



**REACHING OUT**

Greetings Women of Today members,

It's a new Women of Today year and I am your new USWT Extensions Director. My name is Jenise Teske and I am a member of the St. Joseph, Minnesota, Women of Today chapter. I first joined the Champlin chapter in 2013 but transferred to the Fridley chapter in 2014 because it was closer to where I lived. I took on a Local Program Manager my first year and chapter President in 2014-2015. I took on the position of District Director 2015-2016. I was on the MNWT Executive Council for 8 years, with positions held as State Program Manager (Community Connections and the Priority Area/Wishes & More), Extensions Director, Chapter Manager Vice President, Membership Vice President, State President 2022-23 and Chairman of the Board 2023-24. During my year as MNWT Extensions Director, we completed two extensions. I am now also serving on the MNWT Foundation Committee and on the USWT Future Directions Committee.

I moved to St. Cloud in 2020 when I retired to be close to my daughter, Nicky and her husband, Kevin (and at the time, my four grandchildren) and that has not played as planned. My daughter took a job in Phoenix, AZ in the fall of 2023. My grandchildren have all moved away and sadly, we are not in touch much, but I am grateful that I have rebuilt a close relationship with my daughter. And I keep in frequent contact with my three brothers, Sid (Roseville, MN), Trent (Dallas, TX), and Dan (Fargo, ND) and my sister, Colleen (West Fargo).

As your Extensions Director for the next year, one of my goals is to complete three extensions and I am confident that it can be done. I plan to contact my state counterparts on a monthly basis starting in July, offering incentives and "Extensions Guides" for new leads or help with continuing prospective communities for new chapters. In addition, I can travel to other states to help complete those extensions. Please contact me if you have contact information by email [extensions@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:extensions@uswomenoftoday.org) or [jenise.teske@gmail.com](mailto:jenise.teske@gmail.com).

*Jenise*

**Reach Out to  
Meet New Friends  
And Grow Women of Today!**

**What's Included in this Issue:**

Introduction.....Page 1  
What, Why, & Who.....Page 2  
10 Steps of an Extension.....Page 3  
Challenge for 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester.....Page 4  
Fast Start.....Page 4

## **What is an Extension?**

- Forming a new chapter in a new community
- To complete an extension, the following requirements must be met before the chapter can be recognized:
  - Pay a Charter Fee
  - In Minnesota, you must have 10 new members to charter; in other states, you only need 5 new members
  - Submit names along with address, phone#, email and birthdate on add/change form.
  - Dues must be paid to your state's Chapter Service Center or Treasurer

## **Why do an Extension?**

- It is fun!!
  - It is fun to share with others what you value and enjoy.
- You are making the world a better place.
  - The lives of the women who join the new chapter will be enriched just as your life has been.
  - Their community will benefit as well from their service to local needs.
- The process will help you.
  - You will be recruiting new members
  - You will be orienting new members
  - You will be contacting media
  - You will be leading meetings and helping things run smoothly
  - You will be arranging speakers
  - You will be training new leaders
  - You are helping plan the future of the new chapter
- You are assuring the future of our organization.
  - The state organization's strength comes from strong chapters with enthusiastic members.
  - By building our chapter base, we are helping existing chapters grow strong and establishing new, healthy chapters

## **Who can do an Extension?**

- One or more neighboring chapters may choose to extend to a nearby community
- An extensions team can be established—
  - You may volunteer to work as a recruiter or trainer
  - The charter is filed by the extensions team
  - The charter fee is paid by an Extensions Fund.

Friends, Sisters, Mothers, Professors. When women affirm women, it unlocks our power. It gives us permission to shine brighter.....Elaine Welteroth

# 10-STEP PROGRAM FOR COMPLETING AN EXTENSION

Completing an extension is an exciting, motivating and energizing activity for your members, chapter, and state. The following is a 10-step program for completion of your extension.

Step 1: Choose a TARGET town/community, form an Extensions Team and file an Intent to Extend form,

Step 2: Pick three dates in one month with varying weeknights, to hold meetings.

Step 3: Find and reserve a meeting place (call banks, restaurants,, offices, city hall). You will need a private space for 10-12 people.

Step 4: Prepare a flyer and newspaper article announcing the Women of Today are considering starting a new chapter in their community:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x3-yv\\_d5zbS5KwsroAQDb-20wN9O85dNArU1D-6KNGM/edit#heading=h.ef3bd7a9c3vl](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x3-yv_d5zbS5KwsroAQDb-20wN9O85dNArU1D-6KNGM/edit#heading=h.ef3bd7a9c3vl)

The following steps will have to be done three times each and will require 20-30 minutes.

Step 5: Take 2-4 members of your Extensions Team and post flyers in your Target town, Put them up at places of business, restaurants, coffee shops, shopping malls. Ask to have an information table at a craft fair, community event and collect contact information (names, phone#s, emails).

Step 6: Put an article in the local newspaper including a name and contact phone #.

Step 7: Reach out to contacts made to notify of upcoming event.

Step 8: Send out invitations to emails of contacts received. Invite them to call or email back with questions. Invite your chapter and state officers.

Step 9: Hold your meetings, INCLUDE INFORMATION, A FUN ACTIVITY, AND FOOD! ASK ALL YOUR GUESTS TO JOIN AND COLLECT THEIR CHECKS!

Step 10: Pass along your GREAT news to :

Your State President  
Your State Extensions Director or  
Your State Membership VP  
Your National Extensions Director



## **CHALLENGE FOR EXTENSIONS DIRECTORS AND/OR TEAMS**

If you are working on an extension, email me the following:

- 1) A photo at an event AND
- 2) A copy of the PR used for the event AND
- 3) Recap of event

**Deadline: September 1.**

**You will be entered into a drawing for a basket with supplies for an event.**

***There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.  
...Michele Obama***

If you are an Extensions Director in your state, I also challenge you to complete a Fast Start and email to me by July 15—

- 1) Introduce yourself in 2-3 sentences.
- 2) List 3 goals you have for the year.
- 3) List one challenge you face that I could help you with.