



THE GAVEL

Newsletter of
The Nebraska Women of Today
February 2003

WWW.NBWT.ORG

www.uswt.org



Hi everyone,

Thanks so much to everyone who attended convention in York. I came away full of excitement and I hope you did too. We were honored to have President Michele, Extensions Director Karen Irwin, and a very enthusiastic Minnesota member, Cathy Newville with us to celebrate our 3rd quarter accomplishments as well as to honor our newly crowned Nebraska Outstanding Young Woman, Jennifer Koetter from Omaha. Karen presented a very informative seminar on Extensions, and it is in the plans for Nebraska to finish the Grand Island extension before the end of this year. We also enjoyed a Stampin' up demonstration by Kevin Thiesen from Hastings. He showed us the basic techniques of rubber stamping and helped us make special valentine cards. They even included chocolate. YUM!!

Congratulations to all the award winners and medallion honorees. A complete listing of the award winners can be found later in this issue. I hope we see more winners at Annual Convention in May. I know we are each very deserving.

March Madness is upon us and will be here before we know it. I hope it is in your plans to host an M-night during the month of March. If you haven't named a chairperson or set up a committee, now is the time. Make sure you get your invitations out at least one week prior to the event so reminder calls can be made. Please send me an invitation as well. I will definitely make the effort to be there.

National Volunteer Recognition Week is the last week in April. The chapter packets from convention have information on how to hold a successful recognition event. The Public Relations ideas are very helpful. April is also the emphasis month for Multiple Sclerosis. Cindy Urlacher, Programming Vice President, has lots of information on activities coming up. Contact her for more information.

Since this year is coming to a close, now is the time to consider filing for an office either on the local level or state level. Holding office is very rewarding. I am sure each and every one of you is very capable of offering leadership to your local chapter or the state organization. The duties of the offices and program managers are printed in the Guide for Action. If you need additional information or have questions please don't hesitate to contact Jan Maaske, myself, or any of the other State Board members. We are always here to help.

We have done very well in serving our communities this year. Let's end the year with a bang. Please let me know what you are up to in 4th quarter. I want to give the recognition that is due at our Annual Convention.

As always, the ladies of the Nebraska Women of Today, you are "A Work of Heart". Keep up the good work.



Kim Troutd

President

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MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT

What If...

What if you had an organization in your community devoted to:

- Connecting women with each other to gain supportive friendships
- Your personal and professional development
- Making the world a better place by working together

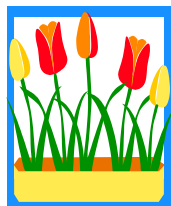
What if you could help make this happen in your community?

You Can!

Each of you has this because you already belong to Women of Today. Take a few minutes to remember why you joined. What has your local group done to make a difference in your community? Maybe it is visiting your local nursing home to brighten the faces of your elderly friends. Maybe it was presenting a scholarship to a bright girl that is heading off to college. Maybe it was running the local Easter Egg Hunt. I'm sure each of you can think of a good reason to be in Women of Today. I have been a member in two different communities and have lasting memories of many activities that Made A Difference.

Third quarter has ended and fourth will start soon. Many of you will be asked to renew your membership this quarter. I hope you

find that another year of membership will be another year that YOU Make a Difference in your community and to yourself. It is time to renew your enthusiasm for Women of Today. If you haven't attended a meeting for awhile, invite a friend and make a point of going in February or March. Get back in the swing of things. Your Community and the Nebraska Women of Today will be glad you did.



Terri Sherman
Let's Keep Growing
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Programming Vice President

Hello Ladies,

This is the last quarter so now is the time to certify. During your meetings please check to see who has certified and see who is missing. Because there is the Outstanding Achievement in Programming Award on National, that you may qualify for. Also, look at your goals that you have written for the year. Are you close or are you right on? This is just a little reminder, but MS is the emphasis month for February, in the chapter packets I put together information to help you do a program etc. This quarter I decided not to do a Fast start since I'm having no participation. I've decided to do something fun. Chapters who do anything for Emphasis month for MS please send me information of what you did, and I will put you in a drawing, the winner will receive a party pack. Good luck to you. I would like to end this quarter with a bang.

Also I have a new email address curlacher66@msn.com it is almost the same as before, just add the 66. Another reminder is that STEP Emphasis month is March. Please look over the material that Karen has compiled in the Chapter packets. Let's have a smashing 4th quarter



Cindy Urlacher
"Have A Paws itive
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WWW.NBWT.ORG

WWW.NBWT.ORG officially went online at 3:47pm on February 1, 2003. There are many things to do yet, but a lot of information has been placed on the site.

