

# TODAY'S LEADER



Greeting USWT Friends:



Tracey Pierson  
United States  
Women of Today  
2023-2024 President

“Working hard is important, but there is something that matters even more: Believing in yourself.”

The final trimester has arrived, are you ready for our year end? Have you read the staff's 3rd trimester SIP's, the challenges that they have out there for you to do. It might be something that you already do, just need to fill out the paperwork. The staff is here to help you with any questions about getting certified, DVA transmittals, Community Connections, Outstanding Achievement in Programming, Fellowship Builder, STEPs, Wellness and Personal Development, All American Chapter or donating to Way and Means with one of the last fundraisers our fudge sales coming soon.

Have you got your QR code made for your state or chapters? If you need help, please reach out. Have you completed my challenge to have a speaker or handouts about diabetes, I feel it is something that we should all know about.

I have enjoyed my travels so far and getting to know so many different people in the organization and how many great things we do in all our own chapters and states. I have 3 more states to visit before the year end and those are in April and May.

Are we ready to celebrate all our accomplishments from this past year in Des Moines on June 7th & 8th? There are 60 days until your registration forms are due. Don't forget to bring your donations for Children and Families of Iowa.

*In this issue:*  
Membership News  
Programming News  
Yearend Convention  
Information

Believe in Yourself,  
**Tracey Pierson,**  
USWT President





## ELECTIONS 2024-2025

The Elections Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for 2024-2025 National Executive Board. These are the candidates who have filed and have been approved so far. We will continue to accept filings up to June 5th.

It is an interesting note that we have the first contested election for President for the first time in several years. Also note we do not yet have a candidate for Treasurer. If you or someone you know would be interested in any position, including the four PM/Director positions, please reach out to me. Both the filing forms are on the website, under Awards & Resources – Forms & Manuals, then scroll down to the Chairman of the Board section.

Congratulations to all the candidates! Thank you for stepping up to serve this organization in a big way.



**Presidential Candidate**  
**Laura Bentley, New Hampton, Iowa**



**Presidential Candidate**  
**Jane Hanson, Madelia, Minnesota**



**Membership VP Candidate**  
**Shellie Matthes, White Bear Lake, MN**



**Programming VP Candidate**  
**Anna Nichols, New Hope, Minnesota**

**Secretary Candidate**  
**Mary Hansen,**  
**St. Cloud, Minnesota**



Mary Hanson  
USWT Parliamentarian  
Parli@uswomenoftoday.org



Hello fellow Women of Today Members and fellow Parli's

I cannot express my thanks enough for everyone's support this year. My wishes and hopes are that everyone continues to grow and flourish with the support they received from Women of Today.

My 3rd Trimester Challenge is to "Hold a Bylaw and Policy review once during the 2023-2024 year". Email me the date and time of your meeting and share any updates or new information you learned. You can complete this challenge even if you held your review earlier this year. Deadline for this challenge will be April 15th, 2024.

Mary Hansen – USWT Parliamentarian

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

A review meeting was held on February 2, 2024, at 10:00am CST. Action items coming from the review include minor spelling, spacing and formatting issues. Three suggested Bylaw changes were made and have passed through the Future Directions Committee and are noted below. Bylaw changes require 45 days written notice to membership and a 2/3 majority vote for a motion to pass. They will be voted on at the Year-End Business Meeting.

Several Policy changes were discussed but have not passed through Future Directions at this time. More information will follow as that process is completed.

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

- I move that in Article III, Section 1 Letter B be deleted and renumber accordingly. There should be 3 classes of membership, and this is a duplicate of letter D (Individual Members)
- I move that in Article X, Section 6 the words President, Chairman of the Board and Treasurer be replaced by Executive Committee. Purpose to redefine who gives approval for use of name and logo.
- I move that in Article X, Section 6 that letter B be deleted. This is not needed as it seems a duplicate of Section 5 and letter A



**Jane Hanson – USWT TREASURER**  
CONTACT: [treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org)

Dear Treasurers

Our yearend fundraiser is a Fudge/Caramel Sale from Walnut Grove Mercantile. Attached is an order form, all sales need to be prepaid. You can mail a check to me or pay via Venmo; @jane-hanson-26 (phone number for verification is 5699). The finance committee has authorized the use of my personal Venmo for this sale. We will have a few extra boxes at convention for sale but to assure you get the fudge/caramels you want, please pre-order.

