

Chapter Mailing



Inside this issue:

[Letter to Members from 2019-2020 State President](#)

[Letter to Members from 2020-2021 State President](#)

[COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

[Membership Team](#)

[Organizational Rules & Records](#)

[Digi-Sense](#)

[Programming](#)

[Chapter & District Support](#)

[Committees and Foundation](#)

[MNWT Mission Statement](#)

[Testimonials](#)

[Important Dates for June](#)

[Annual Convention 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Special Executive Council Meeting | Annual 2020](#)

Editor:

Christine Sibilleau, 2019-20 MNWT Secretary

Dear Minnesota Women of Today Members,

My sincere thanks for all the wonderful memories that we created and will treasure from the past year. I appreciate all the members that joined in for the first ever MNWT Annual Convention that was held totally online. From the Exec Council meeting and the elections caucus on Friday to the Business and Elections meetings on Saturday morning, and culminating in a special awards session, which mimicked the traditional luncheon and banquet ceremonies. It certainly was memorable, albeit strange with no hugs or pictures. You are the best friends ever!

And now we move forward into a new year under the leadership of a new team. I wish you all the best as you hold your chapter meetings and transition to a new board. It may be a struggle to set a budget and hold fundraisers right away; however, think about holding some socials and promote yourself in your community. Show your fun side and increase your community value!

Chapters have put their thinking caps on and come up with some great ideas to interact with each other. Maybe you want to borrow some of these:

- Several chapters, including Burnsville, Coon Rapids, St Cloud, and Fridley, held online socials where members sipped their favorite beverages while they visited
- Hutchinson members drove to a church parking lot and stayed by their cars as they visited and enjoyed snacks that they each brought along; they also planned a parking lot M-event with their favorite take out foods for the end of April
- March 30th, Duluth hosted an online Membership Monday oreo cookie event which included a flamingo tribute for Illeana's birthday – signed a new member in April
- New Hope chapter also used a church parking lot for a trivia night; they brought lawn chairs and used social distancing while playing trivia and enjoying refreshments. They are using their website to post word games and have members do Effective Writing exercises.
- Anoka hosted an online bingo for members, and they gave away real prizes to the winners (MNWT bags and gift cards to local businesses)
- Monticello will be meeting in one of the city parks in place of their monthly Caribou Coffee social; each member will bring a lawn chair and their favorite coffee or beverage and spread out for visiting.
- Burnsville is considering holding orientations online, including for new members; they also have held an online certification night
- Fairmont's chapter president sent out handwritten cards to all members thanking them for their contributions during the year
- Maple Grove held a board meeting and helped the CROSS Empty Bowls Program
- Warroad Area chapter signed 6 new members in March. Might want to email warroadareawt@mnwt.org to find out their secrets...

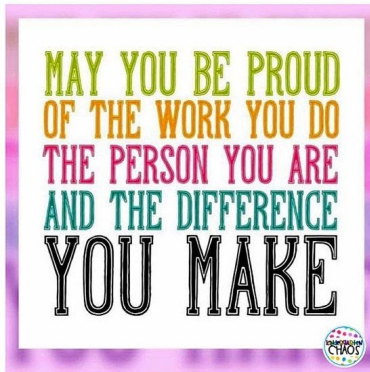
Special congratulations to Programming Award of Excellence winner, Wishes & More SPM Glorie Balfanz and to Presidential Award of Excellence winner, Executive Director Katie Castro!!

One more chance to celebrate the 2019-2020 year! Please register for the [USWT National Convention](#) being held June 11-12. A convention schedule will be posted on the USWT website shortly. Go to [uswomenoftoday.org](#) to find the schedule and there is also a link on the [home page](#) to register for the online convention meetings and activities. You will need to register to receive the links and materials, which should be sent out a few days before that weekend.

Thanks for all the Connections you made this year!

Cat Shuman

State President
2019-2020
cob@mnwt.org
612.812.9198



Greetings Women of Today members!

I am honored to have been elected as your 2020-2021 State President. I cannot wait to start working with you all and seeing what great things we will be doing together. So far myself and staff members have been hard at work analyzing data from the last year and putting together some great plans to help chapters and districts get through this unprecedented time.

Staff and myself met on May 22nd to discuss the upcoming year, goals for trainings for everyone across the state and to bond as a group. While our staff retreat looked different than it has in years past, one thing was certain: we are in this together. We know that all chapters are struggling with how to continue moving forward. Budgets will be tighter and membership will hang in the balance. Myself and staff are here to let you know that it will be ok. We will all get through this together.

Some fun things to note:

1. Keep an eye out for some fun challenges that may include an end result of me in purple (I am a DIEHARD Packers fan).
2. I will be hosting monthly FaceBook live posts starting in June for an hour each day. Topics will range from healthy chapters to membership to fun facts :) I will be answering chats live and this will be open to ALL members who like the MNWT Admin page.
3. While I cannot physically travel to chapters or districts, I would still love to pop in for a virtual visit if

at all possible. I am so looking forward to visiting with as many as you as possible this year.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. I cannot stress enough that staff and I are here to help. Our communities and each other need amazing women like all of you now more than ever. This is our time to shine and show everyone what happens when you get a group of service driven women together.

In fellowship,

Ileana Miller

President MNWT 2020-21
president@mnwt.org

COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT

Go to [Member Homepage](#) for MNWT Covid-19 Information & Suggestions

Membership Team

Chapter Management VP | cmvp@mnwt.org
Barb Zeroth

Once again, thank you to all the chapter members that attended LOTS, you are off to a great start. Be sure to try different ways to keep your chapter members connected and involved with your chapter, during this time of social distancing. If your chapter is struggling in any area be sure to reach out to the CMVP, District Director or other Staff members for help. Thank you to all the chapters that had submitted SUCCESS throughout the year. What a great way to show all you have done! Have a great new year!

Membership VP | mvp@mnwt.org
Lisa Hahn

Congratulations to all the individuals, chapters and districts that received certificates and awards at Annual. We may have only been able to get together by Zoom these past few months, but wasn't it fun? I want to Thank you for joining me this year as we spread "Smiles Across the Miles". It has been an awesome journey thanks to all of you. I've enjoyed the many visits and receiving all your fun Social and M-event pictures you've shared on Facebook and sent to the email. I want to encourage you to continue holding your socials and m-events and extending a hand of fellowship to those around you. I look forward to our next adventure. Thank you again for a wonderful year.

Organizational Rules & Records

Secretary | secretary@mnwt.org
Christine Sibilleau

New secretaries - it was fun to get a peek of what you were seeing during our LOTS training online! I'm happy to report that our lawn here has caught up and now is as green as the ones some of you shared on our Zoom meeting. We sure did cover a lot of material - remember your [Fast Start](#) will be key to getting a jump start on your year. Also be sure to check out the new Secretary's [MNJOTS CIP](#) coming out soon for lots of helpful information that will help you with those requirements. And don't forget one of your best resources - your past Secretary - surely she has tips on what your chapter will need from you!

