



THE GAVEL

Newsletter of
The Nebraska Women of Today
December/January 2003-04

www.nbwt.org

www.uswt.org



Happy Holidays Nebraska Women of Today:

I hope that all of you have a happy and joyous holiday season. It seems that we get so busy that the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's just flies by. Enjoy your family and the wonder of this special time of year!

I hope that you all have been focusing on membership this month of December. We are currently in the middle of the December Birthday Promise and Birthday Blizzard. For every member that you sign this month your name gets put in to a drawing for two different prizes. Let's really make December a membership month to remember.

Our Winter/OYW Convention is right around the corner on January 23, 24 and 25, 2003 in Grand Island. As well as honoring Nebraska's Outstanding Young Women we will also be having a special guest, our National President, Karen Irwin. Make plans now to attend!! Lincoln Women of Today are planning a special weekend for us.

I would like to thank the chapters that have invited me to visit this year. I have enjoyed every visit and appreciate all of the hospitality. Please be sure to invite me to visit you!

I again wanted to remind everyone about Presidential Medallions. If there is someone that goes above and beyond in your chapter, please be sure to let me know so that special person can be recognized. There is a convention coming up - what a great time for a medallion to be awarded.

As always, I continue to be so proud to be serving as your state president this year. Keep up all of the good work that you do and thank you.

A Promise for Tomorrow,

Joyce Harpster
"A Promise for Tomorrow"
chefsmom2000@yahoo.com



MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT

Fellow Members,

Can you believe that we are half way through the 2003-2004 membership year? Has your chapter been working the Base +1 concept? Are we going to celebrate growth in Nebraska at our Annual convention in May? These are questions that only our members can answer and I hope each of you have answered yes to all three questions.

As you can see in the next three paragraphs that I have confidence in my fellow members – we will celebrate growth in Nebraska at year-end.

Yes, we are half way through the 2003-2004 membership year; we ended the six month period one member shy of our base. I believe this is an accomplishment in itself.

I hope each chapter is working on the Base +1 concept, as we have many chapters out there losing members. Remember, that Base +1 concept is to have one member over your chapter base that you started the year with. I hope everyone had a **Birthday Blizzard/Birthday Promises M-Night** during the month of December. Be sure to have your new members with their recruiters (special form in November V P Mailing) *postmarked* to me January 1st. I will have a special incentive for any chapter that held an M-Night in the month of December, so please send me an invitation or chapter article stating that you have done this, before January 1st.

Yes, we will be celebrating membership growth in Nebraska at our Annual convention in May. Now, we need to start planning our March Madness Membership Drive, watch the Chapter Packets from Winter Convention for more details.

We have two chapters that took the Membership Challenge to recruit ten new members as of April 30th. Many members took the membership challenge to personally recruit new members as of April 30th. How are we doing? Just a friendly reminder, that there will be a special incentive at year-end, for anyone that accomplishes these two challenges.

Remember, when we “work together as one” in the membership area, we can celebrate the “Rising” membership in our state.

Maxine Turner
“Raising Membership
Fun in the Sun”

maxtaj@yahoo.com



Programming Vice President

Hello Ladies,

I am sure that everyone is getting in the holiday spirit and busy shopping and decorating your houses. I hope you all have a great Christmas this year and enjoy your family. As many of you know, my sister lost everything

this past November from a trailer fire. It really helped me see that I am very blessed. So enjoy the holiday and remember the reason for the season.

Now for Women of Today, this has been a slow year for Programming in general. I know that everyone is busy and doesn't have a lot of time for other things. The paperwork for Women of Today is very easy. Most of the items you do in your everyday life. Just take a few minutes each month and go through them. I know that it can be overwhelming for people but it will make you a better-rounded person. If you have any questions or need forms, I am here for you. You can e-mail me or call me anytime. I am here to help.