Cost: \$8 per box (USWT gets \$4 per box as profit)

Due Date: May 21st all orders and payments due

Fudge: Chocolate, Chocolate Walnut, Chocolate/Peanut Butter, Chocolate Mint Swirl, Chocolate Amaretto Swirl, Chewy Praline, Sea Salt Caramel, Raspberry Swirl.

Caramels: Homemade Caramels – rich extra creamy caramels are **simply irresistible!**

We have held this fundraiser many times in Minnesota; the fudge has always been great but the caramels are fabulous!

The order form will also be uploaded to the website.

Please reach out to me with any questions!



*Fundraising*

Treat yourself to the old-fashioned goodness of our mouthwatering fresh fudge, made with real cream and butter!

Our fudge makes a great gift, so don't forget to get some for friends, relatives, and all of those special people you appreciate.

If you want to save your fudge for later, it will come out of the freezer just as fresh as when you put it in. Make sure to stock up!

Most importantly, **your organization receives 50% of the money you spend today, so give them your support!**



Stephen, Kay, and Nicholas Klein

## Delicious Fudge and Caramels

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  <p><b>CHOCOLATE</b><br/>Our classic rich chocolate fudge.</p>                                   |  <p><b>CHOCOLATE WALNUT</b><br/>Rich chocolate with premium English walnuts.</p>              |  <p><b>CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER</b><br/>Creamy peanut butter fudge topped with rich chocolate.</p> |
|  <p><b>CHOCOLATE MINT SWIRL</b><br/>Chocolate fudge hand-swirled with refreshing mint.</p>       |  <p><b>CHOCOLATE AMARETTO SWIRL</b><br/>Rich chocolate fudge swirled with sweet amaretto.</p> |  <p><b>CHEWY PRALINE</b><br/>Rich vanilla with a center of chewy caramel and crunchy pecans.</p>  |
|  <p><b>SEA SALT CARAMEL</b><br/>Rich, sea salt topped chocolate fudge with a caramel center.</p> |  <p><b>RASPBERRY SWIRL</b><br/>Sweet raspberry fudge swirled with velvety vanilla.</p>        |  <p><b>HOMEMADE CARAMELS</b><br/>Our rich, extra-creamy caramels are simply irresistible.</p>     |



# Support President Tracey



T-Shirts are available in Men's and Women's Sizes in Green or Grey!

Men's Long Sleeve Shirt and Hoodie Available in Green or Grey!

*The LAST ordering Window will be open April 1-30.  
We do need 12 shirts ordered for the company to process.*

Order shirts on line and have them shipped to you (charges will apply) or mark them as pick up and President Tracey will pick up and bring to Yearend convention in Des Moines.

Click on this hyperlink or copy into your address window:

<https://uswtfspring24.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

**New link for  
ordering  
shirts**

**Costs:   \$22 (all sizes) - T-Shirts**  
**\$25 (all sizes) - Long-Sleeved Shirts**  
**\$30 (all sizes) - Hoodies**

This is also a National Fund Raiser as a portion of the profits will benefit Ways and Means.

If you have any questions or issues, please contact Jane at [treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org) or President Tracey at [president@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:president@uswomenoftoday.org)



**SUE BEATTIE**  
**SECRETARY**  
 CONTACT: [secretary@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:secretary@uswomenoftoday.org)

*Want to be sure your minutes are accurate?* Ask for written reports from everyone. To help with this request, email a blank form to your chapter/state officers and anyone else you expect a report from before each meeting and have blank report forms available at the meeting.

Don't forget to send me your minutes and newsletters. Your chapter/state will be recognized at the Annual Convention in June if you do!

As always, if you have any questions about secretary or newsletter editor, please let me know.

*Sue Beattie*  
 USWT Secretary

**2<sup>ND</sup> TRIMESTER CHALLENGE – TIPS**

My 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester challenge was to send me two tips which secretaries/newsletter editors found helpful while holding their current position for 2023-2024.

**Joy Hutchcraft:** (1) *"I am working with our state officers to have them provide me with a written report prior to our state meetings."* (2) *"I send out the minutes in advance asking for any revisions."*

**Nicolette Amundson:** (1) *"I correlate meeting minutes with agenda in outline form using the same numbers to correlate any follow up refences."* (2) *"As a new secretary to the State Board, I reviewed past meeting minutes to ensure I included the same information and format."*

**Dorie Halbfass:** (1) *"Taking thorough notes is a must as there are so many things and so much business held at meetings that you cannot remember everything."* (2) *"Keeping organization for me makes it so much easier to look back on and fine the things necessary in a time crunch."*

Thank you to Joy, Nicolette, and Dorie for accepting my challenge!

