

The Official Communication Tool of the Minnesota Women of Today

# NEWSLET



Happy October Minnesota Women of Today!

We just arrived home from spending three amazing days in Baxter at Fall State Convention. It was so inspiring to be there with nearly 120 members and the Executive council. We heard stories of success with membership and projects. We heard stories of chapters connecting with their district again after years of radio silence. And I heard personal success stories of women who didn't think they could accomplish their goal or in some cases, get out of bed. Yet all of these chapters and members are resilient and stronger with the support we are providing for each other.

We have much work to be done in this trimester to continue to strengthen and grow this organization. And we must grow and grow stronger so that we can continue making a difference for our communities and members. This means reaching out personally to your members to let them know they are needed and important. This means showing up when you are asked because you being there matters. This means speaking up when you are asked what you would like to do in your chapter and listening to the answers when others tell you what they are interest in or bring a new idea to the table. This means being brave enough to invite new people to join the fun and be part of making a difference. It also means being welcoming to new people in your chapter and open to what gifts they bring.

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead***

Let's continue to be that group and make a lasting difference. Be a CONNECTOR, Be PRESENT, and Be POSITIVE. I firmly believe that through these actions, we can empower and elevate our chapters to reach their full potential.

Stay tuned for more updates as ***We Go Together!***

In friendship,

Tevyan Sorensen

MNWT President 2024-2025



The CommUNITY Award was designed to recognize individuals and businesses for their support, help and encouragement to our chapters and state organization. Those who nominated them feel they have gone above and beyond to help them be successful in making a difference in their community.

## Minnesota Women of Today

Chapter Service Center  
PO Box 216  
Albany, MN 56307

### President

Tevyan Sorensen

### Administrative VP

Andrea Schue

### Membership VP

Shellie Lemmerman

### Marketing VP

Michelle Cloutier

### Chapter Management VP

Shirley Viesselman

### Programming VP

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Liz Weigel

### Financial VP

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### Parliamentarian

Jeny Ohr

### Presidential Assistant

Mary Sobczak

### Chairman of the Board

Amy Pumper

### Executive Director

Tanya Rothstein

# STAFF REPORTS

## Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Minnesota Women of Today!!

Can you believe that we are celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a community service, leadership training organization? Seventy-five years of making the world a better place because **WE** lived and served within it!

We began in 1950 as the Mrs. Jaycees in Moorhead, MN and to be a member of the Mrs. Jaycees you had to be between the ages of 18 and 36 and be married to a Jaycee. At the Summer Awards convention in 1975 open membership was passed which allowed any woman meeting the age requirements to become a member and in May of 1979 our name was changed to Minnesota Jaycee Women.

On July 3rd, 1984, the US Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional to exclude women from membership in the Jaycees. This decision would eliminate the Jaycee Women and mean that there would no longer be a separate women's organization. This decision would eventually lead us to the MN Women of Today. In March 1985, through a special mail vote, the membership voted to disaffiliate from the Jaycees and on July 1st, 1985, we became the Minnesota Women of Today, with 184 chapters and 3,670 members.

There is so much more than what I included here. I strongly encourage all of you to go to our website and read about our history. From the beginning you will find one amazing woman after another as well as great state projects and programs!

A few facts:

- Our first State President was Lois Christensen of Winona and The Women Who Impact Award is named in her honor.
- In 1950 dues were \$.25
- The creed was written by the Virginia chapter, it is the same creed we use today!
- Bylaws and Policies were instituted in 1956-57 and the NEWSLET was started that same year.
- The Chapter Service Center opened its doors in 1980 – The first “Executive Secretary” was Purley Christenson. Not Nancy D!
- In 1985 the CSC moved to Anoka and Nancy Dvoracek. took over as the Executive Director.
- We became the MN Women of Today on July 1, 1985.

You are cordially invited to the 75th Anniversary Celebration at Winter State Convention, January 24-25<sup>th</sup> at the Wyndham Minneapolis South in Burnsville. I am excited to see you there!!

Special anniversary wine glasses are for sale for \$6.00 each. They will be available at committee meetings and Winter State.

