

Annual Executive Council Meeting Staff Reports - Minnesota Women of Today

Webex Meeting

Sunday May 17, 2020

President Illeana Miller called the Annual Executive Council meeting of the Minnesota Women of Today to order at 11:06am. Melanie Chenoweth, Living & Learning State Program Manager, read an invocation. Tawn Hanson, our community connections SPM led the Pledge of Allegiance, and District 6 Director, led the United States Women of Today Creed. Parliamentarian Melissa Redzuan read the Orders of the Day. A quorum has been established.

Secretary – Barb Monsrud (secretary@mnwt.org)

- DD's please fill out and send me your chapter mileage forms by MNJOTS
- Looking for donations for the STATE POA. Any person/chapter/district that donated will be put into a drawing for a wine & chocolate basket. Illeana stated that if I can raise funds over \$915.00 she will wear MN Vikings Gear.

Administrative Vice President – Michelle Kocak Jones (avp@mnwt.org)

Membership Vice President – Tevyan Sorensen (mvp@mnwt.org)

Hello! I am so excited to be meeting with you all today and congratulate you on accepting the invitation to RISE together to continue to grow and evolve this incredible organization. I know we are in uncharted waters and many of our chapters are looking for support on how to RISE to the challenge.

I am here to put out the call to each of you to Gather Your Flock. This is intended to be a call to not only bring in new members but also activate and retain the members you have (or once had). Chapters and their members are the power of this organization and there is proof that where the membership is low, not just 10 but those in the low teens, the chapter struggles. Chapters need members to conduct projects, lead the group, hold events and allow for the ups & downs of life.

Every district has at least one chapter that ended this year with a loss of members and every district has at least one chapter that has less than 15 members. I don't say this to point fingers, but rather to tell you we are all in this together and we will each be the others best resources. We are going to be working this year on supporting our chapters on gaining or accelerating positive momentum in the membership area and this may look different for each chapter as each chapter is starting in a different place.

You will be hearing more from me as we get moving this trimester with real, tangible ideas and information for your chapters and districts. I want to kick off with incentives that may encourage you or that you can take back to your chapters and districts to help them start planning here at the beginning of the year. These are designed to help chapters connect with their members and work on their bonds as a group.

The 1st Tri Challenge is a ROAR challenge with one task in each Membership Action Area. This is the challenge for Success Presidential Bonus points as well as MVP recognition.

Recruiting – Hold an m-Event (virtual or in-person) and invite MVP Tevyan Sorensen to it;

Orientation – Conduct an orientation or present a mini-orientation at a chapter meeting; There is a sample orientation agenda for chapters that are new to this.

Activate – Invite members to fill out a "Get To Know You" form & share with your members; Retention – Send out "Thinking of You" postcards to members. These cards are being mailed to chapter Presidents or the chapter mailbox in the next week. Email details to MVP@mnwt.org to get credit.

2. There are several opportunities for incentives & recognition: Complete Fast Start for a Thank You; 100% retention gets \$10 state store gift card; 75% or better retention will be entered into a gift basket drawing; For each NMA, a chapter will be entered in a gift basket drawing; 3 NMAs get a \$15 state store gift card; and 4 NMAs in a month (or a in-chapter extension) receive a gift from MVP.

3. We are going to be celebrating and recognizing Membership not just on Mondays or Tuesdays or any other day but ALL week this year with Membership Weeks. These are June 28th-July 4th, November 29th-December 5th, and March 28th-April 3rd, 2021. Hold an M-event and send me a Picture to be entered in a drawing for a membership fun box. Sign 1or more new members at a M-Week event and notify MVP by email, text, messenger, phone, carrier pigeon...whatever to receive a fun thank you.

I know this may seem like a lot to do, but really this can be boiled down to the four things in the ROAR Challenge and having your M-Event during the M-Week. Just make sure you are encouraging guests or friends to join you.

But even some of this can seem overwhelming and we get it! So this year, the membership team is available to hold virtual sessions with chapters or boards who are looking for support with gathering their flock. We have a list working of some chapters we are going to be proactively reaching out to in order to meet with them. We will be including the DDs in these conversations where possible. However, we are here for any chapters! Contact cmvp_Tevyan or cmvp_Jenise to set a session up.

