



THE GAVEL

Newsletter of
The Nebraska Women of Today
March 2003

WWW.NBWT.ORG

www.uswt.org



Hello Ladies,

We are in the final stretch to the end of another great Women of Today year. I know that with all the things we have planned in the next couple of months the year will end with a BANG in May.

March Madness is here!!! Please host an M-night with an exciting theme. Believe it or not, sometimes the theme brings people. Remember the Field of Dreams? "Build it and they will come." I can't agree more. For us to continue to build the organization we need new people with new ideas. When sending invitations make sure to include me. If I am available I will do my best to be with you. I know Terri Sherman, Membership Vice President, is as excited as I am to hear from you with all those new members. Please don't get too wrapped up in new membership though and forget RETENTION of current members. 4th Quarter is a huge renewal quarter for Nebraska. Let's see 100%.

Chapter elections should be on every chapter agenda in the next month. Have you decided what you want to be yet? If not, ask your current local president to see the listing of office descriptions available in the Guide for Action. If you have served often locally, I encourage you to take the next step and serve on the State Board. It is a great experience. I know each of you have great skills that benefit the Nebraska Women of Today. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me or any other state board member. We are here to help you grow in your Women of Today experiences.

The deadline for all year-end awards is fast approaching. Please make sure that you have sent in all your certification forms and Outstanding Officer forms to the appropriate Program Managers or Vice Presidents by **April 1**. A great way to get those forms done is to complete them together. We Women of Today love to socialize and eat right?!? Why not get together to socialize, eat, and complete paperwork?!? It only takes a few minutes once you get started.

April is also the month for National Volunteer Recognition Week and the start of MS walks around the state. National Volunteer Recognition week is April 27-May 3. Now is a great time to start planning how you will recognize the volunteers in your community. Remember, MS is the United States Women of Today priority program and since April recognizes volunteers, why not volunteer to walk or work at a local MS Walk. For more information on MS contact Cindy Urlacher, Programming VP.

Make sure your calendar is marked for the Nebraska Women of Today Annual Convention, May 2- May 4 in Columbus. I am personally extending you an invitation to help us CELEBRATE our successes and HONOR our Past State Presidents.

Let's work extra hard these last few weeks to prove to ourselves that we have many things to be proud of in the Nebraska Women of Today. Believe me, I am proud of us, and I know we are all "A Work of Heart".



Kim Troudt
President
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MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It's already fourth quarter! That means our membership year is just about at a close. Time to be thinking about what you have accomplished this year. Did you invite a guest to a meeting or social? I hope so. If not, it's not too late. Why not do it at your March or April meeting. Maybe your chapter is having a guest night. I'm sure you know someone that would like to be a part of this great organization.

Step 1 – make a list of people you know

Step 2 – ask them to an event

Step 3 – call them the day before the event to remind them you are picking them up and tell them what the dress code for the event is

Step 4 – pick them up for the event

Step 5 – sit with them and be sure to introduce them to others

Step 6 – be sure to ask them if they wish to join

Step 7 – pick them up for the next 3 meetings

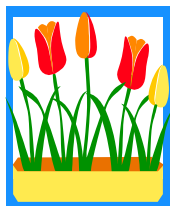
If your guest does not join that night be sure to invite them again. Most guests don't join the first time they are invited. Usually on the third or even the fourth time. So think back to those that you have taken before and ask them again.

One suggestion to entice a guest to join is to tell those that want to join that night that if they do their names would be put in a drawing. Only put in the names of those that join, and the prize to be their first year of membership paid. Then you give them back their check.

Our chapter is trying a new guest night idea that Karen Irwin, the US Extension Director, suggested when she visited us in January. It is called "Get Mugged". The idea is for every guest to bring a mug filled with something. Could be: mug with coffee, mug with tea, soup mug

with soup mix, mug with ice cream scoop and can of soda for a float. Use your imagination. Then use the mugs for prizes for the games you will play. Have a couple of extra's ready in case a guest doesn't bring one.

If you need any more suggestions for a membership guest night just give me a call. I'm sure I can help you come up with something new and exciting. Really all you have to do is think of a theme and plan around it. Of course if you include food that should bring them in. I hope many of you plan to attend annual convention in May in Columbus. I will be anxious to see if we can celebrate another great year of membership so we can keep growing, and growing and growing.



Terri Sherman
Let's Keep Growing
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Eagle, NE 68347
402-780-5330
terrisherma@alltel.net



IMPORTANT DEADLINE

All paperwork is due postmarked April 1st!

