

# MNWT Chapter Mailing

**April/May 2024  
Issue 8**



**Staff & SPM News  
Committee News  
Calendar  
Tech Page**

I have hidden four brown S's (this one doesn't count) in this issue of the Chapter Mailing. Find all four and email me at [secretary@mnwt.org](mailto:secretary@mnwt.org) with where you found them, and you will be entered into a drawing for a magical prize at Annual Convention!

Dear Minnesota Women of Today,

As I write this, I think of the possibilities ahead of us as we finish our year. The possibilities are truly endless! There have been some great membership success stories, awesome projects, and amazingly fun activities for our members. We can continue working to meet our goals and execute to ensure we are ending the year on a positive note.

When I refer to positive note, I mean working to achieve the goals you set at the beginning of the year, submitting deserving members for awards, completing your Programming Trimester reports, and preparing your new officers for their roles in the new year. It is also a great idea to celebrate your year and install your new officers. I hear members saying there is so much paperwork and I just can't do that. If you would rather send an email to our PVP on what your chapter has done, go for it. Make sure you share with your community as well as to what you are doing!

As much as I would love to see the Minnesota Women of Today attain growth for the year, I think it is most important to have healthy chapters working as a team to attain goals, meet the needs of your community and your members. We are all in this together and my staff and I are here to support you if you need it.

Let's continue the momentum and share the possibilities and positive vibes to end this Women of Today the best way possible! Each of us as members plays a part in the success of the overall organization! I will be excited to celebrate with all of you at the Annual Convention in May!

Thank you for helping me create "Visions of Success" this year!

In friendship,

Amy Pumper

*"The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high, and we miss it, but that it is too low, and we reach it." - Michelangelo*



Here we are at the end of the year already .....

I am so excited to see each of you at Annual Convention in Alexandria. The MNWT State Delegates will be hosting the convention and have a few fun surprises in store for you. We're going to have a "Rip Roarin' Stompin' Good Time" celebrating all your successes for the year!! So, saddle up, send in your registration form by April 29<sup>th</sup> and make your room, registration!

***"Leave A Little Sparkle Wherever You Go"***  
***Shirley Viesselman, AVP***

*"Every day is a great day to give love, spread joy, and SPARKLE!" – Sheri Fink*



Hello, Chapters

I am looking forward to sharing the Membership Numbers with you at the Annual Convention.

Thank you for your hard work. You were all Most Valuable Players this year. Please share all you have learned about Recruiting, Orientation, Activation and Retention with your new Chapter Membership Team!

Share the 5 Traits of a Healthy Chapter with your chapter so you are ready for all the new members you find. Support the new MNWT Membership Team by sending someone to the Membership Roundtable at the Annual Convention.

I cannot wait to see what they have planned for the next year.

***"Believe in Your Vision"***  
***Glorie Balfanz, MVP***

*"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out  
how far one can go." – T. S. Eliot*



Happy April! It has been a pleasure to work with so many chapters this year to strengthen your chapters for now and in the future. Know that if you are having issues or need help with training or operations, the Chapter Management VP is a resource for you.

### Local Officer Training Session (LOTS) – May 4

Incoming Board members and LPMs are encouraged to attend LOTS. This is a great way for the new board to bond together and learn new skills. This is also a great opportunity to network with other Presidents, State Delegates, Secretaries, Treasurers, Membership Vice Presidents, and/or Programming Vice Presidents from across the state. Getting to know others who are going through the same experiences or struggles as you can help with making your year go smoothly.

For those who are serving in a position for a 3<sup>rd</sup> or more time and have previously attended LOTS training we are offering an optional Leadership Training session as an alternative to attending position training. This is a limited space training session and priority will be given to Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents first. Check out the registration form online at [mnwt.org](http://mnwt.org) for more information.

***“Building for Success”  
Tevyan Sorensen, CMVP***

***“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is  
always to try just one more time.” – Thomas A. Edison***



A reminder to check out my CIP for my 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester challenges for a last chance to win!

Also, one way to get in a drawing at Annual would be to donate to the Extensions Lucky Buck Baskets! They are Outdoor Games and a Beverage Basket themed. Contact me to donate an item or you can Venmo me a monetary donation.

***“Arrrgh You Ready To Talk About Women of Today”  
Andrea Schue, Extensions Director***



You and your chapters are doing amazing things in your communities... And, I can't wait to see your reports in Trimester 3. I've been determined this year to get over 75%-chapter participation in programming.... So, if you haven't sent in a programming report yet this year, please do it. I really want to know what your chapter is doing!!

