



Today's Leader

A Message from Laura Bentley, 42nd National President



Dear Members,

Our first few months gave us the spark. We welcomed new ideas, strengthened friendships, stepped into leadership and found meaningful ways to serve. Now, as summer ends and fall begins, our challenge is not simply to keep the light on—it is to carry that light forward.

The United States Women of Today exists to create opportunities in community service, leadership training and personal growth while partnering with charitable causes. Those words become powerful when we live them: when one member invites a guest, when one chapter answers a community need, when one leader encourages someone who is unsure, and when one friendship reminds a member that she belongs.

Let us be intentional. Let us notice the quiet member, celebrate the dependable volunteer, welcome the new idea and make room for another person to discover her own strengths.

Give yourself permission to grow without expecting perfection. Celebrate progress, learn from challenges and remember that leadership is often found in the small things we faithfully do each day.

A LIGHT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE LOUD

Sometimes being a light looks like leading a major fundraiser. Other times it is sending a message to a member who has been absent, bringing supplies to a project, sharing a useful resource, learning a new skill or simply saying, “I am glad you are here.” Small lights, placed together, can brighten an entire organization.

I challenge every chapter and every member to choose at least one action in each part of our foundation this trimester: serve one need, practice one leadership skill, set one personal-growth goal and strengthen one friendship. Share your success stories so we can celebrate and learn from one another.

I am also “bubbling with excitement” to gather with you at the 2026 Mid-Year Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, October 2–3. We will celebrate achievements, conduct the important business of our organization and renew the connections that make Women of Today feel like home.

Thank you for the hours you give, the ideas you share and the lives you touch. Keep showing up. Keep inviting. Keep encouraging. Keep serving. Together, we will make the second trimester brighter than the first.

With gratitude and excitement,

Laura Bentley

42nd National President

Keep shining. Keep growing. Keep taking the next step. Your light matters.

SERVE

one local need

LEAD

one small task

GROW

one new skill

CONNECT

one member

INVITE

one guest



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Dates to Remember

SEPTEMBER

 September 20-26 – Women of Today Week

✦ EMPHASIS MONTH: USWT Founders Charities, Wellness & Personal Development, Public Relations

OCTOBER

 October 2-3 – Mid-Year Convention, Kansas City, MO

✦ EMPHASIS MONTH: Buckets of Sunshine, Domestic Violence Prevention, Extensions

INTERACTIVE CONTENT INSIDE

Look for hyperlinks throughout this issue to access forms, explore website content, and connect directly with Staff.

REGISTER NOW
USWT MID-YEAR 2026
Kansas City | October 2–3

Trumanland Chapter in Missouri is Bubbling with Excitement to host the US Women of Today's National Mid-Year Meeting. Here is a summary of what we have planned...

Hotel: Wyndham Garden Inn at Kansas City International Airport. 7600 NW 97th Terr, Kansas City, MO. Hotel has free airport shuttle service and free breakfast.

The registration form along with a link to the hotel reservations are at the uswomenoftoday.org

[website under News & Events](#). **Deadline for reservations under the room block is September 1st.** If you miss the block and the hotel books up, there is a Quality Inn next door and several other hotels at the same exit off of I-29 (Tiffany Springs Pkwy). **Early Bird registration (\$125 Full) deadline is September 7th.**



Thursday October 1st – Fun Trip - We will carpool down to Kansas City's Union Station, Hallmark's Crown Center and the Liberty Memorial/World War I Museum. These are all located in the same area, about a 25-minute drive from the hotel. You have probably seen this iconic location on the news, or if you have ever watched a Chiefs game. See the pictures below. Please check the box on the registration form so we know how many plan on going. If you are not sure when you register, you can send me an email later.

Thursday Night - We are looking into the possibility of dining out as a group Thursday night near the hotel for anyone interested. We will let you know when we have something lined up. Again, send me an email if you are interested.

Friday October 2nd – Meetings and Forums all day. Lunch and Dinner on your own. There are several restaurants nearby, including Longhorn Steakhouse and Cracker Barrel. The hotel only provides breakfast. We will have ice water and coffee, as well as snacks in the meeting room all weekend, we are doing this instead of a hospitality room.

Friday Night – a jigsaw puzzle competition by USWT Treasurer Dawn, other games and fun activities, and of course time to visit and catch up. We will provide some bubbly champagne to toast the weekend. There is a cash bar just outside the meeting room, and they will offer a couple of specialty drinks for both Friday and Saturday nights, as well as beer, wine and other spirits. Trumanland will provide a dessert bar, and other snack foods as well for the evening. We will have some other surprises.

Saturday October 3rd – Board Meeting and other meetings and forums all day. Luncheon will include a speaker from Wonderland Camp (our Buckets of Sunshine Project) see the wish list and more information in this newsletter. Lunch will be BBQ pulled pork, baked beans, cheesy corn and macaroni salad.

The Saturday evening banquet will again have the cash bar available and an evening of special awards and recognition. Dinner will be roast beef (tentatively), Mediterranean chicken with veggies, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, salad, rolls and dessert. We will also have some gluten free and vegetarian options available, again please include dietary restrictions on the bottom of your registration.



Kansas City welcomes USWT to the city of fountains and tree lined boulevards!

For anyone who wants to stick around, **Missouri Women of Today** will have their Fall Meeting on **Sunday morning** in the same room. It will be 2-3 hours and we would love to have any visitors who want to stay around.

Laura Morris, President of Trumanland Women of Today

uswt2223presLauraM@gmail.com



Mid-Year Booklet Ads – advertise your state or chapter or send a special thank you or congratulations note to someone special.

Full Page Ad - \$20

Half Page Ad - \$15

Quarter Page Ad - \$10

Email Ad Copy to Laura at USWT2223PresLauraM@gmail.com by **September 15th**

Mail Check Payable to: Trumanland Women of Today

Laura Morris, 2460 NE Dale Hunter Pl, Lees Summit, MO 64086



SERVICE • SUPPORT • SUNSHINE

— Mid Year Convention Project —

This year, we are proud to support
WONDERLAND CAMP
in Rocky Mount, MO! ♥



We are honored to welcome

JILL WILKE,

Executive Director of Wonderland Camp,

who will be speaking with us
at our luncheon during
Mid Year Convention.



Please consider working with your
chapter collecting wish list items
or consider making a monetary
donation.

WAYS TO HELP:



Collect wish list items

Work with your chapter to collect
items from Wonderland Camp's
wish list.



Make a monetary donation

Every donation helps support the
camp and the amazing experiences
they provide.

Let's come together to bring
SUNSHINE TO THE CAMPERS! ♥

WONDERLAND
Camp EST. 1969

SERVING INDIVIDUALS
WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1969



Age 6
and up
are
welcome!



Wonderland Camp is fitted to accommodate
the needs of children, teens and adults with
developmental and physical disabilities. Join us
year-round for full-week or weekend camp sessions.

WONDERLAND CAMP WISH LIST

- ♥ Pod type laundry soap for the cabins
- ♥ Ibuprofen pills (generics are all fine)
- ♥ Tylenol pills
- ♥ Liquid children's Tylenol
- ♥ Pepto Bismol tablets
- ♥ Band aids – any size
- ♥ Coban – a medical wrap that sticks to itself
- ♥ Lysol cleaning wipes
- ♥ Larger beads (10 mm) with letters on them to make friendship bracelets. Larger holes to thread the string.
- ♥ Larger beads 9 or 10 mm colorful beads, any shapes and colors for friendship bracelets. Larger holes to thread the string.
- ♥ Gallon & quart size zip lock bags
- ♥ Masking tape
- ♥ Generic birthday cards
- ♥ Twin size mattress protectors
- ♥ Word searches
- ♥ Coloring books



18591 Miller Circle
Rocky Mount, MO 65072



573-392-1000



info@wonderlandcamp.org



wonderlandcamp.org

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**



TOGETHER, WOMEN OF TODAY CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT.
LET'S FILL THOSE BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE!





Dawn Nissen
USWT Treasurer 2026-2027
treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org

Give to Grow Fundraiser:

This is an ongoing fundraiser. I am encouraging donations from Chapters, States, Districts and Membership. For each donation, you will be put into a drawing for a gift at both mid-year and year-end. You can send checks or use this link and pay through [Zeffy](#).



