

# Chapter Mailing



## Inside this issue:

[President's Letter](#)

[Membership Team](#)

[Organizational Rules & Records](#)

[Programming](#)

[Chapter & District Support](#)

[Committees and Foundation](#)

[Digi - Sense Article](#)

[Halloween Tips N Treats](#)

[Bylaw and Policies Proposed Changes](#)

[Fall State Exec Council Mins](#)

[Fall State Business Meeting Mins.](#)

## Happy Fall!!

I must say that this is my most favorite time of the year. The smell of pumpkin spice everything, pumpkins everywhere, the cooler weather and most importantly snuggling up with a good book on chilly afternoons with a good cup of coffee. Being a Southern girl, we never really got the changes of the seasons so that is one thing that I have happily adapted to.

With the cooler temps, many chapters who had been meeting outside will be looking to go indoors. I encourage chapters to please be safe and take all precautions to ensure that you are following all the guidelines in place. Each and every member is a valuable member to our organization and we want to make sure you are all safe so we can celebrate in person in January. Our membership team has some great ideas to keep members engaged and how to recruit new members. Don't hesitate to reach out to us!

In regards to programming, did you know that you can still do many programming projects? Your state program managers have been hard at work coming up with new ideas and ways to help your chapter give back. We had a good start to the year, now let's keep the flow going and show everyone what we can do in our programming areas. We have so much to offer, so don't be afraid to step out of the box and try something new.

Thank you to everyone who attended our virtual convention. We all had hopes that we would be able to meet in person, but during these unprecedented times we can never tell what will happen. The important thing is that we all still came together to celebrate our many accomplishments. I could not be prouder of this organization at this time. We are all working hard to make a difference in our communities through these tough times.

Thank you to everyone who continues to share our message of fellowship. We have had a great start to the year and I know that we can only continue to go up from there. Like the phoenix, we will continue to rise and show everyone that we are resilient and courageous. We will emerge stronger than ever before.

In fellowship,  
**President Illeana**

# Membership Team

## Chapter Membership VP

Jenise Teske

Thank you to all who submitted SUCCESS for Trimester 1. If your chapter has not done this recently, I encourage you to take a look at this form. It is a great tool to evaluate if your chapter is well-rounded and also a way to see on paper all you are doing. Please email or call me if you have questions or need help. Chapter Presidents, this is also a good time to evaluate your goals for the year 2020-2021 and complete your mid-year evaluation; the deadline is November 8. By looking at how far you have come already, it can be a tool to re-assess and give yourself kudos on your accomplishments thus far.

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## Membership VP

Tevyan Sorensen

Happy October! Welcome to the middle of 2nd Trimester and welcome to our new members who are joining our flock during this time. I hope you each are finding a place for Service, Growth and Fellowship.

**Membership Trends:** As a Women of Today leader, I would like to share with you the membership trends we notice. Primarily, we are seeing significant loss of membership during the members first 2 years with a chapter.

If you are past your first two years, I am asking you to think about the experience your newer members are having in your chapter. Are they being supported and orientated? Are communication channels clear? Are they included and allowed to participate or constantly pressured to lead? I ask you to think about their experience and what role you and other leaders in your chapter can do to enhance their time going forward.

If you are in your first couple of years, what are the challenges that you are facing? I invite

you to ask your fellow chapter members, your District Director or any State Staff member for what you need to help make this a home. If you are thriving, how can you support your fellow newcomers and pave the road for them as well?

**MVP Challenge:** To support your chapter in recruiting and celebrating your members, please join my MVP Challenge for Tri 2. Complete the challenge by December 12th and be entered into a drawing for a Fun Gift Basket at Winter State Convention. Hold a M-Event (membership event open to guests and focused on recruiting) and a R-Event (retention event focused on celebrating members, though guests may be welcome too). Invite me to each of these events to enter the challenge.

I and the rest of the State Staff are here to support you with information and resources. If you need support, please contact MVP Tevyan at [Membership Email](#) or 214-215-5864. I look forward to hearing about all of the amazing ways you are welcoming and supporting your newer members.

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## Administrative VP

Michelle Kocak Jones

Calling all District Directors and State Delegates! Just a reminder that mid-year evaluations are due November 8th. Forms are on the MNWT website. Please reach out to AVP Michelle if you have any questions, need some assistance, or just want to share your evaluation information with me prior to submitting. These evaluations are helpful to see if you are meeting your goals or need to adjust them. They are also helpful for members who will be the successor of your position.



## Organizational Rules & Records

### Secretary

**Barb Monsrud**

First off, thanks again to everyone who sent in their Chapter/ Districts fast starts - I ♥ reading them. I also want to thank the chapter & district secretaries for emailing me your monthly minutes. Keep up the good work - and keep sending them to me monthly. There will be another drawing at Winter State.

Make sure that you check out my Fall State [CIP](#) for the Tri 2 Challenges, 2nd Tri Success points and other **FUN FACTS**.

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### Parliamentarian

**Melissa Redzuan**

Check out my Fall [CIP](#)!! Information about Parliamentary Procedures on 'How to make a Motion' are in there. Participate in my 2nd trimester 'Through the looking glasses' Parliamentary Checklist! Incentives offered at Winter State!

Thank you to those submitted their chapter bylaws for review. I will get you your incentives by mail.

## Programming

### Programming VP

**Anna Nichols**

Congratulations to all of the programming successes 1st trimester. I am very excited to see what great things we accomplish this trimester. A quick shout out to the PVPs that completed their 1st trimester challenge; Barbara S (Warroad Area), Cathy O (Aitkin), Becky H (Brainerd Lakes Area), Nicky A (District 3 PVP), Tari H (Duluth), Sally K (Melrose Area), Dianna J (Monticello), Lisa H, (Sauk Rapids), Janel B (St Cloud), Jeny O (Coon Rapids), Julie D (St Michael/Albertville), Julie K (Maple Grove), Deb O (Burnsville), & Brenda N (St James)

If you have not read it yet, check out my Fall State [CIP](#)

### **A few due date reminders for everyone:**

Your Outstanding Young Adult, Person with Determination, and Women Who Impact nominations are due by Nov. 1.

President, State Delegate, and Exec Council Mid-Year Evaluations are due to me by November 8th.

Save time, paper, and money by [emailing](#) yours.

Check out the amazing SPMs CIPs for more due dates and challenges.

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### Living and Learning

**Melanie Chenoweth**

You all are amazing! Thank you so much for completing my challenges. Keep it going.

October: Write a personal manifesto. A personal manifesto describes your core values and beliefs, the specific ideas and priorities that you stand for, and how you plan to live your life. This acts as both a statement of personal principles and a call to action. Send me yours for a chance at an incentive.

## Priority Area - Wishes & More Jennifer Auger

Thank you to everyone who made the fundraiser at Thor's Taproom/Aamodt's Apple Farm a huge success!! It has been such a pleasure to work so closely with an organization that focuses on children that are near and dear to my heart. In August I lost one of my students and when I opened up the Gofundme page to see his bright smile in a Wishes & More t-shirt, I knew the reason I'm the SPM this year. It means so much to me that we do what we do each and every day to support others! Every member who volunteers at a WAM event this trimester gets a special token of appreciation from me. I hope I have to spend LOTS of money.

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## Youth of Today Glorie Balfanz

I really appreciate all of you who are participating in Youth of Today Programming, I hope you enjoy getting to know Children's MN. I will continue to post interesting items on the Facebook MNWT Programming Page. If you are interested in helping Children's MN and specifically their Children's Cancer Fund, see my CIP for more information. Please send your donations to the Chapter Service Center and write your checks to MNWT with Children's MN in the memo line. I hope we can raise at least \$100 for this fund in Trimester 2.

My 2 challenges for Trimester 2 are in my CIP. One is to submit a nomination to the Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship Award, due November 1. The other one is to submit an Outstanding Program Manager AND a Project of the Tri nomination for Youth of Today before the due date. I am excited to see all of the great ideas you come up with for Youth of Today programming in Trimester 2. If there is anything I can help with let me know by [emailing](#) me.

## Community Connections Tawn Hanson

Thank you to all the amazing LPMs that sent their Fast Starts in. I am really looking forward to seeing you attain your goals. Be sure to get your Person With Determination (PWD) nominations submitted to me by November 1st. I have two 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester challenges. First, I am putting out a challenge to every member, chapter, and district to send at least a \$5 donation to help fund the PWD award and honorarium. For every \$5 donation the donator's name will be entered into a drawing for a gift basket to be awarded at Winter State.

