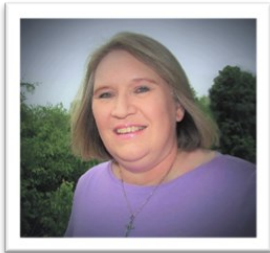


# TODAY'S LEADER



Laura Morris  
United States  
Women of  
Today  
2022-2023  
President



Hello USWT Friends:

Hard to believe this is my last article as your President. It really has gone by fast. Most past Presidents have said that visiting all the states was the highlight of their years. I have found that to be so true. I tend to be more of a visual person and I love to take pictures, so I am going to sum up my year in photos. I have visited 8 states, and will be going to Arizona for Annual in June. Hope to see many of you there.



***In this issue:***

- ◆ President's Letter
- ◆ National Staff Updates
- ◆ Note from Barb Fish
- ◆ Inspire T-shirt Order Info
- ◆ Proposed By-Law/ Policy motions
- ◆ Schedule/Registration for Annual Convention
- ◆ State of the States







Please continue to INSPIRE others in Women of Today. We really do make a difference in so many lives. I have truly been inspired by all of you in my visits and reading what all of you are doing within your states and chapters. Thank you for this incredible opportunity this year. Serving as your President has been such an honor. I have learned so much and had tons of fun.

In Friendship,

*Laura Morris, President*



**CINDY UMLAND - CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

"Leaf Your Mark"

CONTACT: [cob@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:cob@uswomenoftoday.org)

Greetings USWT,

I've been trying to choose words of wisdom as I write my final Today's Leader article, as a member of USWT Staff. I am overwhelmed with memories of working with and meeting several of you and the changes I have seen in this organization. From how conventions were with committee meetings only meeting twice a year, to zoom meetings where we can meet several times in a year, to the names and how many of the programming areas to how many Program Managers and Directors we have now.

But I have seen one very important thing stay the same. That is our belief in that we believe great lessons can be learned, through leadership and training opportunities. Worthy deeds preformed, look at donations of service hours and dollars last year; together you all donated over 1 million dollars in time, service and donations and that's just what was reported. We provide food and necessities to those that ask or we see in need. We are always making the world a better place to live in and we will always extend a hand of fellowship to a friend through life's challenges and be the wind beneath their wings. When they can't see the end, we will guide and support them to the light.

To the leaders who have gone before me, thank you for encouraging me to Branch Out and Reach for my Dreams. My hope is that I have left a positive mark on all your hearts. Know that I am here to help you grow strong as you can be like a mighty oak tree.

***"Dreams are like acorns--- plant them well, tend them carefully and they will grow to be as mighty as the oak". Author unknown***

Cindy Umland  
Chairman of the Board 22-23  
Leaf your Mark  
[www.uswomenofToday.org](http://www.uswomenofToday.org)

## **A Note from Barb Fish, Charter Chairwomen of US Women of Today**

In the late 1970's, the Minneapolis, St. Paul and several other Jaycee chapters admitted women as part of a US Jaycee pilot program which allowed women to join as full members. The US Jaycees ended the program and threatened to revoke the chapters' charters if they didn't return the women to associate status. In an effort to change that, the St. Paul Jaycees took the Minnesota Jaycees to court in an effort to get full membership for women. The litigation went all the way to the Supreme Court.

July 3, 1984, the Supreme Court ruled that the US Jaycees had to allow women to join because they were ruled as a "public accommodation" which could not discriminate on individuals who wanted to join the organization.

In August, the US Jaycees held a meeting in Tulsa to vote on merging with the Jaycee Women – which meant the dissolution of that organization. Unfortunately, the resolution passed.

The three options the Jaycee Women had were to:

1. Merge
2. Dissolve the organization or
3. Disaffiliate and reorganize as a new independent organization.

After an official vote by mail in March, 1985, the MN Jaycee Women voted overwhelmingly to disaffiliate from the Jaycees and reorganize as a new organization.

An attorney was retained by the MN Jaycee Women (the process was begun shortly after the Jaycee vote to merge was done) and we set about coming up with a name and logo which were trademarked. The name Women of Today was chosen and the logo for the state was also chosen.

We were not allowed to use any of the programs or titles we had used as Jaycee Women, so we came up with our own programs and manuals. We shared our name with other states that wanted to reorganize.