Brandi Brown
“Let Freedom Ring”
bbrownpc@cornhusker1



Secretary

Happy Holidays,

I'm so excited at this time because this is my favorite Holiday. I just wanted to remind everyone that deadline for third quarter is January 1st. Please send information about what your chapters have done in the Public Relations Area for third quarter. The chapter who has promoted the most will be receiving a special incentive from me at Winter Convention. I would like to compile photos, chapter brochures and etc etc for year-end so I can make a Public Relations book of what all chapters do to promote the area of Public Relations. The examples that I receive from you, another chapter can see what to do to promote in their community. The number 1 promotion is Public Relations because the communities get to know who we are and that makes them interested in joining a organization that can do so much for you. Hope to see everyone at Winter Convention we are going to have so much fun.

Cindy Urlacher
" The Minutes of Our Lives"

curlacher66@msn.com



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

It's the most wonderful time of the year.... Not only because it is Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, but also because it is a great time to start thinking about the State Board position you would like to hold next year. At Fall Convention in Benkelman I included a chart of all the positions available in the chapter packets. Local Presidents, please be sure to share this information with you chapter. You can find more information on the process of elections in the Guide for Action or on the Nebraska Women of Today website (www.nbwt.org). If you have already decided

on the position in which you plan to run, announcements can be made at the close of the Business Meeting at Winter Convention in Grand Island. If you have questions concerning any of the positions or the elections process, please don't hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email.

We will be holding the Buy-a-Plaque program this year. The money received from individuals and businesses is used to purchase the necessary year-end plaques. Please begin thinking of those who might be interested in sponsoring a plaque. There will be further information in the chapter packets in January.

This is a fabulous time of year for the Nebraska Women of Today to be "A Work of Heart"
Hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season!

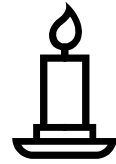
Kim Troutd
"A Work of Heart"
troutd@charter.net



Chaplain/Focus on Women/Women in General
Happy Holidays Nebraska Women Of Today!!!
I hope that each and every one of you have a very Happy Holiday. As you all know by now my Son is going to be deployed over seas, it has been very tough around here but I know it is going to get better. We just found out that he will get to come home for Christmas. We have been going to Lincoln to see him every chance that we get. So please keep us in your prayers as we know that his time is getting shorter to be in the States. Well enough of that Ladies, you all have been doing an outstanding job in my area, keep up the great work and keep sending me all of your Focus on Women, WIG, Family Time. Also you all know that next quarter is the quarter that you need to be thinking about writing an essay about God in my Life. If you have any questions about how long this needs to be you can call me or in your Guide for Action you will find all this information. Also don't forget about the National competition. The Topic for the National essay is "What Women past or present most influenced your life." The length of the essay should be 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 enclosed each copy in a binder or folder. I have been putting this in the gavel ever issue so you can think about what you would like to write so come on ladies get those thinking caps on and start writing. I am going to try to go to convention but if it happens to be the same time that my son is shipped out I will not be there. I hope every will understand but the Army is a waiting game and the dates change all the time. So everyone have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year may God Bless you.

Vickie Penner
God is the Light of the World

penney2@web-unwired.com



AID TO FOSTER CHILDREN .WISH PROGRAM MANAGER

I hope you all had happy holiday's and took time to reflect on all the things that you have been blessed with. Some of you may have seen this article in the Today's Leader under External Programming Manager, Connie McDonald. This is what the article said: Did you know that you could support the National MS Society when you purchase items on e-Bay? E-Bay has chosen the National MS Society as one of seven nonprofit organizations to pilot its new "Giving Works" this fall Sellers can use the giving too to earmark 20-100% of proceeds from the sale of specific items as a gift to the society. For more information you can contact Laura Uzzle, director of Corporate Development for the National MS Society at 303-813-6638. For more on the e-Bays charity program , visit www.ebay.com/charity. Also another source of information on MS is www.msuniversity.com.

My new Aid to Foster Children challenge for November and December was to give a penny for each relative that you saw on Thanksgiving and Christmas. I want to thank you for all the checks that were passed on by Joyce from the last quarter. All of you should be very proud of yourself. Remember that "I need ewe" to keep the money coming in.

Peggy Doering

Peggy_Doering@beatrice.k12.ne.us



Effective Writing and Effective Speaking Effective Writing and Effective Speaking Competitions

State Level:

Writing and Speaking Topic---- "A Promise for Tomorrow"

Deadline: Postmarked by Jan. 1, 2004

Writing: 300 to 600 words in length.