Programming Vice President

Hello Ladies,

This quarter is going so fast I Don't know where the time has gone. I just have a few reminders. Every Chapter who had done something for MS for the month of February please send me a brief summary and your chapter will be put in a drawing to receive a basket of goodies at Year End at Convention.

Also don't forget to send in to National the form for Outstanding Achievement in Programming and also chapters look at the form for All American Chapter. If you had 4 new members you have already qualified. Chapters if you have Project Folders please send to me by April 1st, so I can get them judged and present the awards at Year End. If you have done some traveling please send your Road Runner Forms

in to me, if you don't fill them out I have no idea of what traveling you have done, and I know there has been some traveling.

The Programming Team is looking forward to their mail boxes being full for fourth quarter. Let's get all the certifications in and show National that Nebraska Has A Paws'itive Attitude in Programming.



Cindy Urlacher
"Have A 'Paws' itive
Attitude in Programming"
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Omaha, NE 68138
402-891-8697
curlacher66@msn.com



Webmaster

www.nbwt.org has been on-line for a month, and already we have hits from around the world. The site has produced its first three requests for information from prospective members. Those requests have been forwarded to the local presidents for follow-up.

The site has a graphic that allows you to register for prizes at Annual Convention. During the month of March it was a shamrock. In April, it will be a flower. The graphic moves from day to day, so register as many times as you like.

If your chapter does not have a web site, go to the Chapters page and click on the link at the bottom. It describes how your chapter can get on-line through the state website.

If you have any recommendations for additional content, be sure to click any of the pages with the Webmaster link and send a message.

secretary

Greetings Nebraska Women of Today,
Here we are just a few months from being at the end of another great Women of Today year. Let's continue our efforts and go out with a BANG. The last couple months of this year are full of PR opportunities. I trust that your chapters have big plans. The two biggest events are March Madness and National Volunteer Recognition Week. I sent information in the chapter packets at Winter Convention. Please review that information and use it to promote our organization and your activities.

Here is a reminder for the **April 1** deadline. Please submit the following information to me so your chapter is given proper recognition.

Secretary/PR Fast Starts

Outstanding Local Secretary nominations

Outstanding March Madness Public Relations Campaign

Outstanding local Public Relations Campaign

Please put the National Buckets of Sunshine project on your local agenda and discuss your donation to the York's Helping Hands organization. I would love to see Nebraska take a big check to Pennsylvania in June.

Thanks for all you do!!!!

Kim Troudt

troudt@harlannet.com

Chaplain/focus on women/women in general program manager

Happy Spring to everyone!

April 1st is just around the corner and that is the deadline for the God in My Life Essay as well as the Local Chaplain Award and the 4th quarter Fast Start. Be sure to check out this information in the Winter President's Packet or in your chapter's Guide for Action.

There is also still time to certify in Focus on Women, chaplain and Women in General Programs. There is a national incentive for all of those who certify in Focus on Women through March so let's flood my mailbox so I can send in this information to national and so that **YOU** can be recognized for the great work you do.

Also keep in mind the National Focus on Women essay contest with the deadline of May 1, 2003.

It is very exciting as we finish up our 4th quarter. Chapters are doing a great job in their communities.

If you have any questions, please give me a call or e-mail.



Joyce Harpster
"Hearts and Angels"
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Nebraska City,
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chefsmom2000@yahoo.com



LPA President

Hello Ladies,

I have been busy this past month. I was able to visit several chapters and see what is going on in other cities. I hope to visit a few more before the end of the year. So please invite me!

This is the last quarter of the Success System and also the time to start working on Outstanding Local President outlines. I would like to see some in my mailbox this year.

Make the last quarter count. Do the paperwork on the certifications and have a great bang at the end of the year.

I would also like to remind all of you to prayer for the troops that are being deployed in the military. My theme says it all "Take Pride in What You Do". Take pride that we have the freedom to be apart of such a great organization and have men and women that are willing to protect that freedom!



Brandi Brown
 "Take Pride in
 What You Do!"
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 Lincoln, NE 68521
 402-476-3098

bbrownnpc@cornhusker.r



Parliamentarian

Ladies,

This month I will conclude my series on "How to Elect Officers" by covering *Closing Nominations*.

A motion to close nominations may be made if the list of candidates appears to be getting too long. The motion to close nominations cannot be debated and requires a two-thirds vote for its adoption.