**MARCH HAPPENINGS**

International Women's Day is the 8th, and St Patrick's Day on the 17th.  
 Daylight Savings Time starts in March.  
 Monopoly was invented in March of 1933.  
 Coca-Cola was invented in March.

“Be the Change you want to see in the World.”



**CATHY SNYDER**  
**MEMBERSHIP VP**  
mvp@uswomenoftoday.org

*Hello Women of Today,*

*WOW, we are on our last trimester for the Women of Today year, where has that time gone?! I hope you continue to grow through this last trimester within your chapters and states.*

*Remember to check out our Membership Facebook page.*

*Just a reminder, please don't forget to fill out your Fellowship Builder award form found on the web site or if you need help, please reach out to me.*

*Reminder to look at my 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester SIP for the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester Challenges. Let's finish strong these last few months and have growth for yearend.*

*Cathy Snyder*

**JOANN MILLER**  
**EXTENSIONS DIRECTOR**  
CONTACT: extensions@uswomenoftoday.org



The first year of a new chapter's life is an especially important one. This year will build the base for a strong chapter. We will need to help train and develop the members so they can make significant change in the community.

The following checklist is meant to serve as a guide to get things started. There are many other steps that you may find necessary to help a chapter get going. If you need help, ask! There is always someone willing to help to make an Extension into a healthy strong chapter.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Required extension Forms completed and mailed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dues paid in full for all members
- \_\_\_\_\_ Liability insurance checked into
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bylaws and Policies approved 90 days after charter date
- \_\_\_\_\_ Charter Fee paid
- \_\_\_\_\_ Filings for Article of Incorporation and various tax forms in process
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bank account set up (checks require 2 signatures – President and Treasurer)

*JoAnn*

Spread the Word



**SHELLIE MATTHES - PR DIRECTOR**  
"Spread the Word"  
CONTACT: [pr@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:pr@uswomenoftoday.org)

What is your chapter doing to share the wonderful work that USWT is doing in your community? Are you making posts to your chapter/state Facebook pages? We have so many wonderful upcoming activities that you can share. March 8 is International Women's Day with the theme of "Inspire Inclusion", this is a wonderful way to tie in what your chapter/state is doing to encourage inclusion. National Volunteer Week is scheduled for April 21-27, 2024, this year with the theme of "Something for Everyone". What are your plans to honor the volunteers that help your community, chapter, state?

Make sure you turn in the Shout Out with Public Relations form again for Tri 3 to be recognized with a larger certificate. The form should reflect any activities for Volunteer Week/Random Act of Kindness Day and should be submitted to me by May 5, 2024. I might even add a special gift for those that complete Tri 3. The updated form has been added to the PR Director's page on the USWT website. The email form still needs to be updated; however, you can still use it to submit your chapter's activities.

The organization that the Iowa WT chapter selected for the Buckets of Sunshine for 2024 was announced at Mid-Year. The organization is Children & Families of Iowa. More information will be posted to the USWT Facebook pages after the beginning of the year. Please watch for these posts and then follow the USWT Year-End 2024 Facebook for the latest updates, challenges and if you answer the questions posted you have the potential to have your convention registration fees returned!

The excitement is growing for the Year End Convention in Des Moines, IA, June 7-8. Are you going to join us?

I want to remind everyone that when you are out and about, share Women of Today with women you meet. Do you have a chapter brochure that you can carry in your purse or backpack ready to share? How about chapter business cards to hand out or post on community bulletin boards? If you need help designing either of the above marketing tools, just contact me and we can work on it together.

I want to wish everyone a fun and safe St. Patrick's Day and a wonderful Easter. Enjoy your time with family and friends!





# WANTED

The United States Women of Today Charities are looking for gift cards, Charities will be holding a Lucky Buck at our yearend convention, we are asking for any amount of Gift Card to be donated. If you are unable to attend and would like to donate. Please contact Cindy Urlacher or Cathy Snyder.



# Programming

Don't worry about tomorrow!