2nd Trimester Challenge

990N is due by October 15th!

[Email me](#) a copy of the completed form for a small year-end gift.

National Store:

The **National store** can now be found on [Zeffy](#). This will give the option to pay by cash or card. View all the new items that will be available at Mid-Year.

Mid-Year Puzzle Competition



Friday Night Party Oct 2, 2026
8:30-9:30 PM

CASH PRIZES
Entry \$30 Teams of 3

[Register & pay by September 25th at Zeffy.](#)



Membership
Recruit · Engage · Grow

Jenise Teske
USWT Membership VP
mvp@uswomenoftoday.org

Thank you to everyone who submitted Founder's Day and Friendship Day forms. Hats off to you for making your chapter more visible in your community. Plus, it looked and sounded like you had the bonus of having fun with one another.

I also appreciate all the Fast Starts I received. This is a powerful way to jump start your year and have a clear picture of your goals. Now is the time to take a second look at your Growth Plans and re-evaluate if adjustments need to be made. This is a wonderful tool for keeping your goals in mind and celebrating when goals are achieved or surpassed!

Congratulations on all the new members your chapters added to your rosters. Now what?

Are you holding orientation sessions for your new members? Are you activating those members?

How engaged are your members? Do you have a well-rounded representation of members at events and meetings or is it the same members every time?

What activities are your members participating in? Encourage members to attend meetings to stay informed about what is going on in your chapter. It is also a good idea to have groups within your chapter for members to be involved in—like book club or walking group. Ask new members to provide input on other groups that can be formed.

What do you do when members have been absent for a while? If a member has not been at a meeting or two and/or has not been at any event for a couple months, reach out with a phone call or card. Find out if there have been circumstances that are an obstacle. Ask if there is something you can do to help—like transportation, a conversation about what would bring them back. And lastly, tell her you miss her and invite her back to the FUN!

+++++

Women of Today Week is September 20-26

This is the perfect time to have a social and be one step closer to completing the [Fellowship Builder Award](#)

With the start of 2nd Trimester comes the fall season and multiple opportunities for holding membership events, for planning socials, for offering opportunities to your members to grow friendships. This is also a time of year for many states to have a State Meeting—don't miss out on the opportunity to learn about what other chapters in your state are doing and get together to see Women of Today friends that you do not get to see often. It can be a wonderful time of bonding, learning together and just having fun. In addition, there will be several challenges in my State Information Packet (SIP) for 2nd Trimester—as mentioned above, Women of Today Week is September 20-26, in October is “Make a Difference Day,” and there will be a special challenge for December!!

Some ideas for participating in the above challenges are as follows:

- Have a bonfire and s'mores at a member's house
- Take a walk to enjoy the fall colors
- Visit a craft fair sponsored by another chapter
- Celebrate members' birthdays with a lunch or dinner outing
- Take up a collection of goods to donate to a food shelf, women's shelter, or other organization in need in your community

My Membership Team and I are **“Bubbling With Excitement”** to see you at Mid-Year Convention in Kansas City, Missouri on October 2-3. There will be two events where you can meet our team, have fun, and maybe learn something new.

3-3:45pm on Friday—A Make & Take craft activity to help spread Random Acts of Kindness

4-5pm on Friday—A Membership Round Robin where you can learn more about the Basics of Recruitment, Orientation, Activation and Retention and share ideas with one another.



SECOND TRIMESTER CHALLENGE

“Grow Together, Shine Together!”

Let's keep the momentum growing! This trimester is all about strengthening connections, welcoming new people, and celebrating what makes Women of Today special.

OCTOBER IS EXTENSIONS EMPHASIS MONTH!

Let's make October the month we focus on growing Women of Today, strengthening our connections, and sharing the opportunities our organization offers!

Complete 4 of the 6 challenges below and [share what you've done with me by email.](#)

1. Grow Your Circle

Invite at least one new person to attend a chapter meeting, social, or event.

2. Spread Some Happy Mail

Send a handwritten note or card to a current, former, or prospective member.

3. Show Us Your WT!

Take a picture at a chapter or state activity and share it with the Extensions Director.

4. Reconnect & Reach Out

Contact a former member and invite them to reconnect with Women of Today.

5. Tell Your Story

Share on social media why you love Women of Today or what your membership has meant to you.

6. Make an Introduction

Introduce someone new to your chapter or state leadership, or to the Extensions Director, and help them learn more about Women of Today.

“Plant the connection. Grow the friendship. Build the future.”

Leading with Purpose, Serving with Passion.

**Tricia Anne Saldana
Extensions Director**



PUBLIC RELATIONS IN ACTION

Making Women of Today Visible

September is Public Relations Emphasis Month + Women of Today Week

Stephanie Sabourin • USWT Public Relations Director 2026–2027

September is a big month for Public Relations in Women of Today—and it gives us the perfect opportunity to remind ourselves that PR is about much more than making a Facebook post or designing a flyer. Public Relations is how our communities learn who we are, what we do, and why it matters. Every service project, membership event, fundraiser, community partnership, social media post, and conversation with a potential member is an opportunity to tell the Women of Today story.

SEPTEMBER

U.S. Founder's Club Charities
Public Relations
Personal Development

OCTOBER

Buckets of Sunshine
Domestic Violence Awareness
Extensions

Looking Ahead: NOVEMBER

Parliamentarian
Wellness & Personal Development

September is Public Relations Emphasis Month

Did you know that throughout the Women of Today year, different programming areas are assigned Emphasis Months? Emphasis Months give chapters an opportunity to intentionally highlight specific areas of our organization. Think of them as a built-in PR calendar. Instead of wondering, “What should we be talking about this month?” the Emphasis Months provide topics that can inspire chapter programming, education, service projects, social media content, newsletter articles, and community outreach.

During September, introduce your members and community to Founder's Club Charities. Share a personal development opportunity. Most importantly from my little corner of USWT—show off your chapter! October gives us another month packed with opportunities for meaningful storytelling, while November is a great time to share parliamentary tips and Health & Wellness programming.

You don't have to create something complicated for every emphasis area. Sometimes simply educating your members and followers about a program is enough. A “Did You Know?” social media post, a short newsletter article, a member spotlight, or a few photos showing your chapter participating in an activity can help bring these programs to life. The important part is to tell the story.

“PR isn't bragging. PR is storytelling.”

Women of Today Week: It's Our Time to Be Seen!

The last full week of September is Women of Today Week, an annual public relations initiative promoted by the U.S. Women of Today and our states. This is our week of advertising, education, visibility, and celebration.

Women of Today Week is an opportunity to intentionally make an appearance in your community and help people understand who we are. Every chapter can participate differently based on its size, resources, and community. There isn't one “right” way to celebrate. Your chapter might host a community event, complete a visible service project, organize a membership activity, obtain a proclamation from your town or city, contact your local newspaper, create a display at your library or community center, or simply commit to an entire week of strong social media content.

The activity itself can be simple. Visibility is the goal. Ask yourself: If someone in our community saw our chapter name today, would they know what Women of Today is? If the answer is “probably not,” Women of Today Week is our chance to change that!

Make Some Noise in Your Community

One of the easiest mistakes we can make as chapters is doing incredible work quietly. We volunteer. We raise money. We collect donations. We support local organizations. We develop leaders. We build friendships. We help families. We recognize community members. We provide opportunities for women to try something new and discover talents they didn't even know they had. And sometimes...we forget to tell anyone!

Don't keep your chapter's good work a secret. When your chapter completes a service project, take pictures. When you present a donation, tell the community where the money came from and what it will support. When members volunteer, tag the organization you're helping when appropriate. When someone reaches a milestone, celebrate them. When you're planning an event, don't wait until the day before to promote it.

Sharing your work gives recognition to your members, promotes the organizations you support, demonstrates your impact, and helps prospective members understand what joining Women of Today could add to their lives.

WOMEN OF TODAY WEEK CHALLENGE

Make your chapter impossible to miss.

You don't need a huge budget or a professional marketing team.

Start with what you already have: your members, your projects, your stories, and your community.

