

TODAY'S LEADER



Greeting to all my USWT Friends,

I have decided that the past national president don't lie when they say the year flies by, because it has, there are so many memories that were made. Please remember just because I will not be president in a few weeks that I will always be here for you so please continue to reach out to me. Always "Believe in Yourself" and you will go far.

Believe in Yourself,

Tracey Pierson,

USWT President





Mary Hanson
USWT Parliamentarian
Parli@uswomenoftoday.org



Hello fellow Women of Today Members and fellow Parli's

I cannot express my thanks enough for everyone's support this year. My wishes and hopes are that everyone continues to grow and flourish with the support they received from Women of Today.

I hope that that everyone is wrapping up their year on a positive note. Make sure to prepare and hand over to successor any related documents to your By-Laws and Policies. History is always important when going forward. What you did in the past affects how the future unfolds.

I look forward to convention and seeing all your smiling faces.

Mary Hansen – USWT Parliamentarian

Official Notice of Proposed Bylaw Changes – Second Notice

A review meeting was held on February 2, 2024, at 10:00am CST. Action items coming from the review include minor spelling, spacing, and formatting issues. 3 suggested Bylaw changes were made and have passed through the Future Directions Committee and are noted below. Bylaw changes require 45 days written notice to membership and a 2/3 majority vote for a motion to pass. They will be voted on at the Year-End Business Meeting.

Proposed USWT Bylaws to be voted on at the Year-End Business Meeting

- I move that in Article III, Section 1 Letter B be deleted and renumber accordingly.
- I move that in Article X, Section 6 the words President, Chairman of the Board and Treasurer be replaced by Executive Committee. Where is will then read: No State, Local Organization or Individual Member shall use the name “U.S. Women of Today” “Women of Today” or the U.S. Women of Today logo for any ways and means purpose without the prior approval of the Executive Committee.
- I move that in Article X, Section 6 that letter B be deleted.

**Look for the boxed letters
scattered throughout this
newsletter and rearrange them
to make a word.**



United States Women of Today

Wellness and Personal Development Program Manager Manual

Wellness and Personal Development Certification

Name _____ Date Joined _____ Date Certified _____

Chapter/State _____ Email _____

Is designed to assist individuals to be aware of their physical, and mental well-being, along with personal growth, careers and citizenship. This form may be completed once each USWT year. Complete a minimum of 15 of the following items and submit online at ww.uswomenoftoday.org. You may also mail to your state contact postmarked no later than May 1

- Have a physical exam
- Know your numbers (cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose, and body mass index)
- Have a dental exam
- Be a registered organ donor
- Have an eye exam
- Donate blood/plasma
- Certify in CPR or First Aid
- Check your medication, spice or food cabinet for outdated items and dispose of them properly
- Exercise a minimum of 3 times per week for one month
- Attend a seminar, health fair, or read an article on a health topic
- Keep a journal for 30 days logging your diet, time management, mood or exercise
- Visit a nursing home, hospital or shut in
- Complete an Effective Speaking or Impromptu competition
- Present a 4 – 6 minutes speech
- Enter a writing contest
- Write an article for a chapter, district, state or national newsletter
- Write an essay or short story with 300 or more words, but less than 500 words
- Chair a project
- Participate in a leadership exercise
- Participate in a team-building exercise
- Participate in a chapter project
- Attend a state of United States Women of Today Convention
- Learn a new craft
- Learn a new recipe
- Read a book or listen to an audio book
- Update your will or review your financials
- Volunteer in another organization
- Interview a member of an older generation about changes they have seen in their lifespan
- Hold local, state or national office
- Other: _____

©United States Women of Today: Wellness and Personal Development Program Manager Manual Revised June 2024

The above is the proposed new Wellness and Personal Development form that will be presented for approval at the Business Meeting in June.



Jane Hanson
USWT Treasurer
treasurer@uswt.org
Website: www.uswomenoftoday.orgJane

Dear Treasurers

Thank you to all for your financial support this year. The truly amazing totals will be announced at Year-End Convention in Des Moines. I have enjoyed working with all of you this year.