We are well into our third trimester! I have received 2 project library reports. Which is part of my third trimester challenge. They will be entered into a drawing at annual convention. We are soaring into some great numbers for programming and want you to keep putting those community connections coming in. File online, snail mail or email me the details and I will record the data! There is still lots of time to complete areas of programming for annual convention recognition

**\*Community Connections**

**\*Project Library**

**\*Outstanding Achievement in programming**



**JULIE HUTCHINSON - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS PROGRAM MGR**CONTACT: [dva@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:dva@uswomenoftoday.org)

I want to thank all of you who participated and supported Teen Dating Violence Awareness during the month of February. I've enjoyed your photos and look forward to receiving transmittals for all of your educational and fundraising efforts. If this area of domestic violence is of special interest, please check out these websites for more information and tool kits:

[loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org)

[thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org)

[domesticshelters.org](http://domesticshelters.org)

I wanted to remind all of you that the USWT will be supporting the Children & Families of Iowa as our Year-End Buckets of Sunshine recipient during our annual convention this June in Des Moines, IA. Please keep them in mind as you make your donations this final trimester. I'm including information about the shelter and their wish list for your review. Please share with your chapters.

Our mission to bring awareness to DVA doesn't stop with the emphasis months but continues all year long. We need to maintain our commitment to bringing awareness to DVA and to stopping the violence. Your support could be the difference that saves a person's life ---- don't stop.

Domestic Violence Awareness Project has promoted the campaign: Awareness + Action = Social Change (WHAT'S YOUR #1 THING?) What is Your #1 Thing to help bring awareness and social change to domestic violence?

*Julie Hutchinson*

USWT DVA PM



***Love Shouldn't Hurt***

# Awareness + Action = Social Change

## What's Your #1Thing?

The [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#) is committed to promoting proactive efforts to shift the cultural rules, norms, and constructs that support gender-based violence and support the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, and institutions.

### Moving People to Action

The *action* component of **Awareness + Action = Social Change** is a natural extension of the awareness and education opportunities that individuals and communities are engaged in during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and throughout the year. By integrating action steps, no matter how small, we can build our communities' capacity to take the lead in changing social and cultural norms that support gender-based violence.

#1Thing is about harnessing the momentum of our movements - especially at their critical points of intersection - by calling people to specific and direct collective action that are informed by the communities most directly impacted.

### Examples of collective actions

- Community organizing: Human rights demonstrations, gatherings, or protests
- Healing together: Community healing circles and spaces
- Learning through storytelling and the arts
- Supporting women- and people of color-owned businesses
- Discussion groups
- Volunteer drives/recruitment
- Fundraising events
- Lobbying for legislation
- Neighborhood canvassing
- Voter registration drives
- Building restoration/clean-up
- Greening spaces
- Youth mentoring
- Youth organizing and activism



### Starting with #1Thing

Domestic violence impacts millions of people each year, but it can be prevented. It requires the collective voice and power of individuals, families, institutions, and systems - each whose "one thing" adds a valuable and powerful component to transforming our communities.

## Examples of "one things"

- Be a caring and consistent adult in the life of a child
- Talk to my loved ones about violence and oppression
- Create a culture of consent in my home
- Speak out when I notice microaggressions
- Write to my legislator and/or newspaper
- Use social media to raise awareness among my peers
- Host a "lunch and learn" at my office on topics related to violence and oppression



- Reach out to women- and people of color-led organizations to establish new partnerships
- Learn more about how my workplace policies impact survivors of abuse
- Reach out to my local domestic violence program to learn how I can help

- Ask about anti-violence policies and programs at local schools
- Organize an informational meeting at church and invite my local domestic violence program
- Learn how to foster the pets of survivors staying in shelter
- Consume and share media created by historically oppressed people
- Model self-care at work and home
- Tell someone they matter



- Listen to and validate a survivor of trauma
- Hold my loved ones accountable when they tell a racist/sexist joke
- Share my story (publicly or just with a single trusted loved one)
- Donate money or time to a community-based nonprofit
- Support women- and people of color-owned businesses in my community



## Advancing Social Change

Each of our "one things" and collective actions are critical to the story of our movement. While each may be unique and personal, when woven together, they create a strong foundation for the world we imagine. And when our "one things" are put into action, they become concrete steps on the pathway to social change. Building that pathway is an investment we make together.

