



# THE GAVEL

Newsletter of  
The Nebraska Women of Today  
September 2009

[www.nbwt.org](http://www.nbwt.org)  
[www.uswt.org](http://www.uswt.org)



Hello ladies,

First trimester went very well and now we are well into the second trimester and we have lots coming up. First of all we will be celebrating Women of Today Week September 20<sup>th</sup> –September 26. I will be visiting chapters at the time. If I haven't heard from some of you I have sent an email to find out when would be the best time to visit in September. My goal is to visit twice or whenever time allows me to. I do have a full time job so I would need lots of notice in order to visit. Please send me your schedules for Women of Today Week and I can plan from that. I'm looking forward meeting many of you.



Many of you know that we are hosting the National Mid Year. Terri and Angela are busy planning to make it so much fun. Just think it's not that far from here, it's actually in Nebraska City. The registrations went out in email to all the State officers and the chapter Presidents. Hope you can come and enjoy the weekend.

Our next convention is November 6-8 in York Nebraska. This convention is for the Outstanding Young Woman and also Effective Speaking Competition. I would love to see competitors this year. The Deadline for the Outstanding Young Woman is October 1<sup>st</sup>, so please send them in to Karen Gruber she would be happy to see an Outstanding Young Woman candidate in every chapter. If you have any questions on the Effective Speaking competitions please give Brandi Brown a call or email her. Everyone should of received your directory if we missed anyone please let me know. Also I will be promoting them in the State Store.

Our focus this year is to train, train and more training. I'm hearing a lot that we need to train more. During my visits I will be calling to find out what you would like me to go over with your chapters and also I will be having some State officers assisting in the training. If you would like us to do a program please don't hesitate to give us a call or email. We are here to assist you.

Emphasis month for September is Membership, Public Relations, Founders Club Charities and the Website.

I know that Maxine would be happy to come and talk to you about the Founders Club charities. Also there are many members from Nebraska who sit on this board.

I have sent a newsletter to the Chapter Presidents and please share this with your members. There is lots of valuable information. Also it's not too early to send in Medallion nominations.

Let's have a great second Trimester and we will spread our wings across Nebraska.

*Cindy Urlacher*  
State President  
**"Wind Beneath My Wings"**



## Membership VP

Greetings!

With 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester comes Women of Today Week and with Women of Today week comes the opportunity to extend the “hands of friendship” to prospective members.



September is **Emphasis Month** for Membership. In the chapter packets at the Summer State Meeting I had several ideas for M-Nights and I hope that chapters use those and put a special EMPHASIS on gaining new members. I have offered an incentive to each chapter that holds an M-Night during Women of Today Week which is September 20-26.

Nebraska, I am so proud of you all for our awesome retention 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester. Now we just need to add to that number and we will be well on our way to growth. Remember to R.O.A.R. (recruit, orient, activate and retain) and membership for 2009-2010 will soar!

### *Hands of Friendship*

Joyce Harpster  
Membership Vice President  
[chefsmom2000@yahoo.com](mailto:chefsmom2000@yahoo.com)



## Programming VP

The weather is turning cooler on us already and we'll be celebrating Women of Today Week at the end of the month already! Where does the time go ladies? I'm going to take this opportunity to wish all of you a “Happy WOT Week”.

I'd also like to remind everyone that when your chapter does projects to be sure and keep track of all your time and money or in kind donations and put them on your quarterly donation summary sheet! We had a change and this is to be sent to the Programming VP. I will then forward information to the treasurer! Also you need to send in community development forms for each project! The first trimester was a little light on these and there is still time to get caught up and send them in!

This is also a good time of year to work on your governmental affairs certifications. Help someone get registered to vote! This isn't a major election year but many smaller communities have ballots for various offices even in these years. And remember to Fly Your Flag with Pride!! And National Mid-Year convention will be in our “backyard” next month. Terri, Angela and Joyce are putting together a great weekend for everyone so be sure to step up and help out in different areas when they ask us for help. This benefits our state treasury and in turn it helps all of us!



Have a great month!

