

# NEWSLET



Dear Minnesota Women of Today members,

What an exciting time of year as we end my term and meet the prospective team for this coming year. I remember the excitement of the planning and traveling as I campaigned across the state of Minnesota sharing our team's visions and goals one year ago. I felt ready to tackle the world and make sure that my team and I left a legacy where we had made a difference.

So here I am one year later and reviewing my original plan of action and goals. Did we accomplish everything that we had set out to do? We came close but realized now that some of what we had hoped to achieve in terms of communication improvement and membership goals takes longer than 12 months. The good news is that much of my team as well as myself who will be serving as Chairman of the Board are continuing on in leadership roles next year and stay committed to continuing the emphasis on change.

We do want to celebrate what has been accomplished:

- 1) Our programming team led significant changes to the programming area by combining the Internal and External Vice President positions. Not only creating efficiencies but also impacting the state budget for next year.
- 2) The same team proposed changes to State Program Manager positions that will create coordinator positions allowing more members to get involved without the time and cost expenses of an executive council position all while maintaining the integrity of the tools our chapters need and use. These will be voted on by your elected positions at the annual convention Executive Council meeting.
- 3) Our membership team worked on improvement of an updated onboarding letter for our new members with a \$5 coupon for state store purchases that was consistently mailed each trimester.
- 4) They also worked on the implementation of both a North and South Close Out celebration at the end of each trimester which gave more members across the state the opportunity to understand the fellowship that happens during this night. The emphasis of this night was about celebration and thank you...not about getting new numbers.
- 5) This team organized the first state wide social where members from all over the state joined in for a weekend of crafting and fellowship.
- 6) Many team members were and continue to be involved in the support of enhancements to our communication tools through member email opportunities and a new website – both of which should be up and running by this coming year.

None of this would have been possible without the support of each one of you. Your dedication to continuing your membership in our organization is appreciated. We continue to be open to hearing from you in terms of what recommendations you feel we need to consider to continue this journey toward an organization that continues to live the belief that "we leave the world a better place because we lived and served within it."

In friendship,

**Brenda K. Sather**  
2018-19 President  
Minnesota Women of Today

LEAD  
the  
WAY



## Minnesota Women of Today

Chapter Service Center

PO Box 44242

Eden Prairie, MN 55344

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## Introducing Your 2019-2020 Presidential Candidate

### Cathy Shuman

### Presidential Candidate 2019-2020



Submitted by Shelli Struzyk, Chairman of the Board

Cathy Shuman (Cat) of the Monticello Women of Today is pleased to announce her candidacy for the office of State President of the Minnesota Women of Today.

Cat states, "I truly believe that Women of Today offers something for every member, and I plan to share my convictions and commitment for our organization throughout the year. Key aspects of our organization include membership, community involvement, programming, and personal growth. I believe that we must support all of these areas in order to build a strong base in each of our chapters and for the overall organization. I treasure the countless friends that I have made because of Women of Today. I value the lessons that I learned as I worked on many community projects, provided service to others, and raised money to donate to worthy causes. I am grateful to this organization for all that has been given to me, the many opportunities for growth, and the chance to make a difference in this world. I look forward to making connections with members and chapters across the state!"

Cat has served the MNWT on every level of our organization including: Local-every Board Position at least once; District-DD, EVP & IVP, DPM (many), Secretary and Treasurer; State SPM-March of Dimes, SPM Ways & Means, Marketing Committee Chair, Future Directions Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair; EVP, Treasurer (2), AVP; National-Extensions Director, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Secretary, Ambassador Club and US Founders Charities. She has also been a part of extensions, a member of the Key Women Club and served on the MNWT Foundation.

Her chapter writes, "Cathy is a determined, hard-working, creative, organized, dedicated and a passionate person when it comes to this organization. We admire her spirit and true passion for the Women of Today organization. She has been a wealth of knowledge to her local chapter, district and state regarding Women of Today and contributes wholeheartedly to the success of our organization."

Cat lives in Monticello with her husband of almost 45 years, Ed. They have a son Greg who also lives in Monticello with his girlfriend Joyce. Cat and her husband are both retired but are still very busy.

