



# Minnesota Women of Today Chapter Mailing



## December 2024

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Happy December!

I am writing to you as I travel across central and south Texas visiting family and appreciating the places of my youth with my children. I am fortunate to still have my parents, aunts, nieces, nephews, and cousins that I can spend time with and even a couple of new babies too. All of this brings up stories of our family history and makes me think about how we are coming upon the celebration of our Women of Today history and future.

The Executive Council spent all or parts of a weekend together this past month at committee meetings and our Mid-Year Executive Retreat. We worked on advancing communications and member experiences to serve us all better in the new year. We also spent time focusing on what difference it makes to be intentional in our planning and what experience we want to bring to the membership at our upcoming conventions and regional meetings. We are all working hard to enhance this experience, the opportunities for all attendees to learn more to benefit their chapters, and still celebrate the achievements of the membership. We truly hope you will take some time to look at what is being offered and plan to join us January 24-25 in Burnsville.

At the same time, COB Amy and the past State Presidents are working on a celebration of our 75 year anniversary at Winter State. Minnesota has a unique and rich history from the Mrs Jaycees to the Jaycee Women to our current Minnesota Women of Today. We have been at the forefront driving this organization and we will continue to be the drivers to take Women of Today into the next 75 years and beyond. This is a testament to all of you and the women who came before us like Lois M Christensen, Roxann Daggett, Nancy Dvoracek, Barb Fish, Susan Shuler, and our current USWT President Jane Hanson.

In this update, you will find new information on activities and events that are coming, challenges to help you close out this trimester, and fresh ideas for starting off Trimester 3. We will be wrapping up December with a virtual close-out on Saturday, December 28 and welcome any and all to join the state staff online. In the meantime, we are here for you so please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on Executive Council. You can email, call or text me at [president@mnwt.org](mailto:president@mnwt.org) or 214-215- 5864. Have a wonderful December and I am looking forward to seeing you in the new year!

In friendship and gratitude,

MNWT State President 2024-25

Tevyan Sorenson  
State President  
19743 Henning Ave  
Lakeville, MN 55044  
214-215-5864  
[president@mnwt.org](mailto:president@mnwt.org)

## Marketing Corner w/ Marketing VP Michelle Cloutier



Newsletter and/or Brochure contest happening at Winter State!

Bring a issue of your chapters newsletter and/or chapter brochure! Each person attending convention will have the opportunity to cast a vote for their favorite! Your chapter can enter both or just one. Any questions, reach out to me at [MKVP@mnwt.org](mailto:MKVP@mnwt.org)



Winter State is just around the corner! It's not too early to start thinking about registering and seeing who in your chapter will also be joining you. I know there are some fabulous things in the works. You won't want to miss it.

We are so very excited to be at a new location in Burnsville. We have the 75th Anniversary happening at the same time.



If you are not already following the Minnesota Women of Today Facebook page, here is my plug. Did you know there are 2 pages for MNWT?

The MNWT Administration page is internal facing. What does that mean? It means the purpose of that page is to connect staff with members. You may not know but each position has a day that is theirs to post and connect with you.

Minnesota Women of Today is external facing. What does that mean? It means we are looking to connect and share with anyone. You don't have to be a member. COB Amy has been posting on this page for the 75th Anniversary. If you have not been following, check it out. She has a lot of awesome content on that page!

### Mary Sobczak Presidential Assistant

Greetings MNWT members, it's Mary the Presidential Assistant here to remind you to start thinking about getting those scrapbook pages done.

Is your chapter or district hosting a fun event?

How about an exciting social?

Take pictures and add them to your scrapbook page!

All chapters should have received their page from their District Directors. If you have not received one, it's a standard 12 x 12 page front and back.

#### **Why a scrapbook page?**

It is tradition to give the State President a scrapbook at Annual Convention to remind her of all the wonderful things that happened around the state during her year. Have fun and be creative with your page. Work on it as a chapter project or assign to a chapter member.

Make sure to get your page to me by April 1st. As an added incentive, all chapters and districts that turn in their page will be entered into a drawing for a fabulous prize that I will give out at Annual Convention. Let's show President Tevyan how awesome MNWT is!

### Andrea Schue Administrative VP

Hi chapters & Districts!

We're on the look-out for 2025-2026 District Directors. Please reach out to me if you are interested!

Have a great holiday season & See you at Winter State!

# Membership Team

**Kathy Hansen**  
**Extensions Director**

The first step in the extension process is to devise a plan. You and your team should consider questions such as: How will the extension be funded? Which area should we target for expansion? What are the community's needs? Why is this location desirable for our extension? Dedicate time to jot down these questions, investigate the area, and organize events over the next twelve weeks to recruit in the region.

We're thrilled to share news of an extension in process. The Dassel-Cokato Area Women of Today are hosting a Meet and Greet on December 4th at 6:30 pm at the Garden Nook Tea & Gifts in Dassel. Spread the word and encourage those in the area to visit their Facebook page for more details.

**Shirley Visselman**  
**Chapter Management VP**

## Chapter Project and Meeting Ideas:

One of the five Healthy Chapter traits is to have a mix of service projects, socials, and membership events every trimester. Providing activities along multiple avenues gives everyone an opportunity to find activities to interest and engage them. Service initiatives are at the heart of Women of Today and connect your chapter to your community. Socials connect your members to each other. While Membership events are fun ways for others to get introduced to the chapter and your members. There are many ideas for activities for your chapter on the MNWT website. From the Member Homepage, click on Projects. There are listings for Fundraisers, Service Projects, and Socials. These listings may not have all the information you need to hold the events, but gives you an idea for your chapter to sparkle.