Speaking: at least 5 minutes long.

Cost: \$5.00 # of Copies: 3 Each

Copy needs to have a cover sheet. This can be found on page 50 in the Guide for Action (revised 10/14/01).

National Level

Effective Speaking Topic--- "What was the outcome of your complete MAKEOVER in Women of Today"

Length: 4 to 6 minutes Needs to attend National Convention.

Cost: \$5.00 Deadline: May 1, 2004

Effective Writing Topic--- "What do I need to do to improve my PE Makeup?"

"Length: 600-800 words Does not require attendance at National Convention.

Cost: \$5.00 Deadline: May 1, 2004

Both competitions require 3 copies and a cover sheet for each copy.

Lynn Ploeger
"Getting a Leg Up
with ES/EW"

jbl@kearney.net



SUCCESS THROUGH ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION

Happy Holidays to Everyone---

It seems like forever since I have seen everyone. I do hope that everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving and that you will all enjoy a Happy Holiday season.

Now down to business. I am sooooo excited. I finally received more STEP certifications. I can actually give away some awards at convention in January. We now have 3 STEP III certifications and 2 STEP I. I do hope that everyone that has not looked over the certification forms do so, and each month fill out the additional lines that you have accomplished in the past month. Like I have said in the past, please call me or email me if you have any questions about anything. I would like to see a few more certifications before the end of the year. I know we have all been busy, but sometimes that paperwork gets to us. Believe me, I am the worst. Again, if you need the forms, please contact your chapter president as I did stuff all the forms in the chapter packets at the last convention so everyone would have updated forms.

Well, I do hope to make it to the next convention as long as the weather holds out. It would be nice to have a snowless convention weekend just once. Again, from my family to yours, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Diane Lux

bl30428@alltel.net



Outstanding Young Woman Ladies,

Well, OYW convention is just around the corner, and with the hubbub of Christmas upon us, it will be here before we know it. As of now I have received one candidate. Because of this I am willing to extend the deadline to the end of this month. Dec. 31st. I know you all have deserving women in your groups or in your community that would benefit from this competition. Remember that by nominating a woman for this honour you are giving them an experience that they might not

have otherwise. Imagine the burst of self-confidence that being chosen as The Outstanding Young Women could bring to someone! What a gift! What an honour! Look around you and note the women that deserve this kind of award, as well as the women who might need it! I look forward to hearing from individual chapters, and be sure to contact me if you have any questions! Roses come in a kaleidoscope of colours!

Brenda Sanchez

bsanchez@inebraska.com



Region Directors

Region II

In the midst of all the hustle and bustle, take time to tell your fellow Women of Today members how much you care. The best gift you can give is of yourself and that is what we are all about. May you start your new year fresh and revived. Region 2 will be busy wrapping up things for 2003 and planning bigger and better things for 2004 I am sure. Please remember we too wish to give of ourselves and share in our knowledge and passion for Women of Today. Contact your Region director today and set up some training, visits or socials in the upcoming year. Bless you all. May you receive all you give and more.

Cyndi Bahler

bahler@chase3000.com



Convention Chairman

The Lincoln Women of Today want to invite you to attend Winter Convention at the Grand Island Interstate Holiday Inn, 1-800-658-4092. The registration form can be found on the Nebraska Web Site.

www.nbwt.orgOutstandingYoung

Women competition will be held that weekend and we will have several National officers in attendance. The registration fee is: \$33 early and \$37 late registration. See the form for individual ticket costs. Early registration is due January 10th, 2004.

We hope you can come to Grand Island and share in our Kalidescope of Dreams. If you have questions you may call me.

Terri Sherman

terrisherman@alltel.net



GAVEL EDITOR

Ladies,

I hope you all are having a safe and joyous holiday season. This is the last issue before Winter Convention so please read each article carefully for information you may need before Convention. Thank you to all the officers who submitted articles. The next GAVEL articles will be due on February 1, 2004! Wow how

time flies... I am looking forward to seeing you all in January at Winter Convention. The registration form included in this issue. See you all in Grand Island!