At the 1985 National Jaycee/Jaycee Women Convention in Indianapolis, the US Jaycee Women voted to dissolve the national organization and let states do as they wanted regarding the merger or reorganization. If the national organization had not dissolved, it might have been easier to continue with the states and chapters we had.

In the basement of the Howard Johnson Hotel, members that were interested in reorganization met to discuss options. A Chairman, secretary and treasurer were elected to begin the charter year. The purpose of the officers was to work with states to help organize and become members of the national organization.

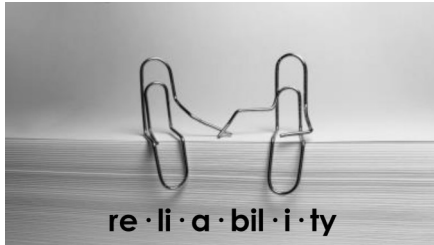
A set of bylaws was drawn up and drawings were submitted for the logo as well as using the name US Women of Today. These items were voted on at the first meeting in June, 1986, in Peoria, Il.

The logo that was chosen so many years ago represents the proud history of women who stood up for the organization. It is a timeless representation of chapters and members joining across America to serve our communities and grow in our leadership abilities.

It would be a shame to change it.

In fellowship,

Barb Fish, Minnesota  
Charter Chairwoman 1985-86  
United States Women of Today



## ANNA NICHOLS - PARLIAMENTARIAN

*"Reliability"*

CONTACT: [parli@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:parli@uswomenoftoday.org)

Hello Women of Today Members,

Thank you to the parliamentarians from states and chapters across the US who completed my 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester challenge. Thank yous will be in the mail soon. It has been a wonderful year serving as the USWT Parliamentarian. Thank you all for your time and talents. I hope to see many of you at our Year End convention in Arizona on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely, Anna Nichols

### **Official Notice of Proposed Bylaw and Policy Changes**

A review meeting was held on February 11th at 10:00 AM. Action items coming from the review include minor spelling and spacing issues, 10 suggested policy changes, and 6 suggested Bylaw changes which all passed through the Future Directions Committee and are noted below. Policy motions will be voted on at the Year-End Board of Directors Meeting. Bylaw changes require 45 days written notice to membership and have a 2/3 majority vote for a motion to pass. They will be voted on at the Year-End Business Meeting.

### **Proposed USWT Bylaws to be voted on at the Year-End Business Meeting**

- I move to update ARTICLE I.5. The official logo of the U.S. Women of Today shall be: with the prospective logo as presented here and in the USWT Today's Leader March-April 2023.



- I move to update ARTICLE I, Section 6, The official seal of the U.S. Women of Today shall be:



with the past USWT logo as presented here and in the USWT Today's Leader March-April 2023 and renumber accordingly.

(Continued on Next Page)



- I move we eliminate Article III.2.A.2. “Any state with ten (10) members or less shall pay \$50.00 national dues payable by December 31 or one year from charter date. At the time membership exceeds ten (10), additional individual dues must be submitted.” And Article III.2.A.3. “Any newly chartered state shall pay \$50.00 national dues at the time they charter. At the time membership exceeds ten (10), additional dues must be submitted.”
- I move in ARTICLE IV.6.B.1. to replace “June” with “September” and remove “incoming”, where it will now read “Bids of the Mid-Year Meeting shall be submitted by a chapter/district/regions/state to the President and Chairman of the Board to be received no later than September 1.
- I move ARTICLE VII.1. to replace “appointment” with “election”, where it will now read “The officers of this corporation shall be elected or appointed for a term of one (1) year which begins immediately following the Elections Meeting at the Annual Meeting. They shall not be eligible for election to the same office until a one (1) year period has elapsed.”
- I move in ARTICLE VIII.1 we replace “a mail” with “an email”, where it will now read “ Any U.S. Women of Today Officer, Director or Program Manager may be relieved of her/his position for failure to fulfill the duties as prescribed in these bylaws and policies. Removal will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee. This vote may be taken at a National Meeting or may consist of an email vote conducted by the U.S. Women of Today President.
- I move we eliminate Article X.6.2. “Ten percent (10%) of profit from sale of the U.S. Women of Today or Women of Today articles sold by the State or Local Women of Today Organizations shall be submitted to the U.S. Women of Today Treasurer thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting along with a financial statement showing profit of items sold.” And renumber accordingly.
- I move in ARTICLE X.12. we replace “Audit” with “Review”, where it will now read “Annual Review”
- I move in ARTICLE X.12.A we replace “audit” with “review”, where it will now read “A yearly review must be completed by October 1 of each year by an outside source.”
- I move in ARTICLE X.12.B we replace “audit” with “review”, where it will now read “The review results must be submitted for approval to the Board of Directors at the Mid-Year Meeting.”