Second, I am challenging each chapter and district to support Habitat for humanity. Send me a report, it can be as simple as an email to [cc@MNWT.org](mailto:cc@MNWT.org), you will receive an incentive and be entered into a drawing for a gift basket to be awarded at Winter State.

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## Women's Wellness Jeny Ohr

Thank you to all of you that have welcomed me in this position and all the amazing Women Wellness LPMs. You all do such amazing things for your chapters.

Do you know an amazing woman in your community? Does she impact the community by volunteering for a non-profit, mentoring youth or working in women's advocacy? Remember to submit her by November 1st for the Lois M Christensen Women Who Impact Award.

Just a reminder of the two challenges that I have related to the Women Who Impact award!

### District Director 2nd Trimester Challenge

Remind your chapters, Outstanding Award nominations are due on November 1st. Get a nomination from at least one of your chapters for the Lois M. Christensen Women Who Impact award. Fill out the online form [here](#). For each chapter in your district that submits a nomination, you'll be entered in a drawing for a special gift!

### 2nd and 3rd Trimester Fundraiser Challenge

This is opened to all of our Chapters and Members. For every \$5 dollars you donate towards the Lois M. Christensen Women Who Impact Award, your name or chapter's will be entered into a drawing at Annual Convention. All monetary donations should be made out to MNWT with "Women who Impact" in the memo line and mailed to Jeny Ohr, 10180 Nightingale St. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Remember to wear purple at your general meetings and to check out my [CIP](#) to see how you can order some pins and notepads from USWT DVA Program Manager Kathy Hansen.

Let's **SUPPORT** the National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota (NAMI). You have three ways your chapter can participate 1. Hold an event to educate people about Mental Health/Mental Illness, 2. Invite me to a general zoom meeting to speak about NAMI, 3. Donate to NAMI and report it to me. For each thing you do, your chapter will be entered into prize for a special gift at Winter State.

### Loose Change Challenge Fundraiser

Everyone loves a challenge! I am having a fun fundraiser for the National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota (NAMI). It is a loose change challenge.

District directors: Whichever district raises the most money will get a special gift at Winter State.

Chapters: Whichever chapter raises the most money will get a special gift at Winter State.

Some ways to win: Collect change at your general meeting and send a check to me or CSC with NAMI in the memo. Do a lucky buck at your next chapter or district meeting and have the proceeds go to NAMI. Money can be

submitted at the Project Fair at Winter State. Just email me how much money you will be donating with either your name or chapter.

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## **Chapter & District Support**

**Financial VP**  
**Mary Hansen**

Have you shopped at the State Store? The State Store is a great place to purchase gifts for your fellow chapter officers, outstanding members and yourself. Always available you will find the mug for the current and previous state president. There are note cards (a great way to connect with other members), pens, certificates to recognize outstanding accomplishments and of course charms and pins for all the various positions in our organization. Right now we have fans, pop-sockets and garment bags. This is just a sample of what is available.

We have a fantastic State Store manager—Jane Holmberg from the St. Cloud chapter. She is always enthusiastic about the various items and looking for new ideas. She can be contacted through her email of [statestore@mnwt.org](mailto:statestore@mnwt.org).

The State Store is always open during conventions to make your purchases, but you don't need to wait—send Jane an email with what you would like and for a reasonable shipping fee she will get it to you when you need it.

Be sure to check my [CIP](#) for information on a challenge regarding ordering MNWT clothing. There also is a link on the MNWT [website](#)

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**Chairman of the Board**  
**Cat Shuman**

The USWT Mid-Year Convention is taking place online October 2 and 3, 2020. Please check the USWT and/or MNWT websites for registration and meeting information.



I'm really excited to promote ONTO shirts and ONTO flower sales! Here's your chance to support President Ille by purchasing an ONTO shirt. Use this link to go to the COB webpage to find forms for ONTO shirts and flowers: [Click here to order](#) Information about ONTO shirt and flower sales can also be found in my Fall State [CIP](#). You Can email me at [cob@mnwt.org](mailto:cob@mnwt.org) to receive a form to enter your flower messages.

The next state committee meetings for Future Directions, Marketing, and Membership Management takes place on November 21st.

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## Committees and Foundation

### Future Directions

#### Jen Kinzer

Now is the perfect time to submit an Outstanding Award. Whether you submit an Outstanding Young Adult, Women Who Impact or the new Person with Determination Award, (or all three), we are excited to receive your nomination. Questions? Contact me or one of the three SPMs supporting the award.

The Webinar for the Second Trimester is almost here. October 28, beginning at 6:00 is the time scheduled for this webinar. Mark your calendar and register for this upcoming informative evening.

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Membership Management Committee  
Michelle Cloutier

Check out the Fall [CIP](#) for my Tri 2 Challenge! MMC will be working with the Membership Team with one of our focuses being on recruiting.

As the season is changing and will all too soon be back inside, make sure to check in on your fellow members. Make sure they are staying connected, especially the new members. Make sure they are in the know on events,

meetings not just for your chapter but also your district.

MMC is still looking for members to join our task forces. One task force that we are starting is the inventory process of all the Orientation Materials both paper and electronic. We would love to see more members join us.

Looking forward to a fabulous Tri 2!





What is that thing and why is it useful?

That is a Quick Response (QR) code. A QR code is

a type of barcode that is basically used as a pointer to more in-depth information about a person, product, or service. You may have seen QR codes on packaging, business cards, or marketing material. Users can snap a photo of these optical labels and are immediately sent to a weblink that offers more information about the item, device, or individual showcased on the initial information.

Can I read a QR code without a special app?

Yes. Just like iPhones, Android 9 (Android Pie) and Android 10 has an in-built QR code reader. Even the Android 8 or Oreo does not need an app to scan QR codes. If you have an older phone, you may need to download an app to read the QR codes you find.

How do I scan a QR code?

Scanning a QR code is very easy;

1. Open the Camera app from the Home screen, Control Center, or Lock screen.
2. Select the rear facing camera. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app. ...
3. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.

Can anyone tell me where this QR code leads?

## Even though it's not an official holiday, Halloween is much beloved by children and adults alike.

- **Snacking:** Children shouldn't snack on treats from their goody bags while they're out trick-or-treating. Give them a light meal or snack before they head out – don't send them out on an empty stomach. Urge them to wait until they get home and let you inspect their loot before they eat any of it.
- **Safe treats:** Tell children not to accept – and especially not to eat – anything that isn't commercially wrapped. Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as an unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes, or tears in wrappers. Throw away anything that looks suspicious.
- **Food Allergies:** If your child has a food allergy, check the label to ensure the allergen isn't present. Do not allow the child to eat any home-baked goods he or she may have received.
- **Choking hazards:** If you have very young children, be sure to remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys.



## **Bylaw and Policy proposed changes**

Based on a recommendation from the Restructuring Committee, the Future Directions Committee has approved bringing the creation of a new staff position, a Marketing Vice President beginning with the 2021-22 year to the membership for a vote at Winter State 2021.

- ★ This position would be responsible for the overall marketing strategy of the MNWT and chair the Marketing Committee.
- ★ They would be a member of staff and work with the State President, Executive Council members and the chapters/members to create marketing strategies.
- ★ They would supervise the Newsletter Editor and PR Assistant.

Attached are the bylaws and policies that will be voted on at Winter State 2021. By approving these bylaws and policies, we will create this new position.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicky Anderson, chair of the Restructuring Committee or Jen Kinzer, Future Directions chair at [fdc@mnwt.org](mailto:fdc@mnwt.org).

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## **By-Law Motions**

### **I move to add Marketing Vice President after Programming Vice President to ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Section 1. to read:**

ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Section 1. The Executive Council of this corporation shall be composed of the State President, Administrative Vice President, Membership Vice President, Chapter Management Vice President, Programming Vice President, **Marketing Vice President**, State Secretary, Financial Vice President, State Parliamentarian, Extensions Director, Chairman of the Board, District Directors, State Program Managers, Executive Director and the Presidential Assistant. Voting members of this

Council shall be the State President, Chairman of the Board, and District Directors. State Program Managers shall vote on bids for programming areas only.