- Share member spotlights: "Why did you join—and why did you stay?"
- Post photos from past service projects and explain their impact.
- Ask local officials for a Women of Today Week proclamation.
- Submit a press release or photos to local media.
- Host a casual membership event and encourage members to bring a friend.
- Partner with another nonprofit for a visible service activity.
- Wear Women of Today apparel while volunteering and take a group photo.
- Create a "Did You Know?" social series or short chapter video.
- Update public pages with current meeting and contact information.
- Ask members to share public posts to reach entirely new audiences.

Turn One Week Into Year-Round Visibility

Women of Today Week may happen once a year, but good PR shouldn't end when September does. Use this week as a reset. Look at your chapter's public presence through the eyes of someone who knows absolutely nothing about Women of Today. Can they quickly figure out who you are? What community you serve? What you do? When you meet? How to contact you? How to attend an event or become a member? If not, you've just discovered your next PR project.

Then take a look at your photos and posts. Do they show people or mostly graphics? Do they show members having fun as well as serving? Do they demonstrate friendship, leadership, community involvement, and personal growth? People connect with people. A beautiful flyer can advertise an event, but a picture of six Women of Today members laughing together while working on a project tells someone, "I could see myself there." That is powerful PR—and powerful membership marketing.

BE VISIBLE. BE PROUD. TELL YOUR STORY.

Every chapter has a story. Every member has a story. Every service project creates another chapter in the story of Women of Today.

Your Chapter Has a Story Worth Sharing

As we celebrate Public Relations Emphasis Month and Women of Today Week this September, I hope every chapter will make an intentional effort to be seen. You don't have to do everything. Do something.

Put up the display. Send the press release. Ask for the proclamation. Make the post. Take the group photo. Share the member story. Invite the community. Tag the partner organization. Tell people what Women of Today has accomplished. Most importantly, tell them why we do it.

Our job in Public Relations is to make sure those stories don't stay within our own membership. Because when our communities can see Women of Today in action, they can begin to understand the incredible impact Women of Today makes every single day.

Women of Today Week ideas and guidelines are published annually by the USWT Public Relations Director and are made available by the end of summer. Additional information is available at www.uswomenoftoday.org.

Dr. Sammi Mongold-Cabral
Programming Vice President 2026-2027
What's Brewing in Programming?



From Idea (Bean) to Impact (Brew)

This program evaluation model takes a little **“bean”** of an idea from the initial stage and helps turn it into a meaningful **“brew”**—a program or project that meets a real need and creates measurable impact.

WHAT can we provide or *brew* to help the member/s of the community?

↓

WHO specifically are we helping with this action/support?

↓

WHY does this *brew* matter, and how would it help this particular group?

↓

WHEN / WHERE / WHAT will make it possible – what do we need?

↓

HOW will we know we made an impact?

By moving through each question, we can turn creative ideas into intentional programs that are responsive to community needs, practical to implement, and evaluated for their effectiveness and impact.

[My First-Trimester SIP](#) included information about the [Project Library Submissions](#), [Outstanding Achievement in Programming](#), and [Community Connections Reports](#) – please take a look at each resource to get more information!

I have received a few Community Connections, and a few Project Library Submissions – but I know more is percolating in our chapters! I want our numbers to be accurate and show how much impact we are showing in our communities! I know filling out forms can sometimes feel like just another task in our overflowing cup of things to do. But these reports aren't just paperwork—they are a way for us to show off the difference we're making! They help tell our story, celebrate our members, recognize our hard work, and demonstrate how Women of Today are showing up for our communities.





Aimee Kaiser
Domestic Violence Awareness
Program Manager
dva@uswomenoftoday.org

DVA FUNDRAISERS

I am so excited to announce the first two DVA fundraisers for 2026-2027. In addition, I am working on some exciting items for the DVA store which will be available at both conventions and any state visits that I am able to attend.

The first is “Turn Your Porch Purple in October”. Buy a purple light bulb for \$5 at Mid-Year or order them from me in a 4 pack for \$20 if you are unable to join us in Kansas City.

The second is a Quilt Raffle for your choice of two beautiful quilts. You pick which quilt you want to be entered to win. A beautiful purple quilt or remember President Laura’s year with an amazing Lighthouse Quilt.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

TURN YOUR PORCH PURPLE

IN OCTOBER

Light your porch. Shine a light on hope.
Show support. Raise awareness. Make a difference.

BUY A PURPLE LIGHT BULB
AT MID-YEAR CONVENTION
\$5

4 PACKS FOR
\$20
CAN ALSO BE SHIPPED
AT NO CHARGE!

ALL PROCEEDS
SUPPORT
USWT DVA

♥ SUPPORT SURVIVORS | ♥ SPREAD AWARENESS | ♥ CREATE CHANGE
Stronger Together. Brighter Tomorrow. ♥

PURPLE POWER
UNITE AGAINST ABUSE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Domestic Violence
AWARENESS QUILT RAFFLE

Support a cause that matters.
Win a beautiful, handmade quilt!

TICKETS:

- ★ \$1 EACH
- ★ 6 FOR \$5
- ★ 15 FOR \$10

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD:

- At all Conventions & State Visits
- By email: dva@uswomenoftoday.org

♥ **QUILTS WERE DONATED.**
100% of proceeds go to support DVA

Thank you for supporting survivors and helping to build a safer, stronger tomorrow. ♥

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Here are 31 facts about Domestic Violence that you can use on your state, chapter, or personal Facebook pages in October to help Break the Silence. End the Violence.

Be sure to share pictures on all of the USWT Facebook pages of turning your communities **purple** and wearing your **purple** on every 3rd Thursday! Let's light up Facebook **purple** in support of Domestic Violence Awareness.

31 Days. 31 Facts. One Mission: Break the Silence. End the Violence

October 1 — DVA Month begins

Domestic violence is not only physical violence. It can include sexual violence, stalking, psychological aggression, intimidation, isolation, and other behaviors used to harm or control a partner.

October 2 — Millions are affected

More than **1 in 3 women** and **1 in 6 men** in the U.S. have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetimes.

October 3 — Abuse can be psychological

Psychological aggression includes verbal or nonverbal communication intended to emotionally harm a partner or exert control over them. Abuse does not have to leave a bruise to cause harm.

October 4 — Domestic violence can start young

About **16 million women** and **11 million men** who experienced intimate partner violence reported that their first experience occurred before age 18.

October 5 — Stalking is serious

Stalking can include repeatedly following, watching, contacting, threatening, or monitoring someone in ways that cause fear or safety concerns.

October 6 — Technology can facilitate stalking

GPS devices, social media, phones, cameras, and computer software can be misused to monitor or track another person. Digital safety is part of survivor safety.

October 7 — Monitoring is a warning sign

Among stalking victims, **78% of women** and **76% of men** reported being followed, watched, or spied on.

October 8 — Leaving isn't always simple

Survivors may face complicated barriers involving housing, finances, transportation, children, safety, legal concerns, or access to services. Supporting survivors means respecting their choices rather than asking, “*Why don't you just leave?*”

October 9 — Housing is a major need

In a 2025 one-day national count, domestic violence programs could not meet **13,018 requests for services** because of insufficient resources, funding, or staffing. **58% of those unmet requests involved shelter or housing.**

October 10 — More than 84,000 people in one day

On September 10, 2025, participating domestic violence programs across the U.S. served **84,146 survivors and their children in just 24 hours.**

October 11 — Shelter saves lives

On that same day, **53,590 adults and children** found refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, hotels, motels, or other housing provided by domestic violence programs.

October 12 — Support extends beyond shelter

Another **30,556 people** received non-residential services in that one-day count, including transportation, court accompaniment, bilingual assistance, and other support.

October 13 — Hotlines are lifelines

Domestic violence programs participating in the national count received **23,747 hotline contacts in one day**—an average of about **989 contacts every hour.**

October 14 — Domestic violence affects health

IPV is associated with long-term problems involving cardiovascular, digestive, reproductive, nervous, and musculoskeletal health—not just injuries occurring during an assault.

October 15 — Mental health can be affected, too

Survivors can experience depression and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. The impact of abuse may continue long after an abusive incident or relationship ends.