Amy Pumper

Chairman of the Board



## ONTO Flowers



Please click on "ONTO Flowers" to find the google form to order your ONTO Flowers. Help President Tevyan work towards “Together We Can” in showing support to other members in your chapters, district and state this year by gifting them ONTO flowers. This year's flowers are made to travel and eat. If the recipient is not attending Winter State, they will be sent with a fellow chapter/district member to deliver. Each flower will include a note from you up to 250 characters. Cost is \$2.50 each or five (5) for \$10. Pre-orders are due January 2nd.

# STAFF REPORTS

Sue Sangren, SPM WW

Welcome to another MNWT calendar year. I will be your Women's Wellness program manager this year with a theme of Wiggle to Wellness. I hope I can help promote fun ways to stay active for your body's wellness to you.

But today I want to share about one of the overlooked honors that MNWT offers to magnificent members of our community and/or organization. The Women Who Impact award was named after the first President of the Mrs. Jaycee's, Lois M. Christensen, back in 2009. Lois was a driving force behind the founding of the Mrs. Jaycee's, which developed into the MNWT. Naming this award after her states how impactful the honor is to win this award.

This award is given to recipients at the Winter State convention. There are three winners selected; one for each category of service. Youth Outreach, Women's Advocacy, and Non-Profit are the areas honored for service.

To nominate a deserving woman, download the form from the MNWT webpage under Women's Wellness. The nomination does require a signature from the nominator and the Nominee. Each nomination carries a \$ 25 fee for administrative costs. Nominations are due November 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a great time to begin the nomination process to honor someone for the Lois M. Christensen Women Who Impact award.

## Let's Honor the Deserving People in Our Lives!

By Mary Kaminski, Awards Subcommittee Chair

Do you know any amazing people in your community that could use some recognition and appreciation? We all know them, the everyday heroes who quietly go about making the world a better place for all of us. The MNWT Outstanding Awards are your chance to celebrate these awesome people!

The Minnesota Women of Today has honored individuals in the following areas:

**Outstanding Young Adult** – nominees from grades 11-12 are judged on involvement and contributions to others and the community. The honoree(s) are awarded a scholarship provided by the MNWT Foundation. There can be up to five honorees if we get ten or more nominations. YT SPM Cheryl Watson has a goal to receive six (6) nominees this year...let's help her achieve this goal!

**Person with Determination Award** – Nominees will be judged on their perseverance and how they have forged new paths through obstacles to become an integral part of their community. CC SPM Sara Rocksted has a goal to receive three (3) nominees this year...let's help her achieve this goal!

**Woman Who Impact Award** – nominees will be judged on their contribution to and impact upon their communities. The honoree will receive monies provided by the MNWT Foundation for the charity of choice. LL SPM Sue Sangren has a goal to receive three (3) nominees this year...let's help her achieve this goal!

At least three (3) nominees are needed in each category in order to award a nominee. The entry fee for each nomination is \$25.00 and is due to the Chapter Service Center by November 1. The nomination itself must be sent electronically to [fdc-awards@mnwt.org](mailto:fdc-awards@mnwt.org) by November 1.

The nomination and judging processes are electronic and have been very successful in the past years! So we are continuing that process again this year. All awards will be submitted electronically, and all judging will be done online.

There are plenty of judges already, but if you are interested in being part of the process (and your chapter is not submitting an Outstanding Award this year), contact me at [fdc-awards@mnwt.org](mailto:fdc-awards@mnwt.org) for more information on how you can help.

# Chapter Happenings

## Morris Area Women of Today Chapter

The Morris Area Women of Today completed a big project this past year! They raised money for 38 benches that were placed around 8 parks in Morris. They saw that there was a need and started looking for donations to make it happen. Donors were recognized with a name plate on the bench they donated and through social media. The Morris City Crew helped out by installing them. The Chapter thanked them with 2 baskets full of snacks to put in their break room. It makes us feel good to drive by a park and see people using them.



