



# THE GAVEL

Newsletter of  
The Nebraska Women of Today  
August/September 2003

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

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



*Nebraska Women of Today,*

*I can't believe that we are already almost through the summer! Have you and your chapter been able to meet any of the goals that you set at the beginning of the year.? I have met a couple of mine and have fallen a little short on some of the others but I will just keep trying - we still have a lot of this "Rainbow" year left!!*

*Summer convention was held July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in Nebraska City. I hope that all who attended had a great time. Our Fall convention is out west in Benkelman. Be sure and register today. The registration form is available on our website [www.nbwt.org](http://www.nbwt.org).*

*At the convention many items were collected to send to Iraq where my niece's husband is stationed in Baghdad with the Army. Thank you to all of the chapters and members that donated articles. I have mailed out one 27-pound box so far and have one at least that size to go yet.*

*Membership continues to be a critical issue for our state. I am excited to say that Wauneta has almost completed the extension in Sumner and Heartland is busy with the Nebraska City extension. It is very important that you send in your renewals and new members adds by the deadlines! With Maxine as our USWT Membership Vice President we want Nebraska to help make her shine. I hope that all chapters have been working on recruiting new members - with more of us sharing our chapter projects; they go much smoother and faster.*

*September 21-27, 2003 is Women of Today Week. That is our time to celebrate Women of Today. Many chapters hold special activities that week as well as Membership Nights. This is a great time to spread the word!*

*Nebraska's sister states are Michigan and Iowa. Cards were signed at Summer Convention and sent to both of these states. We will keep in contact with them throughout the year.*

*Thank you to all of the chapters who continue to send me your newsletter. I enjoy reading them all! I have also enjoyed my visits to the chapters and regions. Please be sure to keep inviting me - I love to come, as my schedule will allow.*

*I want to again thank all of you for the hard work that you do. I know that sometimes we get a little overwhelmed but your hard work is appreciated so much by your communities.*

*I saw my first true rainbow after a brief shower on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The colors were spectacular! All of you are part of my rainbow this year - each one individually making a beautiful picture together. Thank you, thank you.*

Joyce Harpster  
"A Promise for Tomorrow"  
[chefsmom2000@yahoo.com](mailto:chefsmom2000@yahoo.com)



## MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT

Ladies,

During the first quarter we had no new members, we lost five members and we have two chapters below five. We need to give some *Tender Loving Care* to Imperial and North Platte before we lose them.

I know in the state of Nebraska summer is always a slow quarter, so I look for us to see our membership *rising* in the next three quarters.

We do have some exciting news, as we have our first extension completed this year. We have a new chapter in Nebraska City, these ladies are very excited and I know we will hear a lot from them in the near future.

Just a friendly reminder the second quarter dues billing will be mailed out in the next couple of weeks. Second quarter dues billing will need to be mailed back to me before October 15<sup>th</sup>. If your chapter wants to be an *Early Bird* the dues billing will need to be postmarked to me by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Now, let's get down to membership stats. We started our year with a base of 147 members. We lost five during the first quarter, so that left us with 145 members. We had 22 members up for renewal, but only 17 members renewed, so that left us at 78% retention for first quarter.

So, now we are starting our second quarter at base of 145 members, now I ask what will our numbers be at the beginning of third quarter.

We have 44 members up for renewal this quarter and if we only have 78% retention, we will be losing ten members. We need to look our chapter's roster over and see if we can keep our members, plus we need to get out in our community or other communities and extend. I don't want to come to you at the beginning of the third quarter and tell you we are down fifteen members. Our chapters need to recruit new members, so that we get new ideas plus let our seasoned members sit back to catch their second wind for those new projects.

Now, I hope every chapter out there is making plans on what they are going to do to celebrate *Women of Today Week*. I would like to see each of our chapters run an M-Night in their communities. I will be offering a *stationery basket* to a lucky winner at Fall Convention. For every member that is recruited the recruiter's name will be put into a drawing. So let's sit down and start compiling a list of prospective members for our M-Night. If we all work together on membership this quarter, I know we will end our quarter at growth! Let's *Have Fun* at Fall Convention *with Rising Membership* during the second quarter.