Please know **that program reporting does matter**, and your reports are looked at. For more information on reporting and ways to track projects, take a look at my CIP or contact me at [pvp@mnwt.org](mailto:pvp@mnwt.org).

See you at Annual Convention in May!!!

***Keep on "Living, Giving & Sharing"***  
***Mary Kaminski, PVP***

### **Community Connections by PVP Mary Kaminski**

MNWT Awards for Chapters That Have Outstanding "Community Connections"

1. Community Connections: Civic or Environmental Project Award Nomination
  - a. (for example: working to provide a project that meets a community need as related to the environment or civic interest)
  - b. The Civic or Environmental Project Award category considers successful chapter projects which make an impact on their community either civically or environmentally. (Storm, flood or ditch clean-up projects, election projects, military family projects, etc.)
2. Community Connections: Community Impact Award Nomination
  - a. (for example: working to provide a project that meets a community need)
  - b. The Community Impact Award category considers successful chapter projects that do not fit into one of the other Community Connections Award Categories. (Joint Ventures or Civic or Environmental)
3. Community Connections: Joint Ventures Award Nomination
  - a. (for example: working with another group to make a difference in the community)
  - b. The Joint Ventures Award Category considers successful chapter projects which have collaborated with another community service organization to sponsor a successful community project.,
4. Link to make your Community Connection Nomination
  - a. [EmailMe Form - MNWT Community Connections Award Nomination](#)
5. Nominations are due: April 15<sup>th</sup>
6. Judges will review the nominations and winners will be awarded at Annual Convention.

Remember the week of April 21-27 is "National Volunteer Week". Chapter challenge: How will your chapter volunteer during the week? Will you work with another organization? We're excited to hear what you do. After your chapter volunteers during this week, send an email by April 30<sup>th</sup> to [pvp@mnwt.org](mailto:pvp@mnwt.org). Put VW in the subject line and tell me what your chapter did, and you/your chapter will be in a drawing for a prize at Annual Convention.



As I write this, I realize I am not very good at “letting things go.” You must be able to decide as you attempt to declutter, to hopefully finish with LESS in the room, closet, or drawer you are working on. I have managed to donate two boxes in the last month, and even though I struggled at first, to finish filling those boxes it feels like a big “win” for me. Have you had some “WINS” in your declutter endeavors?

How are your MNWT Living & Learning Certifications and your USWT Wellness & Personal Development Certifications faring? This is a reminder Tri 3 deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup> for completing them, and you need to complete 11 items on the Living & Learning Certificate and 15 on the Wellness Certificate. In the past, I have received a handful of certificates which were lacking the correct number of items to complete the certification, so please double check yours and resend them to me after you correct them. Thanks!

***“Live Simply, BEE Grateful”***

***Pat Undersander, Living and Learning***

*“Gratitude is one of the most powerful human emotions. Once expressed, it changes attitude, brightens outlook, and broadens our perspective.” – Germany Kent*



As I write this, it is a sunny, mild, springtime afternoon! I am loving this!

Most of the focus for this year with Women’s Wellness happened in Trimester I and II. However, there are several challenges to meet. How is everyone doing on the challenges?

I have not received many pictures of chapters wearing their red for heart. It is not too late to submit your photos. And, I have only heard from a couple of chapters who have conducted a spare change fundraiser. Chapter Presidents, if you do not have an LPM, you can lead the charge.

The following challenges were listed in my CIP in the LPM Lookout Corner,

1. Work with Membership and host an M-event with a focus on heart disease. Ask everyone to wear red and/or a red dress pin. Have a picture taken and send to [ww@mnwt.org](mailto:ww@mnwt.org) Each chapter to submit a report and picture will have their name placed in a drawing for a **prize**.
2. Ask chapter members to: wear red to a chapter meeting in February and send a picture to [ww@mnwt.org](mailto:ww@mnwt.org). Each chapter will be in a drawing for a **prize**.
3. Ask members to donate to a spare change fundraiser for AHA. Each month that a chapter report having a spare change fundraiser, that chapter will have their name in the drawing for a **prize**. **(If the chapter reports x4, their name will be in the drawingx4)**. Send report to [ww@mnwt.org](mailto:ww@mnwt.org) .

Thank you for all you do!

***“The Beat Goes On”***

***Sharon Bergquist, Women’s Wellness***



Hello Friends!