Proposed USWT Policies to be voted on at the Year-End Board of Directors Meeting

- I move in POLICY 2.1.C. we add “letter of state support” after Intent to bid, and remove “Past National Presidents” after excluding, where it will now read “Intent to Bid, letter of state support and plan of action for program manager positions shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Board no later than Wednesday prior to the Annual Convention. The bids will be presented by the bidder or their representative (excluding, current National Officers, Program managers and Directors) in a five (5) minute oral presentation at the Annual Convention to the outgoing Board of Directors. Bids approved by a majority of the entire outgoing Board of Directors (voting and non-voting) will be for a period of one (1) year effective at the Annual Convention.”
- I move in POLICY 2.1.C.1. we add “or emailed” after postmarked, where it will now read “If any Program Manager position is not filled at the Annual Convention a bid shall be submitted to the President and Programming Vice President postmarked or emailed on or before eight (8) days following the close of the Annual Convention. The President shall fill the vacancy by July 1 with the approval of the Executive Committee.”
- I move Policy 2.1.C.2. after appointment we add “with a letter of state support, a plan of action and”, where it will now read “In the event no one has bid, the President may fill the vacancy by appointment with a letter of state support, a plan of action and the approval of the Executive Committee. A consecutive term may be served by the outgoing Program Manager with the approval of the Executive Committee.”
- I move in POLICY 4.1. we add “letter of state support” after Intent to bid, and remove “Past National Presidents” after excluding, where it will now read “Intent to bid, letter of state support and a Plan of Action for the Director position shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Board no later than Wednesday prior to the Annual Meeting. The bids will be presented by the bidder or their representative (excluding current National Officers, Program Managers and Directors) in a five (5) minute oral presentation at the Annual Convention to the outgoing Board of Directors. Bids approved by a majority of the entire outgoing Board of Directors (voting and non-voting) will be for a period of one (1) year effective after the Annual Business Meeting.”

(Continued on the Next Page)

- I move in POLICY 4.1.A we add “or emailed” after postmarked, where it will now read “If any director position is not filled at the Annual Convention a bid shall be submitted to the President and Membership Vice President postmarked or emailed on or before eight (8) days following the close of the Annual Convention. The President shall fill the vacancy by July 1 with the approval of the Executive Committee.”
- I move in POLICY 4.1.B. after appointment we “add with a letter of state support, a plan of action and”, where it will now read “In the event no one has bid, the President may fill the vacancy by appointment with a letter of state support, a plan of action and the approval of the Executive Committee. A consecutive term may be served by the outgoing director with the approval of the Executive Committee.”
- I move in Policy 5.4. we replace “distributed” with “be made available”, remove “a CD Rom or other”, and remove “at the Annual Meeting” where it will now read “All manuals shall be made available to the Board of Directors and all local organizations via electronic media. All changes shall be published in a timely manner on the website.”
- I move we add Policy 11.2.E. “If bid(s) have been approved by the Convention Committee for presentation at the Annual Meeting, no other bids may come off the floor.”
- I move in Policy 12.5. we add “Debts owed are subject to Bylaw section 6.” after check, where it will now read “Any returned checks incurring charges to the United States Women of Today must be paid by the maker of the check. Debts owed are subject to Bylaw section 6.
- I move in Policy 18.1. we add “and/or any other social media” after Facebook Page, where it will now read, “Any returned checks incurring charges to the United States Women of Today must be paid by the maker of the check. Debts owed are subject to Bylaw section 6.”
- I move in Policy 18.1. we add “and/or any other social media” after Facebook Page, where it will now read, “The current National USWT President, Chairman of the Board, and Public Relations Director will be the administrators of the USWT Facebook Page and/or any other social media.”



**TRACEY PIERSON - MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT**

*“Growing Together”*

CONTACT: [mvp@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:mvp@uswomenoftoday.org)

I would like to Thank Laura Bentley and Kandy Dorlack for being my Program Mangers this past year, a job well done. Continue to “Grow” in the Women of Today Organization. I would also like to thank all my Membership Vice Presidents; you have done a great job with getting membership dues in on time. I hope to see a lot of you in Tempe, AZ in June to celebrate! Continue “Growing Together.”