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# United States Women of Today

## Domestic Violence Awareness Transmittal Form

Each educational, fundraising, or service project for Domestic Violence Awareness should be submitted on this form. Make three (3) copies of this form. Maintain one copy for your chapter files, send one copy to your State Program Manager or Project Chair, and submit one copy to the United States Women of Today Domestic Violence Awareness Program Manager as each event is completed during the year. Final submissions to be **Postmarked no later than May 1st.**

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Project:  Educational  Fundraising  Service Project (check all that apply)

Recipient of Donation – Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:  Speaker  Shelter  DV Agency  Other

Amount Raised: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Total Amount of Items Donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Service Hours for this Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Project/Donation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of this Project:



**DEB MCDONALD**  
**WELLNESS & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**PROGRAM MANAGER**  
 CONTACT: [pvp@uswomenoftoday.org](mailto:pvp@uswomenoftoday.org)

It is getting closer to the end of the year, and you still have time to certify in Wellness and Personal Development, so fill my mailbox with certifications.

**You have until May 1st to submit!**

National Convention is just around the corner, and here is your chance to be part of my speaking competition, the theme is:

*Speak about "What did you learn about yourself during the pandemic."  
 How it affected your job, family and life in general.*

**It must be 5 to 8 minutes and you can use the written one from Fall Convention as your base. The cost is \$5.00 and is due May 1st, and then at convention we will hold a speaking competition.**

I look forward to seeing everyone at Convention.

Deb McDonald  
 Wellness and Personal Development Program Manager



What Matters Most Is The... Author: Eisie Perera

It isn't the size of your house as such  
 That matters so much at all.  
 It's the gentle hand and its loving touch,  
 That make it great or small.  
 The friends who come and the hour they  
 Who out of your house depart,  
 Will judge it not by the style you show,  
 But rather by the size of your heart.  
 It isn't the size of your head so much,  
 It isn't the wealth you found.  
 That will make you happy -- it's how you  
 touch  
 The lives that are all around.  
 For making money is not hard --  
 To live life well is an art:  
 How people love you, how they regard,  
 Is all in the size of your heart.

We have been in the air for nine months now - meaning in just over three months we will all be meeting in Des Moines for USWT Year-End 2024 – to celebrate the start of our 40th year as an organization!! It also means we have THREE MORE STATES to “fly over” – on our way to Des Moines IA, June 6, 2024. For those who have been following us, here are the states we will be visiting during the last leg of our JOURNEY TO 2024:



**MARCH-NORTH DAKOTA**

- \*Official Motto
- \*State Nickname
- \*World’s largest hamburger served in what ND city? (BONUS POINT: total weight)
- \*The largest pancake feed was held in what year and in what city
- \*\*EXTRA POINTS: Name the TWO USWT Presidents from North Dakota-their themes and years served

**APRIL-SOUTH DAKOTA**

- \*Official Motto
- \*State Nickname
- \*SD is home to Mount Rushmore: Name the four presidents depicted AND for 4 BONUS POINTS: Which stage of America’s history does each represent?
- \*Did you know at least 33 of the 50 states have a designated “state drink”? of these 20 of them, including South Dakota have the same drink: What is the state drink of South Dakota?
- \*\*EXTRA POINTS: Although no SDWT member has been USWT President; the state has hosted both a year-end and mid-year meeting. Name the convention years-locations and themes



**MAY-IOWA**

- \*Official Motto
- \*State Nickname
- \*Iowa is the birthplace of ONE president of the USA-who is he, where was he born and when did he serve?
- \*Winterset IA is home to well-known Marion Morrison – what famous name are they known as?
- \*The first USWT President was from Iowa! Name her. (Extra points: what year did she serve-what was her theme)
- \*\*EXTRA POINTS: Since the first USWT President, there have been two other Iowa WT serve as USWT President: list their names-years served-themes



**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:** Each member attending USWT Year-End 2024 will receive a convention booklet, with important information, including tentative schedule, minutes and agendas for BOD, General membership and Elections meeting. IN ADDITION: members/states are invited to **SUBMIT ADS!!** Send hard-copies or email (copy-ready) to: **kentsmom86@yahoo.com** by **May10, 2024**. **COST: Half page: \$5; Full page: \$10.** (checks made out to “Iowa Women of Today”)



Children and Families of Iowa  
1111 University Ave.  
Des Moines IA 50314  
<https://cfiowa.org>

Domestic Violence Services

### **SAFE SHELTER**

Children & Families of Iowa (CFI) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families throughout Iowa. Headquartered in Des Moines with offices in Ankeny, Osceola and Ottumwa, CFI provides services such as domestic violence prevention and intervention, teen programs, family support, early childhood development, mental health and substance abuse. As part of their Domestic Violence Services, CFI sponsors SAFE SHELTER.