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Maxine Turner  
"Raising Membership  
Fun in the Sun"  
[maxtaj@yahoo.com](mailto:maxtaj@yahoo.com)



## Programming Vice President

Hello Ladies,

Hope everyone is getting programming organized in each chapter. I did hand out a programming booklet at convention that I hope will help each chapter.

You should be emphasizing Team building, Aid-to-Foster Children or Make-A-Wish this month. Have a challenge in your chapter to raise money for either Aid-to-Foster Children or Make-A-Wish and also hold the team building course. For the month of September the emphasis is on the US Foundation. If you would ever like for me to come and help with emphasis months, please let me know and I would be happy to come and present a program or just come and visit.

The Programming Fast Start for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is as follows:

1. Have your Programming VP contact me.
2. Have someone represent your chapter at Summer Convention.
3. Hold a Team building course in August.
4. Have 2 people certify in Governmental Affairs from the chapter.

Please let me know when you have meetings or projects coming up. I would like to travel and I would prefer not to wait until after the first of the year. If you have any questions or concerns about programming, please contact me any time.

Brandi Brown  
"Let Freedom Ring"  
[bbrownpc@cornhusker.net](mailto:bbrownpc@cornhusker.net)



## Secretary

Hello Ladies,

Summer Convention was so much fun, we're well onto the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and I would like to see more participation in our Public Relations area. By now you should have sent your Founder's Day participation form in, if you haven't, please send to me ASAP. I would like to make a book up for Public Relations, I would like everyone's participation, please send me pictures, articles from the newspaper anything on PR. I would like to bring it to Conventions so everyone can see what each chapter is doing in this area. August is the month of Friendship Day; please send your Participation form to me that was enclosed in the Chapter packet handed out at Summer Convention. If you don't have this form, please write on a piece of paper and send to me. Women of Today Week is September 21-27<sup>th</sup> I've enclosed lots of information for Women of Today Week in the Chapter Packet that was handed out at Summer Convention, also enclosed is my second quarter fast start, so please fill it out and send to me. These are the minutes of our lives, so let's not waste time.

Cindy Urlacher  
"The Minutes of Our Lives"  
[curlacher66@msn.com](mailto:curlacher66@msn.com)



## Webmaster

Webmaster

Congratulations to Kim Troutt on winning the CD full of graphics and the Volunteer T-Shirt. We expect to see lively newsletters from the Chairman of the Board!

Now is a good time to start planning your chapter's site. I have exchanged emails with a few of you that are starting to get things going. I'm willing to help in any way I can.

Look for a new page coming to the Members site. It will be a Projects page where chapters can describe successful programs and projects. Look for the announcement at Fall convention.

Check out the pictures from Summer Convention in Nebraska City. We have more than ever. If you have pictures you want to share from convention, send them in!



## LPA President

Hello Ladies,  
Summer Convention was a fun time! Some of you are turning in the Success System – way to go! If you have questions I can be reached by email: [nise\\_deter@yahoo.com](mailto:nise_deter@yahoo.com) or you can call and leave me a message at 402-488-9527. I hope all of you have a great Friendship Day!!

Denise Deter  
"Retrieving Success"  
[nise\\_deter@yahoo.com](mailto:nise_deter@yahoo.com)



## Chaplain/Focus on Women/Women in General

Hi Nebraska Women of Today  
I hope that every one had a great summer!!! And now it's time for the kids to go back to school. I can't believe that summer was here and went but now its time to have some good old times with the Nebraska Women of today. My mailbox is getting lonely and I know that every one is busy in the summer but now it's time to get together and have some of those Focus on Women and Women in General programs. Ladies you know that in the month of September is Women of Today Week, so plan some of those courses during that week, also you could all get together and Go to Church for a family time program. Or even have a picnic together with your families. I know that every chapter has had some kind of a program so send it in and get recognized for the wonderful things you do as a group. For national this year the Essay title is "What woman past or present most influenced your life" The Length of the essay is 800-1200 words typed and doubled spaced send me 4 copies and include a stat sheet with every copy. The cost is \$5.00; checks made out to USWT deadline is May 1 2004 postmarked enclose each copy in a binder or folder. I am letting you know about this sooner then I should so you can be thinking about doing this I would love to see at least 2 or three of you ladies doing this essay. I hope that everyone had a great Friendship day. Well that is all for now but I am going to leave you with a poem about Friendship.

