



Minnesota Women of Today

10 Minute Orientation Series: Winter State Awards

Purpose

A goal of the Minnesota Women of Today is to recognize women, young people, and people with other challenges within our communities for their community service efforts and impact on the lives of others. The Winter State Awards allow chapters an opportunity to support this goal and their community members by nominating individuals from their community for recognition on the state level. All community members are eligible to be nominated, they do not need to be a member of your chapter.

Lois M Christensen Women Who Impact Award (WWI)

The Lois M. Christensen Women Who Impact Award was established in 2009, although a version of this award has been presented since the 1990s. It is intended to recognize women who have made significant contributions to their communities. Nominations are accepted for work in one of the following areas:

- Non-Profit: for example, community service, volunteerism, spirituality
- Youth Outreach: for example, special education, mentoring, 4-H, scouts
- Women's Advocacy: for example, women's shelters, business, government, healthcare.

The top honoree(s) receives an honorarium that can be donated to a 501(c)(3) charity of their choice.

Outstanding Young Adult Award (OYA)

The Outstanding Young Adult Award has been presented by the Minnesota Women of Today since 1971. This scholarship project aims to recognize young adults who demonstrate excellence in leadership and active involvement in their communities. The applicant must be over the age of 18. Honorees of the Outstanding Young Adult Award receive a scholarship.

To be eligible for the Outstanding Young Adult program, a nominee must be in the 11th or 12th grade. Nominees may be selected to represent their chapter during the spring of their senior year and can compete at the MNWT competition in the fall. If a nominee graduates from high school before the state competition, any achievements attained after graduation cannot be included in their entry. Please note that individuals will not be judged based on athletic or academic accomplishments.

The top honoree(s) receives an honorarium that can be donated to a 501(c)(3) charity of their choice.

Person with Determination Award (PWD)

The Person with Determination Award is intended to recognize an individual who has overcome physical and/or mental challenges by creating new opportunities for themselves and others and becoming an essential part of their community. The applicant must be over the age of 18. Established in 2020, this exceptional award has been presented in various forms since 1994.

The top honoree(s) receives an honorarium that can be donated to a 501(c)(3) charity of their choice.

Nomination Process

Begin the nomination process in early August or September. To nominate someone, you must complete and sign the specific application for the area you are submitting. This process typically takes between 30 to 90 minutes and involves interviewing your nominee.

Nominations are due to the awards chair electronically (fdc-awards@mnwt.org) no later than November 1st each year. There is currently a \$25 fee for each nomination submitted that is sent to the Chapter Service Center with 'Winter State Nomination' in the memo line.

Each year there is typically 1 (one) to 3 (three) honorees in each area. Judges are selected by the Awards Chair and chapters are notified of the results the first week of December. Not all nominations are selected. The selected honorees are awarded by the Minnesota Women of Today at the Winter State Convention on Saturday evening at the Awards Banquet. Nominations that are not selected will receive a certificate of participation signed by the MNWT President.

Local Chapter Responsibilities

- Read the Awards Manual for full details.
- Keep in touch with the Awards Subcommittee chair.
- Submit nomination and entry fee by due date.
- Notify Nominee if selected as an honoree and work with the awards chair to gather photos for a presentation video.
- Note: the chapter is responsible for the cost of banquet and hotel (if needed) for their honoree and guests.

**For support with the Winter State Awards please contact the MNWT Awards Chair,
fdc-awards@mnwt.org or the MNWT PVP, pvp@mnwt.org.**