Year End Review

- Each chapter/state should do a year-end review. This does not have to be extensive or done by a professional. It could be members in your chapter that are not involved in the financial side of your chapter or could be someone outside of your chapter.
- I have attached a guide to help you. Use this as a guide and pick the items that you feel are important for your review.
- Please reach out to me if you have any questions or need assistance.

FILL UP MY GREEN POT WITH "GOLD": \$1,411 Raised so far!

- ❖ 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. This will be an entire year promotion.
- ❖ For each donation, you will be put into a drawing for \$50 in cash at annual convention.
- ❖ Donations can be sent using Venmo...@jane-hanson-26 or by check. The finance committee has approved use of my personal Venmo account for payments.



Fudge/Caramel Fund Raiser – Last day to order is May 21st; delivered at Annual Convention

- Our yearend fundraiser is a Fudge/Caramel Sale from Walnut Grove Mercantile.
- Attached is an order form, all sales need to be prepaid. You can mail a check to me or pay via venmo; @jane-hanson-26 (phone number for verification is 5699). The finance committee has authorized the use of my personal venmo for this sale.
- We will have a few extra boxes at convention for sale but to assure you get the fudge/caramels you want, please pre-order.
- More info and order form are also on the website: <https://sites.google.com/view/uswt/USWT-Leadership/USWT-Treasurer?authuser=0>

Cost: \$8 per box (USWT gets \$4 per box as profit)

Due Date: May 21st all orders and payments due

Fudge: Chocolate, Chocolate Walnut, Chocolate/Peanut Butter, Chocolate Mint Swirl, Chocolate Amaretto Swirl, Chewy Praline, Sea Salt Caramel, Raspberry Swirl.

Caramels: Homemade Caramels – rich extra creamy caramels are **simply irresistible!**

Together, we have proven that "Gold Rules" this year!

Thanks,

Jane

WORKSHEET FOR COMPLETION OF A REVIEW

As you approach the end of the Women of Today year, it is important to review your chapter's financial records. A review committee should include at least 2-3 members in good standing in the chapter. This should not include the out-going treasurer but the treasurer should be available to answer questions.

The amount of detail will depend on the size of the chapter and the amount of receipts and disbursements. A small chapter's records need not be detailed as long as you can track receipts and expenses and it is clear what project they belong to. A checkbook may be adequate for keeping your records. In a larger chapter or a chapter with a great deal of activity, a cash receipt and disbursement tracking system should be maintained by the treasurer. This can be on computer spreadsheet, bookkeeping software, or by hand. An audit report should be provided in the newsletter and/or given at a general meeting.

Steps to follow:

Generally, look at the records kept by the treasurer.

Are they easy to understand and follow?

Yes ___ No ___

Is there a system to track receipts/expenses by project?

Yes ___ No ___

Deposits:

Is there a record of deposits made?

Yes ___ No ___

Is there a breakdown of where the money came from?

Yes ___ No ___

Select one deposit and follow it to the bank statement.

Expenses:

Is there a record of checks paid?

Yes ___ No ___

Is there detail of who the checks were paid to, when and for what project?

Yes ___ No ___

Are paid invoices filed by date paid or vendor?

Yes ___ No ___

Is the check number written on the invoice?

Yes ___ No ___

Is there someone other than the treasurer approving invoices for payment?

Yes ___ No ___

Select one to two checks and trace them to the bank statement.

Check to make sure that checks have the proper signatures.

Reconciliation:

Are ALL statements reconciled each month?

Yes ___ No ___

Is the year end bank statement reconciled correctly?

Yes ___ No ___

A year-end report should be completed by the outgoing treasurer. This report should be traceable and agree to the cash receipts and disbursement records. If the records are all kept in the checkbook, a worksheet may have to be prepared or the checkbook itself added up.

Other considerations:

Are there reconciliations and records for any savings account?

Has the chapter liability insurance been paid if applicable?

Has money been reserved and properly documented for special uses as directed by the chapter?

Has the sales tax return been filed if required?

Is there a sales tax worksheet prepared to pass on to the incoming treasurer for projects performed between January 1st and April 30 if applicable?

Has your chapter filed its 990N postcard with the IRS?

Are there any additional items that are required by your state/chapter that need to be done?