Laura Wachter PVP  
Programming VP

“Jump into Programming

[Laura.Wachter@americanmeter.com](mailto:Laura.Wachter@americanmeter.com)



## STEP

Hello!

With our first trimester over we did have some S.T.E.P. I certifications. I am hoping to be able to send many more S.T.E.P. forms this next trimester. My goal has been to send a S.T.E.P. I form to each new member, a S.T.E.P. II to each member that has completed S.T.E.P. I and a S.T.E.P. II or III to each recruiter. I am hoping to increase our certifications this year and I know we can do it!



With September being Emphasis Month for Membership I am hoping to be able to send out many certifications for all of those new members we are going to have!!

S.T.E.P. Right Up!

Joyce Harpster  
Membership Vice President



## **Hall of Fame**

If you have a local member that is deserving of the Hall of Fame nomination, please get the nomination form from the website, or contact me and I can get them to you. We have not had a nomination in quite some time, and I look forward to receiving some this year! Let me know if you have questions about the criteria or need help with any forms.

Kelley Rosburg  
Hall of Fame President



## **Local President's Association President**

Happy September!

I hope you all are enjoying our fall weather. I can't believe summer is over, how time flies!



I mentioned in my last article that I was going to start hitting the road to visit chapters. So far I have made it to Nebraska City for their monthly meeting which was a lot of fun. I am amazed at how much they do. I am looking forward to the Mid-Year Meeting that they are hosting the first weekend in October. I know it will be awesome! Hopefully every Nebraska Chapter will be represented.

How are you doing with your Success System? I haven't heard from anyone so I am assuming that everyone is doing well.

Don't forget that Women of Today Week is in September!

Kim Hermann  
LPA President  
[khermann@horizonholding.com](mailto:khermann@horizonholding.com)

## **EXTERNAL AREA**

Make Every "Scout" count for external programming!! Hope every chapter was able to complete the chapter challenge and 1st trimester

fast start, I look forward to hearing from you and look forward to lots of awards at convention!!

Chris Rice  
External Program Manager

## **Convention Chairman/OYW**

Greetings!

I just wanted to remind everyone that the deadline for OYW paperwork is October 1st. Since this is coming up rather quickly, don't forget to start on that now & have it in to me by the deadline. All the information about what forms you need to fill out, are on the website for you.

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations for OYW competition in York, Ne. We are going to have a lot of fun so I look forward to seeing you there!

Karen Gruber  
Convention Chairman

**Topic for Effective Speaking is 'Wind Beneath my Wings'. This competition is held at fall convention.**

**Effective Writing that is held at annual convention will use the same as the national theme. Be watching.**

## **Chapter Chatter**

### **Nebraska City**

In August Nebraska City enjoyed our annual family picnic, during kids week we took our children to DQ YUMM! Several of our members are delivering United packets. We are looking forward to National mid-year being held in NC!!

Chris Rice, President

### **Fremont**

Fremont Area is excited about second trimester, with all the fun activities fall brings. We've donated our time locally to Habitat for Humanity serving breakfast and lunch to about 19 volunteers! Fremont celebrates building 50 homes so far,

through Habitat, a very worthy opportunity for families to "earn" a home that they have helped to build by putting in "sweat equity"!

For Friendship Day, we enjoyed an Ice Cream Social! A sweet treat we were all more than happy to take part in!

We look forward to September's emphasis of Membership which we desperately need to boost!

Happy Women of Today Week! In Friendship  
Laura Taua

## Lincoln

The Lincoln chapter had our annual Family Picnic in August, and celebrated Friendship Day by attending the Salt Dogs baseball game and tailgating beforehand. Thanks to Laura Wachter from NE City, and her son, for joining us! September is a busy month for us, as we will have a booth at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Women's Expo, to promote volunteerism through membership in Women of Today, and are planning an M-Night during Women of Today Week, as well as other activities. We will be donating to our National Program and also the City Mission this month, and looking forward to the National Mid-Year Meeting in NE City. A busy Fall for us all around.