**MARY HANSEN - TREASURER**  
 "Support"  
 CONTACT: treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported our organization this past year. Your support comes in many different forms. You may have reached out via e-mail, you may have participated in a fund raiser or purchased something from our store items. Also remember your dues – they help support our organization, so you may have given support without even thinking about it.

On a personal note – the support I received when I consented to being your USWT treasurer and throughout the year has been amazing. This was my first year on the National staff and the experience has not been disappointing. I hope to be able to serve you again in the future.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Challenge -Updated**

*US Women of Today depends upon its individual members, chapters, and states to support and fund the budget. We all contribute with dues, purchases through the USWT store and fundraisers.*

*My 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester challenge is to participate in our "Margarita Day" celebration event. Those attending and donating at the Staff sponsored Zoom event will be entered into a drawing at year end.*

*I look forward to seeing your smiling faces on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-10:00pm*

*Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89600448159>*

**Guess what we are doing to do in Arizona?**

You figured it out – the popular 50/50 drawing fundraiser. Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The winner of the drawing will win 50% of the total proceeds we collect.

Bring your \$1's to the luncheon or buy early at the USWT Store.





**KANDY DORLACK - EXTENSIONS DIRECTOR**

"Finding Unity in Your Community"

CONTACT: [extensions@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:extensions@uswomenoftoday.org)

**The Power of One Extension:**

Have you taken a minute to think what a completed extension could do for the Women of Today?

Think about this:

1 completed extension with 5 new members (at least):

- *More money for our budget*
- *5 new friends*
- *5 new leaders*
- *5 new ideas*
- *5 more members at our conventions*
- *5 more members that are dedicated to serving our community and nation*
- *5 more members that are committed to strengthening their individual talents*
- *5 more members that will stand united by our friendship and belief in the future*

*It's not too late to "Find Unity in Your Community"!*

**Welcome Wild West, AZ!!!**

I am **EXCITED** to announce that Wild West, AZ has joined the USWT and to introduce them to the USWT organization at Annual Convention.

*Thank You for allowing me to serve as  
your Extensions Director.  
Let's Celebrate in June!*


**JANE HANSON - SECRETARY**

*"Just the Colorful Facts"*

CONTACT: [secretary@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:secretary@uswomenoftoday.org)

Dear State Secretaries and Newsletter Editors:

We are on the last leg (trimester) of our year! What a great time I have had working with all of you and preparing the Today's Leader for all to read. I hope that you have enjoyed them and found them useful this year.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Arizona and taking some time to see sights.

*Jane*


**LAURA BENTLEY - PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**

*"Speak Up"*

CONTACT: [pr@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:pr@uswomenoftoday.org)

Can you believe the year is already almost over? You all have been great at making the year go by fast by participating in your chapter events and making your communities a better place to want to be.

I personally know that being a leader in your chapter can be hard work at times, but the rewards of laughter, friendship and personal growth make it all worthwhile. I want to thank the leaders of your chapters personally as a lot of hard work is placed on the shoulders of those who lead. Presidents of States, I am so honored to have gotten to know you a little bit better by you participating in my challenges. Chairs and Co-Chairs, I know that it takes many hours to put together plans of actions and teamwork beyond the human strength at times. A huge congratulations to those chairs and co-chairs for making mountains move.

To the national staff, I appreciate the opportunity to grow with you and make so many big changes happen under your partnership. I look forward to the next few weeks and National convention to see all the hard work pay off and get into the membership's hands.

**LAST FEW WEEKS CHALLENGE: GET YOUR NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS TO THE CONVENTION MEETING FOR A FUN GAME OF BINGO AT THE FIRST TIMERS MEET AND GREET!**

**CATHY SNYDER - PROGRAMMING VICE PRESIDENT**

*"Reach High to Follow Your Dreams"*

CONTACT: [pvp@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:pvp@uswomenoftoday.org)

I would like to say thank you to all the States and Chapters who supported me this year. Thank you for believing in me. I have really enjoyed reading all the Community Connection Reports, especially seeing how many service hours are reported and the amounts donated. You should all be proud of yourselves for all your hard work.

Thank you for participating in my Arrow Challenge each trimester, if you were able to do so.

Thank you for wearing your purple and sharing pictures with me on Facebook. Please continue to support DVA in the coming years.

Thank you to those who completed your OAP. Completing this form is a great reward, and I appreciate those who took the time to fill it out.