October 16 — Abuse affects workplaces

The consequences of intimate partner and sexual violence can include missed work, reduced productivity, job loss, or difficulty returning to work or school.

October 17 — Domestic violence has an enormous economic impact

CDC estimates the lifetime U.S. economic burden associated with intimate partner violence—including medical care, lost productivity and criminal justice costs—at approximately **\$3.6 trillion**.

October 18 — Abuse can happen after a relationship ends

Intimate partner violence includes abuse or aggression involving **current and former** spouses and dating partners. Ending a relationship does not necessarily end the risk.

October 19 — Domestic violence can be deadly

U.S. crime-report data cited by CDC suggest that approximately **1 in 5 homicide victims** are killed by an intimate partner.

October 20 — Women face a particularly serious homicide risk

More than half of female homicide victims are killed by a **current or former male intimate partner**, according to crime-report data cited by CDC.

October 21 — Men can be survivors

More than **1 in 6 men** have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetimes. Recognizing male survivors is part of comprehensive DV awareness.

October 22 — Stalking affects men and women

About **1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men** report having experienced stalking during their lifetimes.

October 23 — Stalking often begins early

Nearly **58% of female stalking victims and 49% of male stalking victims** experienced stalking before age 25.

October 24 — Abuse isn't always constant

IPV can range from a single episode to chronic, severe violence occurring repeatedly over several years.

October 25 — Safety planning matters

Safety planning can help survivors think through ways to increase safety while experiencing abuse, preparing to leave, or after leaving. Domestic violence advocates can help survivors explore options appropriate to their individual circumstances.

October 26 — Support can be practical

Domestic violence programs don't provide only counseling. Services may include transportation, legal support, children's services, housing assistance, bilingual advocacy, and help accessing public benefits.

October 27 — Children need support, too

Children may need specialized services when domestic violence affects their families. In the 2025 national one-day count, **39% of participating DV programs reported providing children's support services**.

October 28 — Prevention is possible

Domestic violence isn't inevitable. CDC identifies strategies such as teaching safe and healthy relationship skills and creating protective environments as part of preventing IPV before it occurs.

October 29 — Healthy relationships matter

Prevention isn't only about responding after violence occurs. Building skills for **healthy, respectful relationships** is an important part of reducing intimate partner violence.

October 30 — Communities have a role
In just one day in 2025, DV programs provided **808 educational sessions and trainings to 18,843 community members.** Education and early intervention are important parts of prevention.

October 31 — Awareness should lead to action
Domestic Violence Awareness Month ends, but survivors need support year-round. Believe survivors. Learn the warning signs. Support local programs. Promote healthy relationships. And remember: **awareness is the beginning—not the end—of the work.**



2nd Trimester Challenge

1. Purchase a Turn your Porch Purple lightbulb – 1 entry for every bulb purchased.
2. Take a picture of you with your purple porch and share it on the USWT Programming Facebook Group
3. Wear Purple on Thursdays in October and post pictures to the USWT Programming Facebook Group – wear purple every Thursday = 5 entries

Each activity above will enter you into a drawing for a special gift at Year-End Convention!

***Let's show our Purple Power
& Unite Against Abuse!***



2026-2027 Wellness and Personal Development Program Manager

Shirley Viesselman

wpd@uswomenoftoday.org



There is Still Time to get your entry in for the USWT Mid-Year Writing Competition

Rules and Guidelines

1. Contest Overview

- **Theme:** "Share a story about a time when someone else's kindness impacted your life, or when your own act of kindness brightened someone else's day."
- **Eligibility:** All USWT members in good standing
- **Deadline:** September 10, 2026

2. Submission Guidelines

- **Word Count:** Entries must be between 500 and 600 words.
- **File Formatting:** PDF or DOCX, Arial, 12-point, double-spacing
- **Page 1:** Cover page with your name, chapter, and state
- **Page 2:** Story title and entry.

- **Submission Method:** Mail entries to: Shirley Viesselman, 1015 Jefferson St SE, Hutchinson, MN 55350, or email submissions to: wpd@uswomenoftoday.org
- **Entry Fee:** \$5.00. Make checks payable to USWT

3. Judging Criteria

- **Content and Relevance (50%):** How well the entry relates to the theme and demonstrates original thought.
- **Organization & Structure (30%):** Logical flow, clear beginning, climax, and wrapping it all up.
- **Mechanics & Style (20%):** Grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, and effective use of active voice.

4. Prizes and Rules

- **Prizes:** First Place: Plaque, Second and Third Place: Certificates

Winner Announcement: Winners will be announced at the USWT Mid-Year Convention in Kansas City.



Participate at Mid-Year

Entry Fee: \$5.00

Compete with your peers!
Drawings and incentives for all who participate!

TRI 2 CERTIFICATION CHALLENGE

- USWT Wellness & Personal Development Certification
- Use this link to complete the certification: [Email Me Form - USWT Wellness & Personal Development Certification](#)
- Each member who completes the certification between September 1st and December 31st will get their name in a drawing. You will receive your certificate at the USWT Annual Convention
- Certificates of completion will be handed out at the USWT Annual Convention in June.

The following members participated in the USWT Trimester 1 Sparkle Starter Challenge

Member	State	Chapter
Laura Bentley	Iowa	New Hampton
Michele Thompson	Iowa	New Hampton
Arlene Feldewerd	Minnesota	Avon
Cindy Golfbuff	Minnesota	Blooming Prairie
Flora Crenshaw	Minnesota	Brooklyn Park
Tawn Hanson	Minnesota	Brooklyn Park
Lucy Hazlewood	Minnesota	Brooklyn Park
Anna Nichols	Minnesota	Brooklyn Park
Charles Nichols	Minnesota	Brooklyn Park
Cathy Stienagle	Minnesota	Brooklyn Park
Mary Sobczak	Minnesota	Burnsville
Cindy Umland	Minnesota	St. Cloud
Deborah Stein	Pennsylvania	Northeastern

Watch for more Sparkle Challenges that you and your chapters can participate in on the USWT Facebook Programming page and in my next SIP.

Holiday Helping Hands CHALLENGE

Complete ONE or all FOUR ways to make a difference in your community this holiday season!



GIVE

Donate items, funds, or resources to support others.

Examples:

- Food or hygiene drives
- Toy or gift collections
- Clothing or coat drives
- Monetary donations
- Gift cards



SERVE

Give your time to help and serve others.

Examples:

- Volunteer at a shelter
- Pack care bags
- Serve a meal
- Read to children
- Help with a community event



HOST

Organize or host an event or project for your community.

Examples:

- Holiday party or meal
- Wrapping party
- Community clean-up
- Holiday craft event
- Collection drive



SUPPORT

Support and promote other organizations and their efforts.

Examples:

- Share their needs or events
- Help them collect needed items
- Partner with a local organization



Challenge Goal:

Spread kindness, support your community, and make the holidays brighter for others.



Share Your Impact!

After completing your project(s), submit:



A photo



Who you supported



What impact you made



Small hands. Big hearts. Brewing change in our communities.



Tell Your Story

By this point in the year, calendars are filling and projects are underway.

One of the things I've always loved about Women of Today is that every chapter tells its story differently. Some stories are written through service. Others through leadership, fundraising, friendship, membership growth, or traditions passed from one year to the next.

No matter the chapter size or activity level, **your story matters.**

As someone who has served as both a Newsletter Editor and Secretary, I know documentation can feel like one more task on the list. But preserving our accomplishments matters more than we sometimes realize.

This year I've encouraged our Secretaries and Newsletter Editors to submit minutes and newsletters for feedback—not because perfection is the goal, but because sharing ideas helps all of us grow.

As members, you can help too:

Send photos | Write an article | Celebrate volunteers | Tell someone's story.

The details become our legacy.

Becky Fleming
USWT Secretary 2026-2027
secretary@uswomenoftoday.org



Margin Notes

Your chapter newsletter may someday become the source someone uses to celebrate an anniversary or recognize decades of service.

Write This Down

Write captions while events are fresh—future you will be grateful.

Editor's Mark

Impact stories are often more memorable than event summaries.



Did you know?