It is also a good idea to take a look at your monthly meetings and change them up a bit. How about spending the 1st half hour of your meeting time, doing a craft, learning something new or maybe a random act of kindness, or a speaker. Then start your meeting. The key to this is making sure that you are promoting your meeting and activity.... And then following the meeting, follow up with pictures of the activity and members having fun.

Reach out and we can help with ideas, how to execute your meetings and events to encourage participation or even providing additional help. Reach out to [cmvp@mnwt.org](mailto:cmvp@mnwt.org). I'd love to visit with you.

# Programming

## Sharon Scholl

### **“Taking a Journey Down LIFE STREET” Living and Learning**

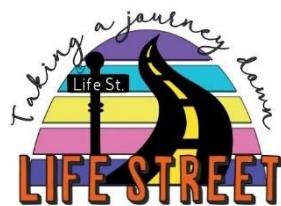
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. . . . every year it seems our lives become more and more filled with holiday tasks that seem to overwhelm even the most organized person. We become busy decorating, going to holiday concerts, parties, preparing for children Christmas activities, buying presents and so much more. But did you ever stop to think about what life is like for an elderly person? They too once were that active person when they felt their life was on a merry-go-round during the holidays. The holiday season can be a time when older adults feel lonely, isolated or sad. Did you know that over 27% of adults age 65+ live alone. But a person doesn't have to live alone to feel lonely. Loneliness can affect anyone who doesn't feel meaningful connections with other people.

I have challenged everyone this trimester to create a new family holiday tradition. Consider this new tradition to include something to brighten an elderly relative or neighbors holiday season. Some older adults may go for days without speaking to anyone. Nothing beats an in-person visit, but if that isn't possible consider a video chat or just a simple phone call. Make a point to reach out to them on or right before Christmas Day so they don't feel as though they have been forgotten. Get the whole family involved – assign family members a day to visit or call your “adopted” person. Simple things such as a plate of fresh baked cookies, or an offer to give them a ride to the department/grocery store are greatly appreciated. There is nothing more rewarding than watching their eyes light up when taking them for a drive to look at the holiday light displays.

My wish is for you to extend a hand of fellowship this holiday season.

**“Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly Merry Christmas.”**

–Peg Bracken.



## Deb Froemming Priority Area

Happy December! This is the last month of Tri 2, this year has flown by!

I love hearing what you are doing for the REACH program! Keep sending me photos and information. Let me know if it's ok to share on our programming FB page. Also, this will give you an entry into the Winter state incentive drawing. We are learning from each other by sharing.

The December zoom will be held on Tuesday, December 17th at 7 pm. Join us to connect with MNWT members and teachers around the state. We have been learning much from each other. The zoom invite will be mailed the week before to your chapter or priority area contact.

It's not too soon to send in your priority area programming reports. Remember the 5 W's and it will make it easy. Just a sentence each on Who, What, Why, Where and When. You can email this directly to me at [priority-area@mnwt.org](mailto:priority-area@mnwt.org). When you attend a zoom, you can share this as hours/time. Volunteer time, phone & email time, donations and projects & the costs of projects supplies all count. It doesn't have to be perfect!

I'm excited to read your Project of the Trimester and Outstanding Programming Manager Nominations. Be sure recognize your projects during the 2nd trimester and enter them. Has your programming manager in your chapter or district been great at adding ideas and events to support the Programming Areas? Recognize their efforts by a nomination for the Outstanding Programming Manager Award!

## Michelle Kocak-Jones Programming VP


Hello and Welcome to Winter!


Just a reminder, if you complete and submit a nomination for an Outstanding Program Manager/Member of the Trimester AND two Project of the Trimester nominations you will receive an incentive at Winter State. The Outstanding Program Manager/Member can be anyone who leads a project or goes above and beyond in assisting with a project. It is okay if it is not a program manager. In regards to Projects of the Trimester, remember to include as much information as possible of the 5 W's- Who, What, When, Where and Why so that the SPMs have as many details as possible to showcase what your chapter is doing. The SPMs and PVP are looking forward to reading about the awesome members and projects in your chapter and how you are "shaking it up" as volunteers in your community

# Programming, Continued

## Cheryl Watson Youth of Today

 Thank you to all the chapters that connected with Outstanding Young Adults in your communities and submitted an OYA nomination. I can't wait to see who the committee chooses and award the Scholarship at Winter State!

 Win a Pens & Pie Party for your chapter! Donate \$25 to the MNWT foundation for the OYA award by 12/31/24. Your chapter will earn 25 success points and a chance to win a party for your chapter. I will draw a winner at Winter State and visit the winning chapter. Everyone in the chapter will make a cool pen and enjoy a slice of pie!

 Snowmen & Snowflakes  
Join me during the FREE kids craft make-and-take session at Winter State. It's going to be snow much fun!

## Sara Rocksted Community Connections

Hello, my Volunteer Friends! I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving! I can't believe we are already in December in full swing of the holidays. Which means Snow, Presents, family/friend time and of course a ton of volunteer opportunities! For example, help your neighbor shovel the driveway or help at your local soup kitchen. The sky is the limit I have a ton of ideas just ask!