Cat shares that she treasures her 30 years in the organization and that she has had the pleasure of "Making Connections" with so many members and in her community. She believes that we can make even more connections with our neighbors, in our communities and to also connect the strengths and talents of her team members with the general membership across the state.

#### Cat's Goals:

- Achieve growth +1 for year-end and achieve retention of 75% each trimester and year-end
- Promote orientation and activation of new members within first 30 to 60 days
- Develop a buddy system between state staff/executive council members and chapters
- Make one-on-one connection with each chapter at least once per trimester
- Prepare and provide trimester "Connection packets: for each chapter to use in their community
- Plan and hold "Connection events" for 10 communities without Women of Today chapters
- Educate chapters on implementation of new programming changes
- Educate chapters on budgeting and ways and means funding in their chapters and at district, state and national levels
- Promote fundraising for Domestic Violence Awareness organizations

#### Cat's Prospective Staff:

Administrative Vice President: Illeana Miller, Monticello

Membership Vice President: Open

Chapter Management Vice President: Barb Zeroth, Rice

Programming Vice President: Melissa Redzuan, Eden Prairie

Financial Vice President: Amy Pumper, Byron

Extensions Director: Jenise Teske, Fridley

Secretary: Christine Sibilleau, Roseau

Parliamentarian: Wendy Lindberg, Coon Rapids

Presidential Assistant: Barb Berndtson, Monticello

## Fairmont Chapter has an “Instant” Hit with Cooking Classes

By Sue Bay, President of the Fairmont chapter

What started out as 2 members chit chatting about recipes they had tried in their instant pot cooking devices has turned into a popular community education class in our region.

Our chapter has an informal gathering each month we refer to as Ladies Who Lunch. It all began as a couple of members who owned the newest cooking tool were commonly in conversations about what recipes they had tried and little tricks they had learned about their pots. It led to other members asking them to teach us about the Instant Pot.

One Saturday evening, 8 members, each with a bottle of wine in hand, gathered at Denise Lewison’s home anxiously waiting the instructions of Erin and Denise on how to use this sheik machine. We had a great evening together, and at the conclusion of the night, we had our tummies full and 8 empty bottles of wine.

Not everyone ran out to purchase a new instant pot, but I did. I jumped right in and with the help of Pinterest, I became a cooking machine. I found myself sending text messages to Erin or Denise asking questions from the only experts I knew.

As a group, we thought it would be fun to try this as a class with the local community education outlets and we found success in the community. In the month of November, we hosted 3 sold out classes and introduced basic knowledge of pressure cooking. Our menu for these classes was spaghetti, chicken ranch tacos, steamed California vegetables, applesauce and yogurt.

We took a break around the holidays and offered additional classes in January. Only one class was held with several canceled with weather issues. February brought our first advanced class with much praise from the attendees! This class was all about good food and guests asking questions and sharing recipes that had been tested in their kitchens. We served cheeseburger macaroni, Swedish meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots and cheesecake.

We will be continuing to offer more advance classes in April and are pleased with the positive feedback we have been receiving from guests in attendance.

## St. Cloud Empty Bowls

by Mary Hansen

Despite the snow storm and change to Daylight Savings time, on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, seven of the St. Cloud Women of Today were joined by their District Director, Michelle Kocak-Jones and one guest gathered at “Art As You Like It” in Waite Park. We gathered to paint and decorate ceramic bowls. These ceramic bowls will be donated to Place of Hope Church in St. Cloud. They will be used at an upcoming event on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> known as Empty Bowls.

Empty Bowls is an annual event that is a fund raiser for Place of Hope. There is live music all day, many varieties of tasty soup to sample that is donated from area restaurants and a small vendor fair. The bowls that we decorated, along with hundreds of other bowls that others have done, will be available for each guest to choose from to take one home as a reminder that someone’s bowl is always empty.

St. Cloud Women of Today have been doing bowls for the four years now and we plan on going to the Empty Bowl event on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

A bonus to the day was that our guest became our most recent new member!