### **I move to add Marketing Vice President after Programming Vice President to ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS AND DUTIES Section 1. and add a new letter F. that states: "Marketing Vice President shall be responsible for overseeing marketing activities, supervise the Public Relations Assistant and Newsletter Editor and chair the Marketing committee. He/she shall assist the president at his/her request.[AP1]" and re-letter accordingly.**

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS AND DUTIES Section 1. The officers of this corporation shall be the President, Administrative Vice President, Membership Vice President, Chapter Management Vice President, Programming Vice President, Marketing Vice President[AP2], Extensions Director, State Secretary, Financial Vice President, State Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Board, District Directors and State Program Managers. Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

F. Marketing Vice President shall be responsible for overseeing marketing activities, supervise the Public Relations Assistant and Newsletter Editor and chair the Marketing committee. He/she shall assist the president at his/her request.

### **I move to add Marketing Vice President after Programming Vice President to ARTICLE IX. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS Section 10 to read:**

ARTICLE IX. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Section 10 The Administrative Vice President, Membership Vice President, Chapter Management Vice President, Programming Vice President, **Marketing Vice President**, Financial Vice President, State Parliamentarian, Extensions Director and State Secretary shall be appointed by the State President, subject to the approval of the membership.

[AP1]Add a new F and renumber accordingly.

[AP2]Add Marketing VP after Programming VP



## Policy Motions

### Proposed Policy Changes

1. Delete Policy J 7 i which reads “shall supervise the Newsletter Editor”.

Discussion: This is now under the area of Secretary and it would be moved to the Marketing Vice President

2. Add J 6 and renumber accordingly:  
Marketing Vice President

- a. Shall be responsible for the overall marketing results of Minnesota Women of Today
- b. Shall develop and/or maintain a marketing strategy in support of the current MNWT strategic plan
- c. Shall be the chair of the Marketing Committee
- d. Shall supervise the NEWSLET Editor and PR Assistant.
- e. Shall be a member of the Web Team and responsible for social media communication
- f. Shall be responsible for any other activities that the State President deems necessary.
- g. Shall be a member of staff.
- h. Shall serve on the Future Directions Committee and be an ex-officio member of Membership Management and Finance Committees.

Discussion: This is listing the position in the Officer Duty section of the policies.

3. In Policy J 13, 3d Replace Executive Director with Marketing Vice President.

To read Shall report to the Marketing Vice President in the Public Relations Assistant position.

Discussion: Public Relations Assistant will report to the Marketing Vice President rather than the Executive Director as in the past.

4. In Policy J 13, 5d Replace State Secretary with Marketing Vice President.

To read Shall report to the Marketing Vice President in the Newsletter Editor position.

Discussion: Newsletter Editor will report to the Marketing Vice President rather than the State Secretary as in the past.

5. In Policy O 3, a, 1 Add Marketing Vice President as ex-officio member of the Finance Committee.

Discussion: recommending that the Marketing Vice President be a member of the finance committee both for Marketing Budget and networking marketing strategies.

6. In Policy O 3 b 2) Replace chair with Vice President.

Discussion: This changes the language from Marketing Chair to Marketing Vice President as a member of Future Directions.

7. Delete current O 3 c 1) and replace with O 3 c 1) The Marketing Vice President shall be chair of the Marketing Committee.

Discussion: This defines that the Marketing Vice President will chair the Marketing committee.

8. In Policy O 3 c 2) Replace Marketing Chair(s) with Marketing Vice President(s).

Discussion: Shall read Additional committee members shall be the current and immediate past Marketing Vice Presidents, defining committee members for Marketing Committee.

Discussion: Shall read General members shall be appointed by the Marketing Vice President and approved by the Executive Council no later than MNJOTS.

9. In Policy O 3 c 4) Replace Statewide Committee chair with Marketing Vice President.

Discussion: Shall read Subcommittee chairs shall be appointed by the Marketing Vice President with the approval of the committee.

10. In Policy O 3 c 4) a) ii Replace chair with Vice President.

Discussion: Shall read ii. Expo Coordinator(s) may be appointed by the Marketing Vice President to host the Fall State Expo.

11. In Policy O 3 c 4) c) ii Add Marketing Vice President as a member of the Web Team and delete Marketing chair.

Discussion: The Marketing Vice President will be a member of the Web Team.

12. In Policy O 3 c 4) d) Replace Committee Chair with Vice President.

Discussion: Shall read Additional subcommittees may be formed at the discretion of the Marketing Vice President and approval of the Marketing Committee.

13. In Policy O 3 d 2) Add Marketing Vice President as a member of the Membership Management Committee.

Discussion: Marketing Vice President is a member of MMC.

## **Fall State Executive Council Meeting Minutes Minnesota Women of Today Zoom Meeting | Exec Council met in person Friday September 18, 2020**

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President Illeana Miller called the Fall State Executive Council meeting of the Minnesota Women of Today to order at 8:19 pm. Melanie Chenoweth, Living & Learning State Program Manager, read an invocation. Linda Nindorf, District Director 3, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Shirley Viesselman, District Director 5, led the United States Women of Today Creed. Parliamentarian Melissa Redzuan read the Order of the Day. A quorum has been established. The minutes of the Annual Executive Council meeting on May 15, 2020 were approved as emailed on June 5, 2020.

### **Secretary – Barb Monsrud ([secretary@mnwt.org](mailto:secretary@mnwt.org))**

- This trimester I am doing 2 trimester challenges. 1} still taking monthly mins from chapters. 2} send me something that you did this summer that was fun {bonus points if you send pics}
- 12 Chapters & 1 District sent in their Fast Starts. I am happy about this. Did the drawing for the winner.
- 6 Chapters sent in monthly meeting mins. {did drawing for winner}

### **Administrative Vice President – Michelle Kocak Jones ([avp@mnwt.org](mailto:avp@mnwt.org))**

- Thank you to the 7 DD's who completed their Fast Start
- All DD's and one DD rep attended Mini-Jots July 18-19 at AVP Michelle's. Completed some training, Q&A with President Illeana, and social time getting to know one another

### **Membership Vice President – Tevyan Sorensen ([mvp@mnwt.org](mailto:mvp@mnwt.org))**

- 1st and 2nd Trimester Numbers: We ended 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester with 75% retention and 26 New Members. This is great news in our Global Pandemic days. Until last year, we had not had at least 75% 1st Tri retention since 2009. Our 2nd Trimester base is 280. Our goal for retention this trimester is 80% and New Member Adds is 70. These are lofty goals. We will need to work together as a team for us to succeed in this goal. Chapters and members are looking for ideas and encouragement. Where there are walls, lets help knock those down. Remember, we are volunteers. We do what we can, when we

can. This year it is up to us to make sure the local chapters and members feel appreciated for what they do and where we can be supportive and clear a path, lets do it!

- **Membership Awards:** We will be announcing our Chapter Membership awards tomorrow afternoon. Continuing with a new trend, we will present the District awards, now. Two districts had 1<sup>st</sup> trimester growth. Join me in celebrating District 4 with growth +2 and the highest percentage of growth in the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester with 2%. Let's make some noise for the following districts with 75% retention or higher; District 10 with 75%, District 7 with 83%, District 6 with 85%, District 3 with 86%, and with the highest retention for 1<sup>st</sup> trimester is District 4 with 95%. I have a special certificate for our District 4 Rep. Come on up and get your photo taken for the Newslet. We have some amazing districts in our state. I am excited to recognize even more of you in your 2nd trimester.
- **Closeout:** We will be meeting on December 30th at 6 pm for a fun fabulous time of food and phone calls. We will most likely continue with the Membership Team at the CSC and staff supporting virtually. More info to come. the 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester was a lot of fun. We called all of our chapters and received positive feedback and questions from many. And we will be continuing gift card giveaways for chapter members who call in so please encourage Presidents and MVPs to give us a call.
- **Exec Council Membership Challenge:** Thank you to everyone who participated in my 1<sup>st</sup> trimester postcard challenge. The winner of the fun prize is **Shirley Viesselman!** To go along with our lofty Membership goals, I am calling on each of you to support your District or Chapter with your sleeves rolled up. I am asking each of you to host or co-host a membership event that involves inviting guests and encourages new members. Hold this event before December 15th and send me a quick email letting me know you completed the challenge and I will put your name in a drawing for a really fun gift box.