Please don't forget! Project of the Trimester and Outstanding Programing Manager Nominations are due January 2nd, 2025! Please log on to the MNWT website for more information. I am excited to hear from you! Also, an important date to add to your calendar is Winter State Convention!! It will be January 24th-22nd. I can't wait to see you all there turn in those registration forms!

Please don't forget if you are having any issues in your chapter with finding volunteer opportunities or having a hard time finding ways to help your community, please don't be afraid to reach out. I am here for all of you ready and willing to help! I have been enjoying following your chapters on Facebook! Don't forget to email me at cc@mnwt.org to keep me in the loop as well! I don't want to miss a thing!

Happy Holidays!!!!

## Sue Sangren Women's Wellness

LOIS M. CHRISTENSEN Women Who Impact award is designed to honor women who have made a valuable contribution to and impact upon their communities.

I set a goal for myself to raise \$ 500 for the Women Who Impact award this year. I would like to encourage individuals, chapters, or districts to make a cash donation to the Women Who Impact award in memory of Lois to honor this woman. At Winter State convention, we can have a birthday celebration for Lois.

Lois M. Christensen was born on January 22, 1922. And we will gather together just a couple of days after her birthday at Winter Convention. I think we should celebrate this beautiful woman's birthday together!

My challenge to the members of MNWT, make a cash donation of \$ 10 to the Woman Who Impact award in memory and to honor Lois by January 1st, 2025. I will have random drawings for a 6 pack of beautiful and delicious cupcakes to give away. The more donations given, the more cupcakes to give away. Donations can be sent to the Chapter Service Center (CSC) and please reference Women Who Impact award donation.

Nominations for Project of the Trimester and Outstanding Program Managers are due January 2nd. You can submit your nominations at any point in the trimester! Remember to include the W's (who, what, why, where, when) to provide all the details in the submission.

Wiggle into Winter with a whole new set of activities. Snow shoeing, skiing, and channel surfing (checking to see if you are paying attention).

Wiggle Wiggle!



**Connie Fink**  
**Financial VP**

**Play “Wheel of Treasure”**

Spin the wheel at Winter State, solve the puzzle and win PRIZES! Check your chapter emails for more information.

**Finance Meeting**

The next finance meeting is January 4th, 2025 at 9:30 am via ZOOM.

**State Store**

Come get President Tevyan’s mug and other new items at Winter State!

**Raffle Tickets!**

Please turn in your ticket stubs and money to me or Tanya by Winter State. I will be at the Statewide Committee Meetings if you would like to turn them in at that time.

**Jeny Ohr**  
**Parliamentarian**

Happy Holidays! There is still time to get your chapters bylaws and policies submitted. Not only will your chapter get SUCCESS points but your chapter can be entered into a gift card drawing at Winter State.

**Parli Tip**

Requesting Points of Something:

Point of Order: Draws attention to a breach of rules, improper procedure, breaching of established practices, etc.

Point of Information: A member may need to bring up an additional point or additional information (in the form of a non debatable statement) so that the other members can make fully informed votes.

Point of Inquiry: A member may use point of inquiry to ask for clarification in a report to make better voting decisions.

Point of Personal Privilege: A member may use point of personal privilege to address the physical comfort of the setting such as temperature or noise. Members may also use it to address the accuracy of published reports or the accuracy of a member’s conduct.

Source: [roberts.pdf \(oregonstate.edu\)](#)

## **Tri 2 Presidential Success Bonus Points**

- During M-Week (Nov 3-9), hold an event and sign a member. Verified by MVP – 50 pts
- Donate \$25 or more to Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship. Verified by YT SPM – 25 pts
- Donate \$25 or more to USWT Ways & Means. Verified by FVP – 25 pts
- Submit article to NEWSLET for Post-Winter State edition. Verified by MKVP – 25 pts
- Volunteer or hold a service project on Make A Difference Day, Oct 26. Verified by PVP – 50 pts
- Sell two or more books of Winter State Raffle Tickets. Verified by FVP – 25 pts
- Submit the Program Manager Trimester Report. Verified by PVP – 25 pts

## December

1st: Chapter Grant Applications due to MNWT Foundation Chair  
1st: Key Woman Nominations for Winter State due to Key Woman President  
15th: All Renewals due POSTMARKED to CSC  
28th: 2nd Trimester Close Out  
31st: State Delegate Reports due to AVP  
31st: New Member Adds due IN HAND to CSC  
31st: Chapter President monthly reports due to DDs  
31st: L&L US WPD Certifications Due to L&L SPM  
31st: STEP certifications due to CMVP  
31st: End 2nd Trimester

## January

2nd: Outstanding Program Manager nominations for Tri 2 due to PVP  
2nd: Project of the Trimester nominations due to SPM  
2nd: 2nd Trimester Programming reports due to PVP  
2nd: Presidential Pin & Medallion Nominations due to State President  
2nd: Bidding SPM Plan of Action Due to State President  
2nd: NEWSLET **articles** due for Post Winter State Issue due to NEWSLET editor  
2nd: ONTO Flower Orders due to COB for Winter State  
3rd: Finance Committee Meeting  
7th: 2nd Trimester Success due to Success Coordinator  
11th: MNWT Foundation Meeting  
24-25th: Winter State Convention & Cheryl L Anderson Art Auction  
26th: NEWSLET **Personals** Due to Post Winter State Issue due to NEWSLET editor  
31st: Chapter President Month Reports due to DDs  
31st: New Member Adds due IN HAND to CSC

## February

5th: MN State Sales Tax Due to MN Dept of Revenue  
10th: March Planning Recommendations due to COB  
13-19th: Random Actos of Kindness Week  
13-19th: MNWT Week  
26th: MNWT Trimester Webinar  
28th: Chapter President Monthly Report due to DD  
28th: New Member Adds due IN HAND to CSC

## **Anna Nichols, Chair**

### **Membership Management Committee**

Exciting things are happening in the Membership Management Committee!