## Maple Grove Women of Today Support the Ambassador Scholarship Program

By Bonnie Marten

For the past several years, the Maple Grove Women of Today have sponsored a candidate for the **Ambassador Scholarship Program** that runs in conjunction with Maple Grove Days. This year, our candidate Sophie Kloncz, won and is now a Maple Grove Ambassador. The candidate gives a summary statement about their sponsor at a few events. Sophie noted that the Women of Today creed closely resembles the mission of the MG Ambassador Scholarship Program which is to provide the opportunity for personal and professional growth through involvement in community and increased awareness of the greater community around us.

The three Ambassadors work at community events throughout their year, including a Mommy, Tea and Me event that the Ambassadors sponsor. Our chapter made a donation to Sophie for the event. Sophie volunteered with our chapter at Feed My Starving Children and visited several of our meetings. This has proven to be a wonderful partnership.



From left to right, Maple Grove WT members Maggie, Bonnie and RoseAnn with our Ambassador Candidate, Sophie

## Let’s Go Team!

by Cindy Golbuff, External Programming Vice President

Service hours are any time that is used in educating, fundraising, writing an article, giving a report, passing out information, project fairs and expos, working on a project, and more. Everyone’s hourly contribution involved in making an event, papers, or project happen are counted as service hours. It is very important to include this information on your Programming Trimester Report. Here is the link: [http://www.mnwt.org/pdfs/otherPDFs/bof/form\\_pm\\_trimester\\_report-2016.pdf](http://www.mnwt.org/pdfs/otherPDFs/bof/form_pm_trimester_report-2016.pdf)

You can always submit for previous trimesters until the 3rd trimester deadline in May. Submitting the **Only** way that the Minnesota Women of Today is able to **really** know the impact we are having on the foundations and communities we support. Let’s continue to work together to continually acknowledge this hard work that everyone does at Annual Convention!

### Ways to Track Service Hours

Ask your Chapter President to put an “information needed” line in the meeting agenda. Information needed can include the number of members participating, service hours, dollars raised. When the chair or committee reports, information can be filled in.

Have paper copies of Programming Trimester report available at each meeting. Encourage PVP’s and LPMs to record any monthly activity in their area during the meeting. You can send this online or by mail.

Encourage project final reports with information to be included in your chapter newsletters. All members can use this information to complete their reports.

At your meetings, define what area each project should fall under. Remember that there are new members that are LPMs and may not always be sure of what area an activity or project should be under.

MINWT keeps track of all donated funds and in-kind donations for the presentation at the Annual Convention. **DO NOT FORGET** to submit the Programming Trimester report so we know your chapter’s involvement! You can find a link to the online report on any External State Program Managers webpage or my own. Here it is again: [http://www.mnwt.org/pdfs/otherPDFs/bof/form\\_pm\\_trimester\\_report-2016.pdf](http://www.mnwt.org/pdfs/otherPDFs/bof/form_pm_trimester_report-2016.pdf)

## Marketing Committee News

Please help us welcome the 2019-2020 MNWT Statewide Buckets of Sunshine Project [Sweet Dreams for Kids](#). Look for more information in the MNJOTS CIP, but if you have any questions or would like to help, contact [mktg-statewideproject@mnwt.org](mailto:mktg-statewideproject@mnwt.org).

It's not too early for planning the Fall State 2019 Expo. The Marketing Committee always looks for vendors to add to this event. If you are a vendor and would like to have a booth, please contact [mktg-expo@mnwt.org](mailto:mktg-expo@mnwt.org) for more information.

The MNWT Marketing Committee is hoping to fill some open positions for the 2019-2020 year. If you have a background in marketing, public relations, graphic design, social media, or are just plain interested in finding out more about this committee and what we do, please contact [marketing@mnwt.org](mailto:marketing@mnwt.org), or come to our next meeting on July 27.



## Our Lakes are Superior!

The USWT Year-End 2019 Convention is hosted by our very own Duluth WT chapter. It will be held June 13-16, 2019, at the [Inn on Lake Superior](#) in Duluth. You may [register online](#) at or [print registration](#), complete it and mail to Cindy Sanders, 4111 Emerson Road, Duluth, MN 55803. If you have any questions, contact Cindy at [cindy.sanders@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.sanders@gmail.com) or 612-816-8378.