Kelley Rosburg, President

## Kearney

The Kearney chapter has been so busy the secretary hasn't had time to submit all the great things we have been doing. (LOL) Anyway, we took off at the start of the year with Amy Hardy as our new President. We honored local volunteer fire departments in April for National Volunteer Week, attended state convention in May, and walked our legs off at the Relay for Life and had great success raising funds with the "Fight Like a Girl" shirts in June. For Founder's Day, we had a potluck dinner and membership ceremony. We all renewed our commitment to the Women of Today organization. A challenge was set for Friendship Day. We were all asked to call a friend we hadn't in a long time, invite a friend to lunch or a movie, do a random act

of kindness, send a card to a friend, and make a list of friends and nice things about them. Those who UNK Blue & Gold welcomes new freshmen to campus and provides members of the community with great "free stuff". We shared information about Women of Today, while looking forward to socializing afterwards. We had 8 members and 1 prospective member share in food and fun at Bico's. With school starting during Kid's Week in August, our families spent time cleaning up a local park and donating school supplies to the United Way. The reward – Dairy Queen!!! Amongst all these other great activities, we have had members attend the State Board Retreat, National Board Retreat, and the summer meeting in Syracuse. We are now gearing up for Women of Today Week. ***The Kearney Women of Today is hosting a Personal Enrichment Day on Saturday, September 19, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We would love to have you all join us. Be on the lookout for more information soon.***  
Kim Troudt

## National Mid Year Meeting

The Mid Year Meeting is right around the corner to be held in **Nebraska City October 2-4, 2009**. We are busy getting everything in place for the meetings. We are excited to be hosting this for our National President Hinky. In case you were wondering what you can do to help. We are asking each chapter to bring 4 door prize items wrapped and either 2 dozen cookies or a pan of bars. These will be used throughout the weekend to show the members our Nebraska hospitality.

We sure hope many of you will decide to come. If you need a form please let me know. Otherwise please call Joyce to let her know so we can get an accurate count for the meals.



***'Coming Together in the Apple City.'***

Terri Sherman  
Joyce Harpster  
Angela Moody

## **Nebraska Women of Today Future Directions**

July 17, 2009

A Nebraska Women of Today Future directions Meeting was held on Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Summer State Meeting.

Maxine Turner called the meeting to order at 9:00 PM.

Members in attendance were Cindy Urlacher, Brandi Brown, Angela Moody, Jan Maaske, Christine Rice, Joyce Harpster, Laura Wachter, Maxine Turner, hillari Zweibohmer, Julie Fogleman and Jessica Urlacher

The minutes were approved as printed.

### Unfinished Business

Guide is not complete.

By-Laws will be handed out tomorrow

Operation Manuals – No report

Local Officers Training Manuals- will be handed out tomorrow

Program Manuals –putting together in a book to be sold in the State Store for members to purchase  
5 year plan still in process and was handed out to the committee.

Membership- State wants to grow by 9; we have 9 chapters, and will get together with Cindy to hand out to the State Board members.

Public Relations- Go out and talk to people, put press releases in your newspapers.

Website- Steve Sherman will help out

Down Size the State Board. We went from 5 regions to 3 and also Step moved to Membership Vice President

Paperwork- eliminated to only 3 times a year, went to Trimesters and also the state newsletter is on the state Website and we are using more email.

Convention has been changed to 3 – keep the Fall and Annual as a full convention and there has been a recommendation for the Summer to wait and see how the weekend goes. Also to keep Fall convention hosted by state and the annual a chapter can host.

### New Business

Been recommended that the Future Directions Meeting Minutes are put in the September Gavel and the General Membership Meeting minutes put in the august Gavel. We need to Increase membership, our membership numbers are declining and we need to go out there and Promote Women of Today. We want to grow by 9 this year and if each chapter keeps there retention and recruits a member we can be base +, and we can grow this year as a State. Communication between the State Board Members and the Local Board members – Mailings will be sent each trimester and information in the chapter packets and will be using more email. The chapters who don't have email we will send in the mail.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted  
Cindy Urlacher, Secretary