Our Membership Wings taskforce has just finished creating a sustainable way to track members passing and recognize those that passed during the WT year at annual convention. In the next month chapters will be getting more information on this process in the official MNWT chapter emails.

A new orientation deck that focuses on the district and state organization is now available. Much like the local chapter orientation deck introduced last year is customizable to your chapter, the district and state presentation is fully customizable to your unique district happenings.

And we have introduced a 10-minute orientation series for chapters to use to educate all members on different areas of Women of Today. These are simple short trainings that can be done by anyone. Consider having a mini orientation at one or two of your general meetings each trimester. The first four available are MNWT Programming, Parli Basics, USWT, and Membership Growth, ROAR.

Did you know MMC supports all areas of MNWT Membership? We recently held a zoom on Extension. A few fun extension tidbits...

- MNWT has an extensions guide that goes over all forms needed, and the process of forming a chapter including by-law and policy templates.
- An extension needs 10 new members not including transfers. Only the new members will be charter members, not the transfers.
- With a 10 and under chapter both new members and transfers count towards their 10 members.
- Once an extension has 10 members and the paperwork is completed they charter right away and are a new chapter. For the next two years they work with the extensions team, starting small to run monthly meetings and hold events and socials. They graduate 2 years later.

MMC is always looking for new ideas. Consider attending our March meeting to learn more.

## **Cat Schuman, Chair**

### **Future Directions Committee**

Future Directions Committee met on November 16 and made several changes to the structure of the committee. Go Green subcommittee has been eliminated and we added a new "Forms Management" subcommittee which takes over from the Forms Review Task Force. Jeny Ohr will be chairing the Forms Management subcommittee. Minutes from the November 16 meeting should be posted on the website next month. Please mark your calendar for the next state committee meetings to take place on Sunday, March 2nd in Rochester. This will be coordinated on the same weekend with March Planning. Watch for more details to come.

## **Laura Gaylord, Chair**

### **MNWT Foundation**

Hello MNWT members! Have you seen the Foundation's 40th Anniversary jewelry for the fundraiser? It is a beautiful ruby necklace and bracelet!!! You can get your chance to WIN these by contacting me (Laura Gaylord), and I will connect you to the committee members to get you entered! The drawing will take place at Winter State Convention, need not be present to win.

Guests are always welcome to join us at our MNWT Foundation meetings, the next meeting will be Saturday January 11th at Star Bank in Eden Prairie. See you there



**Amy Pumper**  
**Chairman of the Board**  
**ONTO Committee**

ONTO Flowers are for sale - \$2.50 each or 5 for \$10.00. These are edible flowers with a short note to someone you want to give a shout out to. The due date to order is January 2nd and you can find order information in my Chapter Information Packet and on the members home page of the MNWT website ([here](#)). Note, the venmo online is incorrect. It should be: @amy-pumper



We will be selling chances for an ONTO t-shirt quilt at Winter State - several members turned in past ONTO t-shirts that were made into a quilt. They will sell for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.



**Amy Pumper**  
**Chairman of the Board**  
**Continued**

As we head towards celebrating our 75th Anniversary at Winter State, here is more on the first years of Mrs. Jaycees/Jaycee Women/Women of Today:

**1966**-Louise Gass of Northfield was elected the 17th president. 16 regions boasted 130 chapters and membership was at 2705. Internal and External Vice Presidents were appointed. The chaplain's position was given to an Executive Council member. Two state chairmanships were added— Tips for Talks and Membership. \$4145 was raised for Cystic Fibrosis, tours of state institutions were initiated, and the Indian Scholarship project was dropped. Permanent files were purchased for the offices of President, External and RTR (Recognition through Records) chair. Jaycee and Mrs. Jaycees began scheduling joint meetings. Dues billings due date was changed to October 1.

**1967**-Barbara DeLaHunt of North St. Paul was our next leader. Growth continued with 137 chapters and 18 regions making up our organization. Duties for Internal and External VPs were established. Forums were added at conventions; one of the first of many to come entitled "Taxes and the Minnesota Mrs. Jaycees" was held when sales tax first began. Written reports were new, and a state membership contest began. "On to Phoenix" was the theme for National Convention with Minnesota promoting books as favors. Delinquent Youth was added as a programming area and Christmas and summer parties were held for Cystic Fibrosis families. Barbara was also invited to speak at many Jaycee functions and went on to become the National Liaison Officer for the United States Jaycee Auxiliaries.