#### **Chapter Management Vice President – Jenise Teske ([cmvp@mnwt.org](mailto:cmvp@mnwt.org))**

- President/State Delegate retreat held online this year
- Drawing winner to be announced at business meeting

- TLC chapters for Trimester 2: Straight River, Savage area (1); Hawley, Staples-Motley, Hawley, Montevideo, Eastern Carver County, Eden Prairie (2); Virginia, Willmar (3)

#### **Extensions Director – OPEN ([extensions@mnwt.org](mailto:extensions@mnwt.org))**

- **No report**

#### **Programming Vice President – Anna Nichols ([pvp@mnwt.org](mailto:pvp@mnwt.org))**

- I have a very special motion to present. You should all have a copy of the WW SPM POA at your table for reference. I move that we approve Jeny Ohr as the 2020 – 2021 Women's Wellness SPM.
- I had a 1st trimester chapter programming report challenged for the DDs. The following completed my 1st trimester challenge and received a fun gift; DD3, DD7, and DD8. Thank you. For those that did not complete this challenge I am extending it to you through the second Trimester.
- For my 2nd trimester challenge; everyone in this room who completes the MNWT Annual Programming Review Form will be entered into a drawing for something fun. AND every DD or Rep who has 15 or more members from their district complete the MNWT Annual Programming Review Form which is due by October 15th will be entered into a second drawing for something fun.
- Calling all DDs, Reps, SPMs, and most of the staff... Your Mid-Year Evaluation is due November 8th. It needs to be sent to me, not your supervisor. This can be done using the online form or simply email me the word form. If you are using the online form, keep a copy of what you entered. It will also need to be included in your Year End evaluation. A few of you may have noticed I included the District Reps in this. Yes, this form is available to them also. Everyone who submits an evaluation will receive a review of their goals and performance from their supervisor including encouragement and tips specific to their needs. If their supervisor chooses they may send the Mid-Year Evaluation out for a second review. Hopefully by now everyone in this room knows who their supervisor is, so I won't go over that list. I do want to mention the Chapter Presidents Mid-Year Evaluations will be reviewed by the CMVP. If you have questions about that see Illeana or Jenise after this meeting. To recap. The Mid-Year Evaluation is due November 8th. It is submitted to the PVP. Your supervisor will look over it and respond with encouragement and support. If you have

any questions or need help with the Mid-Year Evaluation, I am only a phone call or email away.

### **Living and Learning SPM—Melanie Chenoweth**

([ll@mnwt.org](mailto:ll@mnwt.org))

- I had several challenges out to the chapters and members. I will have Illeana draw from the mini challenges. I have one for June, one for July and one for August.
- You have two post-its - on one I want you to write something that is bothering you right now. Now I want you to look at it and now destroy it - rip or crumple it. On the second post-it I want you to write a word of encouragement. Now keep that one with you all weekend.

### **Priority Area SPM / Wishes and More - Jennifer**

Auger ([priority-area@mnwt.org](mailto:priority-area@mnwt.org))

- I had 5 different ways members and/or chapters could be entered into a drawing first trimester and would like to take a moment and have Illeana draw the winner

### **Women's Wellness SPM - Jeny Ohr** [ww@mnwt.org](mailto:ww@mnwt.org))

- Remind your chapters, Outstanding Award Nominations are due on November 1<sup>st</sup>. I have a challenge for District Directors to get a nomination from at least one of your chapters for the Lois M. Christensen Women Who Impact award. For each chapter in your district that submits a nomination, you'll be entered in a drawing for a special gift! So, keep encouraging your chapters to submit nominations!
- There was a WW participation drawing for the 1st trimester and I would like to take a moment and have Illeana draw the winner. No peeking.
- The USWT DVA PM will be attending the Winter State Convention. She has requested to hold a fundraiser where she would sell pins for \$2 and notepads for \$3 that weekend. All proceeds would go to stop domestic violence. With that, I have a motion prepared. I move that we allow the USWT Domestic Violence Program Manager to sell pins for \$2 and note pads for \$3 at the 2021 Winter State convention where all proceeds would support domestic violence.
- **M/S/P (WW/FVP) I move that we allow the USWT Domestic Violence Program Manager to sell pins for \$2 and note pads for \$3 at the 2021 Winter State convention where all proceeds would support domestic violence.**  
**m/s/p FVP - Mary Hansen**

### **Youth of Today SPM - Glorie Balfanz** ([yt@mnwt.org](mailto:yt@mnwt.org))

- See my business meeting report for an update on all accomplishments and participation in Youth of Today. First Trimester I choose to recognize each participant of the challenges with a thank you note and small token.
- I would like to send each chapter that I have not heard from in Trimester 1, a handwritten note asking them what they have done for Youth of Today this year. In August/September I sent a handwritten note to each chapter that had done something for Youth of Today. Some had emailed me with information, some sent Trimester Reports or Project of the Trimester Reports. Others I found from Facebook or attending meetings. Yes, I stalked them! I hope by writing a personal note to each chapter I will get more chapters to let me know what they are doing .
- I need all of your help tomorrow during my business meeting report. You each have a copy at your table. When I am giving my report if you could all read with me the bold sections that say "After all this is Women of Today. We find a way" It would help make my report even better. Let's all practice with the first sentences of number one."I am so proud to be part of Women of Today. Because of you we are still making a difference in our communities and beyond. Even in 2020. I have confidence that we will in 2021 also. **After all this is Women of Today. We find a way"**

### **Community Connection SPM - Tawn Hanson** ([cc@mnwt.org](mailto:cc@mnwt.org))

- Persons with Determination(PWD) nominations are due November 1st. My goal is to have at least 3 entries to be able to award an honoree at Winter State 2021. I need everyone in the room to help promote to the chapters in order to meet this goal.

### **Financial Vice President - Mary Hansen** ([fvp@mnwt.org](mailto:fvp@mnwt.org))

- Expense checks were handed out along with an updated budget. Let me know if you have any questions. Remember that you can claim only expenses incurred prior to handing in your expense sheet. The exception will be in Trimester 3 for Annual convention
- State Store featured new items: president Illeana's new mug – it even comes with a spoon, a garment bag and now pens with



the soft tip for using on phones & tablets in a multitude of colors. The store will be open on Saturday.

- MNWT Clothing is now available for purchase. We have partnered with Warroad Threads and there is a good selection of sizes and colors to choose from. I will have a challenge during Trimester 2 for members to post FB pictures and comments to be entered into a drawing.
- Trimester 2 fundraisers will be a Zoom-a-thon Ways & Means fundraiser during the events on Saturday. Thelma and Louise are going to be assisting with this. For every \$10.00 donation the member/chapter will be entered into a drawing for a state store gift certificate of \$25.00.
- The Raffle fundraiser that the Finance committee supports that usually has the drawing at Winter State will be postponed. We will kick off the raffle at Winter State and hold the drawing at Annual convention.
- The next Finance Committee meeting will be via Zoom on Saturday, January 9, 2021. A mid-year budget review will be held prior to that meeting.
- If you are interested in becoming a Finance Committee member, let me know. We meet 4 times a year and are always looking for new members.
- **M/S/P (FVP/CC) I move to appoint Anna Ostenberg-Buchanan to the MNWT Finance Committee for a 2 year term. m/s/p CC - Tawn Hanson.**
- **M/S/P (FVP/COB) I move to approve the 2020-2021 MNWT budget with a total income of \$84,505.00, total expenses of \$84,160.00 with a net income of \$345.00 m/s/p COB - Cat Shuman.**

#### **Parliamentarian – Melissa Redzuan**

[parli@mnwt.org](mailto:parli@mnwt.org)

- We will VOTE on our priority area during business meeting Saturday morning, the two organizations that we are going to vote are; Crescent Cove and Ronald McDonald House, Upper West
- Policy and Bylaw review are October 24 2020 via zoom. More details to come in the MNWT Administration facebook page or will be emailed to chapters.
- Please check MNWT State Parliamentarian CIP for the 2nd trimester challenge. I am excited about this one and looking forward to receiving it from chapters and districts. This 2nd trimester I am emphasizing the guidelines on 'how to present a motion' at chapter meeting and district meeting as well.