In closing, I would like to say thank you again for an amazing year. Programming is a very important part of Women of Today. Continue to participate in the Programming areas and have fun with it. My wish for you is to be good to yourself, to make the best out of your life that you can, and to stay strong, no matter what is ahead of you.

Cathy Snyder  
Programming VP 2022-2023

## Order your t-shirts on line today!

Order your Inspire shirt today in either purple or black. Order on line and it will be shipped to you. The shirts are \$20 plus shipping.



Click on this link to go to the order screens:  
<https://swot22-23.itemorder.com/>

Place your order and the shirts will be shipped directly to you. This is also a National Fund Raiser as a portion of the profits will benefit Ways and Means.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

CONTACT: [dva@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:dva@uswomenoftoday.org)  
[pvp@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:pvp@uswomenoftoday.org)

***YEAR END BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE ~ A NEW LEAF***

We are asking chapters/members to donate  
Walmart/Amazon gift cards of any denomination.

**A NEW LEAF**

To provide safe shelter to as many people as possible, the New Leaf three domestic violence shelters are spread out across the valley and over two counties (Maricopa county and Pinal county), with Autumn House located in central Mesa, Faith House located in Glendale, and CAAFA shelter located in Apache Junction. Individuals experiencing domestic violence who are in need of shelter are most often referred to our shelters by the agency's 24-hour domestic violence hotline, but referrals have also been accepted from law enforcement and other community partners. Most of A New Leaf's domestic violence shelters serve all genders and can work with families or varying sizes and needs.

Though each shelter's structure is slightly different, all residents receive basic need items (such as hygiene and clothing), meals or weekly food boxes, case management, support and educational groups, advocacy, safety planning, and emotional support. Domestic violence shelters can also assist with transportation by van or provide bus passes to help residents get to work, attend job interviews, and give them access to other resources in the community. The shelters also refer to other A New Leaf programs, such as Workforce Services, the Dorothy B. Mitchell Counseling Center, DV Heart, and MesaCAN to give residents specialized support. Residents have the opportunity to stay in a shelter for up to 120 days to work on their self-determined goals with the support and knowledge of the amazing Advocates and Case Managers who empower them on their journey.

Please take a couple of minutes to click the link below to read more information on our agency's domestic violence shelters. On this web page, you will also find individual fact sheets for each of A New Leaf's domestic violence shelters.

<https://www.turnanewleaf.org/services/domestic-violence-services/#shelter>





*Do It Together For A Happier You!*

**JILL KIRSCHNER - WELLNESS & PERSONAL  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER**

*"Do it Together for a Happier You!"*

CONTACT: [pvp@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:pvp@uswomenoftoday.org)

Greetings Women of Today!

It always amazes me to see how fast the year goes.

I have had a lot of fun this year meeting new friends, learning, growing, and sharing. I hope you had just as much fun as I did this year.

Each trimester, as you worked on the USWT Wellness & Personal Development certification, I highlighted different areas of focus. Please review my past SIPs and Today's Leader articles for more information or areas of reference.

1<sup>st</sup> trimester focused on history and government related information.

2<sup>nd</sup> trimester is focused on personal development (journaling, writing, speaking, etc.)

3<sup>rd</sup> trimester will be focusing more on medical/health information and taking care of you.

I encourage each of you to continue to certify in the USWT Wellness & Personal Development certification every year. This certification is to remind you to take time to care for yourself both physically and mentally, keep updated on your health, learn something new, and challenge yourself to step out of your comfort zone. As we get older, this certification will mean more to you each year as it reminds you of the many things you need to do to take care of yourself.

**YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO ATTEND THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICE**

If you are able to attend the USWT Annual Convention in Tempe, AZ, I hope you will stop by our Fellowship Service. It will be held on **Saturday, June 10 from 8:15-8:45 AM**. Our Midyear Fellowship Service included music/singing and utilized our effective listening skills as we made pens with flower tops. We had a lot of fun and the Annual Fellowship Service will be just as fun!

I am challenging all of you to continue to strive towards Betterment, Enrichment, and Empowerment as you achieve personal growth.