SUE BEATTIE
SECRETARY
 CONTACT: secretary@uswomenoftoday.org

Wow, can you believe the 2023-2024 Women of Today year is almost over?

It's not too late (deadline is May 31, 2024) to send me your minutes and newsletters for consideration for 3rd trimester and year-end awards. I will be recognizing outstanding state and chapter secretaries and newsletters at our Annual convention in June. Don't miss the opportunity to show off your talents!

Do you know what role you would like to play during your next Women of Today year? I'm sure there are many members who can share their knowledge about this organization; whether it's on the local, state, or national level. Believe in yourself! Being in a leadership position is rewarding while bringing you many new friends.

Sue Beattie
USWT Secretary

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3RD TRIMESTER CHALLENGE –

What did you like best about being a secretary and/or newsletter editor this year?

Joy Hutchcraft, IL: *as local secretary: "I like being "in the know" and helping other members with dates and times for upcoming meetings and events. The President also sends out an email immediately following our meeting to recap any upcoming dates to remember. Together, we work to ensure that our members are well informed. I also think it helps our attendance at meetings and projects."*

As state secretary: "You must pay attention to all the business occurring at the meeting. It makes the meetings go quickly and allows me to stay informed of any state activities. I also enjoy being responsible for recording any motions."

Nicolette Amundson, NE: *as state secretary, "I like being able to recognize local Chapter secretaries for their efforts at the annual Fall meeting. I also enjoyed receiving the Chapter's newsletter and seeing what other chapters are doing."*

Shari Chakoian, IL: *I enjoy the monthly connections I make with the IWT officers and chapter presidents. It's great to find out what the chapter are doing and to pass things on to others through the newsletter. The newsletter connects all of us!*

Thank you to Joy, Nicolette, and Shari for accepting my challenge!

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



CATHY SNYDER
MEMBERSHIP VP
mvp@uswomenoftoday.org

Hello Women of Today,

I just want to thank you to all for all your help with Membership. It has been a fun year, but not sure where it went to, way too fast. Hope you continue to grow with in your Chapters and states. I want to say thank you to my wonderful Membership contacts this past year you all did a great job getting your renewals in on time.

Thank you again.

Hope to see you at year end in Iowa!

Cathy Snyder

JOANN MILLER
EXTENSIONS DIRECTOR
CONTACT: extensions@uswomenoftoday.org



It's hard to believe that this year is over. It's been a good year even though I did not complete any extensions. There are still two in progress in Minnesota that I'm hoping can get completed early in the 2024-2025 Women of Today year.

I'd like to thank everyone for their support this year. I hope you have enjoyed your year as much as I've enjoyed mine this year!

JoAnn

Spread the Word**SHELLIE MATTHES - PR DIRECTOR****“Spread the Word”**CONTACT: pr@uswomenoftoday.org

Hello USWT Members!!

It has been my privilege to serve as the USWT PR Director and as part of USWT President Tracey's staff! I have had so much fun writing up Facebook posts, talking with so many of you and meeting new members from across our organization. To my state contacts many thanks for sharing chapter/state newsletters, turning in your paperwork, and supporting the area of public relations!

Thank you for your encouragement and support, it is appreciated!



Below is an explanation of the Buckets of Sunshine projection at Annual Convention.

The organization that the Iowa WT chapter selected for the Buckets of Sunshine for 2024 is Children & Families of Iowa.

There was a question about the Buckets of Sunshine project and why we are helping an organization in Iowa when our own state has needs.

The idea of the USWT Buckets of Sunshine Project (BOS) is to have a service campaign that the public can align to the United States Women of Today. It will allow every chapter to work towards a common goal but will also have the flexibility to adapt to each community's individual needs. Each chapter is encouraged to participate by providing Buckets of Sunshine in their community as well as in the USWT Buckets of Sunshine for the Annual Meeting.

The BOS for the Annual Meeting will be coordinated by the USWT Public Relations Director, with the approval of the Marketing Committee, USWT President, and USWT Membership Vice President. A specific program must be promoted early and especially at the mid-year convention with the information to be provided for the members to make this project a huge national success and obtain national recognition that is so well deserved. This project makes a difference in the community that our annual convention is held and to the local communities that receive these bucket(s) as well.

