

The Meeting was called to order by President Tevyan Sorensen at 9:10 am.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by District 7 Director, Laurie Lilli.

The United States Women of today Creed was led by District 9 Director, Allie Staley.

Guests were introduced by President Tevyan

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

Minutes from the Fall State Business meeting on September 20th, 2024, were approved as written in the November Chapter Mailing.

Secretary, Liz Weigel (Secretary@mnwt.org), Stick To It

- Additional chapter and district secretaries that have turned in their minutes, the winner of the Tri 1 drawing is Anna N from New Hope.

Administrative VP, Andrea Schue (AVP@mnwt.org), You are Solid Gold

- We have 6 District Directors here from across the state. The judges are on the lookout for District Excitement and we will announce a winner at the Luncheon.
- 7 State Delegates who completed their Trimester Reports. This is a valuable way to communicate with the state and ask for some help, or brag about what their chapter is doing. The State Delegate Roundtable this evening. We talked about committee structure at the last round table and this one will be just as informative. It's also a great time to socialize, connect, and network with other State Delegates from around the state.
- I had a few challenges for the state delegates this last trimester and my winners are Cindy G from Blooming Prairie and Karen P from Brainard Lakes Area.
- Before May, we are hoping to have all the District Director positions filled with motivated and energetic members who want to share their passion and knowledge. Reach out to your current DD or myself to hear about what is involved and how you can make a difference as a District Director.

Membership VP, Shellie Lemmerman (MVP@mnwt.org), Make a Difference

- We welcomed 63 new members in Tri 2 and had retention of 83%, an improvement in both areas over Tri 1. We started Tri 2 with 905 members and finished with 919 for growth by 14 members!! And we are only 6 members away from growth for the year. I know we can do it!
- Some great prizes were won and even more fun was had last night for our membership celebration "Let's Make a Difference".
- We didn't meet any of our 40/75 challenges this trimester, but we do have 24 chapters qualify at least one member to eat first at the luncheon for signing a new member. We also had 6 chapters sign a new member during Membership week in November: Burnsville, Fairmont, Avon, Coon Rapids, Hutchinson, and New Ulm, they received a social-in-a box.
- The challenges for Tri 3 are detailed in my CIP:
 1. Sign at least 2 new members by March 15 and your chapter can receive one paid registration to your Regional meeting. Each chapter that meets this challenge will also be entered into a drawing for a \$10 gas gift card but you must be present at the Regional Meeting to win;
 2. All chapters that have at least 90% retention AND complete their Trimester Programming report will receive an Amazon gift card and a service project-in-a -box;
 3. Each chapter that grows by at least two new members for the trimester will be entered into a drawing for a Silly Supper hosted by state staff members;
 4. Create posts on Facebook promoting your events and be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card. The first drawing is Feb 1st so check out details in my CIP.
- We have an anniversary membership incentive sponsored by the MNWT Foundation. In honor of 40 years of the Foundation, all chapters who have at least 80% retention AND sign at least 2 new members will receive a \$40 incentive.
- We are celebrating Membership Week Feb 13-19 or any day on either of those weeks, to coincide with Random Acts of Kindness week. Let us know how you promoted membership during this week and we will have an incentive for you at Annual Convention. Just email me. You will also earn bonus Success points!

Chapter Management VP, Shirley Viesselman (CMVP@mnwt.org), Success with Sparkle

- Congratulations to Hawley for signing two new members and coming off of the TLC list. We have one chapter in their second trimester of TLC, Brooklyn Park, with 9 members. We have two other chapters in their first trimester of TLC, Blooming Prairie and St. James, each with 9 members. We will be actively working with these chapters to get them off TLC before they end of Trimester 3. If you know anyone in these areas that you can recommend Women of Today to please encourage them to check out these chapters.
- In Trimester 2 I challenged chapters to hold a brainstorming event. With the most important part of the event, that every person has the opportunity to share their ideas. A few chapters did this, and the winner of my sparkle box is Brainard Lakes Area
- The chapter management VP's position is to work with chapters and help them be successful. I've been trying to do this in a variety of ways. At the President-State Delegate Retreat we had chapters share their marketing tools, and with the help of our Marketing VP Michelle offered many different ways to help make "Women of Today" not be the best kept secret. I've shared several random act of kindness projects with you. I've been holding trimester chapter president zoom chats along with President Tevyan. We've reached out to the TLC chapters to find ways to help them. I've mailed and delivered "Sparkle" boxes, which are chapter Random Act of Kindness projects for your chapter to complete. What I want you to know, is that I'm here for you... reach out. My biggest goal for the year was to help chapters increase their membership by 5.... We'd have all our chapters with over 15 members. Why new members? Why 15? New members bring new life, new sparkle, new ideas and new friends. 15 members, allows for more help with

projects and more members for leadership roles. At the same, we need to engage our current members. Have you tried changing things up? Making your meetings more fun, along with business? We have 1 more trimester to go. Let's have the highest retention and growth this trimester.