I joined this organization when I needed a place...friends, energy, and an outlet. It is why I still love this organization! I invite each of you to connect with your Why and think about the ladies in your life (or those you don't even know yet) that also have that need. Invite them in and help them find their flock too

Chapter Management Vice President – Janise Teske (cmvp@mnwt.org)

- No extension in progress.
- Two completed extensions, now 2 & Under--Rogers-Otsego-Dayton and St. Joseph; I will be mentoring the R-O-D chapter and Cathy Snyder/Lisa Hahn will continue to work with the St. Joe chapter.
- No prospects known at this time for extensions.
- TLC chapters: Staples-Motley, Virginia, Big Lake, Eastern Carver County, Eden Prairie, Savage, Jackson, Hawley, Montevideo, and Lake of the Woods. Wilmar, Thief River Falls, and East Central (formerly Mora) expected to fold

Extensions Director – OPEN (extensions@mnwt.org)

Programming Vice President – Anna Nichols (pvp@mnwt.org)

- Hello Everyone. I am excited to be here online with you today along with my fabulous programming team. I will be your PVP this year. You will have all year to listen to me talk, let me jump right into letting the wonderful SPMs introduce themselves to you.
- Anna (PVP): Thank you ladies. Who else is excited to learn more about what they have to offer? I like to end my reports with a little motivational "thing". Being apart doesn't mean we stop volunteering. We all have an opportunity to think outside the box and find ways to keep our chapters active. The Programming Team is here to support you, your chapters, your communities, **and others**. Thank you.

Living and Learning SPM—Melanie Chenoweth (ll@mnwt.org)

- Hello everyone this is Melanie. I will be your Living and Learning SPM. My theme is Be your Best Self. I am really excited to see what everyone discovers about themselves.

Priority Area SPM / Wishes and More - Jennifer Auger (priority-area@mnwt.org)

- I 'm Jennifer, your SPM for Priority Area, where we will be Unlocking Wishes with Wishes & More. I look forward to finishing our final year strong supporting this fantastic organization.

Women's Wellness SPM - Shanna Pratt (ww@mnwt.org)

- Hello, I'm Shanna. I'll be your Women's Wellness SPM this year. My theme is We're In This Together. My focus will be on educating members about mental illness, the perceived stigmas, and some support that is available.

Youth of Today SPM - Glorie Belfonz (yt@mnwt.org)

- My name is Glorie and I am SPM for Youth of Today. My theme is Young at Heart. I am looking forward to telling everyone about the Children's Minnesota Foundation. I will also be promoting Kids Week and collecting for the OYA Scholarship.

Community Connection SPM - Tawn (cc@mnwt.org)

- Hi I'm Tawn. I'm your Community Connections SPM. My theme is giving power to our communities. I will be supporting Habitat for Humanity this year.

Financial Vice President - Mary Hanson (fvp@mnwt.org)

- Budget and Finance meeting via zoom on May 22, 2020
- Will be looking for fund raising ideas from members and staff
- Make sure that your budget request paperwork is turned in.

Parliamentarian – Melissa Redzuan (parli@mnwt.org)

- Policy and Bylaw review will be determined at a later date. I will get in touch with Wendy past Parli for material and manual. Work with Katie and Cat on motions at MNJOTs
- Other business-No other business.

Chairman of the Board – Cat Schuman (cob@mnwt.org)

- My theme is "Staying Connected" and I will be using the same logo as last year.
- USWT Convention – will be held online June 11-13; there is no cost but you will need to register to receive the information and meeting links. I will make sure that everyone gets a registration form and schedule emailed to them.
- State Committees – chairs are Brenda Sather for Future Directions, Christine Sibilleau for Marketing, and Michelle Cloutier for Membership Management. We are looking at potential dates of July 5th, Nov 21st, and Mar 20th for committee meetings, if those work with the state calendar. State staff members hold ex officio positions on the various committees. I will email a form with that information.
- Program Assistant positions – Success Coordinator is Rita Johnson, PRAssistant is Jeny Ohr, and Newslet Editor is Jessica Schultz. CMVP oversees Success Coordinator, Exec Director oversees PR Assistant, and Secretary oversees Newslet Editor. Please contact them and try to include information from these people in your CIPs.
- ONTO Committee – If it's likely that you will be attending national convention, think about being on the ONTO Committee. Let me know if I can add your name to the list and get you appointed at MNJOTS.
- Elections Committee – I will be working on selecting election reps for the 4 areas to be in place by Fall State convention.

Executive Director – Katie Castro (csc@mnwt.org)

- **Agenda Items**

- **Drop In Tech Session TOday**

- **MN JOTS**

- **Clothing Order**

You can find this document at: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/R5SdTQ58u4yhl>

****Directory.** This document is going to be shared with everyone on the exec council and used to help us find you when needed. This publication is disbursed to everyone MNJOTS weekend. Please also fill this document out on the link provided by FRIDAY, MAY 22. You can find this at:

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/ye236fdYe3foc0kflpwCmc>

****Ornament.** At the Mid-year Executive Council meeting, you will be asked to have a tree ornament with you to give to President Illana with YOUR theme on it. Please start thinking about what you will want to do to highlight your role on her RISE team.

