

Minnesota Women of Today Executive Council Meeting Minutes Mid Year – Wyndham Minneapolis South/Burnsville November 17, 2024

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 27th, 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), Stick To It No Report

Administrative VP, Andrea Schue (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 Borgon 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 8th 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), 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), 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), 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), 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), Things Come Together One Stitch at a Time

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

Living and Learning, Sharon Scholl (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), 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), 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), 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), 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), 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), 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), 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
- 75th 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), 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), Live and Learn

- Scrapbook pages due April 1st
- Quilt Squares due Winter State

MNWT Foundation Chair, Laura Gaylord (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) (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) (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), 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