- In addition, as each of your chapters are electing new officers and preparing for your next fiscal year, be sure to put LOTS (local officer training session) on your calendars. This year it will be held on Saturday, April 26th. Be sure to check my CIP for the LOTS registration form. It will also be on the Member Resources page and Training events page on the website.

Extensions Director, Kathy Hansen (Extensions@mnwt.org), Stand Together and Shine

- I am seeking leads for communities located in the triangle area between Fargo, Walker, and St. Cloud in the Midwest region of the state. If you know anyone in this area that we could contact, please let me know. I will provide an incentive for you for any leads you share!
- The Iron Range chapter signed up 10 new members on October 15th and held their first official Zoom meeting on November 3rd, during which all positions were filled. A charter ceremony will take place at the upcoming luncheon. This chapter was extended by the Duluth chapter! Additionally, a second extension is currently in progress. The Hutchinson Area chapter has extended its reach to the Dassel-Cokato-Litchfield area. If you know anyone in that region, please contact me, and I can connect them with the Extensions team.
- Tri 3 challenges and incentives are in my Winter State CIP. Thank you to the MNWT Foundation for their two generous incentives:
 1. Any chapter to extend before March 15, 2025, will receive a \$500 incentive from the Foundation to help support the new chapter.
 2. Any chapter to extend by April 30, 2025, will receive a \$300 incentive from the Foundation to help support the new chapter.
- A Lucky Buck auction will be held at Annual Convention with two Baskets. The funds raised from these baskets will assist the Extension teams in reaching new communities. One basket is "Cozy Comfort"; and the other is "A Taste of Italy"; I am looking for any type of donation and your support would be greatly appreciated!

Programming VP, Michelle Kocak-Jones (PVP@mnwt.org), Shaking it Up

- 15 chapters completed their 2nd trimester programming reports by the due date. Also, 10 chapters participated in my PVP 2nd trimester challenge. Incentives are in the DD bags.
- Tri 3 challenge is to nominate one LPM in LL or PA REACH for Outstanding Program Manager and have at least 2 members join the 2/26 webinar. If you complete both, your chapter will go into a drawing for an incentive bag at Annual.
- You will earn 25 Success points if your chapter submits a Programming Trimester Report by 5/2. Remember, we need reports to include who, what, when, where and why along with the service hours and in-kind and monetary amounts. Also, please submit only ONE report per programming area per chapter.
- Please join me and the 5 SPMs at 11:00 for a panel, Q & A session regarding the programming areas.
- 4 SPM bids were accepted at Exec Council (Youth of Today is still OPEN): Priority Area – Anita Smoley; Women's Wellness – Sharon Scholl; Community Connections – Tami Borgen; Living and Learning – Carolyn Fortier

Community Connections, Sara Rocksted (CC@mnwt.org), Things Come Together One Stitch at a Time

- 25 chapter members submitted projects of the trimester and 5 chapters submitted outstanding Programming managers.
- Join me on April 5th at Camp Friendship in Annandale MN to clean bunk houses, there will be music, history, cleaning and of course door prize drawings! Please email me or find me this weekend if you are interested!
- Dollars earned \$34,529.56 Service hours 2,817.75.

Living and Learning, Sharon Scholl (LL@mnwt.org), Taking a Journey Down Life Street

- 17 members who submitted Living & Learning Certifications.
- 12 members who participated in the LIFE Street Passport challenges. The winner of the Tri 2 Passport incentive challenges is Dolly Kinney, Burnsville.
- 4 members who submitted essays for the Effective Writing Competition. All essays were extremely inspiring. The winner of the essay is Fable Farm, Eastern Carver County.
- Check out my Tri 3 CIP for the final challenges to complete the LIFE Street Passport. The Tri 3 book will be DEAR JACOB by Patty Wetterling and Joy Baker. Patty and Joy will be our special guest speakers at Annual Convention Luncheon and they will be available prior for book signing.
- Total Service Hours are 152 hours.