****Quilt square.** More information on this to come. I can't distribute squares virtually. 😊 But know that you will be receiving information on creating a square with your theme that will be put into a quilt for President Illeana.

****Pictures.** There are a lot of things that we will want to share with Illeana throughout the year. One of the great ways to do this will be with PICTURES. Please, share with me all the photos you get during the MNWT year. Not just with President Illeana in them, but also of just you, your teams, and chapters etc. You can email them to me with the PA@mnwt.org address, or when on Facebook, tag me (Wendy Lindberg and/or Wendy Hauger) on photos of your chapter, district, and area events. (Tagging can be done simply by adding a @Wendy Lindberg or @Wendy Hauger to your descriptions or comments portions of your Facebook posts)

I am really looking forward to this year and thank you all for your attention to these items and helping me complete these tasks.

Please let me know if you have any questions or there is ever anything I can help clarify for you etc. I have been in this spot before and know how overwhelming this information can feel today! Just take big breaths and one step at a time. You have got this and I am here to (presidentially) assist! 😊

Let's RISE and SHINE with an AMAZING year on our executive council!!

Thank you,
Wendy

Future Directions Chair - Brenda Sather (fdc@mnwt.org)

- NONE

Membership Marketing Chair - Christine Sibilleau (marketing@mnwt.org)

- The emphasis for the Marketing Committee this year will be on encouraging our organization to embrace new technology and Social Media, working on the Marketing portion of the 2020 Strategic Plan, and continuing to support programs developed by the last Marketing Committee
- We will only succeed by working on these components together, that while aren't connected are needed in order for the rest of the assembly to continue functioning without seizing up - which will be represented in my logo with cogs and gears (still thinking what that will look like)

Membership Management Committee Chair - Michelle Cloutier (mmc@mnwt.org)

- My theme for the year is Spread Your Wings. As we RISE and Find Our Flock, we will encourage our members to spread their wings and take flight with Women of Today this year. And the Member management Committee could use your help!

When you think of membership, do you think you could see yourself supporting those activities? Do you have a passion for recruiting or activating the passion for Women of Today in current members?

With the tools, resources and State Staff we can take this area to new heights!

MMC has openings for Area Reps & At-Large Members. What is needed to be a part of this committee:

- ★ The ability to serve a one year term on the committee.
- ★ Be a part of a task force that could be working to develop tools and potentially supporting training at chapter, district or state events.
- ★ You are also requested to attend the three committee meetings during the year.

Please send a message to mmc@mnwt.org if you are interested in being a part of this committee. One thing that I will be starting this year will be our weekly post on Facebook. It will be called Friendship Friday. 😊 It will be a weekly post around, friendship, joy, kindness, and loving yourself.

Let's spread our wings and take flight!

Michelle Cloutier

President of the MN Women of Today—Illeana Miller

Greetings exec council! I am thrilled to be here with you all today as we celebrate the start of a new year. Each one of you will play a special part in our organization this year and I know that you all will RISE to the challenges presented to you.

When I think back to my first time on exec council and my first council meeting I remember sitting here excited, overwhelmed, and slightly panicked. As a member of only about a year and a half I was starting to wonder what the heck did I get myself into?! I will be honest, I learned A LOT that year. Some good, some bad, but what was most important was that I could do it.

I look back on my first year and think man, I should have done this or I should have done that. Then I realize, had I not made the decisions that I did back then, I would not be the person that I am today. Each interaction, each failure, each success that I had molded me into the person that I am today.

I hope that you all understand that it's ok to feel nervous or anxious. I'm not gonna lie, I am right here with you. We have very important jobs to do this year. It will take all of us working together to help our chapters and it's members to overcome any obstacles that are thrown their way.

I want you all to know that myself and the rest of the staff are here to help you. We are here to support you in anything you may need, be a shoulder to cry on, be someone to laugh with, be someone to bounce ideas off of, or whatever you may need. We want you all to know that we are all in this together.

It is together that we will RISE to any challenges that are thrown at us. I know that right now it may be hard to see that we will get through this all, but we will. And we will emerge stronger, more resilient and more confident that we knew we could.

In the words of General Leia from Star Wars " Hope is like the sun. If you only believe in it when you can see it, you'll never make it through the night". I believe in the sun at all times and I know that it will rise tomorrow just like I know that through the work that each and every one of you amazing women will do this year, our organization will emerge stronger and more resilient than ever before.

Melanie Chenoweth, Living and Learning State Program Manager, read the benediction. Sue Bay, District 10 Director, led the MN Women of Today Creed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm

Meeting minutes submitted by Barb Monsrud, 2020/21 State Secretary