Parliamentarian | parli@mnwt.org
Wendy Lindberg

Thank you to all who have been an active part in their parliamentary procedures over this year. I appreciate you!

Digi-Sense

Turning Chapter Newsletters into a Digital Chapter Marketing Tool

by Jessica Schultz, Coon Rapids Women of Today

Many chapters have print or emailed newsletters that they share with their chapter members, but have you ever thought to post the newsletters on your website or share them with the individuals on your perspectives list or with local business partners?

Producing a newsletter is very detailed work, the effort should be shared! Chapter members enjoy seeing the culmination of their efforts monthly or on a trimester basis, but adding your newsletter to your website and sharing a link on your social media platforms can help create exposure and buzz in your community for your chapter. By adding hashtags to your social media posts, you may very well generate extra traffic to both your website and social media platforms.

Creating a list of prospective members and individuals who would like to learn more about Women of Today at events, whether social or membership oriented, is a very important part of membership. By gathering email addresses on a perspectives list, it is simple to add those individuals to your email forward of your monthly newsletter. Newsletters include vital chapter information and dates for upcoming events. Using a perspectives list helps create and maintain passive contact with people who have asked to keep in touch with your chapter.

Sharing a digital newsletter is a marketing strategy that is nearly free to do if you are able to use the tools that you already manage. Maintaining a prospective members list and emailing those people on a regular basis is free, aside from time. The content of your newsletter is able to work as a silent marketing and membership partner while showcasing the good things you do, all while bringing attention to all the places the public can find more information about YOU!

“Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us. Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.” - Oprah Winfrey

Programming

Youth of Today | yt@mnwt.org
Michelle Kocak Jones

Thank you for all of the support for Youth of Today this past year. It was so awesome to give out 3 OYA Scholarships to exceptional young students. Coaster purchases were appreciated as were socks and deodorant collections for the Boys and Girls Club of MN.

Living and Learning | ll@mnwt.org
Sarah Sundine

Thank you to all of the members that have participated in Living and Learning this year! We have accomplished so much and my hope is that everyone has taken the time to Connect, Grow and Discover throughout the year. This year did not end as we had all hoped, but having this time at home has given me lots of time to connect with myself and my family. My hope is that you have been able to do the same and grow in new ways.

Priority Area - Wishes & More |
priority-area@mnwt.org
Gloria Balfanz

All of you have been amazing at supporting Wishes and More this year. Please continue to support them. Even though the virus has slowed us down the needs of families that ask Wishes and More for help has not slowed down. They are still writing checks and fulfilling wishes. Look on their website for ways you can help right now.
www.wishesandmore.org

Women's Wellness | ww@mnwt.org

Colleen Todd

Hello MNWT Members,
I would like to say CEAD MILE BUIOCHAS. Those of you that are not up with Gaelic language from Ireland, it means "One Hundred Thousand Thanks" to each of you for supporting The Brain Connection this year for Women Wellness.

We had an exciting year filled with challenges and education to bring awareness to a health disease called Traumatic Brain Injury. There are 3 levels of a brain injury, mild, moderate and severe. Each level has its own symptoms and symptoms can change between each person. Every TBI will be different. A TBI can happen to anyone at any time, in any place. A TBI is an invisible disease, which will alter a person's life.

The 5 best statement to say to someone healing from trauma: (Please note that sometimes that there are no words needed and your empathetic silence creates space for healing)

1. I see you. I hear you. I believe you. I am here for you. You are loved
2. It was not your fault. You did not deserve this nor did you cause it to happen
3. It is safe to feel everything that you are feeling. All of your emotions are valid and important. I am willing and able to be here with you through it.
4. You have every right to feel, say, think express whatever it is that you are experiencing in this moment,
5. What do you need? How can I best support you? What do you like?

I am excited to announce that we raised over 850.00 dollars for MN Brain Injury Alliance. Which will allow them to buy 106 bike helmets plus the 8 helmets that were donated during Winter State convention. Thank you to the 16 members who completed the fun third trimester challenge. If you have any questions about a TBI please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Chapter & District Support

Financial VP | fvp@mnwt.org

Amy Pumper

Thank you to everyone who participated in fundraisers, made donations to Ways and Means and purchased from the State Store this year. Thank you to the 13 chapter treasurers that participated in the LOTS training session! It has been a terrific year and I appreciate all who made it go so well for me! A huge thank you goes out to Jane Holmberg, our state store manager for all her efforts and to the finance committee for working hard to ensure the organization continues to transform our finances. I know your new staff will do a wonderful job!

Chairman of the Board | cob@mnwt.org

Brenda Sather

Congratulations to our newly elected State President Illeana Miller. As Elections Chair, it has been a pleasure to work with her and her team and I'm excited to see where they take this organization in the coming year. We recently appointed new chairs for the statewide committees so would like to welcome Brenda K. Sather (me 😊) as Future Directions Chair, Christine Sibilleau as Marketing Chair, and Michelle Cloutier as Membership Management Chair. We want to send a huge thank you to Jen Kizer, Heidi Westerlund and Daina Mirsch Wenner who served us in those capacities this last year.

Presidential Assistant | pa@mnwt.org

Barb Berndtson

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at National convention in ZOOM!!! I hope a lot of Minnesota members can take advantage of it being held on-line. Thank you for making this past year so special for President Cathy!!! Never too late to send your scrapbook page to me.....never:-) Remember to utilize the chapter service center for all your needs and questions. God bless – Barb Berndtson😊

Committees and Foundation

Membership Management | mmc@mnwt.org

Heidi Westerlund

Thank you to the wonderful year! We added a couple of extensions and added new members! Great work everyone!

Marketing | marketing@mnwt.org

Daina Mirsch-Wenner

The Marketing Committee has been working on ways to get our organization known in a number of different ways with different MNWT Marketing Committee taskforces that will continue next year, too. Those include: Non-Member Videos & Podcasts, Increasing Membership (working with MMC), posting Chapter Events on www.mnwt.org, and getting all our forms online. We will also be working on the 2020 Strategic Plan by the Future Directions Committee that focuses on marketing, which includes Developing the Statewide MNWT Brand, and Streamlining MNWT Marketing. Under the MNWT Brand item, we will be implementing a plan for chapters to use the MNWT branding, examining our current logo, and reviewing the current MNWT brand. Under streamline marketing, we will be developing an app, creating a marketing plan for the state organization, and creating marketing strategies for chapters to adopt. If you are interested in helping us with these items, please contact marketing@mnwt.org -- you

need not be a member of the committee, as everyone who is interested may join us and/or volunteer for any of these taskforces.