- The Winner of my 1st Trimester Challenge is.....to be announced at Business Meeting.

#### **Chairman of the Board – Cathy Schuman**

[cob@mnwt.org](mailto:cob@mnwt.org)

- Please save the date for the online USWT Mid-Year Convention to take place Oct 2-3. USWT President Angie Dietz-Robinson posted a welcome letter and invitation on the USWT website. I'd love to have you register as part of the Minnesota delegation. Watch for updates on the schedule and registration information.
- Check your place for breaking news about ONTO Flower Sales. You should find an information sheet and a form to submit messages to go with the flowers you order. Deadline for orders is January 1st and delivery will take place at Winter State convention.
- Great news! ONTO shirts have been delivered this weekend and they are available for sale at \$10 or \$11 depending on size. You should have an order form with the details at your place.
- Since we are in the midst of election season for state and national offices, I'd like to invite you to think about an exec council position for next year. It's not too early to start thinking about it. Please take a look for some paperwork that I provided for each of you. I'd be happy to meet with you at any time to answer questions. Filing for staff positions begins December 1st; SPM bids take place at Winter State convention; District Directors are elected by their district members usually at the spring district meeting.
- **M/S/P (COB/CC) I move to approve the following members to the ONTO Committee for 20-21: Jenise Teske & Angela Hanson m/s/p CC - Tawn Hanson.**

#### **Executive Director – Katie Castro** ([csc@mnwt.org](mailto:csc@mnwt.org))

- Mid Year Executive Council is scheduled for November 7th at Arrowwood Lodge. You have information at your place, and I will send a Google registration form. Cost will be \$35.00 and you can give me your payment today if you like, otherwise you can mail it.
- I am still working on Winter State arrangements, Registration will be going out via email soon. The planned schedule will look like a normal Fall State schedule with Project Fair, Saturday night party after the banquet and Fellowship Brunch on Sunday morning.



- I am seeking hosts for Fall State 2021 here at Arrowwood and Annual 2022 at Arrowwood Alexandria. Please see me for further information.
- I still need to collect money for name tags and clothing from a few people. If I show that you owe money you received an email from me this week. I would appreciate getting these taken care of ASAP - thank you!
- Please be sure to clean up your official email boxes; with so much virtual activity more and more emails are being sent and we want to make sure you receive all communications. Also, I need everyone to check their black list and make sure you do not have any official mnwt.org emails blocked. I also need each of you to make sure that you have [katie@mnwtcsc.net](mailto:katie@mnwtcsc.net) in your safelists.
- Reminder that the very best way to communicate with me is via email; that way I have any requests in front of me in written form when I am sitting at my desk.

**Presidential Assistant – Wendy Lindberg**  
([pa@mnwt.org](mailto:pa@mnwt.org))

- Things you want to know about Mid Year are on the letters on your table.
- At your spot there are stickers to replace WW and Future Directions in the directory.
- Thank you to all who have made a contribution to President Illeana's gift and appreciation fund. It's not too late for you to donate now. Anyone giving me their contribution from now to Jan. 1 will be entered into the exec council drawing to win a gift. Those who submitted now to Sept. 1 have been entered into this trimester drawing. The winner is: Shirley Viesselman.
- Quilt Squares galore! I would LOVE it if you all would LOVE to make a 7x7 quilt square. Make it painted, make it printed, circuit, sew, glue gun....WHATEVER! Just be sure it can be washed. Leave a 1" margin on all sides...and give it to me. Now until Jan. 1 and I will give you another present in a drawing.
- SMILE! POSE! Wave to the CAMERA! I need your photos. Send to my email or tag me on facebook so I can get them for a picture book for Illeana.
- Listen carefully at the business meeting for a challenge. Find out more about Illeana in this Trimester's get to know your president.

**Foundation Chair - Nicky Anderson**  
([foundation@mnwt.org](mailto:foundation@mnwt.org))

- Our Annual Lucky Buck Auction to benefit Chapter Grants will be held at Winter State. We are now seeking donations for our baskets.
- Chapter Grant applications are due December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The MNWT Foundation is currently participating in the Amazon Smile program. See my CIP for details.
- Give to the Max Day is Nov 19<sup>th</sup> please check out my CIP for more details.

**Future Directions Committee Chair - Jen Kinzer**  
([fdc@mnwt.org](mailto:fdc@mnwt.org))

- The upcoming FDC Meeting will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup>. I encourage you as a member of the exec council to attend one of these meetings. It is a great way to experience what is happening with our organization behind the scenes. Whether an official member of the committee or not, we are happy to have you attend and offer input.
- A new state officer position of Marketing VP is being proposed as part of the MNWT staff for the 2021-2022 year. Members of the Restructuring Task Force have been working on the details.

**Marketing Committee Chair - Christine Sibilleau**  
([marketing@mnwt.org](mailto:marketing@mnwt.org))

- You, as members of Exec Council will soon have a whole other level to connect to members and chapters across the state! You will be asked to contribute content monthly for these eBlasts using an EmailMe form. We are proposing a weekly content schedule:
  - Membership [ROAR] - 1st week
  - Events [combine social events and state meetings, include committee meetings] - 2nd week
  - Publications [chapter mailings, NEWSLET, CIPs, website, social media, blog] - 3rd week
  - Programming [combine volunteer and personal development] - 4th & 5th week
- Public Relations Assistant Jeny Ohr has sent out press releases to the local city newspapers of the SPMs.
- Social Media Team Lead Jeny Ohr has been keeping very busy with blog posts!

- 11 chapters and 19 staff members were highlighted in the 1st Trimester
- 2nd trimester will concentrate on E(Encourage)
- Emails have gone out for writing up Outstanding Young Adult and Person with Determination Awards
- Some stats: 2018 (709 visitors), 2019 (813 visitors ), 2020 (526 visitors so far)
- Webteam will discuss Instagram at the next meeting.

**Membership Management Committee Chair - Michelle Cloutier ([mmc@mnwt.org](mailto:mmc@mnwt.org))**

- MMC is still looking to add committee members. Will be starting our focus on taking inventory of orientation materials used within the organization.
- There will be a First Timers Zoom meeting Friday night to welcome new members to convention.
- Promote MMC Challenge of emailing Michelle your chapters orientation materials to be entered into drawing at Winter State.
- MMC will be working with MVP with focus on Tri 2 of recruiting

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

**Meeting Minutes submitted by Barb Monsrud, 2020-21 State Secretary**

**Minnesota Women of Today Business Meeting Staff Reports Fall State – Arrowwood Resort, Brainerd | Zoom Mtg. September 19, 2020**

President Ileana Miller called the Fall State Business meeting of the Minnesota Women of Today to order at 9:09am. Melanie Chenoweth, Living & Learning State Program Manager, read an invocation. District 6 Director, Sherry Boike led the Pledge of Allegiance. District 3 Director, Linda Nindorf, led the United States Women of Today Creed. Parliamentarian Melissa Redzuan read the Order of the Day. A quorum has been established. The minutes of the Annual Business meeting on May 16, 2020 were approved as emailed on June 5, 2020.

**Secretary, Barb Monsrud ([secretary@mnwt.org](mailto:secretary@mnwt.org))**

- There were 14 secretaries and 1 district who submitted their Secretary Fast Start! Your certificates and a little something from me

were put in the District Director bags! The winner of the Fast Starts drawing is Judy Weyer Of Sauk Rapids.

- My first trimester challenge was to have minutes submitted for review - thank you to the 5 secretaries that sent theirs in for review for the 1st Trimester Challenge! The winner of this drawing is Vicky Petrovich of the Duluth chapter.
- To date, there are 14 members | chapters | groups who have donated a total of \$535.00 to cover the cost of printing/distributing this year's State Plan of Action. Thank you!! These qualified for a chance to win a gift basket for every \$25 donation - the winner of this gift basket is STMA. It's not too late - there will be a second drawing at the Winter State Convention - get me your donation of \$25 or more to me for your chance to win an Amazon gift card at Winter State Convention!

**Administrative Vice President, Michelle Kocak Jones ([avp@mnwt.org](mailto:avp@mnwt.org))**

- Mid-year evaluations are due 11/8. Examples have been shared with State Delegates and District Directors
- Thank you to the 8 DD's and 18 State Delegates for submitting their Fast Starts. The incentive winner is Angela Hanson from Eastern Carver Co.
- Check my CIP for a handy State Delegate Checklist to help you during your year.
- Thank you to the 15 State Delegates and one DD who attended the retreat. The incentive winner is Melanie Chenoweth from Coon Rapids.