Few sounds on earth can compare with the reverberations of friends laughing together.

Hearty laughter is oil in the engine of friendship;

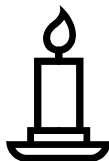
With laughter, things run smoothly: without it the gears have a tendency to grind.

Arnold Glasow,

"A loyal friend laughs at you jokes when they're not so good and sympathizes with your problems when they're not so bad." Herein, we consider the joys of a good laugh and the blessings of a good friend to share it with.

My Job Has changed I am now working for the Kiddy Campus I am going to be a Preschool Teacher. So don't call me at Bagby Travel any more I won't be there. I will give you my new phone number as soon as I get it.

Vickie Penner  
God is the Light of the World  
[penney2@web-unwired.com](mailto:penney2@web-unwired.com)



## Recruit Retain And Activate

## SUCCESS THROUGH ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION

Hello Everyone!!

I hope everyone had a great summer as the new school year is upon us and it is time to get back into some sort of routine, if you can call it that. I am ready for cooler weather I know. Well let's get down to business. I am a little disappointed, as I have not yet received any certifications for STEP. I know we have signed some new members so STEP I should be coming in very soon and for those who signed those members, I should also be receiving their certifications in STEP as I think that is the hardest one to get. I am not real sure if I need to offer some sort of incentive to the first person that gets some mail to my mailbox, but I sure would like to see some certifications this quarter. We all get soooooo busy and it is easy to put off looking at the certification sheets but let us all make an effort to at least try to look over the paperwork to see if anyone in our chapter has certified. My mailbox and I will be anxiously awaiting.

It was great to see so many people at summer convention. We were only able to attend for Saturday, but Joyce did a great job, as we knew she would. As the first quarter has passed us by, lets all go for the gusto in the second quarter.

Diane Lux  
[bl30428@alltel.net](mailto:bl30428@alltel.net)



## effective speaking/effect. . . . .

Hello Ladies-

I hope that during second quarter I hear from individuals that have certified in either Effective Speaking or Effective Writing. Last newsletter Article I explained how to certify in Effective Speaking. So this article will be on certifying in Effective Writing. There are four areas that must be completed to certify. They include goal writing, writing a letter or memo, a newsletter article and an essay or short story. The certification form for Effective Writing is on page 52 of your chapter's Guide for Action.

Goal setting is something we all should do. If you hold a state, national, or even local office - you may have this step done because it is usually a duty of your office. General members could write goal for their personal lives such as what they would like to accomplish this year – in five years and so on. This could be a small program or exercise at a local meeting!

Letter writing has become a lost art with the advent of long distance connections. We often find it much easier to pick up the phone and get immediate response. I'd encourage all of you to sit down and write a letter to a friend or family member. Let them know how you are doing. The catch is the letter must be a least 100 words in length. Just think how surprised and pleased your letter recipient will be at hearing from you. Newsletter articles are next in the list. This area can be completed by writing an article for your local or state newsletter. Any member can write an article for the Chapter Chatter. You could tell the state what your chapter has been doing in the last month. Most officers are required to write articles to promote their areas - whether they are local, state, or national officers. So this area could already be done!! There is always your local paper; you may want to write an editorial on a subject that's of importance to you or the local organization.

The last area to complete is writing an essay or short story. True to form Women of Today provides a venue for everyone to complete this area too! There are several options; there are Effective Writing Competitions at the State and National level. The State Competition is held at Winter Convention. There is a \$5.00 entry fee and the theme for the essay is "A Promise for Tomorrow". The National completion is in June with a \$5.00 entry fee. Also at the state level there is a "God in my Life" essay, which is held at Annual

Convention in May. The chaplain picks the theme and there is a \$5.00 entry fee. Hopefully we will have many entries to judge at each convention.