## Longville Area Women of Today Chapter

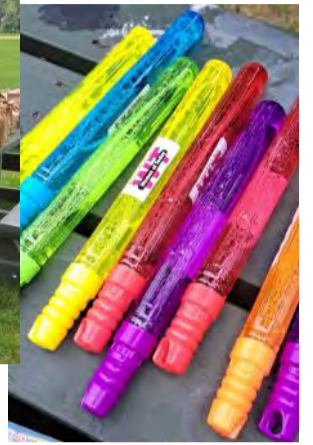
The Longville Area Women of Today 2024 Turtle Town Art Fair. It is always held the last Saturday in June at Salem Lutheran Church in Longville. This year we welcomed over 40 vendors and 1300 shoppers! After months of preparations, the day started cool and wet. But later in the day, the clouds parted, the sun came out and shoppers and vendors had a wonderful day of art, food trucks and food booths, music, and goodwill. For over 10 years we have been hosting this event. This is one of many activities we hold throughout the year to celebrate our commitment to Longville.



# Chapter Happenings

## Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today

We hosted a second annual family fun night. It was a good turnout. We hope to grow it in the future. We had different game stations set up with prizes for all the kids. We also did hair painting, free water and freezies, Free ice cream from the local ice cream truck, balloons, and a water balloon Toss. We had a scavenger hunt set up by our membership Vice President Gerrin Dehn, and in the end, the kids that completed the scavenger hunt had to ask one of the members of our chapter who the President was, Christina Wynn is our current president and she gave them their prize. It was a fun time for all of us. Our scavenger hunt prizes were donated by local businesses.



## Hutchinson Area Women of Today Chapter

August Random Act of Kindness Project School Supply Drive The school supply drive was a success! Some HAWT team members got together on July 22nd to decorate bins to hold community school supply donations at Enchanted Trunk & Culver's. School supplies were collected through August 6th and were distributed to our Hutchinson students the following week. School items are given a point value so we are able to have a competition with other Women of Today chapters. Our group totaled 3,384 points for our chapter! The group with the most wins a boxed dinner at an upcoming meeting. ~submitted by Shannon MulQueeny

## Burnsville Chapter

Wow, Tri 1 has come and gone in the blink of an eye! May was an organizational month where chapter officers stepped into their respective roles. We transferred files and started the process of setting goals for the year. In June we anxiously retrieved our CIPs that would guide us and challenge us as a chapter.

Founder's Day was honored with a proclamation by the Mayor of Burnsville and celebrated with a morning coffee pop-up. Friendship Day was recognized with a membership social event titled "Friends and Flowers." Members were encouraged to bring a bouquet of a single flower variety. They then selected a flower from each bouquet to make a "friendship" bouquet to take home.



In mid-July, the 18<sup>th</sup> annual bocce ball tournament was held. Members and guests enjoyed a potluck dinner followed by a bracketed tournament of skill and hilarity. There were some pretty creative team names in the mix.

August's Dinner of the Tri was a chance to try a new outdoor patio location at the Confluence Hotel in Hastings. Gotta take advantage of the summer weather whenever we can!

In between these activities we held a school supply drive, tied dog/cat toys and blankets, played pickleball, read books, conducted monthly board and chapter meetings, helped serve community meals, built beds, organized a fall fundraiser campaign, and more. Members find valuable information regarding upcoming events and recaps of past activities in our monthly newsletter *Chapter Chatter*.

Trimester 2 is shaping up to be just as busy and we look forward to continuing the fun!

In friendship, Burnsville Women of Today



# 2024-2025 MNWT STAFF



**2024-2025 MNWT STAFF**



**Back Row**

- Tanya Rothstein—Executive Director
- Liz Weigel—Secretary
- Michelle Kocak Jones—Programming VP
- Shellie Lemmerman—Membership VP
- Andrea Schue— Administrative VP
- Jeny Ohr—Parliamentarian
- Shirley Viesselman—Chapter Management VP

**Front Row**

- Mary Sobczak—Presidential Assistant
- Michelle Cloutier—Marketing VP
- Amy Pumper—Chairman of the Board
- Tevyan Sorensen—President
- Connie Fink —Financial VP
- Kathy Hansen—Extensions Director



**MNWT State Program Managers**

**Back Row**

- Sue Sangren—Women’s Wellness
- Cheryl Watson—Youth of Today
- Sara Rocksted—Community Connections
- Deb Froemming—Priority Area