Priority Area – REACH, Deb Froemming (Priority@mnwt.org), REACHing Out Hand to Hand

- I received 7 Project Area Project of the Trimester submissions and 3 Program Manager Nominations.
- The next REACH Zoom meeting for MNWT members and REACH teachers from around the state will be held at 7 pm on January 28th. The link will be emailed to your chapter email the week beforehand. This has been a great way to make connections and learn more from each other! You might even win a gift card for attending.
- The Priority Area emphasis month is February. My incentive for you is to share photos from your REACH projects and/or volunteering from this year. Please email them to me. You will receive an incentive at the annual convention for participating.
- The winner of the Trimester 1 & 2 challenge is Cathy from Burnsville.
- Dollars earned \$1624.50 Service hours 64.

Women's Wellness, Sue Sangren (WW@mnwt.org), Wiggle to Wellness

- Thank you to the members that attended SINGO at the Fall convention to raise funds for the Women Who Impact Award. That break out session raised \$227.

- For Trimester 2, I encouraged people to make a flat cash donation to the Women Who Impact award in honor of Lois M. Christensen's birthday which was January 22. Lois was the first President of the Ms. Jaycee's. In a random drawing of members that made a cash donation, the winner of the birthday cupcakes is Karen W from Brooklyn Park chapter. Total funds raised in this birthday celebration was \$ 150.
- This afternoon, I will be holding a light workout session to keep your body wiggling and moving. Join me to be a part of our groovy workout.
- Show me the prizes! I offered 2 incentive drawings for Trimester 2. Winners were chosen in a random drawing. The gift for submitting a Project of the Trimester is awarded to New Hope. The gift for submitting an Outstanding Program Manager is awarded to Abby K from Rice chapter.
- Dollars earned \$ 6,450.96 Service hours 298.50.

Youth of Today, Cheryl Watson (YT@mnwt.org), Connecting with Children

- 16 chapters participated in 40+ projects for youth in your communities.
- 6 chapters nominated an outstanding young adult from their community.
- Thank you to the chapters and districts that donated a total of \$300 to the MNWT OYA award.
- \$13,726.86 earned in monetary & in-kind donations. 964 service hours.

Marketing VP, Michelle Cloutier (MKVP@mnwt.org), Recipe for Success

- There were so many opportunities to take pictures of what MNWT is doing to support our chapters and communities this weekend and we are just getting started. Speaking of photos....Thank you to all the chapters that participated in my Tri 2 challenge to get more photos for the carousel on the main MNWT web page. The winner of the gift is ANOKA.
- Our next Webinar Series is February 26th. Our sessions will focus on True Friends & MNWT; The new MNWT.org Website; and HeartStrong Monticello – Bringing AEDs to your community. There are success points for participating in a Webinar!
- Marketing Committee Meeting will be March 2nd at Hampton Inn N in Rochester. Marketing will have our meeting start at 11:15am. This is such a great way to be involved, perhaps join a task force to assist with the work that goes on behind the scenes or to just learn more about the organization.
- My next Tri 3 challenge is updated testimonials. We are looking for these so that we can get them online. You can send your testimonials to me. Everyone who submits a testimonial will be entered in for the drawing at Annual Convention.
- Tickets for the FROST game need to be purchased by February 1st. The game is on February 23rd at 12:30pm. There is one change. We will be meeting directly at the game not at a restaurant prior. Come on out support President Tevyan, the Women's Professional Hockey League and enjoy a fun afternoon with your fellow MNWT members.
- Don't forget about the Day of Service. On April 12th, President Tevyan has asked all chapters to participate in some service project. If you don't know what your chapter is going to do, it's not too early to start thinking about it.
- Join me at the luncheon as we celebrate the two new awards that were created at Fall State. We will also announce the winners of the Newsletter and Brochure contest.

Financial VP, Connie Fink (FVP@mnwt.org), Wheel of Treasure

- For every individual, chapter, or District who pays \$50 you will get to choose a "pie" on the wheel. At Annual Convention, Tevyan will spin the wheel twice for two Amazon gift cards. 1 spot per entity. 28 available.
- We are looking for a new Accountant. Mary Hansen has decided to step down. Thank you, Mary, for all your hard work as Accountant! Contact President Tevyan if interested.
- The winner of my challenge to find 3 Icons in my CIP is Terri Earl from Maple Grove.
- Sales Tax Returns are due Feb 5th - even if no sales tax is collected.
- Motion: Mid-Year Budget Proposal.
- M/S/P (FVP/Champlin) I move to approve a revised 2024-2025 Mid-Year Budget with an income of \$103,800.40 and expenses of \$98,601.06 with a profit of \$5,199.34.