The USWT Directory is more than a list of names — it's a roadmap for connecting members across the organization. New links and updated information make it easier than ever to find the people and resources you need. [Explore the 2026-2027 Directory!](#)

THE WRITE DIRECTION

Clear Communication • Accurate Records • Confident Leadership





Daniel Kaiser

USWT Webmaster

webmaster@uswomenoftoday.org

Greetings from the Webmaster!

We're continuing to make improvements to the USWT website and are excited to share some recent updates!

If you are attempting to access the [USWT Annual Directory](#), please note that it is password protected. The password is: **uswtmember**

We have also decided to use this password-protected page as a central location for additional directories and lists containing addresses and other member information. The **USWT Charities Board and Trustee Directory** and the **USWT Ambassadors roster** have now been added to this page and can be accessed using the same password.

At the USWT Year End Convention, it was also decided that additional information from the USWT Directory would be added to the website. We are excited about this change and hope it will make the website an even more useful resource for our members—and your go-to source for USWT information.

We will continue working to improve and expand the website. If you notice information that is missing, outdated, or difficult to find, please reach out to me or President Laura. We appreciate your feedback and want to make sure the website is as helpful and easy to use as possible.

I can't wait to see everyone in Kansas City for Mid-Year Convention. Thank you for visiting and using the USWT website!



This is a QR Code that will take you directly to our website. If you would like this digitally, please reach out and I will be happy to send it to you.



Kandy Dorlack
USWT Parliamentarian
2026-2027
parli@uswomenoftoday.org

From the Parliamentarian

Wow, 1st trimester is almost over!

Thank you to everyone who sent me your fast starts. **I will have an incentive for you at Mid-Year.**

Robert will be traveling to the land of Bylaws & Policies.

Dear Robert,

What is the difference between Bylaws and Policies?

Bylaws are rules that outline how USWT operates or functions.

Policies are more specific guidelines or rules set by USWT to direct behavior or decisions.

So, Bylaws are more foundational; Policies are more practical.

What is a Quorum?

- A quorum must be established prior to conducting any business in which a vote will be required. If there is not a quorum, no voting can take place.
- A quorum is typically 1/3 of the membership in good standing and is defined in local bylaws.
- A member in good standing is defined as any member whose dues are paid (local, state, and national).
- A member must be 18 years of age

My 2nd trimester challenge is to have everyone send me your Bylaws & Policies by December 15th. **You will receive an incentive.**



We will have a meeting at Mid-Year and will be scheduling our first Bylaw & Policy Review Zoom after Mid-Year. Send me your suggestions of changes that may need to be made to parli@uswomenoftoday.org. **Watch for the Date/Time to be announced.**

INTERESTING FACTS

As we travel on our road trip through the states we find that different words have the same meaning.

- ❖ **Pop or Soda**
- ❖ **Drinking Fountain or bubbler**
- ❖ **Kleenex or Tissue**
- ❖ **Rotaries or Roundabouts**

Happy USWT Founders Charities Emphasis Month!!

Did you know that Founders Charities provides some chapter grants, annual scholarships and some fund requests? That's right, we are here for YOU.

In the past, we have helped with speaker expenses, provided chapter grants for worthwhile projects and given funds to help with a newly created chapter. Our latest chapter grant went to help in building a more inclusive play area for children with autism in Illinois. Be sure to check out the [USWT Founders Charities page](#) on the USWT website to read more.

Best regards,

Angelina Dietz

President, US Founder Charities

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE STORY!

Founder Charities helps Women of Today chapters, members and communities through grants, scholarships and other financial assistance.

Want to help make that possible?

Become a Curator and invest in the future of Women of Today.

\$100 Curator Membership

or \$25 payment plan

Ready to make your pledge? [Become a Curator →](#)

★ PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE ★

BATTLE *of the* CHAPTERS

⇒ Change for Change ⇒



BENEFITING
**REEL
OF
HOPE**



Foster Care
Adoption Video
Outreach

WHAT FEELS LIKE POCKET CHANGE TO US COULD HELP CHANGE A CHILD'S FUTURE.



OUR PURPOSE

Chapters across the country will collect loose change to support Reel of Hope, an organization that creates videos featuring children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted. These videos help children share their personalities, interests, dreams, and stories in hopes of reaching the family meant for them.



OUR GOALS

- 1 Raise funds for Reel of Hope and its work serving children awaiting adoption.
- 2 Increase awareness of children in foster care who are waiting for permanent families.
- 3 Give every USWT member an affordable way to participate.
- 4 Encourage friendly competition between chapters.
- 5 Strengthen connections between local chapters, states, and the national organization.
- 6 Demonstrate that small contributions can create significant change when we work together.



HOW THE CHALLENGE WORKS

Each chapter should designate a Battle of the Chapters Change Container.

At every meeting or gathering:

- Empty loose change from purses, pockets, vehicles, change jars, or wallets.
- Invite members to add spare dollars if they choose.
- Encourage guests and community supporters to participate.
- Hold occasional "Change Challenges."
- Keep an ongoing chapter total.
- Share progress with members throughout the challenge.

Participation is always voluntary and should be fun!



ADD SOME BATTLE FUN!



QUARTER NIGHT

Only quarters count toward that meeting's challenge.



PENNY POWER

See how many pennies the chapter can collect in one month.



FILL THE JAR

Set a goal to completely fill the chapter's change container.



PRESIDENT VS. MEMBERS

The president challenges members to beat the amount she contributes.



STATE SHOWDOWN

Chapters within a state combine their energy to see which state raises the most.



CHANGE RAID

Bring the change you find in couch cushions, junk drawers, vehicles, purses, laundry rooms, and more!



REPORTING

Each chapter should report:

Chapter Name: _____

State: _____

Chapter President: _____

Number of Participating Members: _____

Total Amount Collected: \$ _____



CHAPTER STANDINGS

National leadership will publish periodic standings such as:



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



TOGETHER, WE CAN TURN POCKET CHANGE INTO LIFE-CHANGING HOPE!

Thank you for making a difference!





Summer Greetings from Massachusetts!

Summer may be flying by, but our Massachusetts Women of Today chapters have certainly been keeping busy! From fundraising and planning to social gatherings and community activities, it has been wonderful to see our chapters staying active, building friendships, and continuing to grow.

Bellingham Women of Today

Bellingham has been busy preparing for their upcoming Quarter Auction, while also making time for fun and fellowship. Members recently enjoyed an Ice Cream Social at a member's home — a perfect summer evening to relax, laugh, and enjoy each other's company.

Easton Women of Today

Easton has been taking advantage of the summer weather by attending the weekly downtown concert series together; as well as an Ice Cream Social member event. With bubbles, fun, ice cream and plenty of friendship, members have been showing that sometimes the simplest activities create some of the best memories!

Chelmsford Women of Today

Chelmsford has been busy looking ahead and planning for the year to come. Summer is a great time for chapters to regroup, brainstorm, and prepare for an exciting new membership year, and Chelmsford is doing just that!

Greater Attleboro Women of Today

Greater Attleboro has already begun preparing for one of their big fundraisers ... their Quarter Auction. There is plenty of planning that goes into making a successful fundraiser, and their hard work now will help set them up for a great event!

Mansfield Women of Today

Mansfield has been busy preparing for their largest fundraiser of the year ... Touch a Truck, coming in early October. This event takes a lot of planning, and the chapter is already hard at work getting everything ready. Fundraising isn't all Mansfield has been up to! They have also been keeping members connected through tropical-themed general membership meetings, book club activities, and other opportunities for friendship and fun.

🌸 MAWT Leadership Luau

And statewide, Massachusetts Women of Today is getting ready for our **Leadership Luau** at the end of August! This isn't your typical training session. The Leadership Luau is designed to be an interactive and fun opportunity for members to learn more about the different roles within our organization, share ideas, and gain tools they can take back to their chapters. We are still a work in progress, but we are excited about what we are putting together and hope to see a great turnout from across the state! This event is open to all members — because leadership isn't just about holding a title; it's about getting involved, sharing ideas, and helping our organization thrive.

💖 Summer Is About More Than Meetings

One of the things that makes Massachusetts Women of Today special is that our chapters don't have to look the same. Some are fundraising, some are planning, some are meeting for ice cream, some are enjoying concerts, and others are preparing for the year ahead.