**Front Row**

- Michelle Kocak Jones—Programming VP
- Tevyan Sorensen—President



**MNWT District Directors**

**Back Row**

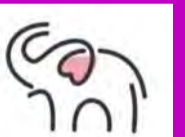
- Tami Borgen—District 2
- Kenya Czerwinski—District 8
- Tracy Neyens—District 4
- Laurie Lilli—District 7
- Connie Fink —Financial VP

**Front Row**

- Andrea Schue—Administrative VP
- Tevyan Sorensen—President
- Kathy Hansen—Extensions Director



## Years of Service Awards



### 20 Years

- Melissa Kroll, Big Lake
- Kandy Dorlack, Champlin
- Mary Bartlett, Duluth
- Kristie Heinze, Melrose
- Tina Nelson, Morris
- Judy Moldenhauer, Sauk Rapids
- Candi Testa, St Michael-Albertville
- Lisa Haines, St Michael-Albertville

### 30 Years

- Bonnie Waller, Anoka
- Michelle Crandall, Champlin
- Gaynelle Lee, Montevideo
- Marie Hansen, Morris
- Kathi Hemken, New Hop
- Judy Markl, Windom

### 40 Years

- Jodie Johnson, Aitkin
- Donna Kremers, Avon
- Jone Anderson, Morris

# Fall State Awards

## Success System

Trimester 1

1. Hutchinson
2. Sauk Rapids
3. Duluth
4. Burnsville
5. Anoka
6. Coon Rapids
7. Maple Grover
8. Champlin
9. Blooming Prairie
10. St Michael Albertville

## Top Success Chapters!!!



District with Highest Percentage of Growth  
District 4 Director—Tracy Neyens



## Outstanding Program Managers

- Community Connections  
Leslie Goble—Aitkin
- Living & Learning  
Lori Goutermont—St. Michael-Albertville
- Women's Wellness  
Kathy Johansson—Maple Grove
- Youth of Today  
Lorissa Hanson—Blooming Prairie
- Priority Area—REACH  
Melissa Bueckers—Avon

## Projects of the Trimester

- Community Connections  
Maple Grove—Volunteering at the Food Group
- Living and Learning  
Maple Grove—Book Club Author Event
- Priority Area—REACH  
Duluth—REACH Out
- Women's Wellness  
Coon Rapids—Paddleboarding
- Youth of Today  
Coon Rapids—Hope 4 Youth Drive

## Marketer of the Trimester

- Coon Rapids - Chapter Newsletter
- Rogers-Otsego-Dayton—Social Media



District with Highest Percent of Retention  
District 9 —  
Amanda Ackerman—Co-President St. James  
representing District 9

## Presidential Pins

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Pam Dyer               | Anoka            |
| Pat Undersander        | Avon             |
| Abby Lee               | Benson           |
| Lorissa Hanson         | Blooming Prairie |
| Sheila McCabe          | Burnsville       |
| Michelle Crandall      | Champlin         |
| Tammy Ninnemann        | Coon Rapids      |
| Autumn Sayles          | Coon Rapids      |
| Ruth Noethe            | Duluth           |
| Char Ostenberg         | Duluth           |
| Daris Fraser           | Hutchinson Area  |
| Liz Peterson           | Hutchinson Area  |
| Stacey Austin-Jacobson | Melrose Area     |
| Deb Champion           | New Hope         |
| Jenna Kazmierczak      | Rice             |
| Naomi Skudlarek        | Rice             |
| Jamie Dullinger        | St. Cloud        |
| Melissa Brown          | St. James        |
| Cathy Snyder           | St. Joseph       |
| Cathey Weidmann        | St. Joseph       |

## CommUNITY Award Winners

- ◆ Aitkin Independent Age for partnering with the Aitkin Women of Today
- ◆ Julie Jamat for partnering with the Avon Women of Today
- ◆ For partnering with the Duluth Women of Today we recognize
  - Keith Passow
  - Bryan Kent
  - Voyager Bus Co
  - American Legion Post 71
- ◆ Cub Foods Maple Grove and Jill Craig for partnering with the Maple Grove Women of Today