**Membership Vice President, Tevyan Sorenson ([mvp@mnwt.org](mailto:mvp@mnwt.org))**

- Welcome the **26** new members this trimester. They join the **190** members who renewed their membership. We had **39** chapters with 75% retention or higher with **25** chapters sending in renewal information by the early bird deadline. Wait a minute! Did I hear there is a global pandemic going on? Despite all of the challenges this has brought this year, you all found a way to gather your flock to your chapter. YOU did amazing things this trimester. As a state we hit 75% retention for only the 2nd time in the last decade and we are continuing the positive momentum we have seen the last few years. We added 26 New Members. AND that was with social distancing! You brought these ladies into your chapters by extending a hand of fellowship in so many

creative ways to those who were looking for fellowship and a place to make a difference. Thank you for giving them a home to land at. Let's take this positivity and encouragement you are seeing here and move forward to welcome in even more. When this weekend is done and you are back home, take a moment to think about how your chapter can achieve 80% retention and sign 2 new members this trimester. Slow and steady growth will strengthen your chapter's foundation and in return help your chapter make a bigger impact for your members and in your community.

- Thank you to the **9** chapters who let me know that they held events during the 1st trimester Membership Week. The winner of the Membership Fun Box is **Staples-Motley Area**. The date for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Membership Week is **November 29th - December 5th**. Email me about your event for a chance to win 2<sup>nd</sup> trimesters Membership Fun Box. For more information on Membership Week, please see page 4 of my CIP.
- It's time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Membership Challenge. Entries are due by **December 12th**. I am asking each chapter to hold a M-Event (a membership social) where they are publicly promoting the event and recruiting guests AND hold a separate R-Event (a retention social) where you are celebrating your membership, with or without outside guests. Email me at [mvp@mnwt.org](mailto:mvp@mnwt.org) about your events and you will be entered into a drawing for a prize at Winter State. All details can be found on **page 4** of my CIP.

**Chapter Management Vice President, Jenise Teske**  
[\[cmvp@mnwt.org\]](mailto:cmvp@mnwt.org)

- # of Chapters represented at President/State Delegate retreat, held online: 20.
- 18 chapter Presidents submitted Fast Starts. Per my Trimester 1 challenge, all entered in drawing. Winner is: Nancy Wisken - Anoka Chapter.
- TLC chapters for Trimester 2: 2-1st trimester, 5 on 2nd trimester, and 2 on 3rd trimester. Good news: 3 previously had new member adds to come off the list!

**Extensions Director, OPEN** [\[extensions@mnwt.org\]](mailto:extensions@mnwt.org)

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**Programming Vice President, Anna Nichols**  
[\[pvp@mnwt.org\]](mailto:pvp@mnwt.org)

- I have a very exciting announcement. Yesterday at the Exec Council Meeting we voted in our new Women's Wellness SPM. Please join me in welcoming Jeny Ohr from the Coon Rapids chapter to the team.
- What an amazing 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester we have had. Yes, it was different and difficult at times, but still amazing. In just one trimester we increased our reported programming participation by 5% over all of last year. This tells me that it's not always about the large fundraisers and activities. Our members can do amazing things to support each other and our communities one project at a time. A heartfelt Thank you to everyone one who has been doing what they can this year to support programming. Please keep sending in your trimester programming reports and sharing what your chapters are doing. Even in a pandemic, together we are making a difference in our communities.
- It would not be a Business meeting without a few PVP awards. The chapter winning my Mini Facebook programming/membership challenge is Byron. AND the chapter winning my trimester report challenge is Brooklyn Park. For more information on my 2nd trimester challenges and fun programming updates, read my CIP and keep an eye out for monthly PVP updates coming directly to your MNWT chapter email.
- Each year our members have an opportunity to review and evaluate our five programming areas. This year's the MNWT Annual Programming Review Form is due October 15<sup>th</sup>. You can find a link to the form on the MNWT website, the Programming Facebook Page, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester Programming newsletter, and chapter emails from the PVP. Your responses are an important part of the MNWT programming process and help to create future programming improvements.
- Later in this meeting we will be voting for the next three-year priority area organization. The two bidding organizations are Crescent Cove and Ronald McDonald House, Upper Midwest. There will be no discussion allowed before the vote. We will have a roll call vote by chapter. Please note, all of your assigned voting delegates will need to be online and present during the vote.

**Community Connections, Tawn Hanson**  
[\[cc@mnwt.org\]](mailto:cc@mnwt.org)

- ★ A special thank you to the following CC LPMs who send me their Fast Starts, Christine Bacon, Fawn

Widman, Terri Alston, Christine Knirk, Marie Pedigo, Tari Hiveley, Cathy Shuman, Connie Fink and Jessica Schultz

- ★ The Persons with Determination (PWD) 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. Your nominations are due by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Let's work together to make the first year of this award a huge success. I am challenging every chapter to look at the members in your community and find your Person with Determination to nominate.
- ★ I have two 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester challenges. First, I am putting out a challenge to every member, chapter, and district to send at least a \$5 donation to help fund the PWD award and honorarium. For every \$5 donation the donator's name will be entered into a drawing for a gift basket to be awarded at Winter State.
- ★ Second, I am challenging each chapter and district to support Habitat for humanity. Send me a report, it can be as simple as an email to [cc@MNWT.org](mailto:cc@MNWT.org), you will receive an incentive and be entered into a drawing for a gift basket to be awarded at Winter State.

**Living & Learning, Melanie Chenoweth**  
[ll@mnwt.org](mailto:ll@mnwt.org)

- ★ Sitting in meetings for a long time can be hard and we can get distracted, lose focus, get bored. A few tricks to help you are to wiggle your toes, doodle, drink water, or chew gum. I know we are all sitting in front of our computers more and more now and I have a hard time staying focused so I use these to help me retain the information and stay engaged.

- ★ Thank you Darlene Matthies, Dawn Hendricks, Karen Cogger, Melissa Luna, Sue Knuckey, Candy Freeman, Dottie Voigt, and Cindy Sobzyak for sending in your fast starts. Your incentive is in the DD bag..
- ★ The winner of my June challenge is \_Nicky Anderson the winner of my July challenge is Cindy Umland and the winner of my August challenge is Frances Nelson. Your prizes are in the DD bag. Thank you to the two chapters who participated in a PEP course. They are Anoka and Coon Rapids. Your prizes are in the DD bag.
- ★ I have new challenges for you for the 3rd trimester. Your chapter is to do one of the mini challenges at a chapter meeting. Every chapter that tells me what you did will get entered into a drawing for an incentive. My mini challenge for October is to write a personal manifesto, for November it is to do one thing that scares you, and for December it is to do at least one item of self care. The individual challenge is to choose any personal development book to read and let me know what you read and if you would recommend it. Everyone that participates will be entered into a drawing for an incentive.

**Priority Area, Jennifer Auger**  
[priority-area@mnwt.org](mailto:priority-area@mnwt.org)

- ★ Thank you to the following awesome Priority Area LPMS who submitted Fast Starts in first trimester: Nancy-Monticello, Jeny-Coon Rapids, Courtney and Stefany-Anoka, Roxy-Aitkins, Lisa-Sauk Rapids, Abigail-STMA, and Tevyan-Burnsville. You will all be receiving a small thank you gift from me. Thank you, also to the chapters and members that participated in my trimester challenges. The names of everyone who participated in the challenges this trimester was entered into a drawing for a fun gift. The winner is Jeny Ohr, Coon Rapids.
- ★ Thank you to the chapters and members who volunteered this



trimester for events for Wishes & More. We had representation at the Golf Classic and Brewery Justice League event at Boom Island Brewery. We also had several members work on the mailing project and coordinate painting of a wish room.