For the second time in three years, the US Women of Today Year-End Buckets of Sunshine recipient will be SAFE SHELTER, Iowa’s largest domestic violence shelter and the only one in Polk County, offering a safe place to heal and begin building a life free from violence. Located just about 10 miles from our 2024 Year-End convention site, SAFE SHELTER was also the recipient of our 2021 Buckets of Sunshine donation back in June 2021. Thanks to the generous donations of our members/states, we were able to present them with \$2310 (\$795 in-kind items and \$1515 in monetary donations).

Following is a short “WISH LIST” of items the shelter can use. Please feel free to start collecting items – and bring them to Year-end 2024 next June. In addition, monetary donations are also being accepted. Checks, made out to “US Women of Today” and earmarked “Buckets of Sunshine 2024” in the memo line, can be sent to USWT Public Relations Director Shellie Matthes. She will keep track of all monetary donations, and we will be presenting a hopefully LARGE” check to Children & Family Services at our June 2024 Year-End meeting!!

#### **Wish/Want/Need List for DVS**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ✓ Gas cards  | ✓ Battery Operated Candles                          |
| ✓ Twin sheet sets                                    | ✓ Yoga Mats   |
| ✓ Twin comforters or blankets                        | ✓ Shampoo   |
| ✓ Bath Towels  | ✓ Conditioner                                       |
| ✓ Wash cloths  | ✓ Body Wash   |
| ✓ Standard Pillows                                   | ✓ Lotions   |
| ✓ Ethnic Hair products (for African American Hair)   | ✓ Diapers (all sizes but big sizes are needed most) |
| ✓ Piggy Banks – to give clients when they get a job  | ✓ Wipes   |
| ✓ Key Chains - to give clients when they get housing |   |

[revised 8/7/23]



**UNITED STATES  
WOMEN OF TODAY  
2024 National Year-End Convention  
June 7-8, 2024**

**Come UP UP & AWAY  
With Iowa Women of Today**

♠ Baymont Inn & Suites  
Des Moines Airport Hotel & Conference Center  
6221 Willow Creek Avenue, Des Moines IA 50321

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Women of Today \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer. Home Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Means of Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

If by air: Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_ E.T.A. \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Departure Time: afternoon \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: There is airport shuttle service to the hotel (from Des Moines airport, @ 2 mi away)

**ROOMS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!! CONVENTION RATE UNTIL 5/1/2024**

\$114+tax per night – 1-4 people per room: **515-285-0654**

Mention that you are with the **Iowa Women of Today** meeting when making reservations.

| <u>Registration</u>                     | <u>Advance</u> | <u>Late</u>   |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| FULL                                    | _____ \$100    | _____ \$115   |
| Includes all meetings, forums and meals |                |               |
| <b>INDIVIDUAL EVENTS</b>                |                |               |
| Friday Night Party                      | _____ \$25.00  | _____ \$30.00 |
| Saturday Forums / Meetings              | _____ \$30.00  | _____ \$30.00 |
| Saturday Luncheon                       | _____ \$20.00  | _____ \$25.00 |
| Saturday Banquet                        | _____ \$25.00  | _____ \$30.00 |
|   | Total _____    | Total _____   |
| SATURDAY ONLY                           | _____ \$75.00  | _____         |
|   | \$85.00        |               |



**ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE – POSTMARKED BY May 1, 2024**

Make check payable to [Iowa Women of Today 2024](#) Any questions please contact

Send registration form and check to:

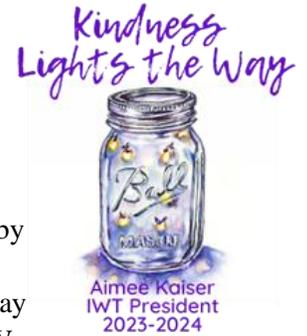
Michele Thompson  
6908 Wentworth Ave  
Richfield MN 55423

Michele Thompson , Chair  
New Hampton IA WT  
kentsmom86@yahoo.com  
612-869-6320

Laura Bentley, co-chair  
New Hampton IA WT  
laurabentleywt@gmail.com  
641-229-0022

### Hello All From the Illinois Women of Today,

Hope this note finds everyone doing well and enjoying some down time after the holidays. Illinois Women of Today and its chapters have stayed busy with bake sales, movie nights, holiday events, Food pantry donations and service, cookies for first responders, and many other fun projects and social activities. We enjoyed a wonderful November All State hosted by Pawnee Women of Today which included a Friday evening social and craft time along with some yummy food. We decorated Christmas Trees courtesy of Lincoln Land Women of Today and then raffled them off on Saturday with the funds going to our White Rose Scholarship. We then had our Business meeting on Saturday which was well attended and we even enjoyed a few new guests. Our next All State will be held April 26-27 in Springfield, IL hosted by the Springfield Women of Today. Here in Illinois, we are enjoying some very mild February weather (high of 70 degrees in central IL!) so I hope that all our friends around the country are also getting a break from the winter blues this week. Sending you all hugs and much kindness as we get closer to seeing many of you at year end in Des Moines!