Parliamentarian, Jeny Ohr (Parli@mnwt.org), Tips with Bob & Me

- The MNWT Bylaw Review was held on Oct. 8th. Thank you to all the members who attended. There was one bylaw change that will be voted on at the business meeting at Annual Convention. "To remove on the second or third Saturday and change to take place in March in Bylaw ARTICLE V. MEETINGS Section 2. D." It currently reads "March Planning shall be a planning session where present staff shall report on and make recommendations in their area for the coming year. The meeting shall take place on the second or third Saturday in March." Discussion will be held at the business meeting at Annual Convention.
- Thank you to the chapters that participated in my Tri 2 challenge. The winner of the gift card is the St. Joseph Chapter. My third Tri challenge is, that any chapter that sends in their bylaws and policies to be entered into the Chapter Bylaw/Policy Repository or holds a bylaw review and sends me a note will be entered into a gift card drawing at Annual. Remember that I would love to attend your review in person (if possible) or by Zoom.
- Here is a tip to remember Robert's Rules standard order of business: 3R-SUN when setting up your agenda for your meetings.
 1. **R**eading and approval of minutes
 2. **R**eports of officers and standing committees
 3. **R**eports of special committees
 4. **S**pecial orders
 5. **U**nfinished business and general orders
 6. **N**ew business

Chairman of the Board, Amy Pumper (COB@mnwt.org), Keeping the Vision Alive

- The vote to move Hawley to District 2 and Melrose Area to District 4 was approved at Exec Council yesterday. The districts are set as follows: District 2 will have the Greenbush, Hawley, Lake of the Woods, Red Lake Falls, Roseau and Warroad Area chapters. District 3 will have the Aitkin, Brainerd Lakes Area, Duluth, Iron Range, Longville, and Staples-Motley Area chapters. District 4 will have the Benson, Melrose Area, Montevideo, and Morris Area chapters. District 5 will have the Albany, Avon, Rice, Sauk Rapids, St. Cloud and St. Joseph chapters. District 6 will have Big Lake, Elk River Area, Hutchinson, Monticello, Rogers Otsego Dayton, and St. Michael-Albertville chapters. District 7 will have the Anoka, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Coon Rapids, Maple Grove, and White Bear Lake chapters. District 8 will have Blooming Prairie, Burnsville, Byron, Eastern Carver County, Glenville, and New Hope chapters. District 9 will have the Fairmont, Hanska, Madelia, New Ulm, Slayton, St. James, and Windom chapters.
- All March Planning Recommendations to be looked at on March 1st are due by February 10. Please take time to share your ideas. Any member can submit a recommendation. This year's meeting will be on March 1st in Rochester at 10 am. Early Bird registration is \$8 and is due by February 15th. Late Registration is due by February 29 and is \$15. At the door Registration is \$20. See my CIP for more information.
- The following members were approved as committee chairs and coordinators for the 2025-2026 year: Amy Pumper, Future Directions Chair, Still looking for the following: Membership Management Chair, Success Coordinator, NEWSLET Editor, and Public Relations Coordinator.
- Almost 30 members attended USWT Mid-year meeting in Omaha, NE. There were two drawings offered for gift cards. The winners are Anna Nichols from New Hope and Cindy Umland from St. Cloud.
- Thank you to everyone who ordered ONTO Flowers. The ONTO team and friends are very excited to be handing out all the great messages to you at the luncheon. Thank you to all who have ordered ONTO Shirts – there is a limited number of sizes available for sale. Have you purchased your quilt tickets? They are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held at the luncheon.
- The National Year-End will be held June 13-14th in Duluth. Registration is \$120. The Duluth chapter and USWT staff have great things planned to include celebration of the 40th anniversary of the USWT .
- M/S/P (COB/Madelia) I move that we move into a committee of the whole.
 - M/S/P (COB/ St. Cloud) I move to support Mary Hansen in the event she seeks a national office.
 - M/S/P (COB/Burnsville) I move to support Tevyan Sorenson in the event she seeks a national office.
- M/S/P (COB/St. Cloud) I move that we move go out of a committee of the whole.

Executive Director, Tanya Rothstein (CSC@mnwt.org), You are the Magic

- I have new office hours they are Monday 2-6 Wednesday 3-7 Friday 8-Noon. The best way to reach me is to send an email to csc@mnwt.org or you can call the chapter service center and leave a message.
- We have not received third tri dues billing. I hope to have them in the next week or so and will get them sent out promptly. As a reminder, these are emailed to your official chapter email.
- It's that time of year again as your chapter holds elections for 2025-2026 year, please be sure to submit to me your chapter officer sheet. If you need help finding it on the new website, please let me know.
- If you have not noticed already, we have our new website up. We are still working on getting all the forms loaded to the site so if there is anything you need, please reach out to me. If you can't find something or if there is an issue, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. We will be reviewing the website on the March 26 webinar with an overview of navigation and where to find most things.
- We have a bid for Annual 2025. The Avon & Albany chapters are here to invite you to the Garden Party in Alexandria.
- I am seeking bids for conventions Annual 2026 and Fall 2026. We will be having priority bidding, and the hosts will have the ability to pick the location as long as they submit their bid 18 months before the specific convention. The convention priority would alternate year by year. I wanted to also let you know we have worked on support materials for hosting and we also made some recent financial changes in convention registration, it is a good fundraiser for chapters or districts. Contact me for more information.