We have sent out our first **MailChimp eBlast** to all our chapters. A taskforce is setting up a program to communicate more frequently using this tool. Please consider signing up now to receive these communications in the future. You will find a link in the footer of every webpage.

This last trimester the Web Team challenged you to a **Website Scavenger Hunt**. You can find the scavenger hunt on the Web Team's webpage; it give the participant a great introduction to the website. One participant said, "This would be a fun activity for all new members...." -- we agree!

Future Directions | fdc@mnwt.org Jen Kinzer

Announcing the Person with Determination Award.

The Person with Determination award is an updated, modernized version of the Outstanding Person with Developmental Challenges award. It acknowledges that not all challenges are developmental and that everyone's journey to overcome adversity is unique. This award is designed to honor an individual who has persevered and forged new paths through obstacles to become an integral part of their community. Examples of potential obstacles include physical or developmental challenges, mental health issues, significant socio-economic barriers, etc.

Our goal is to present this award to its first recipient at Winter State convention 2021. The honoree will receive a certificate of recognition, as well as an honorarium to be

given to a 501(c)3 organization of their choice. Nominees must be 18 years of age, or older. Nominating information will be available in the updated Outstanding Awards Manual.

Look for additional information in the new year and on the Webinar scheduled for June 24th. Other webinar topics include Fast Starts, Outstanding Awards and Membership.

MNWT Mission Statement

The mission of the Minnesota Women of Today is to help women improve their own lives and the lives of the people in the communities around them. This organization shall be a place in which young women are actively encouraged to become involved and hold positions of leadership. The organization shall provide opportunities for all members:

To contribute to their communities by raising funds for worthy causes and by providing services or education to benefit community members.

To develop and to foster skills and talents related to becoming successful individuals, interacting well with other people, and becoming capable leaders.

To develop friendships and to find personal support within the organization.



Testimonials

Check out testimonials from members across the state... [What's your Why?](#)

Important Dates for June

June 11 - 14,
2020



USWT National Year End
Convention

USWT National Conventions are held twice per year: [Special Announcement about 2020 USWT Annual Convention! Online Only](#)

June 24, 2020



MNWT Webinar Series

[Click here for more information.](#)

Update to Members in regard to COVID-19 affect on MNWT Calendar of Events
from [MNWT Executive Director Katie Castro](#)

A small team of MNWT leaders met via a zoom meeting on March 17, 2020, to discuss topics that are being affected by the COVID-19 emergency. As most of you are aware, the state and federal governments have declared a state of emergency and established strong restrictions for group gatherings. This directly affects Women of Today chapter, district, and state level meetings and events. Following are some decisions and recommendations that we are implementing at this time. These may be subject to change, depending on further actions taken by state and federal authorities.

All updates released by Minnesota Women of Today will come from [Executive Director Katie Castro](#). Updates will be sent via the state email system to chapters and executive council members as well as posted on the MNWT website and main Facebook page. Chapters are encouraged to share this information with their members.

The MN Department of Health (MDH) announced several days ago that the coronavirus has reached the stage of "community spread" meaning that the virus is not just associated with those who have traveled out of the country. We do encourage members who experience symptoms of the virus to engage with their health providers and self-report to persons that they have been in contact with. Please check the websites of the MDH and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for more information.

Annual Convention 2020 Meeting Minutes

Executive Council | Annual 2020

ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES -MINNESOTA WOMEN OF TODAY
ZOOM MEETING (ONLINE)
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020

President Cathy Shuman called the Annual Executive Council meeting of the Minnesota Women of Today to order at 2:38PM. Sarah Sundine, Living & Learning State Program Manager, read an invocation. Illeana Miller, Administrative VP, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mary Hansen, District 5 Director, led the United States Women of Today Creed. Parliamentarian Wendy Lindberg read the Orders of the Day. A quorum has been established. The minutes of the Winter State Exec Council meeting on January 24, 2020 were approved as emailed on May 14, 2020.

Secretary – Christine Sibilleau (secretary@mnwt.org)

- Last call for articles for the June Chapter Mailing! I'd love to get this issue out by June 1st, so please enter your chapter mailing highlight tonight or tomorrow morning before you lose access tomorrow afternoon when the webteam starts making changes to MNWT email and Google Drive accounts for the incoming Executive Council. If you must submit after that, please email it to me at c_and_co@centurylink.net in the next few days!
- I think that every year on Exec Council is memorable - but wow what an adventurous year we have had - and I am so glad to have been on this adventure with all of you!

Administrative Vice President – Illeana Miller (avp@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the District Directors, Reps and Contacts this year. With their assistance we are coming into the 2020-21 year with a full slate of DD/DD Reps. Thank you ladies for all your hard work. The incoming District Directors will be announced at the Business Meeting.
- Drawing for incentive for the 13 state delegates that attended LOTS (1-13)

Membership Vice President – Lisa Hahn (mvp@mnwt.org)

- District Directors- as you hand the reins over to the new DD's please make sure they are aware of the Growth Plan that should be completed for each district and sent to mvp@mnwt.org for the new year.
- District Awards: Trimester growth: District 2 had trimester growth +1. District 10 had trimester growth + 3. District 10 had the highest % of growth for the trimester. The following Districts had 75-99% retention. District 2 had 80% retention, District 5 had 79% retention, District 7 had 76% retention, District 8 had 81% retention and District 11 had 91% retention. The District with 100% retention was District 10.
- The Membership Monday challenge was truly a challenge this trimester and as such was extended to the last week of April. The chapters that participated will be read at the Business meeting and the winner will be announced. The incentive will be mailed out at the end of convention.

Chapter Management Vice President – Barb Zeroth (cmvp@mnwt.org)

- Thank you District Directors for all your hard work and FUN with your chapters this year. Especially for reaching out and helping with any TLC chapters in your district.
- Elk River and Albany came off the TLC list. We have 3 chapters in their 2nd trimester on TLC and 7 Chapters starting their 1st trimester. A lot of those chapters are sitting at 9 members. We need to continue to work together and work with your incoming DD to help those chapters make new connections.

Extensions Director – Jenise Teske (extensions@mnwt.org)

- St. Joseph will have at least 11 members now with the transfer from Fridley
- R-O-D has close to 25 members

Programming Vice President – Melissa Redzuan (pvp@mnwt.org)

- Good Morning! Welcome to our Virtual Annual Convention. The installation of the SPM for 2020- 21 will take place today at the awards ceremony. This year I am happy to announce that we have 5 SPM position filled and all bids heard at Winter State for;
 - Community Connections - Tawn Hanson, New Hope
 - Living and Learning - Melanie Chenoweth, Coon Rapids
 - Priority Area- Jennifer Auger, New Hope
 - Women Wellness- Shanna Pratt, Aitkin
 - Youth of Today- Glorie Balfanz, Monticello
- Thank you to my amazing, supportive, understanding, SPM. I sincerely honored working with you this year and getting to know you. Now, I am biased but I do think I got the best SPMS!!
- Thank you to President Cat Shuman for trusting me to be your PVP this year, I have learned so much from you! And thank you for asking ... now please welcomed SPMS

Living and Learning SPM—Sarah Sundine (ll@mnwt.org)

- Thanks for a great year!