What matters is that we are staying connected, supporting one another, and continuing to build friendships while serving our communities.

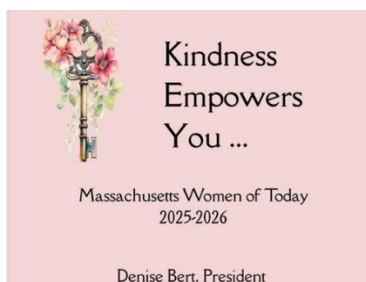
Keep up the great work, ladies! There is still plenty of summer left, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the season — and the new membership year — brings! 🌸 💖

Yours in Friendship,

Denise Bert, President

Massachusetts Women of Today, Inc.

Kindness Empowers You





Greetings from Pennsylvania - The Keystone State!

The members of PA are ***“Unlocking Their Potential.”*** They are providing leadership training and personal enrichment/growth opportunities within their chapters. They are serving their communities in a variety of ways. Our four chapters Dover, Lititz, Northeastern and Womelsdorf are wrapping up their summer project/activities and celebrating Friendship Day. They are busy with fundraisers, community service projects, membership drives and socials. They are planning activities for Women of Today Week.

The Womelsdorf chapter hosted a wonderful August State Meeting. Three of our four chapters were represented. State recognition and National awards were presented. We collected donations for the Greater Reading Mental Health Alliance and had a speaker from the organization at our meeting to tell us about their services and how our donations will be used. Our next State Meeting will be hosted by the Northeastern chapter. It is scheduled for Saturday, Nov 14 with the theme of ***“Bee Thankful.”***

There will be five of us attending the USWT mid-year convention to celebrate our successes and to spend quality time with our friends from other states. Until we are together, I hope you all have a relaxing Labor Day Weekend and a great Women of Today Week.

WT Love and Hugs,

Vicki Jo Donbaugh

PAWT President



NEW FRIENDS - FOREVER FRIENDS

Well, my friends in IWT have been busy so far. I love reading all the updates about the many projects they are doing. I'm also impressed with how hard the USWT have stepped up to get this year going. I love to tell people about our group and the great things that they have done.

My goal this year for Illinois is growth. So far, they are working on it. Recruit new friends who will become forever friends. I have many forever friends in this organization and it started with them saying yes to join and take a chance at friendship.

I am so proud of the Illinois Board. They are all superheroes. Doing good for others. Working together to complete our plans, learn our jobs and do good along the way. Yes, superheroes each and every one of them.

In friendship,

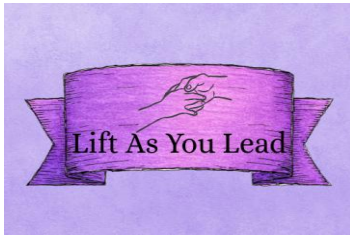
Barb Wigzell - President, Illinois Women of Today 26-27

New Friends - Forever Friends

ONE SMALL THING

Many resources are maintained on the USWT website to ensure members always have access to the latest information. Use the guide below to quickly find what you need.

Looking For	<u>Website Location</u>
Committee Assignments	<u>Committees</u>
Emphasis Months	<u>Member Resources</u>
Manual Review Schedule	<u>USWT Staff → Chair of the Board</u>
USWT Founders Charities	<u>About USWT → USWT Founders Charities</u>
USWT Founders Charities Trustees	<u>USWT Directories</u>
Ambassadors	<u>About USWT → USWT Ambassadors</u>
Sister States List	<u>USWT Staff → Secretary</u>
By-Laws	<u>Publications</u>
Policies	<u>Publications</u>
New Member Installation	<u>Member Resources</u>
Officer Installation	<u>Member Resources</u>
Calendar of Events	<u>USWT Staff → President</u>



Greetings from Minnesota!

We kicked off June with Membership Week and a fun carnival theme! Chapters earned “tickets” throughout the week by participating in activities focused on membership, socials, and chapter involvement. Our fabulous Membership Vice President, Allie, also hosted a New Member Orientation and ended the week with a check-in for chapter MVPs and members.

Our amazing Marketing Vice President, Andrea, brought some friendly competition with Marketing Madness: The Social Media Tourney! Each week, two chapters battle it out to see who can earn the most comments and advance to the next round. Members have had so much fun supporting not only their own chapters, but others across the state. It has been a fantastic way to increase visibility, engagement, and chapter pride!

In July, many chapters celebrated Founder’s Day by receiving proclamations from their local mayors and gathering for fun social events. I also introduced monthly Chapter Lift Packets to support our chapter presidents with leadership topics, upcoming events, reminders, and monthly checklists.

August brought even more opportunities to connect! Chapters celebrated Friendship Day with creative socials and service projects, including mini golf, free crafts for kids and adults, fresh flowers for members at meetings, and pickleball socials. We also gathered for our annual President & State Delegate Retreat, hosted by Chapter Management Vice President Michelle, Administrative Vice President Christine, and me. It was a great day of training, collaboration, and connection with 15 chapters represented.

Next, we’re headed to the Fall State Convention in Brainerd in September! We’ll celebrate our first trimester successes, enjoy four forums and enrichment sessions, explore our programming areas, and vote on our next three-year Priority Area partnership. We’ll also celebrate Women of Today Week, including the I-35W Bridge being lit blue on September 25 in recognition of Minnesota Women of Today!

In October, we look forward to seeing everyone in Kansas City for the US Women of Today Mid-Year Convention. Back in Minnesota, we’ll continue the momentum with Tri 2 District Meetings and our statewide webinar.

It has already been a summer full of connection, creativity, and growth, and we’re excited for all that is still ahead as we continue to Lift as You Lead!

In Friendship,

Jeny Ohr



President/State Delegate Retreat: Chapter Presidents, State Delegates, AVP Christine, State President Jeny, CMVP Michelle



Dawn Nissen
Iowa State President
2026-2027

Hello from Iowa!

Iowa just held their state meeting in Nashua, and I wanted to thank the National Staff that was able to share the day with us. **Nashua** held a fundraiser Flocked the yard, and they have a lot of fun with that.

They are getting ready for their annual Trunk or Treat.

Spencer celebrated Founders and Friendship Days. They collected donations of shampoo, conditioner, body wash and baby wipes for Upper Des Moines. Now they are getting ready for the Clay County Fair taco stand in September.



Dawn Nissen & President Laura



Iowa members & President Laura



Iowa members, National Staff & President Laura

Greetings from the Missouri Women of Today!

Hi Everyone!

I hope your states are having a great late summer/early fall! In Missouri, we are in the midst of an inferno. We are excited for a break in the heat. We are preparing for our first state meeting of the year. We will meet the morning after Mid-Year convention. We are pretty spread out so we also like to get together just for fun and socializing the night before. Our chapters celebrated Founder's Day and Friendship Day with their members over the summer months. Fall is a busier time of year for most of our chapters with upcoming craft shows, first responder recognitions, buckets of sunshine projects, and food-insecurity related projects. We hope to several Missouri members attending Mid-Year Meeting. We're looking forward to seeing everyone and participating in activities.

Take care and enjoy the fall!

Deb McDonald

Missouri Women of Today President



ONE SMALL THING

Choose one. Make a difference.

- ◆ Send a quick note to a member you haven't seen lately.
- ◆ Invite someone to your next chapter meeting.
- ◆ Share a chapter success story with your state.
- ◆ Thank someone who quietly keeps things moving.

Small actions add up. **Choose one. Do it. Then do it again.**

Summer has been a busy time for Nebraska Women of Today. Our chapters enjoyed celebrating Founder's Day in July, and Friendship Day in August, along with all the other events and community projects they've completed. I want to thank the Chapter Presidents for their work in 1st Trimester. Our State had 100% Retention, and two new member adds - Kearney and Lincoln Chapters. Our State Board had a staff meeting in August where we filled all the board positions – I want to graciously thank Hillari, Maxine and Nicolette for taking on additional positions and duties. We'll be helping each other this year to ensure our chapters and State have a successful year!