USWT Buckets of Sunshine Project History

The United States Women of Today was formed in 1985 as a leadership training, community service, and personal enrichment organization. Since its inception the organization has raised thousands of dollars for the communities, states, and health foundations (i.e., March of Dimes, Arthritis, Leukemia, Breast Cancer Awareness, and Multiple Sclerosis) it serves. There were 18 member states in the United States Women of Today with approximately 4000 members.

At the 1996 Annual meeting the Future Directions Committee decided to create a project that would bring name recognition to the organization through public relations. After much brainstorming and idea sharing, the Buckets of Sunshine Project was selected. At the business meeting the proceeding day, the project was adopted and approved by the membership. The goal of the program is to provide "buckets" filled with products to local crisis

centers (particularly focused toward women and children). The donated items would benefit someone leaving the center and help defray expenses by starting over in a new home or apartment.

At the June 2002 Annual Meeting, the Marketing Committee decided not to associate the Buckets of Sunshine project with "Make a Difference Day." It was felt that if the two are kept separate, our communities would benefit from them both. It seems to be confusing to our members along with people in the community and it was felt that the Buckets of Sunshine was lost in the media hype of Make a Difference Day.

It is one of my job responsibilities to promote and educate the membership on the organization that was selected. If you have any questions or need information, please reach out!

I want to remind everyone that when you are out and about, share Women of Today with women you meet. Do you have a chapter brochure that you can carry in your purse or backpack ready to share? How about chapter business cards to hand out or post on community bulletin boards? If you need help designing either of the above marketing tools, just contact me and we can work on it together.

Wish/Want/Need List for DVS

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ Gas cards | ✓ Battery Operated Candles |
| ✓ Twin sheet sets | ✓ Yoga Mats |
| ✓ Twin comforters or blankets | ✓ Shampoo |
| ✓ Bath Towels | ✓ Conditioner |
| ✓ Wash cloths | ✓ Body wash |
| ✓ Standard Pillows | ✓ Lotions |
| ✓ Ethnic Hair products (for African American Hair) | ✓ Diapers (all sizes but big sizes are needed most) |
| ✓ Piggy Banks – to give clients when they get a <u>job</u> | ✓ Wipes |
| ✓ Key Chains - to give clients when they get <u>housing</u> | |

The excitement is growing for the Annual Convention in Des Moines, IA, June 7-8. Are you going to join us?





Laura Morris
 Chairman of the Board
 “Keep Inspiring”

As I am writing this, we are in Colorado visiting friends. Heading up into the mountains tomorrow. I look forward to the drive up there as I love the mountains, obviously. I know I will be reflecting on the last few years on National Staff and how I have been inspired by so many of you. If you had told me 24 years ago when I joined Women of Today that someday I would serve on the National Staff and especially serve as National President I would have laughed in your face. But you know what, I did it and it has been an awesome experience. I have learned so much, not only about Women of Today, but also about people, people with giving and caring hearts. That is the reason I love this organization, it is the people that make it up, it is all of you that make it special. We do so much in our communities to help others, to make a difference. We also make a difference in each other’s lives. Our bonds with each other, the support we give each other in good times and in bad, that is what is truly inspiring. I now have friends all across the country that I would have never had in my life if not for Women of Today.

Although I look forward to having a little more “free” time, I will miss the time with everyone on Staff. We made some wonderful memories, with lots of laughs and occasionally tears and hugs. I highly recommend that everyone in this organization take advantage of the opportunities offered by WT and serve on your chapter, state, and national boards. You will be happy you did. When you think about it, how many people do you know have served on the Board of a National organization. What a cool experience and rare opportunity we offer!

Hope to see many of you in Iowa to celebrate another outstanding year! Congratulations to my friend, Tracey, and her very successful year as USWT President. I know next year will be just as successful. Thank you all for putting your faith in me over the last couple of years. It has truly been an honor.