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

- Thank you for the support during my first year as SPM. I learned a lot from each of you.

Women's Wellness SPM - Colleen Todd (ww@mnwt.org)

- Thank you.
- 16 members participated in the 3rd Trimester Challenge.
- Information will be given tomorrow on the Bike Helmet Collection.
- Way to go MN, there was 36 USWT Health and Wellness certifications.

Youth of Today SPM - Michelle Kocak Jones (yt@mnwt.org)

- Thank you for a great year!

Financial Vice President - Amy Pumper (fvp@mnwt.org)

- Final expense checks for 2019-20 year are being sent out by Katie - let me know if any questions.

- The state store is always open for business – just contact our store manager, Jane Holmberg and she will take care of you. New in the store are the garment bag selling for \$10 and stylus pens for \$1.50. Don't forget to pick up your state ornament in Cat's colors. The online store is being worked on – watch for the items to be updated soon! Please note that if you send orders to Jane, they may not be shipped out until June 15th for COVID related concerns.
- I want to thank those from Exec Council that served on the State Finance Committee this past year – please wave to be acknowledged. The Finance Committee is holding their annual budget and finance meeting on Friday, May 22nd via zoom. The budget meeting starts at 3 pm and finance meeting at 6:00 pm. Please let me know if you need the link to join the meeting.
- M/S/P (FVP/DD5) I move to amend Policy M.3. Extension Expenses as follows: Delete M.3. a. and replace with:
 - a. Each District Director shall be reimbursed at current Executive Council rate, round trip for mileage at the following pro-rated amounts for each completed extension:
 - 1.) Fall State Meeting - Two (2) chapter visitations.
 - 2.) Winter State Meeting – One (1) chapter visitation.
 - b. Manuals for newly extended chapters will be provided by the State Store Manager at no cost to the chapter.

Parliamentarian – Wendy Lindberg (parli@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to all who encouraged their chapters to submit bylaws and policies this year.
- Remember that there will be a bylaw vote at this weekend's Business meeting.

Chairman of the Board – Brenda Sather (cob@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to everyone who contributed to March Planning. Recommendations and actions have gone to the appropriate committees. If you have any questions, please reach out to one of the committee chairs. It was nice to be able to get together before the Shelter at Home order was put in place.
- Thank you to the District Directors for your work on the Area Meetings. Although it wasn't what we all expected, like true Women of Today members we figured out a way to make it happen.
- M/S/P (COB/PVP) I move to approve Brenda K. Sather as the 2020-21 Future Directions Committee Chair.
- M/S/P (COB/Mktg) I move to approve Christine Sibilleau as the 2020-21 Marketing Committee Chair.
- M/S/P (COB/FVP) I move to approve Michelle Cloutier as the 2020-21 Membership Management Chair.
- M/S/P (COB/PVP) I move to appoint Jeny Ohr as Public Relations Coordinator, Jessica Schultz as NEWSLET Coordinator, and Rita Johnson as SUCCESS System Coordinator for 2020-21.
- Redistricting has been a discussion for our organization for the past few years and due to our policies, that require districts to have at least 4 chapters, the following motions are being brought to address this.
- M/S/P (COB/FVP) I move to transfer the chapters of Hawley, Red Lake Falls and Thief River Falls into District 2, leaving District 1 vacant.
- M/S/P (COB/MVP) I move to transfer the chapters of Hanska and New Ulm to District 10 and Montevideo to District 4 leaving District 9 vacant.
- It is with much sadness that I sign off my last staff report with you as Chairman of the Board; however, I look forward to continuing working with the organization as Future Directions Chair (and being able to relax a little bit more this next year.)

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

- Chapter Officer Sheets
- 990 & Annual Renewal Filings
- Email & Google Cleanup
- Convention Hosts Needed
- Go To Meeting Available for District Meetings

Presidential Assistant – Barb Berndtson (pa@mnwt.org)

- If you have not sent a \$10.00 check from your district towards Cathy's year end gift, it is not too late. For all exec council - if you have not sent me your scrapbook page please, please still do so. These scrapbooks will mean the world to Cathy for years to come!
- It has been a pleasure to be amongst you on exec council. Thank you for the smiles and many memories! Thank you for all you have done to make connections through your position-job well done-kudos!!

Foundation and Committee Reports

Foundation Chair - Nicky Anderson (foundation@mnwt.org)

- The Foundation is hosting a Fall Gala October 17th 2020 held at Arrowwood in Brainerd. Registration is \$70.00. We need 15 more registrations by June 1st to hold the Gala.
- Scholarship deadline is July 1st. Have any art you would be willing to donate? The MNWT Foundation is seeking donations for their annual Art Auction at Fall State to benefit the Cheryl L Anderson Scholarship.
- Amazon Smile benefits the MNWT Foundation with a percentage of sales. If you shop Amazon, please sign up to be a part of Amazon Smile.
- Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 8th, 2020, 10:00 in Sartell at Lisa Hahn's. Please let me know if you would like to attend.
- Currently the foundation offers different grants / Loans for Extensions. The committee is reviewing them and looking at other opportunities we can offer intent to extends teams / chapters and new chartered chapters – this includes grants / loans for both. More info to come.
- After today's exec council the primary body of the foundation will be meeting to vote on some new bylaws / policies. One which will include changing our fiscal year to better align with the MNWT.

Future Directions Chair - Jen Kinzer (fdc@mnwt.org)

- The Restructuring Task Force has a survey coming to the membership via Survey Monkey, please watch for it.
- Chapter officer manuals were recently updated and approved. Chapter Treasurer, Secretary and State Delegate were approved to appear online through our website. These manuals will not be distributed to chapters in CIPs as has been previous practice. Manuals may be purchased at the state store. It was approved by the FDC to distribute updated chapter manuals in a similar fashion in the future.
- A Task Force was formed a little over a year ago to study our current People with Developmental Challenges Award. The Task Force spent time during the last year considering this award and discussing how this award might be updated to reflect changes and be inclusive of others who have faced challenges in their lives. Through those discussions and with the hard work of the Task Force, led by Shanna Pratt, the following motions are being brought to you today for approval.
- M/S/P (FDC/DD5) I move to strike Policy T Awards 16 and replace with the following:
 16. Person with Determination Award
 - a. The Person with Determination Award is designed to honor an individual who has persevered and forged new paths through obstacles to become an integral part of their community
 - b. In order to hold a competition there shall be no less than three (3) entries received by the publicized deadline date.
 - c. The applicants must be over the age of 18.

d. Entry fee and awards:

- 1) The entry fee for the Person with Determination Award shall be \$25. Entry fee shall cover all judging and presentation expenses.
- 2) Honorees shall receive an award.
- 3) The Awards Committee will present at Winter State
- 4) Three (3) nominees are needed to award an honorarium.

e. Completed nominations and fees shall be due to the Awards Chair postmarked by November 1.