NBWT.ORG is designed first as a recruiting tool. When speaking to potential members, have them visit the site. There is an ABOUT page where they can learn about the organization. There is a JOIN US! page where they can request a packet of information on joining a local chapter, or starting a chapter of their own. When someone requests an information packet, that request will be passed to the local chapter president.

The MEMBERS page is designed for you. This will be where most of the organization's information will be kept. If you need the email address of an officer, it will be there. If you need a form to submit for hosting a convention, it will be there. If you can't find what you need on the MEMBERS page, contact someone on the website committee or send an email to the webmaster.

The hosting service we have selected allows for unlimited sub-domains. This means that your local chapter can have their own website for free without those annoying popup ads. Your chapters website address will look like this: your chapter.nbwt.org. You can design your own website or the webmaster can do it for you. There is a small charge to have the webmaster do your site, log-on to the site for more details.

The hosting service for NBWT.ORG also allows us unlimited email addresses. This means you can have an email address of 'yourname@nbwt.org'. A request form will soon appear on the MEMBERS page so you can request your own email address. As new services come on-line at NBWT.ORG, an announcement will be placed on the home page under New Services.

The website committee consists of Brandi Brown, Terri Sherman, Jan Maaske, and Angela Moody. They will oversee and approve all content submitted for the website. If there are improvements or additions to the site that you would like to see, contact one of these members, or click 'WEBMASTER' on any page of the site and send an email.

secretary

Happy winter!

I think it has finally arrived. At least it has in Iowa.

I hope each local secretary has received the Secretary/PR information from the Chapter Packet. Not only is there some good information about PR, but there are a few challenges that I hope you take on and submit to me by April 1, 2003.

Hey presidents, there is also a form to submit for Outstanding Local Secretary. I know each one of you thinks your secretary does a great job, so nominate her for this award and let her know you appreciate her hard work.

I am planning an award for Outstanding March Madness activities, so I hope your plans are in the making for a Guest Night. Once your event has taken place, drop me a note and let me know what you did and how everything went.

Thanks for your efforts in promoting our organization. If I can assist you with anything please let me know. Happy Valentine's Day!!

Kim Troutd

troutd@harlannet.com

Treasurer

Many thanks to those of you who supported the Nebraska Women of Today through the purchase of ways & means products from the State Store at Winter Convention in York. Over \$100 worth of products were sold (an all time record for the past two years). There were four new products introduced, which were very well received:

A combination black ink pen/pink highlighter, with clip. Color-blue, with NE Women of Today printed on the side.

Logo magnets – Multi-colored NE Women of Today logo.

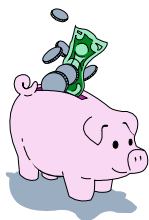
Window "clings" – NE Women of Today logo on clear "cling" plastic, reusable.

Nebraska Women of Today Notepads – 3” x 6” size, colors- pink & yellow.

We still have several other products available, many of which have been reduced in cost. Please check out the Nebraska Women of Today website for an order form. If you purchase products at convention and they don't have to be mailed, the shipping fee does not apply.

Attention State Board members!!! If you wish to use State Store products for incentives, just email me your order one week prior to convention and I will bag it up for you and charge the amount to your office from the State Budget (assuming you have any budget left). If any officers need an updated budget (as handed out at convention), let me know and I can email or snail mail you a copy!

I hope to see many more of you at our Annual Convention in May, but for now focus on March Madness and recruit those new members!!!



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Chaplain/focus on women/women in general program manager

Hello ladies!

We are just starting 4th quarter and the end of the year will be here before we know it! Our year-to-date statistics in Chaplain/FOW/WIG are:

Beatrice has had 13 WIG programs; Lincoln has had 6 WIG programs and has 5 members certify in FOW; Wauneta has had 1 WIG program; Heartland has had 1 WIG program, 2 have certified in FOW and 1 certification in USWT Chaplain; and Fremont has had 1 WIG program. As you can see we have had some certifications and programs but there is plenty of time to make these numbers outstanding. If you need any help with any area, just let me know.

In the president's packet from convention I included information on the God in My Life Essay. This award is presented at annual convention and is due postmarked April 1, 2003. Please ask your local president for more information.

I also included information on the Local Chaplain award due postmarked April 1, 2003. There is also information on the USWT Focus on Women Essay contest. I received some information in the mail today from Dora the USWT National Chaplain. She will be having an incentive for all who certify in FOW through March.

Please ask your chapter president for any information in any of these areas and I will be reminding everyone again about these upcoming opportunities.

Keep up the good work and congratulations to all those who have certified so far.