Now that I have provided you with some examples on how to complete each area, I hope to hear from many of you in the next couple of months. Remember to get a Leg Up with Effective Writing and Effective Speaking. I would also like to plug Women of Today Week. In September, please remember, to celebrate your local chapters accomplishments, friendships, and communities support your chapter gives to all. Happy Woman of Today Week

Lynn Ploeger  
"Getting a Leg Up  
with ES/EW"  
[jbl@kearney.net](mailto:jbl@kearney.net)



## Region Directors

### Region II

Hello There,

Let your fingers do the walking. Dial, type or write and I'll be there. The job of a region director is to serve. That's what I plan to do. Whether you need to talk, assistance in rebuilding a chapter or someone to educate and inform current members, I can be of assistance. We are ready and willing to do all that we can to help you reach your goals and to ensure that each person develops their own talents. So, Let your fingers do the walking- I'm waiting! Serving North Platte, Imperial, Benkelman and Wauneta

Cyndi Bahler  
[bahler@chase3000.com](mailto:bahler@chase3000.com)



### Region VI

Hello Ladies,

Region 6 celebrated Founder's Day on July 1, 2003 with a buffet dinner and melodrama at Mahoney State Park. Nine members from the Lincoln Chapter were joined by five members from the Heartland Chapter and State President Joyce.

A leisurely buffet dinner at the Mahoney Lodge was followed by the hilarious antics of the women of Region 6 and the Heartland members as they excelled at the fine art of 'popcorn throwing,' hissing and booing the bad guys, oohing and aahing the heroine and applauding the hero.

Up coming events for Region 6 will be a Nebraska Women in History presentation that will include a surprise activity and a breast cancer seminar that I hope will include a tour of a mammogram facility.

Judy Lukehart  
"Golden Treasures"  
[jijakacggd@nebrr.com](mailto:jijakacggd@nebrr.com)



## Convention Chairman

I would like to thank the Heartland ladies for putting on a very nice Summer convention. The Apple Inn was very quaint. They added many extra touches that made the weekend special for President Joyce's first convention.

Our next convention is October 17-18 in Benkelman. We will be staying at the Circle B Motor Lodge and the meetings will be at the local community center that is a couple of blocks from the Motor Lodge. The Benkelman ladies are assisting me with decorations and some of the food preparations. I invite you all to attend. The meetings

will be held Friday night and Saturday until around 3:00. Please go ahead and make the room reservation for your chapter if you plan on taking a care load out. The rooms will be held until two weeks before convention. I think it would be fun to have all the rooms filled up with just Women of Today. What a party we could have. A registration form is included in this issue and is also on the web site. If you have any questions please be sure to call me. I look forward to seeing many of you out west to enjoy our Harvest Time convention.

Terri Sherman  
[terrisherman@alltel.net](mailto:terrisherman@alltel.net)



## CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Greetings to you all,

I hope you have enjoyed your summer and are beginning to prepare for the fall happenings. I wanted to take this chance to remind everyone of the Chapter History form that was supplied in the Chapter Packets at Summer Convention in Nebraska City. Chapter histories are very important, and show all the changes that have taken place over the years. You should want to keep copies in your own chapter records. Remember, if you complete the history form for last year your chapter will receive a special incentive from me in Benkelman. If you complete the past 5 years of history, an added incentive will be given.

I also want to congratulate everyone again on the National Awards that were given in Nebraska City. I was very proud, during my visit to Pennsylvania, of all the great recognition given to the Nebraska Women of Today. Please keep up the good work. You are all a Work of Heart  
See you soon.

Kim Troutd  
"A Work of Heart"  
[troutd@charter.net](mailto:troutd@charter.net)



## Hall of Fame

Hello,

I am serving as Hall of Fame President this year. In case you don't know what Hall of Fame is I will give you the low down. Hall of Fame is a recognition program to honor women who have displayed a record of outstanding service and involvement within our organization. With this program you have the opportunity to recognize outstanding members in your chapter, and at the same time it will allow the Nebraska Women of Today to keep permanent records of these women as part of our heritage.

In order for a Women of Today member to be considered for this honor, several guidelines have been established as far as a candidate's qualifications:

- (1) must have been a four year member in good standing;
- (2) must have served one year on her local board or must have served one year on her state board; and
- (3) must have displayed a record of outstanding service and involvement.

To honor a member of your chapter you need to complete an application that can be found in your Guide For Action or on the Website under Member / Guide/ Hall of Fame / Form. If you have any problems printing the form please let me know and I can mail

you one. Each application must be accompanied by \$50.00 contributed by the sponsoring organization. Completed applications must be received by the Nebraska Women of Today Hall of Fame president at least 8 weeks prior to presentation date. Any applications received after the deadline will automatically be held until the next convention unless the chapter requests otherwise.