**\*\*\*DO IT TOGETHER FOR A HAPPIER YOU\*\*\***

**USWT Annual Convention Schedule**  
**June 8-10, 2023**  
**Tempe, Arizona**



**\*\*All times are Mountain Standard Time (AZ does not recognize Daylight Savings Time)**

**Thursday, June 8**

9:00am – 5:00pm Bus Trip to Sedona (Reservations Required \$25)  
5:30 – 6:15pm Water Aerobics – Taught by Tracey Pierson, USWT MVP  
8:00pm USWT Staff Meeting

**Friday, June 9**

*Registration is available 8:00-11:00am & 4:30-7:30pm*

*National Store is available 8:00-10:00am & 3:00-6:30pm*

*Committee meetings are open to everyone, with the exception of Elections Committee*

8:30 – 9:00am Elections Committee (Closed Meeting- with Candidates)  
9:00 – 10:00am US Founders Charities Meeting  
10:00 – 11:00am Finance Committee  
11:00 – 11:30am Future Directions  
11:30am – 12:00pm Bylaws Committee  
12:00 – 1:00pm Lunch on Your Own  
12:00 – 1:00pm 2022-2023 State President Round-Table Lunch (President's Suite)  
1:00 – 3:00pm Board of Directors/US Founders Charities Meeting  
3:15 – 4:15pm 2023-24 State/Chapter Officer Membership & Programming Training  
4:15 – 5:15pm 2023-2024 State Presidents Training  
4:15 – 4:45pm First Timer's Welcome/Orientation  
4:15 – 6:30pm Dinner Break on Your Own/Pool Time/Hotel Reception (5-7)  
6:30 – 7:30pm Candidate Caucus  
7:45 – 10:00pm Opening Ceremony/Incentive Session (2nd Trimester Awards)  
10:00 – 11:59pm Friday Night Social

**Saturday, June 10**

*Registration is available 8:00-10:30am*

*National Store is available 8:00-9:00am & 3:00-3:30pm*

8:15 – 8:45am Fellowship Service  
8:30 – 9:00am Credentials  
9:00 – 11:45am Annual Business Meeting/Elections Meeting  
12:30 – 2:45pm Luncheon- Guest Speaker from *A New Leaf* (3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Awards)  
3:00 – 3:30pm Speaking Competition  
3:30 – 4:30pm Session- Brainstorming/Sharing M-Night Ideas  
3:30 – 4:30pm Incoming National Staff Meeting  
4:30 – 5:15pm Incoming Board of Directors Meeting  
5:30 – 6:15pm Ambassadors Meeting  
5:00 – 6:30pm Hotel Reception  
6:30 – 10:00pm Banquet - Awards & Installation Ceremony

# USWT 2023 National Convention

June 9-10, 2023 Tempe, Arizona

## Warm Welcome to the Wild West



Embassy Suites by Hilton ♦ 4400 South Rural Rd. ♦ Tempe, Arizona ♦ 480-897-7444  
The block is under Mongold Social Event

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer \_\_\_\_\_  
 If Flying Arrival Date/time: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday Departure Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOMS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!! ROOMS HELD UNTIL 5-8-2023**  
**\$119 per night plus tax** – 1-4 people per room

<u>Registration</u>	<u>Advance</u>	<u>Late</u>
<b>FULL</b> (Includes all meetings, forums and meals)	_____ \$135.00 By May 1, 2023	_____ \$165.00
<b>INDIVIDUAL EVENTS</b>		
Friday Mtgs / Opening Ceremonies / Party	_____ \$45.00	_____ \$55.00
Saturday Forums / Meetings	_____ \$35.00	_____ \$40.00
Saturday Luncheon	_____ \$40.00	_____ \$50.00
Saturday Banquet	_____ \$55.00	_____ \$65.00
<b>SATURDAY ONLY</b>	_____ \$130.00	_____ \$155.00
	Total _____	Total _____

### ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE – POSTMARKED BY May 1, 2023

Make check payable to Carmella Mongold

Send registration form and check to: Pat Saulina 2122 E. Dunbar Dr. Tempe, AZ 85282-7453 480-332-2944
---

**Any questions please contact co-chairmen:**

Carmella Mongold 816-438-2776  
[carmellamongold@gmail.com](mailto:carmellamongold@gmail.com)

Pat Saulina 480-332-2944  
[psaulina@gmail.com](mailto:psaulina@gmail.com)

**USWT 2023 National Convention**

June 9-10, 2023 Tempe, Arizona

**Warm Welcome to the Wild West**

Embassy Suites by Hilton ♦ 4400 South Rural Rd. ♦ Tempe, Arizona ♦ 480-897-7444

The block is under Mongold Social Event

**ARIZONA OR BUST!****YEAR END USWT CONVENTION!**

Mark your calendars! June 9 & 10, 2023 for USWT National Convention in Tempe, Arizona! The registration form is elsewhere in this newsletter. Hotel amenities include: all rooms are suites, happy hour each day at the bar, free breakfast including an omelet station, pool, fun, and fellowship! Our theme is "A Warm Welcome to the Wild West" and we are making plans to keep you entertained, fed, and excited to be there! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**SEDONA, AZ TRIP****Thursday, June 8, 2023 - \$25.00**

Send separately or include with your registration to the address on the registration form (we will acknowledge your trip reservation by email.)