In Friendship,
 Laura Morris, COB

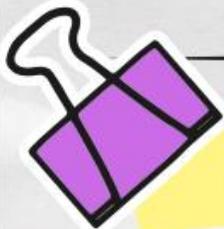


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PROGRAMMING

VP

APRIL/MAY



DON'T WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW

THE YEAR COMES TO AN END SOON, BUT THERE IS STILL TIME TO GET THOSE LAST MINUTE FORMS FILLED OUT TO COUNT TOWARDS THE ANNUAL CONVENTION. THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS, STATES AND CHAPTERS FOR SUBMITTING ALL OF YOUR REPORTS THUS FAR. THE YEAR HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF GREATNESS.



COME SEE WHO TAKES OUR PRESIDENT HOSTAGE AT ANNUAL



THE ENTIRE TEAM HAS SOME FANTASTIC PLANS FOR OUR ANNUAL CONVENTION. COME DOWN/OVER/UP TO DES MOINES FOR A HECK OF A GOOD CELEBRATION.



JULIE HUTCHINSON - DVA PROGRAM MGR
CONTACT: dva@uswomenoftoday.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Why is purple the color associated with domestic violence?

Have you ever wondered why purple is the color associated with domestic violence? According to domesticshelters.org, purple, white, and gold were used in the early 1900s when the women's suffrage movement adopted the National Women's Party's colors. The colors started in England and symbolized purity, hope, and loyalty.

The women's movement was growing momentum in the 1960s and '70s, but few people were openly talking about the injustice of domestic violence, or even knew there were shelters where women could go to find refuge from an abusive partner.

On July 9, 1978, nearly 100,000 advocates marched on the capitol in Washington, D.C. in support of equal rights. Many survivors of abuse—at the time, more commonly known as battered women—were wearing purple.

“Battered women chose purple as an evolution of the lavender from decades past,” Rose M. Garrity, former board president of the **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence** (NCADV) told DomesticShelters.org, because lavender was seen as a color of royalty.

Two years later, the U.S. Congress would officially designate October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

TOGETHER WE CAN



END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!

With your continued support to bring awareness and support to those affected by DVA, Women of Today can help make a difference. Please continue your efforts and don't forget to complete the DVA Transmittal Form so that I can recognize each chapter and state that has helped in the effort this year.

Julie Hutchinson
USWT DVA PM
dva@uswomenoftoday.org



Love Shouldn't Hurt

**I Got Flowers Today
(Dedicated to Battered Women)**



**I got flowers today!
It wasn't my birthday or any other special day.
We had our first argument last night;
And he said a lot of cruel things that really hurt;
I know that he is sorry and didn't mean to say the things he said; Because
he sent me flowers today.**

**I got flowers today.
It wasn't our anniversary or any other special day.
Last night, he threw me into a wall and started to choke me.
It seemed like a nightmare.
I couldn't believe that it was real.
I woke up this morning sore and bruised all over.
I know he must be sorry.
Because he sent me flowers today.**

**I got flowers today!
It wasn't our anniversary or any other special day;
Last night he threw me into a wall and then started choking me;
It seemed unreal, a nightmare, but you wake up from nightmares;
And I woke up this morning sore and bruised all over—but I know he is
sorry; Because he sent me flowers today.**

**I got flowers today!
And it wasn't Valentines Day or any other special day;
Last night he beat me and threatened to kill me;
Make-up and long sleeves didn't hide the cuts and bruises this time;**

I couldn't go to work today because I didn't want anyone to know—but I know
he's sorry;
Because he sent me flowers today.
I got flowers today!
And it wasn't Mother's Day or any other special day;
Last night he beat me again, and it was worse than all of the other times;
If I leave him, what will I do? How will I take care of the kids? What about
money?
I'm afraid of him, but I'm too scared and dependent to leave him! But he must
be sorry;
Because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today....
Today was a special day—it was the day of my funeral;
Last night he killed me;
If only I would have gathered the courage and strength to leave him;
I could have received help from the Women's Shelter, but I didn't ask for their
help;
So I got flowers today—for the last time.

By Paulette Kelly

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DEB MCDONALD
WELLNESS & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM MANAGER

CONTACT: pvp@uswomenoftoday.org

We are in the home stretch, and you only have until May 1 to certify in Wellness and Personal Development. I have received 110 this trimester so far. I did meet my goal for the year.

The National Convention is just around the corner also. The last chance to be part of my speaking competition: the theme is "How Covid Affect my Life" If you participated in the writing competition you can just read that speech. The speech must be 5 to 8 minutes long, the cost is \$5.00 and is due May 1st. Then at the Convention we will hold a speaking competition. The cost is also \$5.00. I do not have enough entries at this point.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Convention.

Deb McDonald, Wellness and Personal Development Program Manager

Random Fun Facts

The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland

Outback Steakhouse was founded by four Americans who never went to Australia

Bob Ross was a drill sergeant before becoming a painter

The 1912 Summer Olympics were the last to have solid gold medals

'Harry Potter' series is in the top 5 of the most read books in history

The voice actors for Mickey and Minnie Mouse got married

Facebook's color scheme is blue because Mark Zuckerberg has red-green colorblindness

A pineapple takes 1.5 to 3 years to grow

The average lifespan of a pet cat has more than doubled since the 1980s

You can hear a blue whale's heartbeat from over 2 miles away

The blue bird in the original Twitter logo is named Larry

From <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/tripideas/30-random-fun-facts-to-have-handy-for-your-next-party/ss-BB1jS2H7?ocid=msedgntp&pc=HCTS&cvid=676597fcd3114869bfd6b4280b3c0e34&ei=24#image=1>



**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

With USWT Year-End just about five weeks away, the Iowa WT are working hard to finalize plans for a FUN/EXCITING convention!!

REGISTRATION: The past five issues of the “Today’s Leader” have included trivia questions on each of our twelve member states. At least 15 members have been following our journey and are currently in the running for a rebate on their registration. However, it is not too late for others to participate! Looking back at the previous “Today’s Leader” issues or check on Facebook – any answers submitted to me by May 10th will be considered!! Meanwhile the actual deadline for “advance registration has passed, but if you are still interested in coming, late registration fee is only \$115! Please submit registration ASAP – so we can figure out how many are actually coming – especially for Saturday lunch and banquet.

BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE: We will be supporting SAFE SHELTER, the Domestic Violence Shelter for Children & Families of Iowa. Their “wish list” includes:

Wish/Want/Need List for DVS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ Gas cards | ✓ Battery Operated Candles |
| ✓ Twin sheet sets | ✓ Yoga Mats |
| ✓ Twin comforters or blankets | ✓ Shampoo |
| ✓ Bath Towels | ✓ Conditioner |
| ✓ Wash cloths | ✓ Body Wash |
| ✓ Standard Pillows | ✓ Lotions |
| ✓ Ethnic Hair products (for African American Hair) | ✓ Diapers (all sizes but big sizes are needed most) |
| ✓ Piggy Banks – to give clients when they get a job | ✓ Wipes |
| ✓ Key Chains - to give clients when they get housing | |

FRIDAY MEALS: Although there will be “snacks” at the Friday night party, lunch and dinner on Friday are NOT part of registration. However, the Iowa WT will be providing Friday lunch (Walking Tacos) and Friday supper (pizza) in the hospitality room. NOTE: lunch will be “free,” but for dinner: we will have a list of pizza options at the registration table – for members to indicate their choices – and we will be asking for a \$3 donation – to help cover the cost.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Each member attending USWT Year-End 2024 will receive a convention booklet, with important information, including tentative schedule, minutes and agendas for BOD, General membership and Elections meeting. IN ADDITION: **Members/States are invited to SUBMIT ADS!!** Send hard-copies or email (copy-ready) to: kentsmom86@yahoo.com **by May10, 2024.** COST: Half page: \$5; Full page: \$10. (checks made out to “Iowa Women of Today”)

Look forward to seeing you all – in about 36 days!!!!

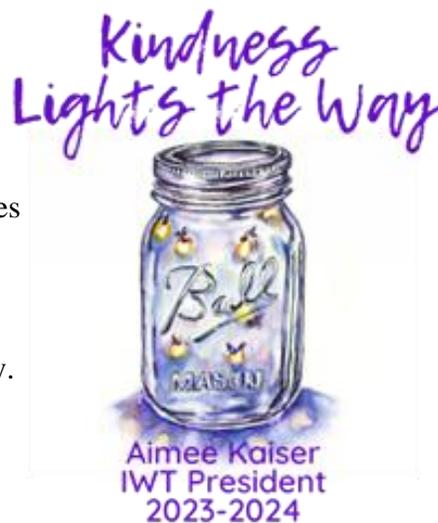


Hello from Arizona!

Carmella Mongold
AZ Women of Today

Hello All From the Illinois Women of Today,

Greetings from the Midwest where our weather cannot decide if it is winter, spring, or summer all within a day or two!!! We get to enjoy all the seasons mother nature blesses us with this time of year. Our chapters have been busy as usual serving the communities we love and live in. We are excited to have our All State this coming weekend in Springfield, IL hosted by the Springfield Women of Today. We will be having our yearly elections and a new board will be sworn in that day. Many of us are also looking forward to year end for USWT in Des Moines in June!



Kindness lights the way my friends,
Aimee Kaiser
Illinois Women of Today President

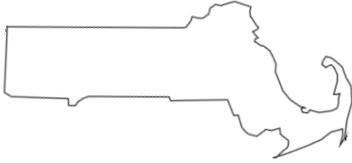
Hello from Iowa Women of Today,

Dream, Believe and Shine!

Jennifer Lantz

Iowa Women of Today President





HELLO FROM MASSACHUSETTS

What a wonderful year it has been! Our six chapters have finished the USWT year in great style. Our chapters are growing, retention is at an all-time high, and we end the year with over 140 members.

Chapters have been busy these past few months. Greater Bridgewater held their very successful Son & Someone Dance with a Photobooth, DJ and lots of dancing. Chelmsford had a fun night at their first 2024 Game Night. Put some Spring in your step, a New Member Recruitment Walk with ice cream at the end of walk was an April project, and the famous Craft & Yard Sale was a success. Applications for a College Scholarship are being reviewed for high school seniors.

Easton is reviewing applications for their annual college scholarship. The chapter is growing with new members. They hosted a fun year end state meeting with guest President Tracey. The theme was 'We are going on a Picnic,' and we did. Mansfield has applications for two College Scholarships, the funds are donated by a long-time member. A cookie decorating night attended by members showed how much talent they have.

Greater Attleboro's project Egg My House was a success. They stuffed 1,050 eggs with goodies and hid them outside at 18 houses in 3 local towns. One member made it a family affair by bringing along her son to help hide the eggs. Bellingham had their Pot of Gold Fundraiser and their first Quarter Auction. It was an all-member hands-on deck event which was fun and a great success. Scholarships letters have been sent and will be awarded in June.

As we begin our 40th year as USWT charter state 7, Bellingham, Chelmsford, and Mansfield, stand as a testament to believing in our future. Proud to say a few charter members continue to serve in their chapters.

Thank you to USWT staff for all your support. It has been an honor to serve as MAWT president.

United We Stand in Friendship.

Kathy Griffin
MAWT State President





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

United States Women of Today Friends,

Training is an ongoing process for the Minnesota Women of Today. We start with LOTS or Local Officer Training Session at the end of April or beginning of May to train the local chapter officers and local program managers in their areas as well as training for the full board. It is a one-day training that gives the local officers a good starting point for their year.

In June, we hold our MNJOTS (Minnesota June Officer Training) to train our staff, state program managers and district directors to give them the tools needed to hold their positions and it is a chance for them to get to know each other through some fun activities!

Our President/State Delegate Retreat is a one-day event where members of staff work with the chapter presidents and state delegates to offer additional training in their areas and gives a time for sharing after they have had a couple months in their areas.

We offer membership, programming, president, and state delegate roundtables at conventions as well as forums and enrichment activities at our Fall State and Winter State Conventions to learn more about a programming area or something they may not have known before – this year, they included CPR, youth homelessness, Crescent Cove, and Diabetes Awareness.

This year, at our regional meetings, a membership activity was held to encourage discussion on Orientation, Activation and Retention. After the meetings, we held a chapter operations training to discuss what can be done to ensure the chapter is operating efficiently and helping to have all members participating.

In Friendship,

Amy





Hello from Missouri!

We are coming to the end of another great year. Each of the Missouri chapters and their members continue to impact their communities. I would like to thank all the chapters for all their hard work and good deeds they have done this year. It is members like these that make a President's job easy. Thank you to my wonderful staff this year. You are the BEST!

We will elect new officers at our state meeting in May. I am confident that you can expect great things for Missouri in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Lisa King, President

Missouri State Women of Today



Greeting to All from Nebraska ~

Nebraska just held our Annual Convention on April 20th, and to say our Chapters rocked it this year is an understatement! We spent some time in our morning awards session listening to chapter Presidents discuss their year – all the amazing projects they've completed is nothing short of incredible. The work they are doing is just so heartwarming, and by sharing they give other chapters ideas of what might work in their area as well. It's truly about seeing everyone succeed, because if we succeed, our communities succeed.

You know it was a great year when State Officers have a difficult time narrowing choices for Outstanding Awards, and this was definitely the case. Our State had growth this year, ending with Base+3. We had one chapter, Heartland, achieve 100% retention all three trimesters and recruit two new members – now that's outstanding! We had 6 members receive a National Presidential Pin – 2 Executive State Board Officers, 2 Chapter Presidents and 2 chapter members, ALL so deserving, and one National Outstanding Officer plaque. I am so proud of this State and the work we do!

I'm saddened my year as State President has come to an end, but I have many great memories and successes to be enjoy and be proud of. I hope you all do to!

Shellie Haun

President, Nebraska Women of Today

Better Together



New Jersey is holding steady. Central New Jersey Chapter meets monthly for dinner or breakfast and has a monthly meeting. We are supporting the programs of area charities in our community. The leadership of the chapter will remain the same as this year. Jackson Chapter is still active running the local Food Pantry. Valarie Jasiocki recently lost her husband to cancer. Rachel Franz, a longtime member and Board member, recently passed. Rachel is the mother of Jackson President, Yvonne Thomas and grandmother of Jessica Thomas. Rachel was a friend to so many Women of Today members in the State.

A State meeting will be scheduled soon. Updated information will be sent to National prior to the Convention.

Have a wonderful convention!

Hugs,

Diane Stanaway

As I write this, I'm looking out my window and the sun is shining, but the snow is falling. We're currently getting ready for running concessions for a vendor. We are really hoping that the snow quits.



March was a busy month for us as we celebrated Easter with a prayer night, a fun night, and an Easter egg hunt. We are also gearing up for a fun filled April.

Juanita and I are really looking forward to Des Moines. It's always such fun to see everybody again. I can't believe that this year is almost over. I know that Tracey has lots to do before June but I know her and she'll get it done.

We're growing in sunshine in North Dakota. She writes with tongue and cheek

Pat Fern

North Dakota



Cozy Quilt Greetings from Pennsylvania,

On April 20th, we held our 3rd trimester meeting in Lititz. It was wonderful to have all our chapters represented. Together, we celebrated the many wonderful accomplishments we completed this past year. We were also honored to have USWT Secretary, Sue Beattie and USWT DVA PM, Julie Hutchinson join us for the weekend. The meeting ended with the election of our incoming 2024-2025 board.

President- Cindy Hilbert
 MVP/Treasurer- Deb Stein
 Programming VP- Nancy Wineholt
 Secretary/Activity Director- Aubrey Adams
 COB- Terry Pronko
 Chaplain- Merry Savey

Our chapters continue to be busy working on spring projects, Mother's Day projects, reviewing scholarship candidates as well as many chapter socials and elections. They are crocheting premie hats for the UNIC unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. They are collecting school supplies, books for a free library, food and clothing for the homeless, pet food and supplies for an animal rescue shelter and personal care items for a Women's shelter. Together we have touched the lives of so many people.

I'm so excited that five of us will be attending the convention. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone. I can't wait to celebrate all your accomplishments with all of you.

Sending hugs from PA,
 Cindy Hilbert

*HAVE YOU FOUND ALL (7)
 THE BOXED LETTERS?
 REARRANGE THEM TO FORM
 A WORD.*

HINT: THE WOMEN OF TODAY CAN
 ENABLE SOMEONE TO OBTAIN
 THIS. (MAKE STRONGER AND
 MORE CONFIDENT)