**1968** -The metro area provided us with Joan Swenson of Wayzata for the next state president. Membership of 2919, 19 regions and 147 chapters were boasted. The Distinguished Service Awards meeting became known as TOYM-Ten Outstanding Young Men, a winter event. The title "Chairman of the Board" became official. Forums were enlarged to allow each state chairman to bring information to the membership. Professional, "in the field" people, conducted forums. The membership brochure was revised and reprinted with references to dates and places removed, making the brochures more usable. Manuals and judges were compiled for competitions and a publication of our history was updated. Spokette-Sparkette was adopted on a trial basis. (We now know this a STEP I, II, III & IV). The sailor outfit was back again at National Convention-minus the big wheel hat. Convention Registration Full \$14.95, Partial \$10.75, Hotel Rooms: Double \$14.00 each

**1969**-Jackie Johnson of Bloomington led us as the decade ended. The Flame of Hope candle brought us Muriel Humphrey as honorary chairman. Proceeds of the project went to assist us in bringing a boathouse building to Camp Friendship. Betty Crocker points coupons were used to pay for the power lines into the camp. Dues were raised to \$2.50 per member. The president's budget was \$550. Jackie stated that "there was no uniform-'69 and '70 were non-conformist years!" The organization also hosted a reception for the premiere of the movie "Airport", which was filmed in the Twin Cities.

**1970**-Bette (Blain) Woods of South St. Paul served us next as state president. It was during her year that the Windom chapter proposed a new program, kidney disease. The Delinquent Youth project was renamed a more positive Accent on Youth. Springfield's chapter urged our membership to correspond with the astronauts and thank them for their service while in space.

*"One small problem of which I am sure you are all aware is the lack of understanding by the local officers of just how important their job is to the chapter....and how very important it is to start the year off right...In an effort to solve this problem a team has been put together to give forums on local president, state delegate, secretary and treasurer."*

- State President Betty Blain

Are you starting to think about what role you will have in Women of Today in the coming year? Now is the time to think about what you will do! Filing for state president and state staff begins on December 1st. A reminder that if you are thinking about it, I should be the one to contact. When asking for support from your chapter, be sure to go into a committee of the whole and that is not included in your minutes. Check the bylaws and policies for the requirements for these positions. There are also committee chairs, committee members, NEWSLET Editor, Public Relations Assistant, and Success Coordinator to file for. Contact me with any questions on any of the areas.

We will be celebrating 75 years as an organization at Winter State! Several of the past presidents are working hard to make it an awesome event! There will be a memorabilia room, a special celebration activity at the luncheon and there are special 15 oz wine glasses for sale to commemorate our 75 years as the Mrs. Jaycees/Jaycee Women/Women of Today. Continue to watch the Minnesota Women of Today Facebook page for the Countdown series – it has been fun to share the history!

Immediate past chapter presidents, have you read your Chapter Information Packet and using the Leadership Toolbox to help your chapter? If so, share with me what you have used and you will receive a fun gift at Winter State.



**Tanya Rothstein**

**Executive Director / Chapter Service Center**

Minnesota Women of Today  
Chapter Service Center  
PO Box 216  
Albany, MN 56307  
320-845-2250  
[csc@mnwt.org](mailto:csc@mnwt.org)  
[www.mnwt.org](http://www.mnwt.org)

CSC hours are: Tuesday 10 am – 2 pm; Wednesday 3 pm – 7 pm; Thursday 10 am – 2 pm





# MNWT WINTER STATE CONVENTION

January 24-25, 2025

Wyndham Minneapolis South, Burnsville, MN

### Saturday Luncheon

Soup & Sandwich Buffet  
 Soup Du Jour ~ Choice of  
 deli sandwich ~ Pasta Salad  
 ~ Potato chips ~ Assorted  
 Cookies

### Saturday Banquet

Italian Buffet  
 Chicken Marsala ~ Penne &  
 Fettucine pasta ~ Alfredo &  
 Marinara sauce ~ Caesar Salad ~  
 Green Beans ~ Garlic Bread Sticks  
 ~ Anniversary cake

### Back to the 70s Party

Will you go **SOULY** or **DISCO**?

Join in the fun at the Friday Night party!  
 There will be a cash bar and we will be  
 serving some special drinks.

**Let's celebrate 75 years of MNWT by going back to the 70s!**



**Reservations need to be made by Jan 5, 2025. Call (952) 435-2100 for reservations – mention MNWT for group rate.** All rooms are spacious and include mini fridge/microwave. For more details visit [wyndhamhotels.com](http://wyndhamhotels.com). Rates: king or double queen - \$95+ tax/night; suites - \$109+ tax/night

## MINNESOTA WOMEN OF TODAY WINTER STATE CONVENTION 2025

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Advance registration must be postmarked by January 5.** Refund requests must be made by January 18, 2025.

A \$5 cancellation fee will apply. Registrations received at Winter State 2025 are not guaranteed meals.

<u>Advanced Registration (by Jan 5):</u>		<u>Late Registration (after Jan 5):</u>		Make checks payable to MNWT and mail to: Dolly Kinney 1408 Keller Lake Rd Burnsville, MN 55306
_____ Full Registration	\$109	_____ Full Registration	\$125	
_____ Friday Night Party	\$ 15	_____ Friday Night Party	\$ 15	
_____ Business Meeting	\$ 7	_____ Business Meeting	\$ 7	
_____ Saturday Luncheon	\$ 45	_____ Saturday Luncheon	\$ 50	
_____ Saturday Banquet	\$ 55	_____ Saturday Banquet	\$ 60	
<b><u>Women of Today Information (check one):</u></b>				For General Information: Tanya Rothstein @ 320-845-2055 csc@mnwt.org
<input type="checkbox"/> Member <input type="checkbox"/> First Timer <input type="checkbox"/> Guest <input type="checkbox"/> MNWT Past President <input type="checkbox"/> Exec Council/Staff				
Specify dietary needs (i.e. gluten free, vegetarian, etc.) _____				

The Meeting was called to order by President Tevyan Sorensen at 1:30 pm.