We hope you will join the fun! Questions? Email Carmella Mongold at [carmellamongold@gmail.com](mailto:carmellamongold@gmail.com)

**DON'T FORGET THE YEAR END BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE PROJECT!**

Our luncheon speaker is from A New Leaf and we will be presenting our donations to their DV shelters. It cannot succeed without YOU!!

**We hope to see you soon!**

Carmella Mongold

Pat Saulina

2023 Convention Co-Hosts





# State of the States



My local chapter, the Valley of the Sun, has been experiencing a problem the past few years that I originally thought was specific to us. But after a recent State President's ZOOM meeting, I realized that the problem we've been having is running rampant across the United States Women of Today. And that problem is....there is a striking lack of members willing to step up to take on the leadership positions in our local chapters and states.

We are, supposedly, a leadership building organization. So why don't we have any leaders? I wish I had a definitive answer to that troubling question. Unfortunately, I don't. But I do have a few ideas as to why we don't have members stepping up to take those leadership positions.

The number one reason might be — when no one volunteers to take on an office, those of us who are "seasoned" members relent and offer to do it. We can't just sit there and let that office go unfilled for the upcoming year. Wrong! Let it go unfilled!

Two years ago, when no one volunteered to be our chapter president, I reluctantly volunteered to do it....and also became the state president. My number one goal was to recruit new members so we could rely on them to take on chapter offices in the future. Sometimes even the best plans don't work out the way we'd hoped and I ended up with those offices for a second year.

At our recent yearend meeting, our elections were a fiasco. Next year's secretary is going to be our secretary, for the fourth year in a row (totally obliterating our bylaws). Our current treasurer is keeping the job for another year, as is our member in charge of Cheer. One glimmer of hope is that a member who's never held an office before will be our Vice President (which we've been without for a couple of years). Unfortunately, no one volunteered to be our incoming chapter president.

So did I relent and volunteer to do the job for a third year in a row? Not a chance! We're going to start our new year without a president. That will be an interesting experiment. As Chairman of the Board, I'll continue to do monthly newsletters to keep our members informed about what's going on with the USWT. I'll even plan our next meeting, which won't be until September. But, will I be doing monthly reports? No. Will I be giving out awards and incentives as I have every month during the past two years? No. Will I be providing door prizes and desserts at our monthly meetings to entice members to attend meetings? No.

Am I panicking because our chapter doesn't have a new president? Not at all!

Will the Sun still rise in the East?

Will Twinkies still be readily available in every grocery store and gas station in the nation?

Will the Kardashians still monopolize Yahoo News even though no one really cares what see through bikini Kim wore to her pool last Saturday?

Will the Valley of the Sun chapter survive even though we haven't elected a new President yet, and maybe won't for several months?

***The answer to all those questions is YES!!***

Someone is going to be forced, and encouraged, to be our next president. Maybe those members who try to look as inconspicuous as possible during elections are just afraid they aren't up to the job. Let's be real, it's hard to follow someone who's been a chapter president several times, a state president once (or possibly more than once) and also a national president perhaps. That's a tough act to follow for anyone, especially a novice member who's never held an office before.

Let your members know that taking on an office is a learning experience, that nobody knows how to do the job at the beginning. Always encourage and support, and minimize mistakes that are made. No one's perfect and we all make mistakes (it really doesn't matter how dumb YOU think those mistakes are! Mistakes aren't dumb if you learn from them).

As I mentioned before, this is an experiment the Valley of the Sun is going to try this year. I'll have to let you know how it works for us. I'm optimistic!

Joey Hedstrom, President  
Valley of the Sun/Arizona Women of Today  
2022-2023

ILLINOIS WOMEN OF TODAY  
“GROWING OUR GARDEN”  
2022-2023



Hello to all,

This year started off with a full board. My theme this year was Growing our Garden. The incentive members to go along with the theme was for everyone to grow their membership and grow themselves.