Joyce Harpster
"Hearts and Angels"
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Nebraska City,



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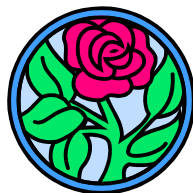
chefsmom2000@yahoo.com

Outstanding Young Woman Program Manager

OYW Candidates and their Chapters:

Thanks for your interest and your time in promoting the Outstanding Young Women Program. Thanks to the chapters for their wonderful nominations and thanks to the two candidates for their enthusiastic participation, I hope that both of them enjoyed the weekend. I enjoyed meeting Brenda and Jennifer. I can see why they were nominated, both are a credit to their communities.

I hope that next year there will be even greater support for the program. So I want to ask all chapter to remember to put OYW participation on their plan of actions for the upcoming year. Thanks for letting me be your OYW Program Manager this year.



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Effective Speaking/Effective Writing Program Manager

Hi to Everyone

Last quarter I didn't hear from too many of you ladies. I am hoping to remedy that this last and final quarter of the 2002-03 year. Remember there are many of you who have not certified in either Effective Writing or Effective Speaking. These are very easy certification and would like to see more during fourth quarter. Look in the Guide for Action for the forms.

If you want to compete, you missed out at the State Level, but still can on the National Level.

Effective Writing topic-----

"How I became a Healthier me with Personal Enrichment"

Deadline for Entry, Posted Marked by May 1, 2003

Effective Speaking topic-----

"How I have Harvested the Best Crop in Women of Today"

Deadline for entry, June 13, 2003 (Friday of Convention)

Here's to having fun with ES/EW. Hope to hear from you soon.



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LPA President

Hello Ladies,

WOW! What a great convention! I had so much fun and I hope you all did too. The Success System was discussed at Future Directions and it was decided to keep it the same. I would like to stress that if you don't care about the ribbon, remember this is

your communication between the local and the state organization. The state needs to know what you are doing in your chapters.

Remember when I keep asking you to invite me to travel. Well, I haven't received any invites. So I took it upon myself to call and make the arrangements. I will be visiting Sterling, Beatrice, Heartland, Hastings, and Fremont Area this month. So I will see a lot of you soon.

Flag Etiquette

The U.S. Flag should never be used as a table cover or receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.

The U.S. Flag should never have placed upon any part of it, nor attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.

The U.S. Flag should never be used as a ceiling cover.

The U.S. Flag should never be used as drapery, never festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds. It should always be allowed to fall free. Bunting should be used for decoration.

Blue, white and red bunting should be used for covering a speaker's stand, draping a platform front or for general decorations. Such bunting should always be arranged with the blue above, white in the middle and red below.

When bunting is displayed vertically, the blue will be to the observer's left, white in the center and red on the right.



Brandi Brown
"Take Pride in
What You Do!"
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Parliamentarian

Ladies,

Please find the second part of my two part series on "How to Elect Officers". In my last article I had covered the *Nominating Committee* and *Additional Nominations*. This article I will cover the *Election by Acclamation* and next month I will cover *Closing Nominations*.

There is a great deal of confusion concerning the common practice of moving "that nominations cease and that we elect by acclamation." This confusion undoubtedly arises from the fact that there are several things wrong with this motion.

In the first place, the motion is unnecessary. If only one name is suggested for an office, the chairman may proceed with the election without a motion from the floor.

Second, the motion frequently is used in an attempt to prevent other names from being suggested for an office. It is definitely out of order when it is used to interfere with the rights of any member to make a nomination.

Third, the motion is a double motion. To close nominations a two-thirds vote for adoption. To elect requires a simple majority. A counted vote should be taken for motions requiring a two-thirds vote; otherwise, how can the chairman determine if two-thirds of the members are in favor of the motion? To vote by acclamation merely means to vote by voice. The word "acclamation" does not mean unanimous.

The chairman can do one of two things when this motion is offered. If it is made with apparent intent to keep other names

from being presented, it should be declared out of order. If it is made in good faith, the double nature of the motion should be explained and a vote on each part should be called for separately. The chairman may say, "The motion to close nominations and elect by acclamation appears to be a double motion requiring a two-thirds vote. To elect requires a simple majority. We shall vote on each part separately. Those in favor that nominations be closed, please raise your right hands." If the motion carries by two-thirds, the chairman may now say, "Those in favor of Cindy Smith for president, please say 'aye'. Those opposed, please say 'no'."

If the motion is made with the apparent intent to prevent other nominations, and if it is not declared out of order, a member may rise to a point of order and insist upon his right to make a nomination. If the member is overruled, the decision of the chair may be appealed. If the member loses the appeal, she may call for a division after the vote has been taken. If the division shows that two-thirds are in favor of closing nominations, the member has exhausted his parliamentary privileges. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.



Maxine Turner
Give Parliamentary
Procedures a SHOT!
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Happy Valentine's Day!