# Fall State Awards



**SPM Medallion—**  
Sharon Scholl—Living & Learning  
Deb Froemming—Priority Area



**Staff Medallions—**  
Michelle Kocak Jones—PVP  
Jenny Ohr—Parli,  
Shirley Viesselman—CMVP



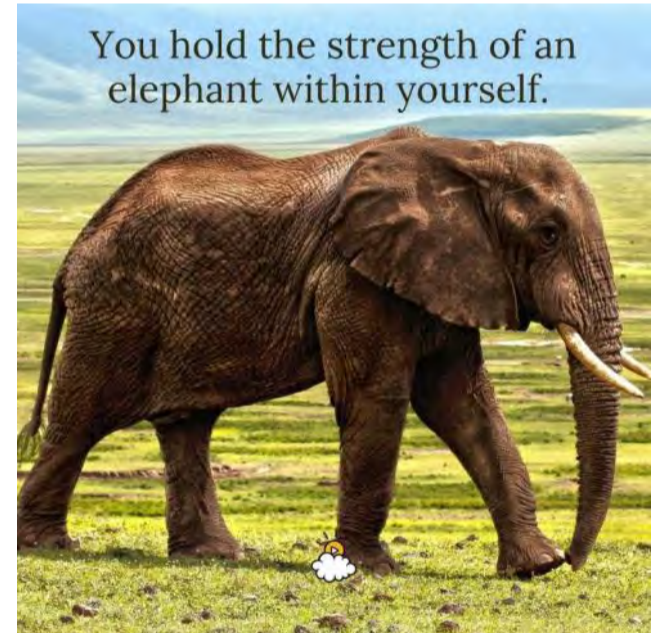
**DD Medallion—**  
Kenya Czerwinski—DD8  
Anita Smoley—DD5, not pictured



**State Delegate & Chapter President Medallions—**  
Lisa Dehn—Rice, Maggie Holmberg—St Cloud,  
Dorene Perkins Monn—Burnsville, Kandy Dorlack –  
Champlin, Brandy Mausbach—Blooming Prairie  
Not pictured: Sarah Sundine—Monticello  
Alex Schluttner—Staples-Motley



**Programming Award Of Excellence**  
Michelle Kocak Jones  
**Presidential Award of Excellence—**  
Shirley Viesselman



## Growth Chapters

- Duluth—Growth +1
- Eastern Carver County—Growth +1
- Elk River Area—Growth +1
- Roseau—Growth +1
- St. James—Growth +1
- Albany—Growth +2
- Coon Rapids—Growth +2
- Slayton—Growth +2
- Benson—Growth +3
- Hutchinson Area—Growth +4
- New Ulm—Growth +5

## In-Chapter Extension

- Albany—Growth +2
- New Ulm—Growth +5

## One-A-Month

- Hutchinson Area—led by Amy Solinger



**Spot Light**  
Gerrin Dehn—Brainerd Lakes Area

**First Timer Overall**  
Amy Solinger—Hutchinson

## Impromptu Speaking—

- Sandy Trossen—Sauk Rapids—1st
- Jean Wayne—Coon Rapids—2nd
- Sandy Dinndorf –Sauk Rapids—3rd

**Chapter Mile Award**  
Burnsville

**Chapter Attendance Award**  
Monticello

**District Excitement**  
District 8

# Fall Convention Fun

Project Fair



Welcome Tevyan to the HOUSE!



