



# Minnesota Women of Today

## 10 Minute Orientation Series: Conventions

### Welcome to Convention

Attending a convention can be a wonderful experience of learning and connecting with others you would not typically have a chance to meet. Each convention has a different set of trainings and opportunities for members to experience.

### Minnesota Women of Today (MNWT)

MNWT has three separate conventions, each serving a different purpose. There are typically between 110 and 140 members in attendance. All conventions will have a first timers' event, a party, business meeting, luncheon, and banquet. They also each have a unique offering of trainings including roundtables for chapter presidents and state delegates, plus forums and enrichment sessions for all attending. It is recommended to arrive between 4 pm and 5 pm on the Friday of the convention. The first timers' event is for first time convention attendees. There a member will learn about different events being held over the weekend and start the process of networking. The party is typically themed and dressing up is encouraged. The business meeting and luncheon are more casual. Many times, members will wear chapter shirts. The banquet is a dressy occasion and many take time to dress a little more formal. MNWT conventions are chapter focused. Awards are typically received by a chapter representative (State Delegate or President) unless a specific member attending name is called.

**Fall State** is considered the first convention of the MNWT year and is held in September. A few unique items to note include;

- Friday Night Project Fair: A time to meet the current years programming team and staff. Learn about ways to support your local chapter and support great causes.
- Membership Renewal Ceremony: A yearly renewal ceremony along with an extended membership program is held during the luncheon.
- 1<sup>st</sup> trimester statewide awards are given at the banquet.
- Impromptu Competition: An impromptu competition open to all members is held. This is a great opportunity to try public speaking in a safe environment.

**Winter State** is the second convention of the MNWT year and is held in January. A few unique items to note include;

- ONTO Flowers: There is an opportunity to purchase flowers for those attending convention that will be delivered at the luncheon. Funds raised go to the ONTO committee run by the MNWT Chairman of the Board (COB). Its purpose is to support the promotion and attendance at USWT Conventions.
- 2nd trimester statewide awards are given at the luncheon.
- MNWT Outstanding Awards are given at the banquet.

**Annual** is considered the last convention of the MNWT year and is held in May. A few unique items to note include;

- Friday Night Caucus: A time to ask questions of the MNWT Presidential candidate(s).
- MNWT Elections are held after the business meeting.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester statewide awards are given at the luncheon along with a year-end programming recognition. The new State Program Managers (SPMs) and District Directors (DDS) are sworn in as well.
- Year-end awards are given at the banquet. Along with recognition and thanks to the outgoing President. The newly elected President and staff will be sworn in.
- Impromptu Competition: An impromptu competition open to all members is held.

*MNWT FYI: "ONTO" We are "on to" (on our way to) the USWT Convention. ONTO shirts are the State Presidents logo shirt designed for members to purchase throughout the year and wear in support. Contact [cob@mnwt.org](mailto:cob@mnwt.org) to purchase one.*

## **United States Women of Today (USWT)**

USWT has two separate conventions, each serving a different purpose. There are typically between 50 and 80 members in attendance. USWT conventions are state focused. The atmosphere is more casual than at a MNWT convention. Awards are typically bundled and received by the state president even when a chapter attending is called. All conventions will have a first timers' event, a party, luncheon, and banquet. There will be a collection held for a designated local charity that includes a speaker at the luncheon. It is recommended to arrive between 10 am and noon on the Friday of the convention. However, some meetings will start at 8 am. The Friday meetings are open to all members. The first timers' event is for first time convention attendees and goes over everything USWT. Just like Minnesota, the party is typically themed and dressing up is encouraged. On Friday members are suggested to wear the state president or national president's color. On Saturday members wear their ONTO shirt. The banquet is a dressy occasion and many take time to dress a little more formal.

Mid-Year is held in October each year. This convention is more relaxed with a focus on connections and enrichment of members.

- There is no business meeting.
- The Luncheon is similar to a MNWT business meeting.
- The banquet celebrates 1<sup>st</sup> trimester.
- Impromptu Competition: An impromptu competition open to all members is held.

Year-End is held in June each year. This is an action packed convention that starts with 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester recognition and ends with a year end celebration.

- Opening Ceremonies include 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester recognition.
- Caucuses are held on Friday night and the elections on Saturday morning.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Recognition is held during the luncheon.
- Year-end recognition is held during the banquet.
- Speaking Competition: A speaking competition open to all members is held. Preregistration is required.

*USWT FYI: Presidential Reports are given at USWT conventions. These are similar to the chapter reports given at our district meetings. Many states have only 1 to 5 chapters in them. Some reports may be more chapter focused, while others focus on their state overall.*

**For support with conventions please contact the MNWT Chairman of the Board,  
[cob@mnwt.org](mailto:cob@mnwt.org).**