Presidential Assistant, Mary Sobczak (PA@mnwt.org), Live and Learn

- All scrapbook pages for President Tevyan's scrapbooks that are turned in by April 1, 2025, will be entered into a drawing for a fabulous prize to be awarded at Annual Convention.
- And if your chapter or district hasn't already, please consider donating to President Tevyan's Year End gift.

Future Directions Committee Chair, Cat Schuman (FDC@mnwt.org)

- Calling all members! Did you know that anyone is welcome to attend the state committee meetings and there is no cost?! The 3rd trimester meetings will be held on Sunday, March 2, 2025 at the Hampton Inn North in Rochester. Plan for an interesting and informative day starting with registration at 9:30 am. Membership Management Committee meets at 10 am, followed by Marketing Management Committee at 11 am, and ending with Future Directions Committee at 1pm. We will take a break around 12:30 for lunch and we expect to finish the meetings by 3pm.
- Would you like to get involved in the Future Directions Committee? A good way to start out is to attend the state committee meetings. Meetings generally take place in person and also have a zoom option. There are various subcommittees and task forces within Future Directions, and there might be opportunities to serve as a chair or help on one of those groups. Future Directions meetings offer a great way to learn more about Women of Today and keep updated on what is happening. Hope to see you at one of the state committee meetings!

Membership Management Committee Chair, Anna Nichols (MMC@mnwt.org)

- Exciting things have been happening in MMC this year! To better support our chapters and districts there is now a District and State level orientation information slide show style to continue the great foundation in the chapter orientation. Both are downloadable and editable to customize to your unique needs. There are also four new 10-minute orientations. These are subject specific and can be used during a meeting or chapter focused event. They cover ROAR, programing areas, Parli basics, and the USWT. Our Membership Wings taskforce lead by Glorie Balfanz has done a wonderful job creating standardized procedures for when a member passes. A new

form can be found on our website is available for chapters to fill out to inform MNWT when a death of a member occurs. At Annual convention each year a memorial will held. Please reach out if you have any questions.

- To say the Membership Management Committee has been busy this year is an understatement. Have you ever wondered how we decide what to focus on? Our committee takes suggestions from staff and MNWT members through March Planning recommendations. We work together to create new activities, tools, and recognition that support members and their membership needs within their local chapter and beyond. This means you, yes each and everyone of you here have the ability to make suggestions on the direction of membership within our state organization. I highly suggest you take those brainstorming conversations held this weekend with your fellow WT friends from across the state and share them with COB Amy in the form of a March Planning Recommendation. Your ideas are the future of our organization.
- All MNWT members can participate in our meetings, subcommittee and task forces. If you have a passion for membership, we can use your insight. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 2nd in Rochester MN. Registration starts at 9:30 am and MMC goes from 10:00 am to 11:30 pm. If you cannot attend in person a zoom link with limited participation is available. Contact me at mmc@mnwt.org to for more information.

MNWT Foundation Chair, Laura Gaylord (Foundation@mnwt.org) (presented by Vice-Chair Cindy Umland)

- Thank you to the 10 members who donated on Give to the Max Day for a sustaining donation, raising \$353. We are accepting sustaining membership donations this weekend, see Jane Hanson to make a donation. The winner of the wine and chocolate basket is Mary Hansen.
- LAST CALL to grab your chance at the 40th MNWT Foundation Anniversary Ruby bracelet and necklace. The drawing will take place tonight at the beginning of the banquet. Chances are \$40 for 1 chance, \$70 for 2 chances and \$100 for 3 chances. Find your MNWT Foundation member now (or after the meeting and before the banquet).
- Have you been a MNWT member for 2 or more consecutive years? Are you pursuing a degree or further education in working with physically or mentally handicapped individuals? Did you know there is a MNWT Foundation scholarship you could apply for? If you answered yes to those questions, check out the Straight River Scholarship application. The next award will be at Annual Convention in May.
- Our next foundation meeting will be held via zoom on Friday April 11th at 7pm. Reach out to me if you would like an invite.

MNWT President, Tevyan Sorensen (President@mnwt.org), We Go Together

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 5 Director, Anita Smoley

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am by MNWT President, Tevyan Sorensen