Here's what our chapters have been up to:

Fremont Area Chapter:

- Founder's Day activity was celebrated via zoom with adult beverages
- Celebrated Friendship day with members of Nebraska City
- Assisting the Fremont Area Art Association with their Gala
- Lunch was served for Habitat for Humanity
- John C. Fremont Days Fundraiser – Concessions.
- Facilitated Carnival Games at Dunklau Garden: played rings on bottles, rubber ducks, spin the wheel, and bingo. Sixteen residents attended and enjoyed the prizes.



Heartland Chapter:

- We went to Mahoney State Park for dinner and a Melodrama for Founders Day.
- We had dinner at Cheddars for Friendship Day. Maxine gave each of us a member's name at the August Meeting and asked us to make that person a Friendship card to bring to the dinner, we also did an impromptu.
- We donated 1528 bottles of water to the Open Door Mission who distribute them to homeless.
- We had a planning meeting for the Fall Conference.

Nebraska City Chapter:

- Celebrated Friendship Day with lunch on August 19th. We met at the Blue Moon in Hamburg then to Joyce's after lunch for cake to celebrate Cindy's birthday

Kearney Chapter:

- Presented a "welcome home" gardening gift basket to a Habitat for Humanity home recipient at the end of June. She then attended our meeting in July and shared the application, acceptance, and building process to us.
- We served lunch to the Habitat volunteers on August 2.
- Donated to the Kiwanis Back to School Backpack program.
- Hosted an Ice Cream Social Friendship Day/MNIGHT on August 19th. A local Ice cream wagon was present.
- Sponsored a "Let's Get Moving" challenge for the Month of August. Shared on our Facebook page for anyone to participate.
- Our domestic violence organization, The S.A.F.E. Center is raising money to purchase a new van for transportation - we made a donation to the cause.
- We are in the process of organizing a PEP Day here in Kearney in October. We are looking forward to hosting Women of Today members from across the state.

Lincoln Chapter:

- Lincoln held a chapter fundraiser serving hot dog meals at a local grocery store.
- Several chapter members helped Fremont Area WT at their fundraiser at John C. Fremont Days.
- Celebrated Friendship Day at a vineyard and invited chapter members from around NE.
- Celebrated Founders Day by crafting together.
- We put together 3 buckets of Sunshine for Habitat for Humanity.
- We facilitated bingo at a local nursing home.



Lenore Pausig

North Dakota State President

lpausig@hotmail.com

The North Dakota Women of Today has been busy. We held the Fourth of July Lunch in the Park. It wasn't as successful as we thought it would be, but we did make \$800. Samantha has been brainstorming and we hope to have new fundraisers soon.

We held our year-end awards ceremony. We had a good turnout, even though it was held on the first day of the North Dakota State Fair. One of our Friendship Award recipients was in attendance. Several awards were handed out. Chicken tacos and cheesecake were on the menu.

We held our Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway. We had a boy winner and a girl winner. Thank you, Edith and Sarah, for chairing this project.

For Friendship Day, we had ice cream sandwiches in the park. August 2nd happened to be ice cream sandwich day, so it was fitting. Those present were Samantha, Chris, and their children, Teresa, Jane, and me. Thank you, Samantha, for chairing. Afterward, Teresa, Samantha, and I brought ice cream up to the nursing home to share with Pat.

Looking ahead, we will be planning two Halloween parties: one for members and one for children in the community. We also are gearing up to attend Mid-Year in Missouri. Samantha, Chris, and I will be there.

Lenore Pausig, President Stanley chapter and NDWT



Greetings from the South Dakota Women of Today!

Summer is a slower season for the South Dakota Hartford Women of Today, but we still keep busy!

We once again worked with the Hartford Jamboree Days Parade Committee by organizing the Annual Parade held on June 20. This year, we had our own entries in the Jamboree Days Parade! One member drove her side by side and another member followed close behind in her golf cart...both decorated with patriotic colors as this year's theme was "America 250 Years" to coincide with the Semiquincentennial-America's 250th!

Our members will be assisting with a local veterinarian's semi-annual Pet Immunization Clinic in mid-August. This is a Community Service project.

Our next fundraiser is our Annual Fall Craft Fair in late October. We have 50+ craft vendors at this project

In Friendship

Roxanne Whalen

South Dakota State President



Barb Atchison driving her SXS. Escorting member Anita Carey and President Roxy Whalen!



Ready for the parade!



President Roxy Whalen, Anita Carey, Treasurer Barb Atchison



Hartford Women of Today members Mary Cunningham and Stef Hagel riding Mary's golf cart in Jamboree Days Parade!



Hartford SD Committee who staffed the registration table and lined up the parade entries.

Front row: Mary Cunningham, Teresa Zimmer.

Second row: Carla Goetsch, Kristi Stanga, Wendy Edwards

Third Row: Stef Hagel, Cheri Griffith



The Hartford SD Women of Today that worked the Annual Hartford Jamboree Days Parade on June 20 in front of one of the SxS's that we drove in the parade!



**Together We Can Put
The Pieces Together**

Jenise Teske
Arizona State President
2026-2027

Greetings from sunny Arizona,

Even though the sun is shining most days, it is monsoon season here and we have had a few good rainfalls with thunder, lightning, wind and heavy rain.

Our chapters have been busy with activities and getting together. There were representatives from all three chapters on Founder's Day when we met for lunch at the Rain Forest café in Tempe. The Valley of the Sun and the Chandler East Valley chapters met for lunch with their own members on Friendship Day. The VS chapter members wrote notes to their members to let them know they were thinking of them. The CEV lunch was also a farewell lunch for one of the members moving to Texas to be close to family.

During the summer months, the Valley of the Sun chapter is pretty low key with a lot of their members away at summer homes up north. The Wild West members in June assisted in an event at A New Leaf, an organization that provides housing solutions and resources to give a home to individuals and families struggling with homelessness. For Founder's Day the WWWT gathered at Red Lobster for loads of fun and frivolity! Their chapter president was surprised with a birthday celebration at their July membership meeting! In August, the chapter conducted a paper collection for A New Leaf / Community Alliance Against Family Abuse (CAAFA) to address their needs list. As always, members showed their generosity and willingness to help others. The Chandler East Valley chapter is currently working on collecting used cards as part of the Crystal Cards project, which repurposes and sells cards to help Domestic Violence victims. They hope to be part of one of their workshops in October where the cards are assembled.

We were excited to have USWT President Laura and guests attend our State Meeting on Saturday, 8/22. We had a speaker from Fresh Start, an organization in Phoenix, who informed us about how they empower women that are making a "fresh start" in careers, employment, and living situations and how we can help them by volunteering at their fundraisers. The AZWT Chairman of the Board, Dr. Sammi, led us in a Get to Know You Bingo and how we differ according to the differing colors of M & M's (and yes, there were M & M's involved). There was also a fun This or That activity led by President Laura and some history and organizational information about USWT, led by AZWT President Jenise. After the meeting, several members congregated at President Jenise's community clubhouse to play games and have pizza. A handful of us are looking forward to reuniting with USWT friends at Mid-Year Convention in Kansas City, MO in October.