When it is clear that all nominations have been made for an office, or when the motion to close nominations has carried, the chairman should proceed with the voting. The names are voted on in the order in which the persons were nominated, until one of the candidates is elected by a majority vote. If there are 30 members present and the first candidate receives 16 or more votes, that person is elected. There is no need to vote on the other candidates since the first candidate received more than half the votes, which could be cast. If no candidate receives a majority of all the votes cast on the first round of voting, then the candidate (candidates) with the least number of votes is (are) eliminated, and a run-off election is held between the top two candidates.

It is not enough for a particular candidate to receive the most votes – he must receive a majority of all the votes cast.

In the rare case of a tie between two candidates, the president may choose to break the tie by casting his own voice vote once the results are in, or she may call for a secret ballot. In the event, the president would have to vote at the same time as the other members to break the tie.

The following *Steps In Making Nominations and Voting* should be followed in making nominations from the floor and in voting on them:

A member rises, obtains recognition from the president, and says, for example, "Madam President, I wish to nominate Jessica Jarboe." (It is not necessary for nominations to be seconded.)

The president announces the name of the member nominated and asks for additional nominations.

The secretary makes a list of the nominees for each office.

As soon as the nominations are completed, the president calls for a vote in the order in which the candidates have been nominated for each office. There are several methods of voting. The president, or the members, may choose a voice vote, a show-of-hands vote, or a standing vote. Sometimes it is even advisable to have a secret ballot.

The results of the election are announced.

I hope this article will help you with your elections; if you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Please, remember that *Chapter Certifications* and *Individual Certifications* are due to me postmarked April 1st.



Maxine Turner
 "Give Parliamentary
 Procedures a SHOT!"
 2446 E. 19th
 Fremont, NE 68025
 402-721-6608
mxtaj@yahoo.com



Region IV Director

Ladies,

Region IV is busy planting their seeds and cultivating, as by yearend we will be reaping in Women of Today. We have been busy in our communities with socials, personal enrichment seminars, and community service these past months.

I am in the planning stage of our third Region meeting to be held on March 29th, if anyone outside of our region would like to attend please contact me.

Our "Kids Group" members have been busy working with their mothers are different projects. We have had several members attend a nursing home activity and also working in their hometown library getting ready for the annual book sale. Please let me know the names of these children that we can recognize them at convention, as these are our future members of this organization.



Maxine Turner
 "Planting, Cultivating
 And Reaping in
 Women of Today"
 2446 E. 19th
 Fremont, NE 68025
 402-721-6608
mxtaj@yahoo.com



Chairman of the Board/Elections & Credentials

Ladies,

Remember April 1st is the filing deadline for anyone seeking to be a state officer or program manager for the year 2003-04. The filing form NEEDS to be sent to me before your Flyers go out. Candidates for President need to send flyers to ALL CHAPTERS AND CURRENT OFFICERS, Candidates for Vice Presidents and LPA President, need to send only to the Chairman of the Board and all chapters. It is not required, but as a courtesy you can also send them to the State +President.

Jan Maaske "Kick it up"
 4503 Linden Drive
 Kearney, NE 68847
 308-237-4039
jbl@kearney.net



Nebraska Woman of Today
Annual Convention
"Beary Special Memories"
hosted by
The Heartland Women of Today
May 2 – 4 2003

Tentative Agenda

Friday Evening

7:00 pm Registration
7:00 Candidate Meeting
7:30 Executive Board Meeting
8:00 State Board Meeting
9:00 Future Directions
10:00 Caucus
11:00 Hall of Fame



Saturday

7:45 – 9:00am Registration
8:00 LPA Meeting/Election of New LPA President
9:00 Business Meeting/Elections of New Officers
12:00 pm Past Presidents Luncheon
2:00 LOTS
4:00 Seminar
6:00 Presidents Reception
6:30 Awards Banquet and Installation
10:00 Beary Special Memories Party

Sunday

8:00 am New LPA Meeting
9:00 New/Old Board Breakfast Meeting

New World Inn, & Convention Center,
Highway 30 South, Columbus Nebraska
Reserve your room before April 18, 2003
Rates \$55.00 1-4 people
1-800-433-1492

Name _____ Chapter _____ First Timer _____

Registration

Early			Late (After April 18 th)		
Business Meeting	\$ 4.00	_____	Business Meeting	\$ 4.00	_____
Luncheon	10.00	_____	Luncheon	15.00	_____
Banquet	16.00	_____	Banquet	21.00	_____
TOTAL	\$30.00		TOTAL	\$40.00	
New/Old Breakfast	\$10.00	_____	New/Old Breakfast	\$10.00	_____

Registrations are due by **April 18, 2003**

Make checks payable to **Heartland Women of Today**

Mail to; Maxine Turner (402) 721-6608
2446 E. 19th
Fremont, NE 68025

maxtaj@yahoo.com

GAVEL EDITOR

Ladies,

The font on this issue is a little smaller but I am attempting to keep each issue to 6 pages, I hope it is not too difficult to read. Even though the print is smaller I hope everyone reads it carefully, the officers have lots of important information included.



