



THE GAVEL

Newsletter of
The Nebraska Women of Today
December 2002/January 2003

www.uswt.org



Dear Nebraska Women of Today,

Hope you all had a safe and happy holiday season. I also hope you have had some time to relax because we have lots of work to do this last quarter. I know that you are all staying very active in your communities and by doing so have probably certified in many of the programming areas, but I am not hearing about it. Please set your Women of Today new year's resolution to be taking some time to fill out paperwork and sending it to Cindy Urlacher or the proper program manager. We want more than anything to know what you are doing and to celebrate your accomplishments.

Membership is doing fine, but I know it can be better. I hope your chapter was able to help President Michele celebrate her 50th birthday by signing new members during the Fabulous Fifties drive in December. If you have not sent in the information for new members, please get it to Terri so we have an accurate count to send to the National organization.

Winter convention is fast approaching. Please plan on attending as the Lincoln Women of Today have a great weekend planned for us in York. Not only will we be crowning Nebraska's Outstanding Young Woman, but we will have USWT President Michele Thompson with us.

I am still looking to fill my calendar with trips to see each of you. Remember, one of my goals was to visit each chapter at least once, so please let me know when you are having an activity. I have tried getting in contact with some of you. Believe me, I understand how busy life is but please be in contact with me. I want to know, help, and share in all your chapter happenings because we are and always will be a "Work of Heart".

See you all soon!

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MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT

Happy Holiday's,

I hope you enjoy the holiday season with your families. You can put aside your Women of Today duties until January 2nd then we have to get busy again.

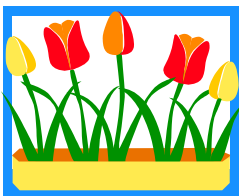
We started our year with a membership base of 173. After two quarters the state as of this writing is right back where we started from. So there are two quarters left for each chapter to either be back to base or grow. Most chapters don't have many due third quarter so you need to look ahead to fourth quarter and be sure to recruit new members if you already know that some will not be renewing. This is the only way for us to keep growing. Last year we had an outstanding year with membership. Have you kept those new members involved? Have they been to regular meetings? Have you talked personally to them since they joined. Right after the holiday's would be a good time to get back in touch with these members.

Our National President's birthday is December 18th. Because of this we are encouraging all chapters to hold membership drives in December. We want to give her the gift of 50 new members from across the nation. This will be called the "Fabulous Fifties Membership Drive". Please send in any new members that you recruit in December by January 2nd, or as you sign them, so I can report to Michele if we contributed to her birthday present.

Membership is not just about recruiting. We also need to remember to keep our members knowledgeable of Women of Today. Try to present an orientation at least every other month. Talk about programming areas, membership ideas, Make a Wish, Aid to Foster Children. You would be surprised that some of our members really don't know everything.

Remember membership is everyone's responsibility. Enjoy the holidays and invite someone to a meeting.

Terri Sherman
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Programming Vice President

Hello Ladies,

Merry Christmas and A prosperous Happy New Year. I have a few reminders. Remember Winter Convention in York will be on January 24-25. Also we will be having an Effective Speaking and Effective Writing competition, which is due to Lynn Ploeger by January 2nd. I would like to see lots of participation. The topic for this year is the State President's theme, which is "A Work of Heart". Guidelines can be found in the Guide for Action. Every Chapter President should have one, but if you can't get a hold of one call Lynn Ploeger. This is our Outstanding Young Women convention please come and meet the wonderful candidates that your chapters are bringing and as a bonus our National President Michele Thompson will be visiting.

It's still not too late to send in certifications. I would like to see our Programming team busy with paperwork. If you need ideas for Programs or would like someone to present one at a project or meeting, please call any State Board member or me. Verifications are slow this year so why not make it your New Year's resolution to turn in the paperwork. If you need any help with the paperwork I'm a phone call away, I would be happy to assist you. We need to see more STEP certifications, I know there are many out there, and you just need to fill out the paperwork. Remember to send your Road Runner miles in because I would like to present one to the Outstanding State Board Member, Outstanding Chapter President and Outstanding chapter member. I want to give these out because there are people out there visiting and traveling I just need to KNOW. Emphasis for month of February is MS. If any of your chapters participate during this month you will receive a special gift from me at Year End. This may be a little early, but the next Gavel won't be out until mid February. So Let's have a PAW'SITIVE NEW YEAR.

Cindy Urlacher
"Have A Paws itive
Attitude in Programming"
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Happy Holidays

Chaplain/focus on women/women in general program manager
Happy Holidays!

I just wanted to remind chapter members of the Family Week Award that will be presented at the January convention. This form needs to be postmarked to me January 1st. The form was in the President's packet from the fall convention. If you have any questions, please be sure to let me know. The award will be judged on merit, not on the form so it can be kept very simple. There are several exciting things ahead for FOW/WIG/Chaplain. There will be year-end awards including Outstanding Local Chaplain and a national FOW essay. I will be including more information in upcoming Gavel articles as well as in the winter convention packet. I hope that all chapters are continuing to hold WIG programs. Be sure and take a few moments to fill out the forms and send them in. January would also be a great time to have a "paper" night and fill out those Focus on Women certification forms and don't forget the National individual chaplain certification. If you start now, you can see what still needs to be done to certify yet this year.