- M/S/P (FDC/Mktg) I move to amend Policy 12r.1.g.) to remove "People with Developmental Challenges" and replace with "Person with Determination."
The policy will then read: Shall promote the Person with Determination Award including presentation of the award at Winter State and shall serve as a member of the Awards Committee.
- M/S/P (FDC/Mktg) I move to amend Policy O 3. B. 4.) d.) to remove "Person with Developmental Challenges" and replace with "Person with Determination."
The policy will then read: The Winter State Awards Subcommittee shall oversee the Outstanding Young Adult, Person with Determination, and the [Lois M. Christensen] Women Who Impact Awards presented at Winter State.

Membership Marketing Chair - Heidi Westerlund (mmc@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to all that served on the committees this year! We accomplished a lot, namely the Strategic Plan (thanks Jen Kinzer!)! We appreciate everyone's hard work this year!

Marketing Committee Chair - Daina Mirsch-Wenner (marketing@mnwt.org)

- The **Web Team is changing**. Welcome Julie Hammel who will be our new Web Assistant, as Bonnie Olmanson is retiring from the position after over 10 years; we wish Bonnie all the best in her future endeavors. Welcome, too, to our two (2) new Web Techs: Jeny Ohr and Shellie Matthes.
- The Web Team will be working Saturday after the awards portion is completed to change over the website and online tools for the **2020-2021 WT Year**. Members of the new Exec Council will have scheduled appointments with specific members of the Web Team on Sunday morning from 9AM-10AM. Everyone required to participate should have received an online login; if you have not, please contact Katie at csc@mnwt.org. It is the Web Team's goal to have the website reflect the new Exec Council by Sunday morning.
- If anyone knows someone who would be willing to be an **Area 3 Rep for the MNWT Marketing Committee**, please have them contact marketing@mnwt.org. Most all other positions are filled for the 2020-2021 WT year.
- The **MNWT Marketing Committee** is excited to continue work that was started last year, and has a lot on the plate this upcoming WT year. Please remind any members you know that the MNWT Statewide Committees are open to anyone interested!

President of the MN Women of Today—Cathy Shuman

- Year-end Individual Evaluations – Congratulations and thank you to those district directors, state program managers, and staff members that submitted a year end entry. You certainly have a lot to be proud about and I hope you took the time to tell your story. Your efforts will be rewarded on Saturday at the awards celebration session.
- This weekend we will be celebrating our accomplishments for the 2019-2020 year. We are setting history with the unusual circumstances that interrupted the last trimester of our year and will continue to impact us for some time yet. My sincere thanks to every Exec Council member for hanging in there and doing your best right up to April 30th and beyond.
- Annual Convention gifts for exec council members are coasters with Cat's logo on it. Year-end Exec Council plaques were displayed and presented. These gifts will be distributed by Fall State.

Ongoing Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

None

Sarah Sundine, Living and Learning State Program Manager, read the benediction. Shanna Pratt, District 3 Director, led the MN Women of Today Creed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:01PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by Christine Sibilleau, 2019/20 State Secretary

Business Meeting | Annual 2020

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES - MINNESOTA WOMEN OF TODAY

ZOOM MEETING (ONLINE)

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

President Cathy Shuman called the 2020 Annual Business meeting of the Minnesota Women of Today to order at 9:10AM. A quorum was established. Sarah Sundine, Living and Learning State Program Manager, read an invocation. Melanie Chenoweth, District 6 Representative, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and JoAnn Miller, District 11 Contact, led the United States Women of Today Creed. Recognition given to guests for introduction later at the awards in the afternoon. Parliamentarian Wendy Lindberg read the Orders of the Day.

Additions to the Winter State Business Meeting minutes held on January 25, 2019 were brought forward to add the names of Cindy Umland and Lisa Hahn as the convention chairpersons as well as correcting the Youth of Today 2nd trimester winning incentive chapter from Monticello to Burnsville. The minutes were then approved as emailed on May 13, 2020 with the amendments noted.

Secretary – Christine Sibilleau (secretary@mnwt.org)

- A huge shout out to Amy Pumper for her work putting together the NEWSLET publications this year - don't you agree that she did a fantastic job with it?!
- Thank you to the chapters and districts who submitted their minutes for review. A little something is coming in the mail to each of you to your chapter's mailing address.

Administrative Vice President – Illeana Miller (avp@mnwt.org)

- Holding the position of District Director can be one of the fulfilling positions in our organization. The District Director acts as the voice for the membership on executive council. Please join me in welcoming you 2020-21 District Directors:
 - District 2 -- Andrea Schue (Warroad) (dd02@mnwt.org)

- o District 3 -- Linda Nindorf (Duluth) (dd03@mnwt.org)
- o District 4 Rep -- Sally Koltes (Melrose) (dd04@mnwt.org)
- o District 5 -- Shirly Vieselman (Hutchinson Area) (dd05@mnwt.org)
- o District 6 -- Sherry Boike (Coon Rapids) (dd06@mnwt.org)
- o District 7 -- Shelli Mathes (White Bear Lake) (dd07@mnwt.org)
- o District 8 -- Angela Hanson (Eastern Carver County) (dd08@mnwt.org)
- o District 10 -- Sue Bay (Fairmont) (dd10@mnwt.org)
- o District 11 Rep -- JoAnn Miller (Byron) (dd11@mnwt.org)
- Thank you to the 9 State Delegates and 5 District Directors that submitted their Year End evaluations.
- Thank you to the 13 State Delegates that attended LOTS on Saturday May 2, 2020. The winner of the drawing for State Delegates attending is Mercedes Turner of Monticello.
- This year has been a great year spent with some amazing women in this organization. Thank you so much for all the hard work that you have all put into keeping your chapters informed of all that has been happening on the district, state and national level this year. Your hard work did not go unnoticed. I hope that everyone had fun as we flocked together to flame our way through the 2019-20 year.