Angela Moody
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ANNUAL CONVENTION UPDATE FROM HEARTLAND

An updated copy of the registration form is included in this issue with a more accurate, but still tentative schedule. We had inadvertently left out the Friday Night Caucus (OOPS!) There are a few other adjustments, including times for a few meetings have changed. We are planning a seminar on Saturday afternoon, but as of this writing the subject has not been determined. We will make every attempt to announce it in the next issue of the GAVEL. We are hard at work planning a GREAT close to Kim's "Heart" filled year and hope you can all come and CELEBRATE another wonderful Women of Today Year!

Maxine Turner and Angela Moody

United States Woman of today president

Dear Nebraska WT:

With just under two months left of our year - I wanted to write and thank all of you for your commitment and service to our organization, yourself and others.

This year will be one I will remember forever for so many different reasons -- not the least of which is the part you all played in showing "Hand in Hand, Together We Can".

However, now is definitely not the time to "slow down" in our efforts to recruit new members, certify in our programming areas, raise monies

Beatrice

The chapter had an interesting meeting night. Arrangements had been made to have our meeting and eat at the same place but after we all started showing up, it did not take us long a figure out the bar and grill was closed. Luckily connections were made to everyone that the place of nourishment had been changed. We had a nice group that night including State President Kim Trout, LPA President Brandi Brown and State Membership VP Terri Sherman. It was fun having them as our guests. Co Presidents Peggy and Ellen presented a WIG on MS and the group talked about the MS Walk May 17th. For Community development some ushered for Community Players.

Diane Lux

Heartland

We are busy wrapping up the year and are preparing to elect new officers. We had a couple of certification nights as well as a

for our various foundations/organizations, and do what we can to provide valuable service to our communities and ourselves. Thanks to the "Fabulous 50's" promotion for my birthday we gave the gift of membership to 52 new members -- THANKS! Let's keep up this "giving" spirit - so that in June Mrs. Hekr will be able to proudly announce yet another year of membership growth!

The Program Managers are all anxiously waiting by their mailboxes for list of names of those who have certified in their respective areas this year. Most members have completed the requirements for: Effective Speaking, Effective Writing, Focus on Women, Spiritual Enrichment and STEP - but just need to take 1-2 minutes to complete that wonderful paperwork!! It is important that this information gets sent in for two reasons: (1) It lets us (national) know if the areas are of use to members and designed to be "member-friendly"; and (2) It gives the Program Managers a chance to come up with some exciting ways to recognize all those members who have been working hard all year at improving their lives and those around them - hard work which deserves to be recognized!!

Lastly, I am looking forward to hearing who will be the new State leaders for next year! Many states already have committed, caring women who have taken that big step forward to say "YES" I would love to be State President next year" or "YES, I am anxious to serve on the State Board next year!" Just keep in mind, no matter what position you take on - you are NOT in it alone -- you will have the other State Board members to lean on for support, as well as your state members - and don't forget - your National officers are only a phone call or e-mail away!!

THANKS once again for sharing my vision this year and showing that "Hand in Hand, Together We [DID]" accomplish so much!! Thanks, also, for all the hospitalities of the weekend in January (even though you did not let MY team win at Pictionary!!) The discussions were very informative and developed a lot of good feedback - and my little angel is still recuperating just fine from her "minor surgery". Thanks for making me feel "part of the family" - as usual!

Michele Thompson
US WT President
thomp034@umn.edu

Chapter chatter

Valentine Couples Progressive supper where everyone enjoyed the

fellowship. We are getting plans in place for Annual Convention in Columbus and hope many of you are making plans to attend. The Registration form is in this issue. We have a few more projects and an M-Nite planed this month. So even though we are preparing for a new year we still have much to do before closing out this one!

Karen Gruber

Lincoln

Hello Ladies! We are having a Guest Night March 10th and I believe we have 12 invites!!! We are excited and hope to gain some new members this month! We had an article in the Neighborhood Extra in late February and we have had such a wonderful response from the community. It is really exciting.

Denise Deter

REMEMBER

VOLUNTEER WEEK

APRIL 27th - MAY 2rd 2003

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.