The invocation was given by Living and Learning SPM, Sharon Scholl.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Administrative VP, Andrea Schue.

The United States Women of today Creed was led by District 8 Director, Kenya Czerwinski

No Guests

Orders of the Day were given by Parliamentarian, Jeny Ohr. A quorum was established.

Minutes from the Fall State Exec Council meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were approved as written in the November Chapter Mailing.

### Special Presentation by President Tevyan, MNWT and USWT awards

**Secretary, Liz Weigel ([Secretary@mnwt.org](mailto:Secretary@mnwt.org)), Stick To It** No Report

**Administrative VP, Andrea Schue ([AVP@mnwt.org](mailto:AVP@mnwt.org)), You are Solid Gold**

District Directors will share their successes of 2nd Tri and something they are wanting some more help with on the year.

**District 2 Director, Tami Borgen** is blooming and growing in district 2.

- During my Tri 2 District meeting, I used the toolbox on the MNWT website about Communication. We read through the handout, and I put together a quiz for them to take on how good of a communicator they were. Sometimes we think we are better than we are!
- A thank you to Shirley! I had an ask to the State level for a sparkle box and she sent it to me with all the supplies to hand out.

**District 3 Contact JoJo Larsen** “Together we Stand” (Given by AVP Andrea S)

- District 3 Meeting will be Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> in Duluth

**District 4 Director Tracy Neyens** “Be the Reason someone Believes in Good People”, at this time no update.

**District 5 Director Anita Smoley** “Everyday Heroes”

- District 5 had a successful Tri 2 meeting where they did a project for Make a Colorful Difference.
- They are excited for their holiday social being held on Dec 5th at Sal’s Bar in St Joseph.

**District 6 Jessalyn Hegland** “Grow Together.”

- The District 6 had a social gathering on November 11th. District 6 is looking forward to seeing Tevyan at the trimester 3 district meeting.

**District 7 Laurie Lillie** “Growing Together”

- One success that I have is creating a binder with all pertinent information to pass down to the succeeding DD, this was something I did not have and realized would be valuable for the next person.
- I have a goal to host a district social or event, I have started on this goal by collecting contact information of those interested. I am asking for support to help direct me in moving forward, if you’d like to help connect with me after the meeting.

**District 8 Kenya Czerwinski** “Coming Together, One Stitch at a Time”

- Success – We held a service project for reach where we tapped a motivational message to a fruit snack for REACH. The district put together 270 motivational snacks that will go to Owatonna High School, Owatonna Middle School, and Jordan schools. We also have a District Holiday social planned for Saturday 7 at 4pm, Theresa’s Lakeville.
- Asks – I have two asks, one is around membership. Looking for ideas around membership events and incentives for the chapters around membership. Second is help with my newsletter. I’m not very good at them and my last one was very bland. Want to make it interesting for our readers!

**District 9 Director Allie Staley** “Adventure is Out There”

- My success for the year so far is having one chapter exceed in-chapter extension in the first trimester. Also, having new and exciting members joining the chapters.
- One help I need is marketing the women of today chapter in Windom to help grow their members. I would like help promoting and working on getting their name out there.



### **Membership VP, Shellie Lemmerman ([MVP@mnwt.org](mailto:MVP@mnwt.org)), Make a Difference**

- We started Tri 2 with 905 members. We have 289 members due and have received 95 renewals and 9 drops with 19 of 47 chapters reporting. We have 35 new members through Wednesday.
- We held our second New Member State Orientation this past Thursday and had 13 members attend. The next orientation is planned for **March 10**, which is a change from what is in the state calendar.
- Closeout will be held Saturday, Dec 28 at 5:30pm via zoom.
- Tri 2 Foundation Incentives are: 1) Sign 3 or more new members & show growth for \$25 rebate. Right now, we have 2 chapters that could qualify on this depending on their retention. 2) 100% retention for a \$10 state store gift card. We have 4 chapters that have qualified for this.
- Additionally, we have a challenge out to sign 75 new members this trimester. If met, President Tevyan will donate \$100 each to two lucky chapters. If at least 40 chapters have 75% retention or better, one of those chapters will win a social or m-event hosted by the Membership team. If at least 40 chapters sign a new member, two of those chapters will win a free Winter State Convention registration. And for each new member signed this trimester, one member from that chapter will be allowed in the first group at Winter State Luncheon.
- At Winter State, the Membership Team is hosting a celebration “Let’s Make a Deal” style on Friday night at 9:00. And join us for the Saturday Membership Roundtable following the Business meeting

### **Chapter Management VP, Shirley Viesselman ([CMVP@mnwt.org](mailto:CMVP@mnwt.org)), Success with Sparkle**

- We started Tri 2 with 2 chapters on the TLC list. Hawley has added 2 new members and is back to 10 and off TLC. I sent them a note congratulating them on the new members and encouraging them to continue to build their chapter to 15. Brooklyn Park is continuing to participate and hold multiple events. We continue to reach out and try to help any way we can.
- As you have heard a few times, my biggest goal this year is to get all our chapters to 15 or more members. We currently have 17 chapters under 15 members, 3 of them are at 14.... I’ve continued to share sparkle boxes with chapters I’ve visited, or mailed supplies to others. These boxes contain the instructions and supplies to create a random act of kindness project, including a set up labels with their chapter name on for the back
- We’ve heard a lot of positivity from chapters who are changing up their meetings. ...trying new things with a lot of success.
- I have been visiting chapters and districts that have requested help and sharing Random Acts of Kindness ideas.