Membership Vice President – Lisa Hahn (mvp@mnwt.org)

- Welcome the 45 new members this trimester. They join the 300 members who renewed their membership. We had 18 chapters with 75-99% retention and 16 chapters with 100% retention. We had 2 chapters with an In-Chapter extension plus 22 chapters sent in renewal information by the early bird deadline. We ended the trimester at 74 % retention (and 882 members. We are down by 59 members from last trimester. We know it was a struggle to add new members as we were all trying to Social Distance ourselves, but we have high hopes in the coming months we will be able to gain all those members back and then some. The future is bright and we will RISE to the occasion and grow our numbers by leaps and bounds when we can start getting together again.
- Thank you to the 6 chapters who emailed me photos of their Membership events. New Hope, Monticello, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Duluth and Burnsville. The winner of the Membership incentive is Duluth. They will be receiving a Target Gift Card plus an extra Target Gift Card for having a Flamingo at their event. There were 3 other chapters that had a Flamingo at their event. They were Burnsville, St. Cloud, and Sauk Rapids who will be receiving a Target Gift Card in the mail as well. Thank you to all the chapters for sending in the fun pictures.

Chapter Management Vice President – Barb Zeroth (cmvp@mnwt.org)

- Congrats to all the Chapter members who were able to attend LOTS this year via zoom. We had 25 chapters attend. Continue to work together as a Board online to keep connected and learn together, especially if this is a new position for you. Until we can meet in person it is very important to stay connected with your members any way you can, to keep them engaged. Also remember to reach out to staff or other members for any help.
- The winner of my gift card for attending LOTS goes to: Sharon Scholl of Monticello.

Extensions Director – Jenise Teske (extensions@mnwt.org)

- Thank you for all your support and input in completing 2 extensions this year.
- Two and Under Chapters, St. Joe and ROD, extensions team working with their board members to complete training and help them be successful and healthy chapters.
- Lucky Buck Baskets--will work together with MNWT Foundation to have “Exploring Minnesota” basket at the Fall Gala--I will be posting ideas for donations.

Programming Vice President – Melissa Redzuan (pvp@mnwt.org)

- I have very exciting news, all five areas of programming has been filled, please help me welcome your 2020-2021 State Program Managers: Community Connections - Tawn Hanson, Living & Learning - Melanie Chenoweth, Priority Area - Jennifer Auger, Women Wellness - Shanna Pratt, and Youth of Today - Glorie Balfanz.
- Projects of the Tri, Outstanding PMs – will be presented at online Awards Ceremony; certificates will be mailed after conventions to individual winners and chapters.
- Thank you to all chapter members, for their commitment and hard work getting in their service hours and involvement in their community.

Living and Learning SPM – Sarah Sundine (ll@mnwt.org)

- Congratulations members, we hit or came close on all of the goals that were set out at the beginning of the year. Thank you to the 89 members that completed the Living and Learning Certification, 98 members that completed the Health and Wellness Certification and 96 members that completed the Personal Development Certification this year.
- Thank you to the four Districts and Chapters that completed a PEP course this trimester, they all look great and one was even done via Zoom! Congratulations to District 2 for winning the incentive, it will be in the mail.
- Thank you to the 3 members that completed the Gratitude journal and sent an e-mail for completion. Your incentives will be mailed.
- Thank you to the 2 members for participating in the 3rd tri book club. The winner for participating in the discussions is Michelle Kocak Jones of the Monticello chapter. Your incentive will be mailed.

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

- Working with Wishes and More has been a fun and rewarding experience. Chapters and districts have supported them throughout the year and they appreciate it. With the current situation Wishes and More and Women of Today will have to be creative in fundraising. I can not wait to witness from afar what Wishes and More Fans come up with in our 3rd and final year with them as our Priority Area. During this crazy time they are still taking applications for wishes and are writing checks for memorials to families that have lost their child before they could see their wish come true.
- In Trimester 2 you collected items for the Wishes and More Annual Ball. Cat Shuman and I volunteered as Women of Today members that night and saw the items you donated for the Silent Auction. That was a fun night and Wishes and More raised \$160,000.00 with your help.
- In Trimester 3 we raised \$874 in monetary and in kind donations. Thank you for all your efforts this year.
- The 3rd Trimester challenge was: Anyone that donates to Wishes and More with their time, talents, items or money will have a chance to win a prize at this convention. To be entered into this drawing for a prize the chapter would have to let me know about your participation. Please remember that as SPMs we do not know what you are doing unless you tell us! The winner for the Trimester 3 Challenge is Stefany Nikolaus from the Anoka Chapter.

Women's Wellness SPM - Colleen Todd (ww@mnwt.org)

- You have been educated, supportive and encouraging. Thank you everyone for supporting TBI and Brain Health and the MNBIA this year. They were so impressed at Winter State when Sue came to visit.
- We donated 8 bike helmets and raised \$855. That will give MNBIA the buying power to buy 106 bike helmets to give away this summer at clinics. A shout out to the White Bear Lake chapter for posting on social media during Brain Injury Awareness month.

Youth of Today SPM - Michelle Kocak Jones (yt@mnwt.org)

- OYA Scholarship incentive winner for the 3rd trimester is the Aitkin Chapter. An incentive will be mailed to YT LPM Denise Wille. Thank you for all donations this year!
- Coaster orders will be delivered at Fall State.
- A big thank you to Maggie Holmberg for all of her guidance and assistance to support the Boys and Girls Club of MN this year!

Financial Vice President - Amy Pumper (fvp@mnwt.org)

- Shopping the State Store can be done any time as Jane Holmberg our store manager will take email and Facebook orders. Some featured items are new stylus pens, garment bags, President Cat's limited-edition mugs, and the star ornament in president, Cat's colors. Thank you to everyone who has purchased from the state store this year! Look for updates to the store on our website coming soon! I would like to thank Jane Holmberg for all she has done with the state store this year!
- Ways & Means donations for 3rd trimester totaled \$865.00 and the grand total for the year came to \$2851.99. Thanks to chapters, districts, and individuals for helping out this trimester with some great donations. I offered a challenge for 3rd trimester for any donation of at least \$70. A huge thank you to those that met the challenge: St. Cloud, STMA, Greenbush, New Hope, JoAnn Miller, and Windom. The winner of the wine and chocolate basket is the St. Cloud chapter.
- Reminder to chapters and districts to complete a financial audit after the end of your fiscal year. Helpful guidelines are in the Local Treasurer Manual and a worksheet can be found in my Winter State Chapter Information Packet and the Treasurer's webpage.
- The Finance Committee is holding their annual budget and finance meeting on Friday, May 22nd via zoom. The budget meeting starts at 3:00 pm and finance meeting at 6:00 pm. Please let me know if you need the link. You don't have to be a committee member to attend; however, I strongly encourage you to think about joining the Finance Committee. You will play an important role in helping set the budget and assisting with the financial planning for the MN Women of Today. Please contact me and I will be happy to answer your questions. I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the finance committee for their efforts this year – you have been a great support system and have a wealth of knowledge that I am grateful for.
- Thank you everyone for allowing me to serve in this position this year!