- ★ It isn't too late to support the Wishes & More Annual Gala in January. I will still be taking donations of items they can use for the Silent Auction. What is great is that even if the Gala can't happen....they have a platform to have a successful Silent Auction online, which they did at the Golf Classic. You can put together a basket, or even easier, donate items and they will combine them with other things and do the creative work themselves. Contact me and we will figure out how to get them to the office in Fridley.
- ★ Exciting UPCOMING EVENT.....Next Weekend September 26th and 27th.....Bring your family and friends and join other Women of Today members at Thor's Taphouse/Aamodt's Apple Farm in Stillwater for a fundraising event to support Wishes & More. This event is part of WAMs Brewery Justice League program, but has been specifically coordinated by myself as a MNWT representative. Women of Today volunteers are needed to provide information and collect monetary donations throughout the event. The owners of Thor's have given us an entire weekend to fundraiser for a great cause. And it is the most wonderful place to spend a Fall afternoon with family and friends following Covid-19 safety guidelines.
- ★ A sign up Genius and flier have been sent to all chapter emails. Please encourage members to sign up for a volunteer spot and join in this great event!

**Women's Wellness, Jeny Ohr [\[ww@mnwt.org\]](mailto:ww@mnwt.org)**

- ★ Thank you to the following awesome Women's Wellness LPMS who submitted Fast Starts in first trimester; Amy DeNoyer-Hickey, Brenda Nommensen, Denise Kociemba, Diane W Carr, Joy Gruhlke, Judy Moldenhauer, Karen Cogger, Lana

Gilberts, Leanne Mickley, Maureen Edstrom, Stacy Cardinal, Veronica Keeney and Tari Hiveley. You will all be receiving a small thank you gift from me. Thank you, also, to the many brave members who participated in the first trimester challenge and shared some of their struggles with mental health. The names of everyone who participated in all areas of Women's Wellness this trimester were entered into a drawing for a fun gift. The winner is: [Amy DeNoyer-Hickey, Fridley](#)

- ★ My focus for the year will be on Mental Health Awareness and the organization National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota (NAMI). Their mission is to be champions for justice, dignity and respect for all people affected by mental illness. Every chapter that participates in this area 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester will be entering into a drawing for a special gift at Winter State. Please see my CIP for all the details.
- ★ Do you know an Amazing Woman in your community? Does she impact the community by volunteering, mentoring youth, or working in women's advocacy? Take a moment to recognize her by submitting a Women Who Impact Nomination for her by November 1<sup>st</sup>. This year my fundraiser for Women Who Impact is pretty simple. For every \$5 your chapter, district or member donates, you will get entered into a cool prize at Annual Convention.
- ★ I would like to take a moment to thank Shanna for an amazing 1<sup>st</sup> trimester. She did a great job starting our year off with a bang. Last, but not least, thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for Outstanding Programming Manager and Project of the Trimester. The winners will be announced during the awards this afternoon. Keep reminding each other that we're all in this together!

**Youth of Today, Glorie Belfanz [\[yt@mnwt.org\]](mailto:yt@mnwt.org)**

- ★ I am so proud to be a part of Women of Today. Because of you we are still making a difference in



our communities and beyond. Even in 2020. I have confidence that we will in 2021 also. **After all this is Women of Today. We find a way.** During the 1st Trimester in Youth of Today Programming the following LPMs submitted Fast Starts, Tara H of Duluth, Sarah S of Monticello, Sandy T of Sauk Rapids, Nancy W of St Cloud, Kara R of Coon Rapids, Sherri S of St Michael Albertville, Rita J of New Hope, Michelle C of Burnsville, Sue R of St James. A small token of my appreciation is being delivered by your district director.

- ★ With your help the Outstanding Young Adult Craft Fundraiser was a huge success. I was nervous. This is a crazy time. I didn't know what chapters and individuals could do. I should know better by now. **After all this is Women of Today. We find a way.** Thank you to the many chapters that participated. I told you Children's MN needed masks. Again you stepped up. **After all this is Women of Today. We find a way.** We donated over 100 masks to Children's MN and hundreds more to other organizations. Many chapters participated in Kids Week, with a lot of different projects and ideas. A list of all chapters that participated will be in the Youth of Today CIP. I received several Project of the Trimester Reports for Youth of Today. I hope even more chapters will submit next trimester. I really want to hear what you are up to in my area. You all have such great ideas. **After all this is Women of Today. We find a way.** A small thank you from me will be delivered by district directors to all the chapters that participated in Youth of Today Programming.
- ★ Do you have an Outstanding Young Adult in your community? Of course you do! Please consider honoring them with a nomination to the Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship. Nominations are due November 1st. The information for the nomination is on the MNWT website. If you have questions, email me.
- ★ I have 2 challenges for Trimester 2.
- ★ a. If a chapter submits a nomination for a Project of the Trimester and Outstanding Program Manager for

Youth of Today, they will receive a thank you from me.

- ★ b. If a chapter submits a nomination for Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship they will receive a thank you from me.
- ★ Have you heard of the Children's MN campaign Shine Bright for Cancer Kids? This fund goes to their Kids Cancer Fund. It does everything from supporting special therapies and lifesaving research to providing mortgage and rent relief to patient families. That touched my heart. If it touches your heart it is easy to donate. I have a plan that if every chapter donates at least \$2 we can give Children's MN \$100. I will have instructions on how to donate in the Youth of Today CIP, which will be available after convention. I have confidence that we can make a difference by donating to this fund. **After all this is Women of Today. We find a way.**

**Financial Vice President, Mary Hansen** [[fvp@mnwt.org](mailto:fvp@mnwt.org)]

- Thank you to the 18 Chapter and District Treasurers who submitted their fast start. These names will be announced at the Awards Ceremony later today. Certificates and incentives were placed in Chapter and District bags.
- Thank you to the chapters and individuals who donated to state Ways and Means during Trimester 1.
- I would like to welcome Thelma and Louise to introduce our Ways & Means Zoom-a-thon fundraiser for today. For every \$10.00 donation the member/chapter will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 state store gift certificate. Make your pledge in the chat portion of the zoom meeting.
- The State Store is here this weekend with our awesome manager, Jane Holmberg. Please stop by and see our new items including President Illeana's new mug. Contact your DD if you would like here to purchase something and bring back to you.
- MNWT clothing is now available for ordering through Warroad Threads. There is a selection of items, shirts, jackets, pants and face masks, each with a variety of colors and sizes. My challenge this trimester is to post a picture of you in your purchase and make a comment on FB. Be sure to tag #MNWTFinance to be entered into a

drawing. Information is in my [CIP](#) and on the MNWT website.

- The following was approved for a two-year term on the finance committee at the Executive Council meeting: Anna Ostenberg-Buchanan.
- The Raffle fundraiser that the Finance committee supports that usually has the drawing at Winter State will be postponed. We will kick off the raffle at Winter State and hold the drawing at Annual convention.
- The next Finance Committee meeting will be via Zoom on Saturday, January 9, 2021. A mid-year budget review will be held prior to that meeting.

**Parliamentarian, Melissa Redzuan** [[parli@mnwt.org](mailto:parli@mnwt.org)]

- The two organizations that we are going to vote this morning are; Crescent Cove and Ronald McDonald House Upper West.
- Policy and Bylaw review will be on October 24 2020 via zoom. Zoom link will be emailed to chapters and districts. Reminders will be posted to MNWT Facebook page.
- Please check MNWT State Parliamentarian CIP for the 2nd trimester challenge, I am excited about this one and looking forward to receiving it from chapters and districts. This 2nd trimester emphasizes the guidelines on 'how to make a motions at chapters meeting and districts meeting as well.
- The Winners of my 1st Trimester Challenge are Burnsville WT and Rodgers Otsego Dayton chapter.

**Chairman of the Board, Cat Shuman** [[cob@mnwt.org](mailto:cob@mnwt.org)]

- US Women of Today will be holding their Mid-Year Convention online October 2 and 3. Details should be posted soon on the UWST website at [uswomenoftoday.org](http://uswomenoftoday.org). Please save the date because we would love to have you register and be part of the Minnesota delegation. We will keep you updated through the MNWT website and Facebook page and will send information out to the chapter emails.
- I'm glad to announce that once again we will hold ONTO Flower Sales with pre-orders due by January 1st and delivery at Winter State convention. Be sure to download my Chairman of the Board CIP with information and special form for messages. Better yet, go to my COB webpage and click on the ONTO Flower link to create your messages and email them to me. Price is \$2 each or 6 for \$10 or 12 for \$20.