Kindness lights the way my friends,  
Aimee Kaiser  
Illinois Women of Today President

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### Hello from Iowa Women of Today,

I still cannot believe we are already in 2024 since time just seems to be flying by. I am looking forward to our US Women of Today meeting in June and seeing everyone again along with meeting the First Timers who will be arriving to join us in Des Moines. With that being said there is a lot of work that goes into this and I want to thank Michele and everyone else for all the hard work on this project. Get registered soon, book your rooms and Iowa Women of Today members are excited to be hosting this summer.



I also want to congratulate Jeany Bell Ridpath from New Hampton on her Jymmie Andrews Award which she received at our January meeting. This is the highest Iowa Women of Today award which you can receive. Good job Jeany and continue the outstanding work you have been doing with Women of Today. We are proud to have you in our group and the great work you are doing.

Dream, Believe and Shine through the 3rd trimester!

Jennifer Lantz

Iowa Women of Today President

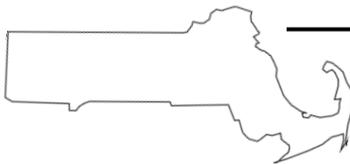
## Hello from Arizona!

It's that time of year when we celebrate the successes of this year and plan for this next year. Our first Arizona state meeting this WT year, the state officers in attendance spent their time training the local officers and members on all things Women of Today so they may reach success. Our attendees were receptive and learned so much about the organization.

We have two chapters. Wild West is very active in all things WT. Our Valley of the Sun chapter began the year without a President and I read in their newsletter they weren't interested in programming (certifications). They have participated in local area projects, however, so we all hope a President will step forward! I always believed without training there is no future. We are utilizing our March state meeting to instill planning for AWT future. Our next state meeting is March 23. Come visit us!



Carmella Mongold




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## GREETINGS FROM MASSACHUSETTS WOMEN OF TODAY

Spring is in the air! Our six chapters are in high gear with projects finished and in the works.

In February Easton Women of Today held a Women's Wellness Workshop featuring Empowerment Coach, crafts, Zumba, cake decorating and much more. The workshop was open to all area women and was well attended.

Also, in February Greater Bridgewater held their Annual Daughter Sweetheart Dance, tickets sold out in two days.

Mansfield was busy presenting checks to local charities from the proceeds of Touch A Truck.

Applications for two Scholarships of \$1,500 each to a local senior. The committee is set and waiting for returns.

Chelmsford members are gearing up for their famous Craft and Yard Sale event.

Bellingham recognized Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month by wearing orange to their February meeting. The chapter is making plans for Easter Bunny letters, plus muffins and photos too. Their yearly Peeps Diorama Contest will be held during Muffins with the Easter Bunny event.

Greater Attleboro presented a check to the local Food Pantry with proceeds from their successful Quarter Auction. Planning for spring events is in the works.

MAWT is growing with new members, starting third trimester with over 140 members, and still counting. Growth for year end is possible.

Best to All,

Kathy Griffin

MAWT State President





Amy Pumper  
MNWT State President 2023-2024  
[president@mnwt.org](mailto:president@mnwt.org)  
[www.mnwt.org](http://www.mnwt.org)

United States Women of Today Friends,

Our state supports a three-year priority area – with the current area being Crescent Cove, a respite home for children with terminal illnesses to go so the family can take a break knowing that their child is well cared for. The chapters and members have done education, raised funds, made donations, participated in several of their events as well as donated equipment and baskets for their annual gala over the last three years. The new priority area beginning in May, is REACH stands for Relationships, Education, Accountability, Character and Hard Work. We look forward to learning how our chapters and members can be involved in helping with existing programs and maybe helping to get programs going in our communities that don't have the program. It is about building a safe place for students to go to learn and grow as individuals and is offered as an elective for students in communities that have it set up.