I cannot believe this year is almost done. It has flown by so fast, and I am so proud of everyone and all the hard work they have put in for Crescent Cove. We are continuing to focus on house needs and gift cards for Crescent Cove. Every little bit helps! Thank you to everyone for your patience and all your help. It truly has been a great year. Keep up the good work.

***“Make a Ripple Change the World”***  
***Sara Rocksted, Priority Area (Crescent Cove)***

***“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples” – Mother Teresa***

Hopefully many chapters have donated to their local food shelves during the month of March. The Minnesota Food Share Campaign is in progress until April 6<sup>th</sup>. Businesses, organizations, and agencies are matching donations given. These donations are used to restock food shelves to help fight food insecurities for families experiencing homelessness and food shortages. If your chapter plans to donate cash to your local food shelf, March was the month to get your donation matched! There is still a little time left.



I have heard that some chapters have decided to do my “encampment” challenge in April. The decision and reason to do this challenge is for chapter members to have a better understanding of what youths without a home or shelter must do to survive. It is said that you never know what it's like until you walk in another person's shoes. A donation sheet is in the CIP to collect pledges for the hours spent in the encampment. This money should be donated to your local homeless youth programs.

I am still raising funds for the Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship Fund. At Winter State greeting cards were sold. To my delight, all the cards were sold. I have had requests to continue selling cards at various meetings. We have made more cards and will continue to sell. All proceeds are going to the scholarship fund. Thank you for your support!

***“Youth Building Their Future”***  
***Sandy Trossen, Youth of Today***

## The following proposed Bylaw will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting 2024.



Article X, section 5 reads:

Section 5. A member must meet all the following qualifications to be eligible to serve as a State Program Manager:

- A. Be a member in good standing in his/her local Minnesota Women of Today chapter for at least two (2) years or more on assuming position.
- B. Have interest and knowledge of project areas on local level.
- C. Have personal backing of his/her chapter, as indicated by a letter of support.
- D. Shall seek and use the help of any agency concerned with his/her particular area.
- E. Have served as a Local Program Manager (LPM) and a District Program Manager (DPM) or a District Director or a District Programming Vice President a minimum of one (1) year each (can be concurrent).

### **I move that Article X, section 5 should read:**

Section 5. A member must meet all the following qualifications to be eligible to serve as a State Program Manager:

- A. Be a member in good standing in his/her local Minnesota Women of Today chapter for at least two (2) years or more on assuming position.
- B. Have personal backing of his/her chapter, as indicated by a letter of support.
- C. Have served as a (LPM), served on a local board and or district board, a minimum of one (1) year. (can be concurrent)

### ***“Succeed with Bob and Coffee” Tawn Hanson, Parliamentarian***



Our year is almost over! And what a great year it has been. There is still time for year-end donations to Ways & Means. Our goal is \$3000, and we are not quite there yet. There is still time to Show Me the Money!

Have you completed the third trimester challenge? It's easy. Just do it! Chapter and district treasurers that complete the following challenge items will be entered into a drawing at year-end for a State Store Gift Certificate. • Report on a local ways & means project that your chapter or district has done or is doing for 3rd

trimester. • Have made a purchase from the State Store, MNWT Clothing or fudge fundraiser at any point throughout this year • Send in the name of your treasurer for the 2024-2025 year. Please send me an email describing each point at [fvp@mnwt.org](mailto:fvp@mnwt.org) by April 30, 2024.

Be sure to come to Annual Convention and join in the 50/50 fundraiser. Get dollars from your friends and/or enemies and maybe you walk away with half the pot!

Do you have an idea for the State Store? Items you would just love to purchase? Email me your ideas and maybe you will see them soon.

Thank you for all the financial support. Without Chapter and individual support, we would not be able to continue with great programs and be a great organization.

### ***“Show Me the Money” Jane Holmberg, FVP***

*“In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it.” – Marianne Williamson*

Lets get Famous



Our Marketing Committee is looking for members to join the following committees: Promoting MNWT, TikTok, and Vendor Fairs. These committees meet at an agreed time outside of the Marketing Committee and then have a report that is given at the Marketing Committee Meeting. If you would like more information on the committees, please email [mkvp@mnwt.org](mailto:mkvp@mnwt.org) for more information.



MN Ducks



Need Facebook Post Ideas? We have premade posts available to you. These can be found on the Marketing staff page on the website. If you need any help finding them, please reach out!