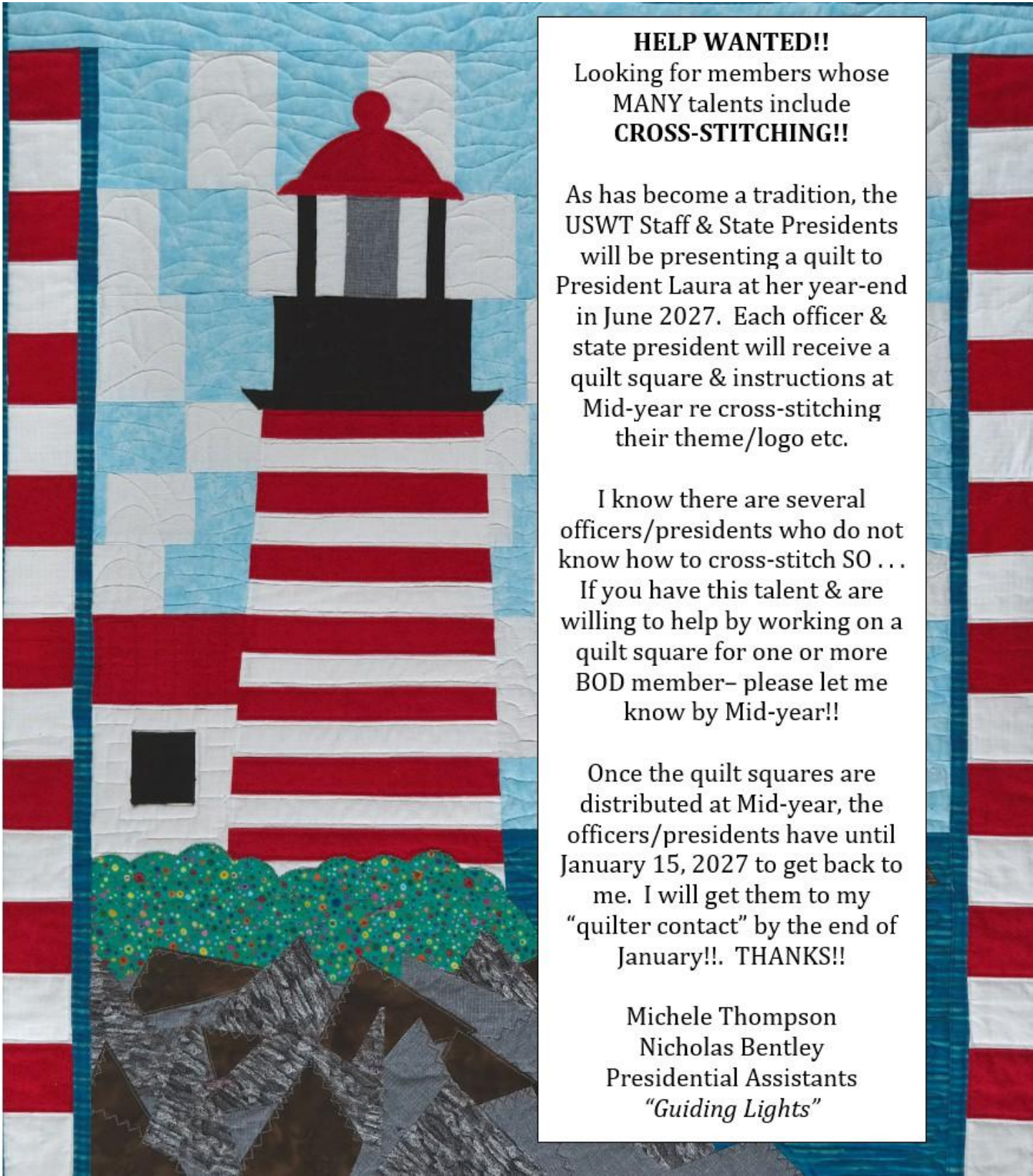
In friendship, *Jenise Teske*



Jenise & President Laura



President Pin Recipient, Tish Carneghi,
with Jenise & President Laura



HELP WANTED!!

Looking for members whose
MANY talents include
CROSS-STITCHING!!

As has become a tradition, the USWT Staff & State Presidents will be presenting a quilt to President Laura at her year-end in June 2027. Each officer & state president will receive a quilt square & instructions at Mid-year re cross-stitching their theme/logo etc.

I know there are several officers/presidents who do not know how to cross-stitch SO . . .

If you have this talent & are willing to help by working on a quilt square for one or more BOD member- please let me know by Mid-year!!

Once the quilt squares are distributed at Mid-year, the officers/presidents have until January 15, 2027 to get back to me. I will get them to my "quilter contact" by the end of January!! THANKS!!

Michele Thompson
Nicholas Bentley
Presidential Assistants
"Guiding Lights"

Mary Hansen
Chairman of the Board 2026 – 2027
cob@uswomenoftoday.org



As your Chairman of the Board this year I am looking for ways to support President Laura and her staff. Her leadership team is anxious to find ways to reach the many members of this wonderful organization and to help it grow.

Future Directions Committee

One of my many duties will be chairing the Future Directions Committee and the Elections Committee. The Future Directions Committee is always open to new ideas for change to our organization or suggestions for improvements. We welcome your input. Meetings are held via zoom and in person at conventions. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to attend a Future Directions meeting.

Elections Committee

It is never too early to look ahead. Take a moment to look at your current leadership and ask questions. Think to yourself about what you could contribute. One of the ideas that Women of Today encourages is “Personal Growth”. Please reach out to me with any questions you might have. You can file for positions after January 1, 2027.

Manual Reviews

It is part of my responsibility to review the following manuals this year - Membership Manual – Extensions Manual – Operations Manual. I am looking for volunteers to help with this. If you would like to be that volunteer, please let me know.

I hope to see many of you at the Mid-Year Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, October 2nd and 3rd.
Mary Hansen

THREE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

💡 **Share an idea** — Future Directions Committee

🗳️ **Consider leadership** — Elections Committee

📖 **Help improve our manuals** — Manual Reviews

Interested in any of these opportunities? [Contact Mary Hansen](#).

BE A LIGHT: ONE SMALL FLAME

by Laura Bentley, 42nd National President

A traveler once walked a dark country road carrying a tiny lantern. The light did not reveal the entire journey. It only illuminated the next few steps.

Someone passing by asked, “How can such a small light help you find your way?”

The traveler smiled and replied, “I do not need to see the whole road. I only need enough light to take the next step.”

As we begin our second trimester, we may not know exactly where every plan, project or dream will lead. There may be unexpected turns, busy days and moments when progress feels slow. Still, we can continue moving forward—one thoughtful step at a time.

Your light may be a kind word offered at the right moment. It may be the courage to try something new, the patience to listen or the willingness to help when no one is watching. Never underestimate the difference created by a small act of encouragement.

A Second-Trimester Reminder

***You do not need to light the whole sky,
Or know each turn before you start.
Just carry hope, keep moving forward,
And lead with courage in your heart.***

***Be the smile that lifts another,
Be the calm when days feel long.
Be the light that keeps on shining,
Quiet, steady, brave and strong.***



US Women of Today Mid-Year Meeting October 2-3, 2026 Kansas City, Missouri

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Chapter/State: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

How are you traveling? ☐ Driving ☐ Flying

Arrival Date/Time: _____

Flight Airline & # : _____ **Interested in Thursday 10/1 Group Activity?** _____

Women of Today Information: ☐ Member ☐ First Timer ☐ Guest ☐ Board ☐ Past USWT President

FLYING: Fly into Kansas City International (MCI). The hotel provides free 24/7 airport shuttle to and from the airport. You will need to arrange with the hotel for your pick up and drop off, at least 2 days prior to travel.

Check the event for which you wish to register	Advance Registration	Late Registration
FULL REGISTRATION	☐ \$125.00	☐ \$140.00
Friday Meetings/Forums	☐ \$5.00	☐ \$10.00
Friday Night Party	☐ \$25.00	☐ \$30.00
SATURDAY ONLY	☐ \$90.00	☐ \$100.00
Saturday Meetings/Forums	☐ \$20.00	☐ \$25.00
Saturday Luncheon	☐ \$35.00	☐ \$40.00
Saturday Banquet	☐ \$40.00	☐ \$45.00

Advance Registration must be postmarked by 9/7/2026

Make Checks payable to:

Trumanland Women of Today

Mail this form and check to:

Laura Morris 2460 NE Dale Hunter Pl,
Lees Summit, MO 64086

Email questions to:

uswt2223presLauraM@gmail.com

Any cancelled registration refunds must be requested before 9/2/26, a \$10 cancellation fee will apply.

HOTEL AND MEETING INFORMATION: Rooms are held until 9/1/2026

Wyndham Garden at Kansas City International Airport

7600 NW 97th Terr, Kansas City, MO 64153

[Link to Hotel Reservation Block Rooms](#) or

816-601-0417 tell them "US Women of Today Mid-Year"

\$130 per night plus tax

Hotel will have a bar that is open in the evenings.

TLWT will provide beverages, snacks and treats at the meeting room instead of a hospitality room.

Block of Rooms include Junior Suites

with 2 Double Beds or 1 King Bed,

Rooms are spacious and include:

a sofa bed pull-out, mini-

fridge and coffee maker

Free: breakfast, parking and internet

Please note any special dietary requirements or allergies here:

