

# *Today's Focus*

## *Illinois Women of Today Newsletter - November 2024*



***President - Aimee Kaiser***

[President@illinoiswot.org](mailto:President@illinoiswot.org)

Happy Fall Y'all! The colors of fall are popping all around us so take some time to enjoy the beauty of it. Maybe you take a trip to a pumpkin patch and get some adorable pumpkins and gourds, or just maybe you take the kids and go pick apples at an apple orchard and enjoy some delicious apple cider donuts! Those are our family's favorite fall treats along with fresh apple cider. Whatever it is you and your family enjoy, make sure you take some time to do it and savor those moments together.

The holidays are just around the corner and will be here before you know it, but before that happens we hope you join us at the November All State to "Channel the Flannel" hosted by the Lincoln Land Chapter and will be held in beautiful Utica, IL. That will occur Nov. 8-10 so be sure to RSVP as soon as possible. We hope to see you there for the fun!

I gave out a challenge at the All State of "50 Acts of Kindness" by the April All State. If you wish to read about the why behind this challenge please see previous newsletters for that information. I wanted to give an update on the number we have received so far, as well as to thank all of you who have been sending me "kindness" texts! Keep up the great work of doing a kindness for someone in your life or who crosses your path. We are currently at 21 acts of kindness so we are almost halfway to my goal of 50 by April! I am quite sure that goal will be met and surpassed!!! So, I guess I better start saving up for my donation to the White Rose Scholarship.

Remember that Kindness Lights the Way...  
Aimee Kaiser, IWT President

### ***Debbie Funsch - State Events Coordinator***

Well we are going into the holiday seasons with the November All State being hosted by the Lincoln Land Chapter. There are plans for an eventful full weekend. Some members will be attending from Friday evening until Sunday, while others will just attend the meeting on Saturday.

Got Questions? Contact Terri Hebda or Debbie Funsch.

We are still in need of a host for April, have you given it any thought?

Thanks for reading, send me a text or email to answer this Question, for a chance to win a gift.

Debbie



### ***Daniel Kaiser - Membership Vice-President***

As we move into Fall, it is a great time as the season changes, to refocus on our IWT Membership. As we continue to keep growing, I am excited to announce that we have added 1 new member so far in the 2nd Trimester. Let's keep up this great momentum going for the remainder of 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 Incentive:*

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.

## *Reminder:*

- 2nd Trimester Dues Billing is due back to me no later than December 1st.
- Use the online Add & Change Form when:
  - Adding a new member
  - Changing a member's contact information
    - Address
    - Phone Number
    - Email

***Terri Hebda - COB***



***Please join in the fun by attending the NOVEMBER ALL STATE RETREAT, Channel the Flannel! Register NOW! The registration form is at the end of this newsletter!***

## ***Joy Hutchcraft - Secretary***

I hope everyone is planning to attend the upcoming IWT All State Retreat Convention in Utica on November 8 and 9. I know I am ready for some fun and relaxation! It sounds like there are many things planned for the weekend.

I want to let you know that the IWT State Directories have been completed. Please let me know if you did not receive one from me. I have been sending them out electronically these past few years to expedite the distribution while saving money on postage and printing. Thanks to the state and national board members, chapter presidents, and others who provided updates this year for the lists and general information. It takes a while to compile but serves as a handy resource for contacts, meeting dates, past award recipients, bylaws and policies, emphasis months, and more.

Thanks Illinois Women of Today for all you continue to give in terms of time, expertise, and financial support to this organization. I look forward to seeing you in November!

## ***Chellie Funsch - Treasurer***



***Hello Illinois Members!***

***I'm so excited for the upcoming November All State – why? Because first I get to see my friends AKA 'Family', have a great time with plenty of food and LOTS of laughter. Not to mention I get to wear flannel pjs to a meeting – WHAT? Don't worry Madam President – I won't do that to you! LOL!***

***Are you enjoying the fall weather? Cool crisp mornings, warm weather throughout the day and then cool evenings. Great sleeping weather if you ask me.***

***Okay down to business:***

***November baskets will be provided by the current State Board.***

*April baskets will be provided by the Chapters.*

*Remember, 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.*

*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*

*In other news, USWT will be having a popcorn fundraiser the week of November 10<sup>th</sup> through November 16<sup>th</sup> and I WOULD LIKE YOUR SUPPORT. Please email me and I will send the link to you. Who doesn't like popcorn? I could eat it 24/7.*

*Last but certainly not least, happy holidays to you and yours! May you make many memories with family and friends.*

*Love to all!*

*Chellie*

*Julie Peart*

*Howdy from Springfield - How is everyone enjoying this fall season so far? The cooler temperatures and falling leaves make me want to go on a road trip and afterward, snuggle under my "woobie" with a cup of hot, mulled wine - ahhhh, yummm!*

*October is the emphasis month for DVA plus Buckets of Sunshine and Extensions. President Jane is asking chapters to participate in the USWT "Make a COLORFUL Difference Day" on the 26th, which is this Saturday. Please let me know what your chapter did and send an email to USWT Programming VP Lisa Hahn at [pvp@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:pvp@uswomenoftoday.org), and cc me at [programmingvp@illinoiswot.org](mailto:programmingvp@illinoiswot.org).*

*Additionally, please remember to let me know if you have submitted any of the USWT Programming forms which include WPD certifications, Community*

*Connections, DVA transmittals, and Buckets of Sunshine, Project Report and S.T.E.P. forms which should be on the national website, [www.uswomenoftoday.org](http://www.uswomenoftoday.org), and working properly now. I've had a few responses, and I'm hoping to receive more by next year's deadline of May 1st.*

*Looking forward to channeling some flannel with everyone at the upcoming All-State.*

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

*If you need anything else, please don't hesitate to let me know..*

*Thanks again,  
Julie :)*

### ***Barb Wigell - Extensions***

#### ***Open Hearts Open Hands Open Mind***

*I've been very busy this month. I attended annual USWT mid-year in Omaha. The presentations on extensions were very informative. I will share some ideas with you at the November Allstate. I want everyone to think Potomac. Also research it and let me know what you like about it. (My idea for an extension.) For those of you who are not attending the Allstate please drop me an email. As we hibernate this winter let's stay in touch and again think Potomac.*

***In Friendship, Barb***



***Daniel Kaiser - Webmaster/ Facebook***

## **Greetings!**

Send your suggestions for FB & the Website to [webmaster@illinoiswot.org](mailto:webmaster@illinoiswot.org)

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

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

US Website: <https://uswomenoftoday.org/> has been completely redesigned and launched a new platform. If accessing the 2024-2025 Directory you will need the following password: uswtmember.



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

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



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## *News from The Chapters*



Greetings from the Busy Bees in Pawnee! We are still busier than ever in Pawnee. We have signed another new member in 2nd Trimester. We would like welcome Elizabeth to the Busy Bees. Elizabeth is no stranger to Women of Today as she is the daughter of Daniel & Aimee and is excited to be serving as co-secretary with Aimee.

Our T-shirt fundraiser was a success with over \$200.00 raised for our Angel Fund. None of us were able to attend USWT Mid-Year Convention, but hear that it was a good time. We are already making our plans to travel to

Duluth in June 2025.

We held a card making event to benefit Cardz for Kidz at the end of Women of Today week and had 2 guests in attendance. We are having our monthly meetings and are planning some fun events for the remainder of 2024. We will have another card making event in November to make holiday cards for area nursing homes, a Holiday Social to be hosted by one of our members in their home and will be shopping for 2 kids that we will adopt from our local angel tree. We are excited in Pawnee about growing our chapter and celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Women of Today.





## ***Greetings from Crystal Lake!***

***CLWT had a dinner to celebrate Women of Today Week, and we collected food and items for the emergency pantry at Turning Point Women's Shelter. There was a candlelight vigil held in Woodstock for victims of Domestic Violence and a member attended that and a film screening that explained warning signs of domestic violence. December 2nd will be our annual Holiday Party and Raffle. Members donate handmade or purchased items and then we sell raffle tickets and have a drawing for the items. The proceeds will go to the Home of the Sparrow, a shelter for victims of domestic violence.***

***We all have so much to be thankful for, and we wish you a blessed Thanksgiving Season.***



## CHANNEL THE FLANNEL

NOVEMBER 8 & 9, 2024

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. 153<sup>RD</sup> ST ORLAND PARK, IL 60464 CHECKS MADE

PAYABLE TO: LINCOLN LAND WOT

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