Look for promotions on Facebook for this event [@USWTYE2019](#), and please indicate that you are going! We will be running selfie contests, "Any Season on the Lake" promotions, and videos of Minute-To-Win-It, Being a Duluth Tourist, Scavenger Hunt, etc. Watch for our posts and share some facts about your lakes with us, too! Please create your own videos and be sure to share your posts to this event; or on your state/chapter FB page and use #USWTYE2019 so we can find them in order for you to be eligible for the contests.

*Don't Delay! Reserve Your Spot Today!*

## MNWT 3rd Trimester Finance Fundraiser Guiltless Bakeless Healthy Bakesale

- We know that you are working to eat healthy in the new year AND
- Don't have the time to bake goodies for a bake sale

SO we are holding a bakeless "healthy" bakesale

For a **DONATION** to MN Women of Today, members and/or chapters can "purchase" any of the goodies listed below!

**Disclaimer...this is a DONATION only - you will not receive the baked goods.**

For each \$10 in donation you contribute, you will be in a drawing for a Jumbo Decorated Chocolate Cookie and a baking basket to be awarded at Annual Convention. You can mail a check made payable to MN Women of Today and send to PO Box 44242, Eden Prairie, MN 55344 or make your donation on line [through paypal through the link on front page of the MNWT web site; mnwt.org](#).



Chocolate Cookies  
Donation - \$5



Whole Pie  
Donation - \$10



Decadent Chocolate Cake  
Donation - \$20



Jumbo Turtle Cheesecake  
Donation - \$50

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate  your donation(s):  \$5 (cookies)  \$10 (pie)  \$25 (cake)  \$50 (cheesecake)

TOTAL Amount of Donation(s): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to 'MN Women of Today' and mail to:

MN Women of Today  
Chapter Service Center  
PO BOX 44242  
Eden Prairie MN 55344

Questions? Contact us at [fvp@mnwt.org](mailto:fvp@mnwt.org)

## SPM Bids Wanted

By Cindy Golbuff, External Programming VP

We are looking for enthusiastic members to be our next leaders in the programming areas for 2019-2020. If you have a passion for one of our areas, becoming a State Program Manager will give you the opportunity to promote an area you enjoy. Programming areas include:

**External:** Benefits the community and foundations supported by the MNWT — Community Connections, Women's Wellness, Youth of Today, Priority Program: Wishes and More.

**Internal:** Benefits the local chapter and its members — Living and Learning

Contact me at [evp@mnwt.org](mailto:evp@mnwt.org) or IVP Stephanie at [ivp@mnwt.org](mailto:ivp@mnwt.org) for more information.

## LEAD the WAY

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Name Message Is For: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Message (25 word limit): \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lead the Way Personal Messages

Jenise, Kathy, Sharla: To the Best External programming All Star TEAM! Thank you for everything you continue to do for this organization and the communities! It has been a year of incredible joy to be on a team with you ladies! ~Cindy G, EVP

Congratulations Jenise Teske on the Programming Award of Excellence! ~ Cindy G, EVP

Congratulations Amazing All Stars- Kathy Hansen and Sharla Kilen on your Medallions! So proud of you and all your accomplishments! ~Cindy G, EVP

Executive Council: You are an amazing group of ladies and I am honored to have spent this year with you as External Vice President. Thank you! ~Cindy G, EVP

Secret Sis- Thank you so much for the wonderful, considerate gifts this year! You are so thoughtful! ~Cindy G, EVP

Shenanigan Sisters- Julie H, Kelly P, Princess Shellie, Karen, Amy – Thank you ladies for your support, friendship and keeping me awake most nights at convention! Thank you for your support and always being there! Love ya! Ms Sparkles

President Brenda- Thank you for your support, guidance and leadership this year! Your arrow gave us a point of direction and reminded us to be looking forward. My word from MNJOTS is Grateful. And I am Grateful for the opportunity to be a part of your team and being able to help Lead the Way! ~ Cindy G, EVP

Congratulations Barb, Illeana and Christine on the Key Women Award! You have made an impact on the organization and our communities with all that you do! ~Cindy G, EVP.