The deadlines for this year's meetings are:

August 22  
November 28  
March 5  
May 21

Is there anyone in your chapter that is deserving of being recognized as an outstanding member? If so start on that application today and we can recognize her yet this year.

Terri Sherman  
Hall Of Fame President

## GAVEL EDITOR

Ladies,

I want to wish everyone a Happy Women of Today Week! I hope everyone is enjoying the GAVEL this year, we are publishing fewer issues this year, however every effort is being made to insure that we are getting information out to the membership. We are offering the opportunity to every member, to receive the GAVEL via email, if you would prefer to receive it email, but are not yet on the email list please let me know. Just email me and I will add your name. You can of course continue to have it sent US mail, and it is also available to everyone on the Nebraska Women of Today Website, [www.nbwt.org](http://www.nbwt.org)

Articles for the next issue will be due on October 1, 2003

Angela Moody  
[angela-moody@cox.net](mailto:angela-moody@cox.net)



## Hello Nebraska Women of Today!

Have you read your National Newsletter?

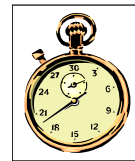
If you haven't taken time to sit and read the Today's Leader you may miss out on something if you don't. There are many things that you may learn or re-learn. There are promotions you could qualify for, there are reports about what is going on in United States Women of Today Organization, information about what upcoming events are happening and much more. Presidents of Chapters make sure you pass around your copy at your meetings; someone who you may not feel would not want to read it might. It's a good way to introduce new members to the national level and national staff.

As Secretary for USWT I have a Chapter Challenge going on, the Chapter with the most paid Subscriptions by Mid-Year will be receiving a gift and the Chapter at Year-End with the most paid Subscriptions will also get a gift. You can subscribe to the Today's Leader by sending me your information for mailing and what chapter you belong to, along with a check for \$15 made payable to USWT - memo line newsletter.

Also I want to hear what is going on across the nation, so Secretaries send me your minutes and newsletters. I have learned a lot by reading them as they come in. What a great organization we belong to, the many wonderful things each chapter and state brings to their community by having projects, programs, socials, and fundraisers. I

find new ideas each time I read a copy of submitted minutes or newsletters. Thank You!

As always, anything you need or have questions about contact someone on National staff that is what we're here for.



USWT Secretary  
Debbie Funsch  
**Tick Tock Stop The Clock  
I've Got Your Minutes**  
[secretary@uswt.org](mailto:secretary@uswt.org)

Hello!

I am now setting my "Hat" for our upcoming mid-year meeting. The certifications are coming in and I have heard from many of my state contacts. Mid-Year meeting is loads of fun, so I urge you all to try to attend. I would like to meet some of the ladies I have been in contact with through emails & snail mail. What a wonderful way to learn new ideas, meet new friends and connect with friends you haven't seen in awhile.

Focus on Women:

Have you certified in this area? Have a program at your chapter, district or board meetings. Some ideas for speakers are:

Physical Fitness	YWCA
Self-Esteem	Library - Read A Book Today
C.P.R. Classes	Mom Burn Out
Poison Control	Self Defense
Pamper Yourself	First Aid for Mothers

These can be fun and informing. Invite the community to join in.

This is a good way to get new members.

Chaplain:

Have you certified in this area? Do a church visitation as a chapter. Have a Fellowship Breakfast at a district or board meeting. Volunteer at a homeless shelter, clothing bank or women's crisis center. Participate in a prayer chain; this can be done as a chapter. Hold a family game night. These can be loads of FUN!



USWT Focus on Women/Chaplain PM  
Brenda S. Almoney  
[fowc@uswt.org](mailto:fowc@uswt.org)

GREETINGS: NEBRASKA Women of Today:

As US WT COB, I have discovered I have a "little" bit more time on my hands this year than last! Throughout last year, and over this summer, I have learned a LOT about the history of the US WT - and what a truly wonderful, growing organization it is. In order to remind you that YOU are the US WT, not just those on national staff, I thought it would be fun to run a little "Trivia" contest throughout the year. In this way you will, hopefully, learn more about the organization -- and become more "connected" to the organization at the "national" level. I hope to have some sort of trivia in "The Gavel" several times throughout the year. Everyone who sends me the correct address (either email or on a post-card) will receive a small incentive - and go into a drawing for a "special" award at Mid-Year and Year-End conventions.