***“Lets Get Famous MN Ducks”  
Allie Staley, MKVP***

***“TODAY IT’S IMPORTANT TO BE PRESENT, BE RELEVANT  
AND ADD VALUE.” – NICK BESBEAS***

A lot of you found the four capital yellow **M**'s hidden in last month's Chapter Mailing. Your names are entered into a drawing at Annual Convention. I hope you found the articles interesting and useful. This month you will now be looking for four Brown capital **S**'s. (not this one) Everyone who finds them and emails me with their location will be entered into a drawing at Winter State Convention for a magical basket.



My third Trimester Challenge is to send me your chapter minutes for review, and you will be placed in a drawing for another magical basket.

***“The Magic of Minutes”  
Candi Frick, Secretary***

***“Secretaries are the guardians of time and Productivity.”***

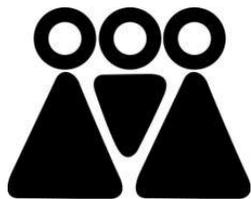


## Hi past Chapter Presidents and MNWT members!

We are nearing the end of our year both for MNWT and USWT. Please email me if you are planning on attending the USWT Year-End Convention in June in Des Moines, Iowa. Then I can keep you informed on what to expect. A newsletter will be emailed out mid-May.

Also, please see the flyer with information on Children & Families of Iowa, which is the organization we are supporting and for whom we are collecting items as our Buckets of Sunshine Project at the USWT Convention. You can bring items or cash to MNWT Annual Convention in May in Alexandria. Then COB Jenise will transport them to Des Moines for President Amy to present to USWT President Tracy Pierson.

***“Finding Your Piece”***  
***Jenise Teske, COB***



## MNWT FOUNDATION

**Donate to the Foundation while dispersing your end of the year chapter funds.** As you make final decisions on donating your funds, keep the Foundation in mind. This will not only help the Foundation but also WT members and chapters. Think about chapter grants, scholarships or simply undesignated and allow the Foundation board to use the funds according to the needs of the Women of Today.

Once you decide to send a donation to the Foundation, **please make your check payable to the MNWT Foundation and mail it to the Foundation Treasurer:**

Jane Hanson, Treasurer,  
MNWT Foundation  
P.O. Box 232, Anoka, MN 55303

***Nicky Anderson, MNWT Foundation Chairperson***

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

Please Welcome Cat Shuman as the new Future Directions Chair for 2024-2025.

***Jane Hanson, Future Directions Committee Chairperson***

## **MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

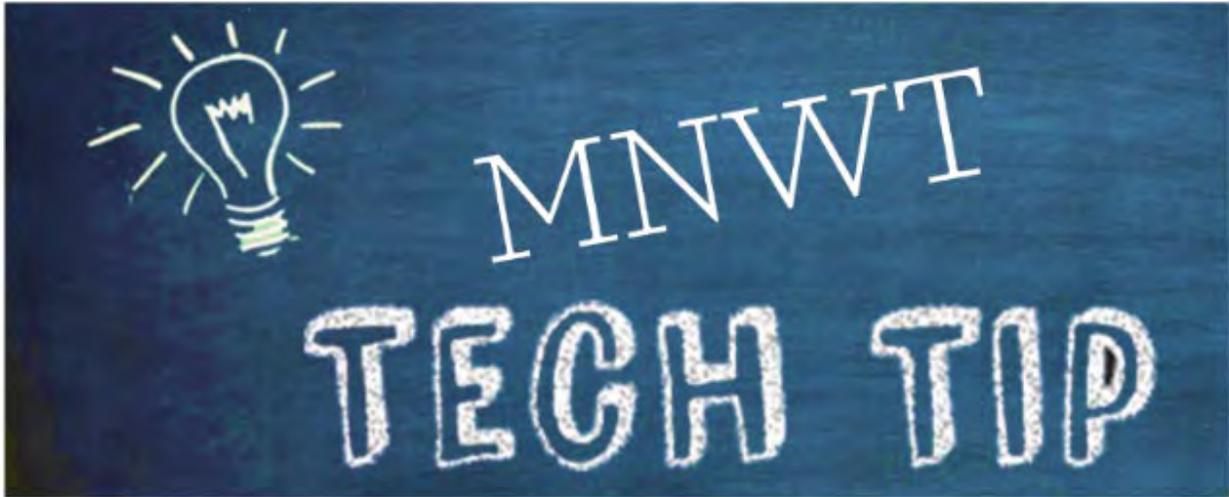
The Membership Management Committee has been busy. We have had a task force that has put together definitions for TLC and Watch List, along with policies to define them and updates for other manuals as needed. These were presented at the MMC meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We also reviewed recommendations from March Planning at that meeting. If you would like to know more about it, the minutes from our March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting are on the website.