Our state program managers can also promote up to one area during their year: Community Connections promotes our Community Connections awards that are presented at Annual Convention. The SPM promotes Camp Friendship which is a set of camps for individuals with challenges to go and camp just like those who do not have challenges. This SPM also promotes the Person with Determination award.

The Women's Wellness program manager this year is promoting Heart Health and sold red dress pins as well as shared a wealth of information on heart disease. She promotes the Domestic Violence Awareness area. This program manager also promotes the Women Who Impact award that recognizes outstanding women in our communities.

Our Youth of Today state program manager has chosen youth homelessness as the area to focus on this year and has had speakers, shares information about youth homelessness and has set a challenge to help members understand what it is like by having an outdoor experience overnight during the month of April. She has challenges for the months of February and March also. The Youth of Today SPM promotes the Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship that is presented at our Winter State convention.

In friendship,

*Amy*



## Greeting to All from Nebraska ~

While January was a little quiet for Nebraska Women of Today, February has picked back up with Valentine projects and Random Acts of Kindness Day. The Lincoln chapter made over 80 valentines for a local nursing home, and Heartland and Fremont chapters helped out and served lunch at Habitat for Humanity on RAK day. Lincoln chapter had an M Night and also recruited two new members in February – yahoo!

We're now gearing up for our Annual Convention in April, which the Heartland chapter is hosting (Omaha). Still focusing on membership, hoping to keep our State in growth, and increase attendance at the convention.

Shellie Haun

President, Nebraska Women of Today

Better Together

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North Dakota survived the 100° temperature change from -57° to I heat index of 43° above all within a day or two.



Stanley had a busy December with our giving tree where 57 children from 23 families got an extra gift under the tree this year. It's always the citizens of Stanley are most generous and more supportive of our organization and the projects we hold. We did have to postpone our Christmas party until January 6.

I'm happy to say that we have gained three new members. All of them younger than most of us and so we were able to look again as some of the projects we had to let go because we didn't have the members to handle them.

We are all looking forward to Easter for the Easter egg hunt for the children in town. We are also looking forward to a prayer breakfast and a fun night for members during Easter week.

In April, we will be serving lunch for a vendor fair in town. When I spoke to the event planner, they had already written us in to the schedule. This is usually a good fundraiser for us.

All in all, the Stanley, North Dakota Women of Today are doing well and making plans for future. With the continued support of the citizens of Stanley, and also the local newspaper, our organization continues to do well.

Wishing you all a happy Easter and a fun April Fools' Day.

Pat Fern



## Cozy Quilt Greetings from Pennsylvania,

On February 2nd, Pennsylvania's famous Groundhog Punxsutawney Phil declared "Glad tidings on this Groundhog Day, an early spring is on the way!". All I can say is "Enough is enough Phil, think it's time for you to retire!" Since Groundhog's Day, we've had more snow than we have had in years. Come on Spring!

After the excitement and rush of the Holidays, many of our chapters enjoyed some "hibernation" and a break in the madness. But just like spring, where the earth and animals start coming alive, so are our chapters. We are almost back to full swing with planning many upcoming community events. Our chapters are working on Spring fruit baskets, community Easter egg hunts, Mother's Day projects, reviewing scholarship candidates as well as chapter socials and elections.

Our 3rd trimester meeting is April 20th at Fiorentino's Italian Restaurant, 500 Airport Rd, Lititz, PA 17543. We will have a lot of yearend business to cover including elections for our incoming officers. Thank you to the Dover chapter for chairing this event.

I'm so excited, we have at least five of us attending the convention. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone. Until then, stay warm, stay safe and enjoy the rest of this Women of Today year.

Sending hugs from PA,  
Cindy Hilbert

### *APRIL FOOL*

It's always raining cats and dogs in April, good thing I'm a pet lover!

My friend said he doesn't like April showers. I told him to "rain" it in.

What did the April shower say to the May flower? "You grow, girl!"

Final Thoughts: Reflecting on the Joy of Good April Fools Jokes

From a belly-aching joke to a cringe-worthy pun, and all the way to a snappy one-liner, we've tried to fill your April with laughter. So, go ahead, share these jokes, puns, and one-liners, and make someone's day a little lighter, a little brighter. April is here, let's celebrate it with humor, cheer, and a good-hearted chuckle. Keep smiling!

For additional laughs, go to <https://jokeplant.com/funny-april-jokes/#:~:text=Laugh-Out-Loud%20April%20Puns%20for%20Fools%20Day%20Fun%201,time%20to%20start%20a%20diet%3F%20...%20More%20items>