This month's Trivia is: HOW MANY NEBRASKA MEMBERS HAVE SERVED ON NATIONAL STAFF (INCLUDING THIS YEAR)? (Extra points if you can name them!!)

Looking forward to hearing from many of you!!!

Michele Thompson  
US WT Chairman of the Board  
[thomp034@umn.edu](mailto:thomp034@umn.edu)

Congratulations! Nebraska Women of Today on your extension intents!!! Best Wishes to Wauneta on extending Summer, NE and to Heartland on extending Nebraska City. These are the two intents I have received so far this year.

If any other chapters are currently working on an intent from last year, please send me a new intent form with the updated information on it as soon as possible. WE are very excited to possibly be having 2 new stars added to the Nebraska Women of

Today and also to the US Women of Today. Maybe by Mid-Year???? Good luck and let me know if I can help in anyway.

Deb McTavish,  
US Extensions Director  
[d1mctavish@msn.com](mailto:d1mctavish@msn.com) or [extensions@www.uswt.org](mailto:extensions@www.uswt.org)

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### Convention awards

#### Membership

- Intents to Extend
- Heartland to extend Nebraska City
- Wauneta to extend Summer
- 100% Retention
- Fremont Area, Wauneta
- Region Director Fast Start
- Cyndi Bahler II
- Pamela England Region IV
- Deb Schauer Region V
- Judy Lukehart Region VI
- Chapter Orientations – Fremont Area
- Membership Chapter of the Quarter – Fremont Area

#### Programming

- Community Development – Heartland, Lincoln, Wauneta
- Leadership Training
- Board Retreat*
- Beatrice – Vickie Penner, Diane Lux
- Kearney – Jan Maaske, Lynn Ploeger
- Lincoln – Chapter Certification – Brenda Sanchez, Kelley Rosburg, Denise Deter

- Heartland – Chapter Certification – Maxine Turner, Cindy Urlacher, Angela Moody, Joyce Harpster
- National Convention*
- Leadership
- Maxine Turner, Joyce Harpster
- Personal Goal Setting
- Maxine Turner, Joyce Harpster
- Team Building
- Maxine Turner (2 courses)
- Roadrunner
- Maxine Turner
- MS - Lincoln
- Secretary
- Sent Plan of Action - Heartland, Lincoln
- Fast Start - Wauneta
- Founder’s Day Activity – Heartland, Lincoln, Wauneta, and Region VI
- Presidential Medallions
- Susan Barnes, Pamela England, Judy Lukehart, Kelley Rosburg, Maxine Turner

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### Chapter chatter/Friendship Corner

#### Heartland

We are very excited to announce the completion of the Nebraska City extension! The joy is mixed as we will be losing our State President Joyce, however she will be happy to have a chapter in her hometown again! We are also busy getting ready for our craft show at the AppleJack Festival as well as our plans for a great week of celebration for WT Week. We will be helping the Papillion Manor with the Grandparents Day county fair.  
Sonya Hurkman

Thank you Secret Sis for the wonderful gifts.  
Cindy Urlacher

I would like to thank my secret sis for the wonderful gift I received at convention. I couldn't have asked for a better combination for convention weekend. I really do appreciate all your thought and effort.  
Brandi Brown

**WELCOME NEBRASKA CITY  
WOMEN OF TODAY  
OUR NEWEST EXTENSION!**

**REMEMBER TO CELEBRATE WOMEN OF TODAY WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 21-27**

UNITED STATES WOMEN OF  
TODAY CREED

We The United States Women of Today,  
Are dedicated to serving  
our community and nation;  
Are committed to strengthening  
our individual talents;  
And stand united by our friendship



NEBRASKA WOMEN OF TODAY  
CREED

We believe that faith in God,  
gives meaning and purpose to human endeavor:  
that for every wrong, there is a right,  
for every foe, there is a friend;  
that listening to all, then searching for truth,  
and learning to lose, makes winning sweeter;  
for we work with our hands as well as our hearts;  
and we know as well the work that is done when