Angela Moody

angela-moody@cox.net



Chapter chatter/Friendship Corner

Beatrice

We would like to welcome to the fold Nebraska City and Highway 40 at Summer. May you have great success in your chapter. Beatrice has kind of sad news as we had our annual craft fair in November but it was our last. It has been a wonderful fund-raiser for us over 20 years but the last several have not been too successful. We will be looking for some new ideas. At the November meeting members had a potluck supper and plan to put together goody bags for the folks that live at our meeting place, the Carstens Gardens at the December meeting. Also a cookie exchange is planned for that night. Last but not least our hearts go out our member Vickie Penner as her son is being deployed.

Diane Lux

Heartland

We have had a busy fall and are not slowing down. We celebrated Family Week in November and in December we collected coloring books for Kids in the Hospital at Christmastime, as well as caroling at the Nursing Home, we decided that on a couple of the songs it would have been a good thing for the residents to turn off their hearing aids. We are planning our Christmas party for January after the holiday rush. We also had an M-Night to celebrate President's Joyce's Birthday and have a new member! Welcome Kim!

Sonya Hurkman

Kearney

Dear Ladies,

The Kearney women have a lot going on at this time of year. We will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army, donating to the Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Dinner, and setting up and decorating a tree for the Annual Trails And Rails Tree Walk. We

are also having a M-Night in December, with a theme of "Death-by-Chocolate"

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to All!

Roberta Wiles, President

Wauenta

Merry Christmas to everyone. Our chapter is staying busy. We handed out glow necklaces on Halloween and are planning to have a Christmas movie in December. We had 9 members attend Fall Convention. Thanks Benkelman. We are looking forward to a new year.

Sunni Nordhausen

Nebraska City

Nebraska City Women of Today have completed our first fundraiser – selling Baker's Candles. We also celebrated Family Week with dinner at Valentino's with our family. We had our Christmas Social in combination with our business meeting. We have nine members now with a couple making plans to attend Winter Convention in Grand Island.

Joyce Harpster

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone that helped with my sister's fire. By donations of items, money and prayers. This was a hard time for my family. But my sister is doing very well and would like to let you all know that she appreciates all the support. It is nice that Women of Today is such a great support when you need it.

Thank you again.

Brandi Brown

Lincoln Chapter

Kaleidoscope of Dreams

Nebraska Women of Today Outstanding Young Women Winter 2004 Convention January 23-24, 2004

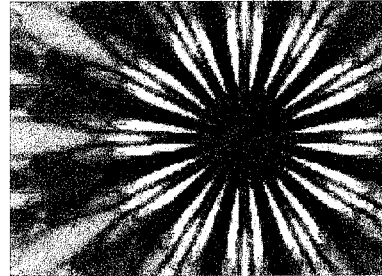
Tentative Agenda

FRIDAY EVENING:

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 7:45 - 8:15pm | REGISTRATION |
| 8:00pm | EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING |
| 8:30pm | STATE BOARD MEETING |
| 9:30pm | FUTURE DIRECTIONS |
| 10:30pm | HALL OF FAME |

SATURDAY:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 7:45 - 9:45am | REGISTRATION |
| 8:00am | L.P.A. MEETING |
| 9:30am | BUSINESS MEETING |
| 12:00pm | AWARDS LUNCHEON |
| 2:00-4:00pm | SEMINARS |
| 6:00pm | SOCIAL HOUR |
| 6:30pm | BANQUET |
| 9:30-12:00pm | COLORS OF THE RAINBOW PARTY |



Interstate 80 Holiday Inn – Grand Island
Reserve your Room before January 10, 2004
Rates \$54.95 – One Person, \$5.00 each additional person in room
1-800-658-4092

Name _____ Chapter _____

Registration

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Early | | Late | |
| Business Meeting | \$4.00 | Business Meeting | \$4.00 |
| Luncheon | \$13.00 | Luncheon | \$15.00 |
| Banquet | <u>\$16.00</u> | Banquet | <u>\$18.00</u> |
| TOTAL | \$33.00 | | \$37.00 |

Registrations are due by January 10, 2004

Make checks payable to Lincoln Women of Today

Mail to Terri Sherman
5210 Deer Ridge Drive
Eagle, NE 68347-7018
(402) 780-5330 (home)
(402) 441-2823 (work)

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