Joyce Harpster
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LPA President
Hello Ladies,

Hope everyone is enjoying the holidays with your families. It is an easy time to put Women of Today on the back burner. I have not been receiving much from anyone in the state. I am sorry to report that but you can change it and get your Success Systems to me by January 1st. In the last issue was the fast start for the 3rd quarter. I look forward to seeing a few of those in my mailbox. We all need to Take Pride in What We Do! I will see you all in January at the OYW convention. If you would like for me to visit, let me know I would love to travel. Remember the Reason for the Season.

Brandi Brown
"Take Pride in What You Do!"
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REMEMBER WINTER OYW CONVENTION JANUARY 24-25, 2003!! AT THE YORK HOLIDAY INN

Parliamentarian
Ladies,

I hope every chapter is working on their Parliamentary Procedure Certification and their members are working on their Individual Certifications. If you have any questions, please contact me.

I can't believe we only have four months left of this year. I know some of our chapters are getting ready to set up a nominating committee to find candidates for offices. So this month, my article will be on "**HOW TO ELECT OFFICERS**", I hope this article will be very informative to all members. The first part of my article is *The Nominating Committee*. The first thing a nominating committee needs to do is to read their chapter bylaws to see how elections are run. A nominating committee may select candidates for offices. The committee should consider nominees who have demonstrated the abilities to handle the jobs for which they are nominated. In some cases the bylaws list special qualifications for office holders.

The nominating committee may be composed of outgoing officers or senior members because they should understand the duties required of the offices. The members of the organization must have faith in those selected for the nominating committee; otherwise, the suggestions of the committee will not be followed.

The second part of my article pertains to the *Additional Nominations*. It is not necessary to accept the report of the nominating committee. Nominations made by the committee are treated just as if made by members from the floor. The chairman must require if there are any further nominations. At this point the question of timing on the part of the chairman is rather important. Chairman must allow sufficient time for other nominations to be made yet not wait so long as to leave the impression, that the chairman doesn't know how to proceed. Neither the chairman nor the members must hurry this process. It is not necessary to have a motion to close nominations when only one name for an office is suggested. Two calls for additional nominations should be sufficient to insure that all who wish to make nominations should be sufficient to insure that all who wish to make nominations have had an opportunity to do so. If no additional names are suggested for an office, the chairman may announce, "The nominations are closed and shall proceed with the election."

This article is a two part series, next month I will cover the elections and closing of the nominations, voting and steps in making nominations and voting. I hope this article has been very informative and educational to you as members on Elections of new officers. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

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Region IV Director
Ladies,

Region IV chapters have been very busy these past months. We had two chapters participate in the Current Fund Raiser. We have two chapters working on fund raiser projects with craft items for a craft show that is running for a month in a local community. Some of our chapters are working in their communities providing a meal for their local Care Core (shelter), Ronald McDonald House, Christmas caroling at a nursing home and providing pies for a community Thanksgiving Day dinner for people that have no special place to go. We have several chapters planning an event so that their members receive some special pampering, such as a night out on the town and even one chapter is making plans for a slumber party for their members. Region IV is also planning a Region meeting for Saturday, January 11th. If any chapter outside of our Region would like to attend please contact me.

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Plant, Cultivate and Reap
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GAVEL EDITOR
Ladies,

Happy Holiday! Convention is right around the corner, you will find a convention registration form in this issue. I hope everyone will make a real effort to attend. We will be honoring an Outstanding Young Woman from our communities, as well as welcoming our National President

Michele Thompson, who is by the way a former Nebraskan!

The next GAVEL will be out in early February, the articles are due by February 1, 2003. Hope to see you all in January.

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United States Woman of today president
HOLIDAY GREETINGS to the NEBRASKA WT:

We are at the time of the year where we take time to give thanks for all we have, celebrate the freedoms we have, and make an extra effort to "touch base" with family and friends who are near and dear to us. One of the things I am most thankful for is my affiliation with the Women of Today.

I am thankful for the programming areas - which have helped me grow personally and achieve moments that I would never have thought possible. I am thankful for the volunteer opportunities that have helped me become more aware of my community - as well as the satisfaction of knowing how many people have been touched and helped by projects such as the Holiday Shop, Breast Cancer luncheon, fund-raising for Multiple Sclerosis et al. And most of all, I am thankful for ALL the new-found friendships I have made, many of them ones that will last far beyond my association with Women of Today. As National President I get to travel to the states to meet members one-on-one - and this has been very rewarding. It has only reinforced my appreciation of this organization - and brought added excitement and enthusiasm when I was sometimes slipping into a complacency that often strikes members.

As members of the Nebraska Women of Today, I am sure you understand what this organization can mean to any woman. Just take a minute to think of what your life would be like without this organization. . . . and more importantly think of all the benefits that your local community would be missing if not for the contributions of your local chapters.