As the year progressed, we did add new members and we did hold 3 successful state meetings with guest speakers at the meetings. We enjoyed the company of our National President Laura and 3 staff members at our November state meeting.

Our chapters were very involved in their communities with projects including July 4<sup>th</sup> bike parade, Trunk and Treat, and Thanksgiving food drive.

We celebrated Women of Today Week with Ronald McDonald dinners and made bed pillows for M.E.R.C.Y. Centers as a DVA project. We raised funds from bake sales and worked with the food pantries, angel tree gifts for local children and cooking dinner for the volunteer fire department.

We have enjoyed the year. Thank you to my state board and big thank you to our national board.

Looking forward to national in Arizona and hope to see you there.

“Growing Our Garden”

Terri Hebda IWT President

Together WE can do so much



Many thanks to President Laura for the support and guidance she gave me this past year. Thanks to Laura and Deb for coming to Massachusetts for a long weekend in October. It was our honor to have them here.

MAWT with six chapters has been very busy. Every chapter held great events and raised much needed funds for their communities. We held 2 state meetings and hope to have a year- end meeting in June. Many of the chapters do not meet in July and August but do have a few social events.

Training of incoming board members is done on a chapter level, on a state level it is one on one training, this to work for us.

Many thanks to all the state presidents that I have met on Zoom meetings and all the USWT members I have met at Committee meetings. It is wonderful to know if there is a question to ask there is an answer to it.

Congratulations to the incoming USWT Board- all the best.

Kathy Griffin MAWT Sate President

**TOGETHER WE CAN  
DO SO MUCH MORE.**





Greetings from Minnesota,

Well, I think spring is finally here in Minnesota. On March 31, we had sleet and snow and not very good driving conditions on a 3-hour drive to a meeting. The week after Easter the temperatures climbed to almost 80 degrees. And of course, once temperatures are over 45, the t-shirts and flip-flops come out. But then, Mother Nature had another bi-polar episode and two days later, six more inches of snow fell with temperatures in the 30's. Crazy, huh?! The beauty of this kind of weather, though, is that the snow melts quickly.

But back to the topic requested by President Laura—how do we train our incoming staff. In March, it is tradition of Minnesota Women of Today to have a meeting called March planning—to discuss suggestions and ideas submitted by members for improvements and/or changes that could be considered for procedures, etc. within our organization. After this meeting, current state staff meets one-on-one with prospective state staff to go over highlights of duties and responsibilities of their position. At this time, an Operations manual is also handed over. This manual describes in detail, for each convention and meeting of state staff and state-level position (Executive Council) meetings what needs to be done to prepare. In addition, at our training held the first weekend in June (MN June Officer Training Sessions), there is comprehensive training for state program managers, led by the programming vice president, district directors, and state staff. Some of the training sessions include preparation for the upcoming fall convention, suggested promotions throughout the year, and managing emails and other techie stuff.

From now until May 19, when our Annual convention will be held in Alexandria, there will be closeout on April 29—when the membership team reaches out to all 48 chapters to congratulate them on their growth and retention; LOTS (Local Officer Training Sessions) on May 6—when state staff trains chapter board officers; preparation of year-end awards; and calculation of year-end number of hours and \$ donations for the state. A busy time, for sure, but it is so much fun to celebrate at the convention with all the members and staff of MNWT.

From my heart to yours,  
Jenise Teske  
MNWT State President  
2022-2023





## **WE ARE STRONG**

Hello from the great state of Nebraska!

In the past years, we have had a Board Retreat where we trained our State Officer's and Staff. Years ago, we held an all-day training. In the past years, we have had so many past presidents holding positions that it became half of day training.

This year, I hope to do something different, at our Annual Convention we will be holding an officer training. I am going to have my state officers do some training and then have the national officers that are in attendance also do some training. My hope is that we can train both levels (chapter and state) officers.

Maxine Turner

State President

[PRESIDENT@NEwomenoftoday.org](mailto:PRESIDENT@NEwomenoftoday.org)



## **Be a Guiding Light – Volunteer**

Hello everyone. It is hard to believe another year has passed. I am hoping everyone had a terrific year and I wish everyone an outstanding next year. Life is slowly going back to pre-pandemic time. I would like to thank all the NJ Women of Today members for remaining in the organization. Hopefully we can start doing more activities in our communities. I still believe that Women of Today is a great organization with so much to offer its members and their communities.

God Bless. Hugs for all,

**Diane Stanaway—NJ President**