Welcome Anna Nichols as the new MMC Chair for the 2024-2025 year!

***JoAnn Miller, Membership Management Committee Chairperson***

### **Important Dates**

<b>April 6</b>	<b>Region 2 Meeting</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Foundation Meeting</b>
<b>April 15</b>	<b>All Renewals due postmarked to CSC</b>
<b>April 29</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tri and Year-end Close Out</b>
<b>May 4</b>	<b>LOTS (Local Officer Training Session)</b>
<b>May 17-19</b>	<b>Annual Convention</b>
<b>June 6-9</b>	<b>USWT National Year-End Convention</b>



### **Sign Up Genius How to Guide:**

**SignUpGenius** what is that? This is a great tool for chapters to use to create events for their chapter.

#### **How to create an event:**

1. Go to SignUpGenius and create an account or log into an existing account.
2. Click the green Create a Sign-Up button.
3. In the Design tab you will enter the title of your sign up, assign an existing group from the dropdown menu or click the + sign to create a new group.
4. Choose a theme for your sign up. Designs are sorted by All, Free or Premium.
5. From the Slots tab you can format your event.
  - a. If you have one or more dates, then select the Add Date button. Can choose to Add Recurring Days or Add Time Slots.
  - b. Once you enter the days of the event and select the parameters for time and location click the green Add button to save your dates and times.
  - c. Now click Add Slots. The slots define the role of the participants. Example you can have slot for "Main dish," "Work at table," or other texts that define the role or task.
  - d. Select the maximum number of participants that are allowed to sign up for each slot.
  - e. Once all information is added click Save and Continue to proceed to Settings.
6. From the Settings tab, choose various options to customize your sign up.
  - a. Click each option to see all the settings available. You can change reminder preferences and select enhanced security.
  - b. Click Save and Continue to get to the Publish page.
7. The Publish tab is where you can preview your sign up to see how it will look on both a desktop and mobile device. Once you are ready click the green Publish button to make the sign up live.
8. To Share and Invite your sign up.
  - a. You can invite by email after publishing your event. You compose a message and fill out the email template.
  - b. Or you can copy the Sign-Up link and share it on all your social media platforms.



Children & Families of Iowa (CFI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families throughout Iowa. Headquartered in Des Moines with offices in Ankeny, Fort Dodge, Osceola and Ottumwa, CFI provides services, such as: domestic violence prevention and intervention, teen programs, family support, early childhood development, mental health and substance abuse.

As part of their Domestic Violence Services, they sponsor **SAFE SHELTER**, Iowa's largest domestic violence shelter and the only one in Polk County (where Des Moines, the site of the USWT 2024 Year-End is), offering a safe place to heal and begin building a life free from violence.

Janice Lane Schroeder, CEO, LMSW, for CFI has noted they are excited about the opportunity to have **SAFE SHELTER** serve as our **USWT BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE** recipient for 2024 (as we also worked with them in 2021!)

Between now and the convention, June 7-8, 2024, ALL USWT members are encouraged to collect items from their WISH LIST - and bring to year-end. Janice and/or a representative has been invited to our Saturday luncheon to tell us about their organization, especially the shelter, and collect all the donations.

NOTE: You may also make a monetary donation: Send check made out to *United States Women of Today* and note in memo line: *2024 Buckets donation*. All monetary donations should be sent to USWT Treasurer Jane Hanson. She will note the total monetary donation and send a check for that amount to the shelter. [For further information, check out their web-site: [cfiowa.org](http://cfiowa.org), click on "programs-Domestic Violence Services"; or contact: Michele

Thompson, USWT 2024 Year-End, chair, [kentsmom@yahoo.com](mailto:kentsmom@yahoo.com))

#### **SAFE SHELTER, Domestic Violence Shelter WISH LIST**

##### **\*\*Personal Care items including**

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Deodorant
- bath wash
- Toothpaste
- Lotion
- haircare products
- make up
- masks.

##### **\*\*Child Care items:**

- diapers-all sizes
- Wipes
- Formula

##### **\*\*Bedding/linens**

- Twin Sheet sets bedding
- Twin comforters or Blankets
- Standard Pillows
- Bath towels.
- Wash cloths

##### **\*\*Misc**

- Paper goods
- disposable dinnerware
- cleaning products