### **Extensions Director, Kathy Hansen ([Extensions@mnwt.org](mailto:Extensions@mnwt.org)), Stand Together and Shine**

- The Iron Range is now a chapter, They have a Full Board. The Duluth chapter and Cindy Sanders are helping them. Chartering ceremony will take place at Winter State
- My 2 Extensions Lucky Buck Baskets for Annual Convention are 1. Cozy Comfort 2. A taste of Italy.

### **Programming VP, Michelle Kocak-Jones ([PVP@mnwt.org](mailto:PVP@mnwt.org)), Shaking it Up**

- Thank you to \_\_\_ chapters who submitted nominations for Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship, Women Who Impact Award, and Person with Determination Award.
- Looking forward to receiving 2nd trimester Outstanding Program Manager and Project of the Trimester nominations. Remind chapters if they submit at least one Outstanding Program Manager AND 2 Projects of the Trimester, they will receive an incentive at Winter State.
- Encourage members who are interested in knowing more about becoming an SPM to come to my Winter State programming forum.

### **Community Connections, Sara Rocksted ([CC@mnwt.org](mailto:CC@mnwt.org)), Things Come Together One Stitch at a Time**

- True Friends: Clean-up Day April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10AM in Annadale. Will need help advertizing.

### **Living and Learning, Sharon Scholl ([LL@mnwt.org](mailto:LL@mnwt.org)), Taking a Journey Down Life Street**

- Continue to encourage members to participate in the LIFE STREET Passport challenge. This journey provides members with a unique and engaging avenue for completing Living and Learning Certifications. In addition to the Passport challenge, remind chapters of PEP courses available to host within their chapters. Have an idea for a PEP course? Submit your idea to be reviewed for approval. . . always challenge yourself to think outside of the box – this is how we grow as individuals.
- Have you read Trimester 2 book yet? Jean Sharon Abbot’s journey is truly an amazing story and her resilience to accept what she thought was her forever lifestyle is truly inspirational. It is important as you read to reflect on how you would handle these challenges.
- Don’t forget to nominate a Project of the Trimester and an Outstanding Program Manager to be awarded at Winter State. I know there are wonderful projects that have been done and wonderful Program Managers. I would love to hear about them
- Reach out for PEP course info and Community Enrichment opportunities

### **Priority Area – REACH, Deb Froemming ([Priority@mnwt.org](mailto:Priority@mnwt.org)), REACHing Out Hand to Hand**

- Zoom meetings attendance is growing each month. We have several teachers that attend regularly and share information with our members. The meetings are helping connect members with schools, and learn how to work together and help each other from a distance or nearby. Teachers are also connecting and learning from each other. I encourage you to attend the next zoom on November 26 at 7 pm. The meeting link will be emailed a week beforehand to chapter emails.
- I am building a current contact list, which is something that hasn't been available with REACH. I've been contacting schools by email to find out if we have the correct contact information. Most of the schools have been responding. This is a big project so I'm holding an incentive drawing at winter state to help with this project. Members are encouraged to notify me when they have contacted a school and who the contact is to be added into the drawing. Donations of \$25 or more will also provide an entry.
- I'm excited to share some of the ways that we are helping REACH. In addition to cash donations, donations have been made for student supplies, gift cards given, supplies donated for projects, funds for swag-tshirt requests, volunteers have gone to school and shared their story with students, students have spoken at WT meetings, hot cocoa packets donated & members participated in the Spooky Sprint 5K and were sponsors. These are just a few of the ways we are reaching out. I know there are more wonderful things to come as our connection grows and we continue reaching out

### **Women's Wellness, Sue Sangren ([WW@mnwt.org](mailto:WW@mnwt.org)), Wiggle to Wellness**

- Continuing to collect \$10 donations for the Women Who Impact award by celebrating the birthday of Lois Christensen. Delicious cupcakes will be drawn at random and given to a person that makes a cash donation before January 1st.
- I will be holding a 20-minute work out as a breakout session at Winter Convention to help motivate everyone to find a way to Wiggle to Wellness. This will not be intense, and most people should be able to join in.

### **Youth of Today, Cheryl Watson ([YT@mnwt.org](mailto:YT@mnwt.org)), Connecting with Children**

- 6 Outstanding Young Adult nominations were received.
- YT trimester 2 Chapter Challenge- Donate \$25 to the Outstanding Young Adult award and receive 25 success points and an entry into a drawing for a Free Pens & Pie craft day for your chapter to be given at Winter State
- The Spooktacular Silent Auction raised \$273 and the Spooktacular Spoons make & take raised \$54 for the Outstanding young adult award

### **Marketing VP, Michelle Cloutier ([MKVP@mnwt.org](mailto:MKVP@mnwt.org)), Recipe for Success**

- I will be having a contest at Winter State for Chapter Newsletters and Brochures. Our intention is to give one "ticket" for each to each member attending convention. They can put the Chapter name and any comments they would like to share. There will be box for the tickets to go into.
- Once our two new marketing forms are approved. They will be added to the website as a emailme form. I would us to encourage members to nominate for these two new awards.