GAVEL EDITION

Ladies,

Can you believe it's forth quarter already?? Where has the year gone? I hope everyone is enjoying the Gavel and finding it informative. I welcome any suggestions that will make this publication better for our members. Email me or call anytime, with suggestions or if you have any problems receiving your issue. I think we should be very proud that our state newsletter goes to every member of Nebraska Women of Today.



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United States Woman of today president NEBRASKA WT:

Thank you for a very fun, rewarding weekend! Being a "Cornhusker" at heart, visiting Nebraska is always like coming home - and what a homecoming it was! The Outstanding Woman candidates were both very committed, deserving ladies and it was a very difficult decision. The discussions held, especially during the Future Directions meeting, was very enlightening. It appears Nebraska is struggling with some of the very same issues our other states are - and working hard to find a

solution. The "brainstorming" that went on at the meeting was very productive.

Hopefully, after Karen Irwin's forum on extensions, and Kim having everyone contribute at least five community names -- Nebraska will become active in the "extension" race -- after all, you are such a wonderfully fun, committed bunch - who wouldn't want to join you!?

The hospitality that weekend was super; the gifts will be cherished (and yes, my little "angel" is still in one piece and has recovered nicely from her trip to the "angel hospital"!!) Also, I will definitely practice my drawing techniques before my next trip to Nebraska!!

Thanks for a wonderful visit - and your continued commitment to our organization. It appears you have a terrific slate of officers lined up for next year -- all of whom should be well aware of what a supportive state they have to work with! Remember, we still have at least two months left this year - plenty of time to raise those funds, complete those projects, complete certifications - and participate in the year-end competitions!

Michele Thompson

USWT President
thomp034@umn.edu

USWT Annual Bucket of Sunshine

York's Helping Hands for the Homeless, Inc., help the homeless in the York, Pennsylvania area. This is our USWT Annual Convention Buckets of Sunshine project. How can you help? Monetary donations, gift certificates to Walmart, Kmart, etc., can be donated. The center gives out "Homeless Survival Kits" The Helping Hands Center receives no government funding to help them help the homeless. Any donations we give will be greatly appreciated. Anything you, your chapter 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 Kim Troutd, so we can report all the good you are doing. If you have any questions on this please contact Kim Troutd.

Chapter chatter

Beatrice

Four members attended convention and enjoyed the programs in the afternoon. Had fun making the cards. At the January meeting we had a speaker inform us on the Women's Health Initiative. The up coming project will be playing bingo with folks at the Parkview Center for St. Pat's day. February meeting we plan to go out and eat a bite or two just because.

Diane Lux

Heartland

We have changed our meeting nights to the 2nd Tuesday of the month in hopes of getting better attendance at meetings. We had our Christmas Party in January and it worked out sooooo well, we have decided to miss the holiday crunch, and hold it in January every year! At our meeting we raised a little money, and had a lot of fun, with our White Elephant Sale. (Only Sonya knows the "true" meaning of White Elephant!)

Karen Gruber

Secret Sister Messages

Dear Secret Sis:

Thank you so much for the bag of "goodies" from convention. I love the Noah's Ark print and clay creation, book, note pads and of course my Hot Tamales. Thanks again -- you are the best!

Joyce Harpster

was there at convention... Upon further enjoyment of the candy I discovered her! I can hardly wait until Annual convention so I can thank you in person. Thanks again.

Angela Moody

To My Secret Sis;

Thanks for the gifts all year, I have really enjoyed them. Special thanks for the surprise "Angel" in my candy tin! I didn't know it

Secret Sis,

Thanks so much for the wonderful gifts all year! I am always excited to see what I will receive next.

Cindy Urlacher

Winter Convention Awards

Programming Chapter of the Quarter -

Beatrice

WIG Certifications

Beatrice -- Vickie Penner, Wauneta Kempf, Connie Reiber, Dixie Wright.

FOW Certifications

Heartland -- Maxine Turner

Lincoln -- Terri Sherman, Sue Johnson,

Kelley Rosburg.

US Chaplain Certifications

Heartland- Kim Troutd

LPA Success System Participation

Beatrice & Heartland

First and Last to Register for OYW Convention (TIE)

Lynn Ploeger and Jan Maaske
Presidential Medallions
Brenda Sanchez -Lincoln
Sue Johnson- Lincoln
Brandi Brown- Lincoln
Terri Sherman-Lincoln

Kelley Rosburg-Lincoln
Denise Deter-Lincoln
Maxine Turner-Heartland
Karen Gruber-Heartland
Joyce Harpster-Heartland
Angela Moody-Heartland

Cathy Newville-Minnesota
Peggy Doering-Beatrice
Lynn Ploeger-Kearney
National Pins/Medallions
Cyndi Bahler -Wauneta
Kim Troudt-State President

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.