- Thanks to those that have purchased your ONTO shirts already! We have a good supply of shirts for you to order and they can be shipped directly to you. Order form is available in my CIP and on my COB webpage. Don't wait too long to send me your order!
- Are you thinking about an executive council position for next year? It's not too early to start considering that. I'd be glad to answer any questions or concerns you might have. Please take a look at my CIP for an overview of exec council positions.
- Please save the date for March Planning to take place on Saturday, March 13, 2021. If you have recommendations for changes to enhance our organization, this is the time to bring them forward.
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## Executive Director, Katie Castro

- I am seeking hosts for Fall State 2021 at Arrowwood Lodge and Annual 2022 at Arrowwood Alexandria. If you are interested or have questions, please let me know.
- I am still working on Winter State arrangements, Registration will be going out via email soon. The planned schedule will look like a normal Fall State schedule with Project Fair, Saturday night party after the banquet and Fellowship Brunch on Sunday morning.
- Reminder to all chapters to be cleaning up your official chapter email box.
- PR Coordinator Jeny would like to thank the 13 people from 10 chapters who participated in the first trimester PR Blog challenge. Jeny hopes that by reading our blog everyone was inspired by our State Staff and awesome chapters. The winner of the challenge is Sharon Bergquist, who will receive a Target gift card.
- Huge thank you to all web team members: Webmaster - Daina, Web Asst. - Julie Hamel, Web Helper - Christine S., Web Thing 1 - Shellie Matthes, Web Thing 2 - Jeny Ohr.
- All CIP's are available online NOW!

## Presidential Assistant, Wendy Lindberg [[pa@mnwt.org](mailto:pa@mnwt.org)]

- Thank you to those who donated their gift money for President Illeana's gift. I had issued a chapter and district challenge to all who submitted to the president gift fund to submit by Sept. 1 and be entered into a drawing. The Chapter receiving this Tri 1 incentive is: Duluth. You can enter now until Jan. 1 2021 to be entered into the next one.
- I am looking for quilt squares for the president quilt. Create your own chapter or district square in a 7x7 size. Paint, Sew, whatever. Just make it washable and fun! Anyone getting theirs to me by Jan. 1 2021 will be entered into a drawing at winter state.
- PICTURES! I want your PICTURES! I am going to be working on a memory book for Illeana to commemorate this unique and unusual year and need a photo to help! What have you done so far this year? Screenshots? Parking lots? More? Just submit those to me through email: [pa@mnwt.org](mailto:pa@mnwt.org) or tag me on Facebook in your pictures (@wendylindberg) or (@wendyhauger). Submit by Jan. 1 and be entered into a drawing for a prize.
- Every Tri in my CIP's I have been sharing things that I know about President Illeana so you can get to know her better. But I have to admit I messed up. I wrote something incorrectly about

her in the last issue. Luckily, the president gets to review my CIP before sending it out and it was corrected. BUT! Here are two truths and 1 lie. Anyone who submits to me the correct answer will be submitted for another drawing and I will share on FB the correct answer. I need to know your answer by 10/31/20.

1. When younger Illeana wanted to be on Broadway.
2. When she was little she was in commercials in Miami and competed in a Little Kids pageant all over Florida.
3. Illeana feels the most at home as soon as she crosses into any southern state and her southern accent returns.

## MNWT Foundation, Nicky Anderson [\[foundation@mnwt.org\]](mailto:foundation@mnwt.org)

- Our Annual Lucky Buck Auction to benefit Chapter Grants will be held at Winter State. We are now seeking donations for our baskets.
- Chapter Grant applications are due December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Who Shops on Amazon?? The MNWT Foundation is currently participating in the Amazon Smile program. See my CIP
- The Annual Report from 2020 can be found online. The report will also be emailed out to the chapter emails.
- Donations are needed for the MNWT programs. Become a sustaining member for \$25. Give a tax deductible donation at any time, designated for a certain event or program or undesignated and we will put it to use where it is most needed. Make a plan in your chapter, district or personal budget to support the MNWT Foundation. Contact Jen for more information.
- Give to the Max Day is Nov 19, 2020.

## Future Directions Committee Chair, Jen Kinzer [\[fdc@mnwt.org\]](mailto:fdc@mnwt.org)

- ★ The next statewide webinar will be held October 8th beginning at 6:00. The topics will be . Watch chapter emails and Facebook for reminders of the upcoming webinar and be sure to register to be a part of this informative opportunity.
- ★ The Restructuring Task Force through the FDC committee is proposing to add a new state staff position. They have been working hard to iron out the details and have this position ready for the 2021-2022 year. Details will be included in the upcoming webinar and with other upcoming information. If you have questions about this position, please feel free to contact me or Restructuring Chair Nicky Anderson.
- ★ It is that time of year when we look forward to receiving nominations for the

Outstanding Awards, which are recognized at the Winter State Convention. There are three Awards that are recognized. Women Who Impact, Outstanding Young Adult and new this year, People with Determination Award. Manuals and forms have been updated and are available on the website. If you have questions, please contact me or contact one of the SPMs helping to promote these awards. There are many hard working people in your communities who could be recognized. Please consider making a nomination in one or all three of the award categories.

- ★ Our next FDC meeting will be held on November 21. All of the committee meetings will be available via zoom, but if you are able, feel comfortable or would prefer, we will also be meeting at Star Bank in Eden Prairie. Thanks. Just let me know how you would like to attend. These meetings are open to all members!

**Membership Management Committee, Michelle Clouder**  
[\[mmc@mnwt.org\]](mailto:mmc@mnwt.org)

- MMC will be working with MVP with a focus during trimester 2 on recruiting members.
- One of the goals in the Strategic Plan is to inventory our orientation materials. We have started a task force to work on this. If you would like to review documents please send MMC a message. All are welcome
- MMC Challenge – I will be doing a trimester 2 challenge. Send me what your chapter uses as their orientation materials and be entered into a drawing at Winter State.
- Reminder to check in on your new members! With so much needing to be done remotely or at a distance having that connection may be a little bit harder when you're new. Make sure that your new members are connected, that they are receiving chapter information and that they know what events you have planned, when they are and how to participate.

**Marketing Committee Chair, Christine Sibilleau**  
[\[marketing@mnwt.org\]](mailto:marketing@mnwt.org)

- eBlasts are coming to a mailbox near you soon! A Marketing eBlast Program will be presented to the Marketing Committee meeting in November for final approval. Chapters are automatically subscribed, everyone else must opt-in and they'll get in on these emails too! Simply scroll down to the bottom of the member's homepage and click on the link to subscribe! Go to [www.mnwt.org](http://www.mnwt.org) and click on the icon of a

woman's head, next to the Google search box - this will direct you to all things Women of Today for members!

- Priority Area SPM Jennifer and Statewide Bucket of Sunshine Jeny Ohr are working on Winter State Collection of stickers.
- Public Relations 1st Trimester Challenge went pretty well. 10 people from 13 chapters participated.
- If you haven't yet, please make sure to check out the MNWT blog [click on the blue "W" icon on the right side from any page on the MNWT website]. Social Media Team Lead Jeny Ohr has created interesting posts that I'm sure you'll also be inspired by! 11 chapters and 19 staff members were highlighted in the 1st Trimester. The 2nd trimester will concentrate on E(Encourage). The MN Women of Today on Pinterest has been refreshed! Thanks to Tevyan for doing amazing work setting up boards and cleaning up pins. You guessed it - clicking on the Pinterest icon [the blue "P" icon] found on the right side from any page on the MNWT website will direct you to our Pinterest board.
- The Marketing Committee has two main areas that are being addressed in the revised Strategic Plan - Statewide MNWT Marketing and Chapter WT Marketing, Our initial focus will be on the items that fall under marketing our organization, as a whole, across the state. Initially the areas that will be worked on are the branding of the MNWT organization, examining and updating the current MNWT logo. Chairs Daina Mirsch-Wenner and Jessica Schultz have a basic outline for these tasks, and they are looking for members to join their team! If you are interested in being involved in any of these - or if you'd like to know more - please let me know!

Closing remarks from President of the MN Women of Today - Illeana Miller

**Ongoing Business**

None

**New Business**

None

Living and Learning SPM Melanie Chenoweth, read the benediction while Sue Bay, District 10 Director led the MN Women of Today Creed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:09am

**Meeting minutes submitted by Barb Monsrud, State Secretary 2020-2021**