Being thankful, though, is just the first step. It is important to (as my friends in Wisconsin say), "share the opportunity" of being a Women of Today. My sister was the one who initially signed me up - paying my first year's dues - before even telling me I was joining! I often give her a hard time about that -but I always add that it was the best gift she ever gave me. A gift of membership in the Women of Today is one gift that will always keep on

giving. And what better time to give such a gift than during this holiday season!!

I am one of those lucky (?) people whose birthday falls during this most joyous time. This year I will (ach!) be turning 50 on December 18th. By this age I pretty much have all the material things I could want - but YOU can give me a different type of gift - one that will mean more to you than me in the long run.

As part of the "Fabulous Fifty" promotion, I am asking that the US WT sign at least 50 new members during my Birthday/Christmas month. This is definitely do-able -- we have over 180 chapters nation-wide - so even if only a third of them sign one member each we will have fulfilled MY Christmas wish. However, if each chapter signed just one - we would DEFINITELY show growth - and think of those 180+ women whose lives will be so much more enriched!! Plus, WHEN Nebraska signs even one member between December 1st and 31st, you will make President Kim's year, since she will be one of the State President's to throw a pie in my face at Year-end convention in Pennsylvania next June! This can only happen, however, AFTER we sign at least 50 members in December! So, start your Christmas shopping early - be looking for those women who would benefit from our organization - and who your chapter would benefit from by having her as a member!.

Meanwhile, enjoy the holidays - and THANKS for sharing my belief that HAND IN HAND, TOGETHER WE CAN - - accomplish anything!!

Hand in Hand in Friendship
Michele Thompson, President
US Women of Today

USWT Marketing Committee

Homelessness? How often do you think about those people who are homeless? When they ask for money to get something to eat? During the holiday season when you want to do a good deed for the less fortunate? Or do you even think about the homeless? Have you considered that it could be you who has no place to live, no job, or nowhere to turn (at least that is what they think)? How can you help the homeless?

The USWT Marketing Committee and the York's Helping Hands for the Homeless, Inc., are teaming up to help the homeless in the York, Pennsylvania area as our Annual Convention Buckets of Sunshine project. We kicked off the project at our mid year meeting in October and are looking to have every chapter and state participate in helping the Helping Hands center.

How can you help? Monetary donations, gift certificates to Walmart, Kmart, etc., and more can be donated. The center gives out "Homeless Survival Kits" that would be easy for your chapter to put together. The care packs consist of travel sizes of shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste & toothbrush, comb or brush, socks, deodorant, soap, washcloth, and whatever else you want to include. Your chapter wouldn't need to put the whole kit together - you could donate parts of the kit if you wanted. Center volunteers go out looking for people to give these to. Donations of full size shampoos, soaps, toilet paper, and towels would also be used at the center as well. Donations of slightly used towels, blankets, and sleeping bags are needed as well as clothing. The Helping Hands Center receives no government funding to help them help the homeless. Any donations we give will be greatly appreciated.

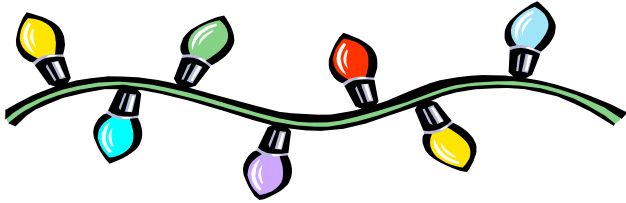
You don't have to wait until annual convention to make your donation. Anything you, your chapter, or state would like to donate can be sent at any time to the York's Helping Hands for the Homeless, Inc., 412 West King Street, York, PA 17404. They can be contacted at 717-846-9275 or emailed at yhelpinghand@blaze.net. If you are making a donation to this worthwhile cause, please fill out a Buckets of Sunshine Participation form and send to Deb McTavish so we can report all the good you are doing. If you have any questions on this or any other USWT Marketing Committee items, please contact Amy Pumper at AmyPumper@msn.com or 507-285-3177.

Chapter chatter

Beatrice

Greetings from all the ladies from Beatrice. We hope that all of you have a blessed holiday season. This season we helped bake turkeys and ring bells for the salvation army. Also make gifts bags for the people that live at the Homestead House where our meetings are held each month. At our meeting we had a cookie exchange. Good cookies!!!! Our chapter also participated in the Current fund raiser. Everyone have a Merry Christmas and we will see you in York next year!!

Diane Lux



Heartland

We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. We have had a busy December, we went caroling at a nursing home, baked and delivered cookies to the Ronald McDonald House, wrapped gifts at Oakview Mall for Make-A-Wish, and are planning our Christmas Party to be held in January since our December calendars are sooooo full.

Karen Gruber

Lincoln

Hello Ladies! I hope you all have a great Holiday Season. We will be doing our Buckets of Sunshine this month and participating in delivering MS Gift Baskets.

Denise Deter

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 so well the work that is done when
WOMEN OF TODAY work together as ONE!



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
and belief in the future.