Parliamentarian – Wendy Lindberg (parli@mnwt.org)

- There are 32 of 55 chapters joined, a quorum has been established.
- Thank you to the five chapters that submitted their bylaws and policies this Trimester for review. I have a gift for you that will be handed out to MNJOTS or FALL STATE DD Bags - pending our next in person meeting.
- M/S/P (Parli/Duluth) BYLAW VOTE. I move to add the following bylaw to Article XXI, adding Section 5. "The Bylaw review committee may edit punctuation, formatting, and spelling errors within the bylaws of the Corporation, without vote, so long as the edits do not change the intent and purpose of the bylaws written."
- Lastly, I wish to take a moment to thank President Cat for this opportunity to be a part of her state staff.

Chairman of the Board – Brenda Sather (cob@mnwt.org)

- Year End National Convention will be held online in June. Watch the website and your chapter emails for more information. What a great opportunity for you to join a National meeting and of course to "see" Thelma and Louise.
- The Minnesota Women of Today policies require that districts have at least 4 chapters. There were two districts that this impacted – District 1 and District 9. After much discussion, motions were presented. The results were passed that moved Hawley, Red Lake Falls, and Thief River Falls from District 1 to District 2 leaving District 1 vacant. Hanska and New Ulm were moved to District 10 and Montevideo to District 4 leaving District 9 vacant. No other changes to districts were made. The Districts were left vacant as a temporary move to bring us in compliance with our policies and allow further discussions and hopeful extensions.
- Committee Chairs were approved yesterday: Brenda K. Sather as Future Directions Chair; Christine Sibilleau as Marketing Chair and Michelle Cloutier as Membership Management Chair.
- We also appointed Jeny Ohr as Public Relations Assistant Coordinator, Rita Johnson as Success System Coordinator and Jessica Schultz as NEWSLET coordinator.
- M/S/P (COB/Duluth) I move that we go into a Committee of the Whole.
- M/S/P (COB/Duluth) I move that we go out of the Committee of the Whole.
- After the business meeting, promptly at 11 AM we will begin the elections portion of our meeting.

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

- Please remember to file your Chapter Officer Sheet for the coming year using the link found on the Member Home Page. Please also note that you must indicate if you wish to receive paper copies of the CIP packets for the year.
- Reminder that chapters can begin filing their 990n for fiscal year ending May 31, 2020 on June 1st; these must be filed by October 1st per MNWT Policies. You should also remember to file your Annual Renewal with the MN Secretary of State's office by October 1st.
- Seeking convention hosts for Annual 2021 at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, as well as Fall State 2021. Please contact me for more information.
- MNWT has Go To Meeting available for chapters to use for chapter and board meetings. Please use the link on the Member Home Page to request a meeting date and time.
- Official chapter emails are being used frequently to communicate vital, important information. If you do not know how to access your chapter email, please contact Katie at csc@mnwt.org for assistance.
- Watch for the 1st trimester dues billing to arrive via email in June.

Presidential Assistant – Barb Berndtson (pa@mnwt.org)

- If chapters & districts have not sent a \$10.00 check towards Cathy's year end gift, it is not too late, please make out to MNWT with Presidential year end gift written in memo. Also, if you have not sent me your scrapbook page please, please still do so. These scrapbooks will mean the world to Cathy for years to come!
- I hope you all continue to extend a hand of fellowship this coming year, making connections through Women of Today.

Foundation and Committee Reports

Foundation Chair - Nicky Anderson (foundation@mnwt.org)

- The Foundation is hosting a Fall Gala October 17th 2020 held at Arrowwood in Brainerd. Registration is \$70.00. We need 15 more registrations by June 1st to hold the Gala.
- Scholarship deadline is July 1st. Have any art you would be willing to donate? The MNWT Foundation is seeking donations for their annual Art Auction at Fall State to benefit the Cheryl L Anderson Scholarship.
- Amazon Smile benefits the MNWT Foundation with a percentage of sales. If you shop Amazon, please sign up to be a part of Amazon Smile.
- Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 8th, 2020, 10:00 in Sartell at Lisa Hahns. Please let me know if you would like to attend.
- Currently the foundation offers different grants / Loans for Extensions. The committee is reviewing them and looking at other opportunities we can offer intent to extends teams / chapters and new chartered chapters – this includes grants / loans for both. More info to come.
- Yesterday the foundation met with the primary body and voted on some bylaw and policy motions.

Future Directions Chair - Jen Kinzer (fdc@mnwt.org)

- The Restructuring Task Force has been discussing potential ideas for district and area meetings. In order to help them with that discussion they have created a survey via Survey Monkey that will soon be available to all members. Watch for information coming your way about the survey and/or check the website for information about completing this survey.

- 2000-2021 Webinar series will kick off in June. The topics are Fast Starts, Outstanding Awards, and Membership. Please stay tuned for more information about the June Webinar.
- At the last FDC a new Strategic Plan was presented and approved. Please look for copies of the new Strategic Plan on the website.
- A new Manual Review Schedule was approved at the March FDC meeting. We also approved several new officer manuals including: chapter treasurer, secretary and state delegate manuals, and several executive council officer manuals. The FDC voted to produce the updated chapter manuals online only. Copies of the manual will not be distributed in CIPs as in the past but can be found online. However, copies will be available in the state store for purchase.
- The Presidential Pin nomination form has been updated and approved by the FDC. Please look for the updated nomination form.
- FDC approved a March Planning recommendation to distribute CIPs and State POA online. Chapters will only receive a hard copy if requested.
- A Task Force was formed a little over a year ago to study our current People with Developmental Challenges Award. The Task Force spent time during the last year considering this award and discussing how this award might be updated to reflect changes and be inclusive of others who have faced challenges in their lives. The Task Force, led by Shanna Pratt, recommended a new Award called the Person with Determination Award, which was approved yesterday by the Executive Council.
- Thank you to my FDC. I have enjoyed the last two years as your chair. I look forward to supporting the new chair in the 2020-21 year on the FDC committee.

Membership Marketing Chair - Heidi Westerlund (mmc@mnwt.org)

- Thank you to the 45 new members for 3rd trimester! You would have received a New Member Packet with a \$5.00 coupon to the State Store. What will your first purchase be!?
- During this trying time, please stay focused in staying connected with you chapter members. Zoom, call, have a distance meeting at a park, whatever follows the guidelines at that time. This will be extremely important to keeping connected!
- Join a Committee!! It is extremely rewarding, and you learn a lot about our organization. You will be glad you did!