### **Financial VP, Connie Fink ([FVP@mnwt.org](mailto:FVP@mnwt.org)), Wheel of Treasure**

- Anyone who takes a book of Raffle tickets and sells them will get a gift from me at Winter State
- I will be having an opportunity to spin and solve puzzles at winter state. Look for info on my Facebook page.
- Anyone who donates \$50 to Ways and Means and notifies me will get their name on the wheel and entered in a drawing at Winter State

### **Parliamentarian, Jeny Ohr ([Parli@mnwt.org](mailto:Parli@mnwt.org)), Tips with Bob & Me**

- District Directors-please remind chapters in your district to submit their chapter bylaws and policies. For each chapter that submits theirs in your district you will be entered into a gift card drawing at Winter State. Remember to send your updated District Bylaw and Policies if they were voted on at the 2nd Tri District Meetings. Thank you to all those who attended the MNWT Bylaw/Policy Review.
- M/S/P (Parli/COB) I move that we change to be held in June, October, and March or April to June/July, October/November, March/April in Policy G. DISTRICT MEETINGS AND REGISTRATIONS 1.
- M/S/P (Parli/COB) I move that we remove and/or MNJOTS in the first sentence. Change MNJOTS to Annual in the sentence and add area in the third sentence in Policy J. OFFICERS'S DUTIES 13. State Program Managers a.
- M/S/P (Parli/Sec) I move that we change State Secretary to State Marketing Vice President in Policy J. OFFICER'S DEDUTIES 14. Other Positions. E. NEWSLET Editor 8)

### **Chairman of the Board, Amy Pumper ([COB@mnwt.org](mailto:COB@mnwt.org)), Keeping the Vision Alive**

- You can begin filing for the 2025-2026 positions on December 1st. Call COB, Amy 507.206.1508 for more information.
- March Planning will be Saturday, March 1, 2025. All March Planning Recommendations are due no later than February 10, 2025. The form can be found on the MNWT website under COB. Exec Council wears our MNWT Polos.
- The 2025 - 2026 Election Caucuses and 2025 Regional Meetings will be Saturday March 22 and March 29. The Exec Council wears our MNWT suits
- 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary stemless wine glasses \$6 each
- Onto flow & t-shirt orders-wrong venmo listed on forms, should be "@Amy-Pumper"
- USWT convention will be in Duluth June 13-14, 2025. Iron Range Chapter will Charter at that time

### **Executive Director, Tanya Rothstein ([CSC@mnwt.org](mailto:CSC@mnwt.org)), You are the Magic**

- I am looking for a host for Annual 2025 at Arrowwood Alexandria and Fall State 2026 (I have not picked a location yet). Please see me for further information. There's \$\$ to be made!
- The new website will be up and running shortly.

**Presidential Assistant, Mary Sobczak ([PA@mnwt.org](mailto:PA@mnwt.org)), Live and Learn**

- Scrapbook pages due April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Quilt Squares due Winter State

**MNWT Foundation Chair, Laura Gaylord ([Foundation@mnwt.org](mailto:Foundation@mnwt.org)) (presented by Amy Pumper)**

- Please help remind chapters that Give to the Max Day is Thursday November 21st. Please consider making a donation to the MNWT Foundation.
- Chapter Grant applications are due to the Foundation chair by December 1st. Any questions reach out to Laura Gaylord or Allie Staley.
- The 40th Anniversary Foundation fundraiser is under way with your chance to win a beautiful ruby necklace and bracelet! Check out the Google form link on the MNWT Foundation page and information on the Facebook page.

**Future Directions Committee Chair, Cat Schuman ([FDC@mnwt.org](mailto:FDC@mnwt.org)) (presented by Amy Pumper)**

- M/S/P (COB/DD9) I move to add "or emailed" to policy Q. NEWSLET Section 1.
- M/S/P (COB/FVP) I move we add the Forms Management Subcommittee to the list of FDC Subcommittees in MNWT policy O.3.b.4) Subcommittees of Future Directions include Forms Management, Manual Review, Strategic Planning, Go Green, Outstanding Awards and Online Training. Subcommittee chairs shall be appointed by the Future Directions Committee Chair (unless otherwise noted) with the approval of the committee each year no later than MNJOTS.
  - And add O.3.b.4)i.
    - i. The Forms Management Subcommittee shall be comprised of a chair and persons assigned to assist in management of the official MNWT Forms list and distribution of said forms.
      - And add O.3.b.4)i.a) The subcommittee is responsible for managing the list. Update as needed when new forms are added/updated through one of the committees and/or by the state president. Direct questions and form updates when aware of them to the appropriate position in charge of the document. And work with the executive director to make sure email me forms are current and reflect the current master forms along with adding new/updated pfd forms to the website.
  - • M/S/P (COB/DD9) I move we add Forms Management and delete Go Green from Policy O.1.c.

**Membership Management Committee Chair, Anna Nichols ([MMC@mnwt.org](mailto:MMC@mnwt.org)) (presented by Amy Pumper)**

- Thank you to everyone here who attended the MMC Committee Meeting yesterday. The winner of my exec council challenge to attend is Laurie Lillie, DD7 You all have one more opportunity to win an Amazon gift card. Attend the March MMC meeting to be entered in the drawing. t

**MNWT President, Tevyan Sorensen ([President@mnwt.org](mailto:President@mnwt.org)), We Go Together**

- Check out committees, you can learn lots and that's where a lot of things happen for MNWT

**Ongoing Business-None**

**New Business-None**

**Announcements-None**

Benediction was said by LL SPM, Sharon Scholl

Minnesota Women of Today Creed Was Led by District 9 Director, Allie Staley

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 pm by MNWT President, Tevyan Sorensen