being hosted by the Lincoln Land Chapter, so there is a fun weekend planned. IT’S RETREAT TIME! The Registration form is at the end of this newsletter.

Did you know any member, board member, or chapter can host an All State Meeting? I’m searching for an awesome host for the Year End April meeting, April 25 - 26, 2025. Email me if you need information .

COOKBOOK Fundraiser for IWT!

If you haven’t heard or you have forgotten again, Ha Ha. I need recipes to make a cookbook for Illinois Women of Today. Guess What? All you must do is email them to me.

debrafunsch@gmail.com or funsch@comcast.net Subject line: RECIPE
I don’t care if you copy, type them out in an email or in a word doc and

attach. I will retype or make adjustments as needed.

JUST SEND THEM!

Please put your first and last name and your chapter in the email, or if it's a recipe you want to credit to who you got it from, put their name and relationship.

Examples:

PIE BARS

Debbie Funsch- Pawnee Chapter
Christmas LIME Jello Salad

Debbie Funsch- Pawnee Chapter
mother in law- Janice Funsch

Choc Chip BARS
Debbie Funsch- Pawnee Chapter
Best friend- Marsha Blakeman

Crispy Chicken and Zucchini
Debbie Funsch- Pawnee Chapter
Daycare Dad- Brandon Eby

HOPE you get the idea now!

Yes, these and many other Debbie recipes will be in the cookbook.

But we just don't want a Debbie Cookbook. **SEND** in RECIPES.

Thanks for laughing.....

LOVE to all, Debbie Funsch.

FALL ALL STATE MEETING



CHANNEL THE FLANNEL

ILLINOIS WOMEN OF TODAY RETREAT/MEETING

HOST: LINCOLN LAND WOMEN OF TODAY

WHEN: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 & 9, 2024

WHERE: UTICA, ILLINOIS - GRAND BEAR OR ANOTHER VILLA

***VILLA(S) WILL BE BOOKED FOR FRIDAY NIGHT & SATURDAY NIGHT,
ROOM COST DEPENDS ON ATTENDANCE TO RETREAT**

COST \$50 PER PERSON INCLUDES:

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

SATURDAY BREAKFAST & LUNCH

SUNDAY – LIGHT BREAKFAST

SATURDAY DINNER AT LOCAL RESTAURANT PAY YOUR OWN.

NAME _____ CHAPTER _____

NUMBER ATTENDING WEEKEND _____

NUMBER ATTENDING SATURDAY ONLY \$20.00 _____

RETURN REGISTRATION TO:

TERRI HEBDA, 7300 W. 153RD ST ORLAND PARK, IL 60464

CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO: LINCOLN LAND WOT

THANK YOU **PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT ANY FOOD ALLERGIES

Newsletter articles are due to Shari Chakoian by October 20th (newsletter@iwot.org) or (schakoian@gmail.com)

News from the Chapters



Greetings from the Busy Bees in Pawnee! Things are heating up in Pawnee and not just from the weather either. We are excited that we have signed 2 new members. We would like to welcome Peggy & Roberta! We are excited for the ideas and enthusiasm they bring to our group!

We are busy as usual. We held a Chapter Retreat at Daniel & Aimee's lake cabin in July instead of our usual monthly chapter meeting. We are finishing up our T-Shirt Fundraiser, will be providing a meal for our local Fire/EMS providers in October and are getting ready to make Birthday Bags for our local Food Pantry. These will include a disposable cake pan, cake mix, icing, candles and some treats for

the kids as well. We are ready for some cooler weather even though it means that summer is coming to an end. We are excited in Pawnee about growing our chapter and celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Women of Today.

Greetings from Springfield!

Howdy from Springfield! The August All-state was really fun and very rejuvenating! It was GREAT having USWT President Jane Hanson and members of the national board in attendance, and to have them participate in our DVA/Buckets of Sunshine project was AWESOME! A representative from Springfield Sojourn House gave an informative talk and answered questions about what all the emergency shelter provides, and accepted donations of cash and many items on their wish list valued at \$708.00. Kudos to all who participated!



**To all heading back to school,
Have a great year!**