Marketing Committee Chair - Daina Mirsch-Wenner (marketing@mnwt.org)

- The Marketing Committee for 2020-2021 is close to complete; however, we still need an Area 3 Representative. So if you are in districts 7 or 8 and are interested in marketing, you are eligible to hold this position. An Area Rep just has to attend the 3 meetings (one each trimester), and vote on any motions presented. Please contact marketing@mnwt.org if you are interested. All positions will be approved by MNJOTS, so please let me know if you are willing to take on this role prior to June 1.
- We have been working on ways to get our organization known in a number of different ways with different MNWT Marketing Committee taskforces that will continue next year, too. Those include: Non-Member Videos & Podcasts, Increasing Membership (working with MMC), posting Chapter Events on www.mnwt.org, and getting all our forms online. We will also be working on the 2020 Strategic Plan by the Future Directions Committee that focuses on marketing, which includes Developing the Statewide MNWT Brand, and Streamlining MNWT Marketing. Under the MNWT Brand item, we will be implementing a plan for chapters to use the MNWT branding, examining our current logo, and reviewing the current MNWT brand. Under streamline marketing, we will be developing an app, creating a marketing plan for the state organization, and creating marketing strategies for chapters to adopt. If you are interested in helping us with these items, please contact marketing@mnwt.org -- you need not be a member of the committee, as everyone who is interested may join us and/or volunteer for any of these taskforces.
- We have sent out our first MailChimp eBlast to all our chapters. A taskforce is setting up a program to communicate more frequently using this tool. Please consider signing up now to receive these communications in the future. You will find a link in the footer of every webpage.
- This last trimester the Web Team challenged you to a Website Scavenger Hunt. There were only eight (8) participants, but it was well received by those doing it. The participants were put into a drawing and Brynn Olson from Warroad Area Women of Today won the basket. You can find the scavenger hunt on the Web Team's webpage; it gives the participant a great introduction to the website. One participant said, "This would be a fun activity for all new members...." -- we agree!

President of the MN Women of Today—Cathy Shuman

- Year-end Individual Evaluations:
 - Thank you to the 7 chapter presidents, 9 state delegates, 5 district directors, 4 state program managers, and 4 staff members that submitted a year-end entry. I appreciate the time you took to capture your year and look at all you accomplished. Please share your work with the person that will follow you in your position. Please join in later and enjoy the awards ceremony and recognition for your hard work.
- Incentives:
 - Thank you to the chapter presidents that submitted a Year-end Entry: Rachal Mueller, Anoka; Michelle Cloutier, Burnsville; Melanie Chenoweth, Coon Rapids; Joanna Borkenhagen, Fairmont; Rita Johnson, New Hope; Sandy Trossen, Sauk Rapids; Andrea Schue, Warroad Area. Your incentives will be mailed to you.
 - Thank you to the chapter presidents that completed the 3rd trimester president's challenge: Michelle Cloutier, Burnsville; Linda Nindorf, Duluth; Amy DeNoyer-Hickey, Fridley; Rita Johnson, New Hope; Andrea Schue, Warroad. Your incentives will be mailed to you.
 - I offered an incentive drawing for chapter presidents for each time they attended president-to-president sessions and president roundtables at conventions. There were 95 slips in the drawing representing all those that showed up. The winner of a \$25 Amazon gift card is Amy DeNoyer-Hickey of Fridley Chapter and that will be mailed to you.
 - Thank you to the 30+ members that sent me a virtual

birthday cake during the month of April as part of the revised 3rd trimester membership challenge. It was a day brightener each time I opened one of those emails or saw one on Facebook. I donated \$100 to Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank for all the beautiful cakes I received!

Winners of incentives are:

- First Cake Sent – Frances Nelson, St. Joseph (and the cake had Kit-Kat candy bars on it)
- Most Unique – Amy Pumper, Byron (she made a mini cake in one of my president mugs)
- Chapter sending the most cakes – New Hope

Incentives will be mailed to you.

- Thank you to everyone for making this a memorable and remarkable third trimester and year! Please make sure that you come back online for the afternoon awards ceremonies. Awards for 3rd trimester and for the year end will be part of the program. We will find out how many hours were donated and how much we contributed to our communities and the foundations that we serve in Women of Today. We definitely made a difference in many lives during the 2019-2020 year.
- Remarks - "Joy of Giving"

Ongoing Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

- There will be a short break before the Annual Elections meeting which will begin promptly at 11 AM. You do not have to leave the meeting, just keep yourself muted.
- Join in for the MN Women of Today Annual Convention awards session starting at 1 pm this afternoon. The online meeting link is included in the Virtual Annual Meeting email.
- Members of the incoming Executive Council to watch for an email with meeting information for tech setup to take place tomorrow morning.

Sarah Sundine, Living and Learning State Program Manager, read the benediction. Illeana Miller, Administrative Vice President, led the MN Women of Today Creed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27AM.

Meeting minutes submitted by Christine Sibilleau, 2019/20 State Secretary

Elections Meeting | Annual 2020

MINNESOTA WOMEN OF TODAY
ELECTION MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL 2020

The Elections Meeting was called to order by Chair Brenda Sather at 11:00 am via a Zoom meeting. Elections committee parliamentarian, Cathy Snyder of Eastern Carver County established a quorum with 29 of 55 chapters present.

ELECTION OF STATE PRESIDENT

Sara Rocksted of Monticello nominated Illeana Miller of Monticello for the position of state president. Jessica Schultz of Coon Rapids seconded the nomination. A video was presented. Candidate Illeana Miller accepted the nomination.

M/S/P to elect Illeana Miller as the 71st president of the Minnesota Women of Today.

A voice vote was taken. Illeana gave comments as newly elected president.

Due to the elections having to be held via a Zoom meeting, Brenda Sather of the Elections Committee made the following motion:

M/S/P (Brenda Sather, Greenbush/Cindy Umland, St. Cloud)

I move to approve **Michelle Kocak-Jones of Monticello** as Administrative Vice President,

Tevyan Sorenson of Burnsville as Membership Vice President,

Jenise Teske of Fridley as Chapter Management Vice President,

Anna Nichols of New Hope as Programming Vice President,

Mary Hanson of St. Cloud as Financial Vice President,

Barb Suda Monsrud of Greenbush as Secretary,

Melissa Redzuan of Eden Prairie as Parliamentarian, and

Wendy Lindberg of Coon Rapids as Presidential Assistant.

Being no further business, the Elections Meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.

Submitted by,

JoAnn Miller, Byron – Elections Committee

Brenda Sather, Greenbush – Chair of Elections Committee, Chairman of the Board 2019-2020

Special Executive Council Meeting | Annual 2020

ANNUAL SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING - 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, Community Connections SPM, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Sherry Boike, 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)

- No report

Membership Vice President – Tevyan Sorenson (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.
- 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.
- 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 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 mvp 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)

- No report

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.

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!

President of the MN Women of Today—Illeana Miller (president@mnwt.org)

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 Roberta Monsrud, 2020/21 State Secretary