Breakout Sessions





# Fall Convention Fun

## Saturday Night Party

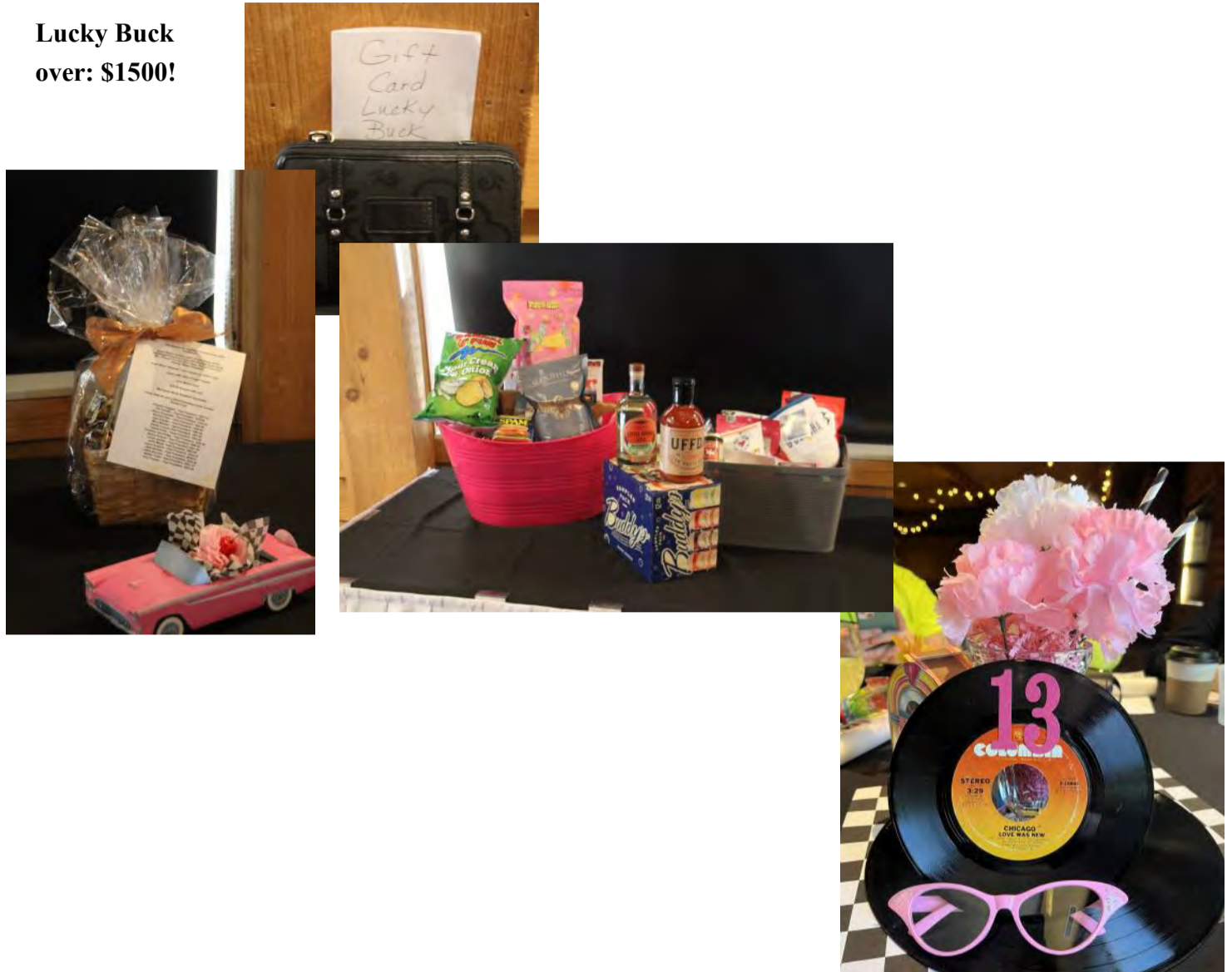


The Muscle



# Fall Convention Pictures

**Lucky Buck  
over: \$1500!**



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 Minnesota Women of Today Chapter Service Center

## Elephant Echoes: Notes of Togetherness

2024-2025 Staff: Great job ladies on our first trimester and convention. I am so glad to be on this journey TOGETHER! ~ Tevyan

Deb, Sara, Sue, Cheryl & Sharon:  
 Thank you for a weekend of inspiration & learning! You all rocked it! ~ Tevyan

Solid Gold District Directors: You brought it this trimester and are doing a great job! Keep up the positivity and energy!! ~ Tevyan

Chapter Presidents: Congratulations on your first trimester. You are making changes and bringing your chapters together. We are here for you and have a great Tri 2! ~ Tevyan

USWT President Jane and Staff:  
 Thank you for all of your support and engagement at Fall State! Keep bringing the colors! ~ Tevyan

NEWSLET Personal Messages

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name message is for: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Message (25 word limit):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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